

# Letter from the History Chair

DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome back to the new academic year! The History Department welcomes Assistant Professor Chia Yin Hsu, who was hired last spring through a national search. She fills the long-vacant position in Russian history, and will teach the Russian history survey along with courses in her own research expertise, transnational Russian history of the late 19th-early 20th century, focusing on Russian ideas of Europeanism in relation to Russian expansion in China. We also welcome Visiting Assistant Professor Armando Garcia de la Torre, who is our one-year fixed-term hire in the new position in African history that will be shared with University Studies.



As we attract new faculty and develop new programs, we need your support more than ever. I have asked the Friends of History to help us raise \$10,000 for faculty research support to match \$10,000 that Dean Marvin Kaiser has promised the History Department on an annual basis? provided we can raise the matching \$10,000. The total amount of \$20,000 would enable us to support departmental faculty research with about \$1000 per faculty, which is a modest amount relative to what is standard at our sister institutions. We are grateful for a pledged new

endowment for graduate research, the Joel Palmer Research Grant in Pacific Northwest History.

This is my last chair letter, as Professor Tom Luckett takes over as Department Chair this fall. I wish him well and know that he can count on your support and participation in upcoming programs. Thank you for helping the History Department bring excellence in history to the community.

-Linda Walton

The History Department is fortunate to be able to conduct two national searches for tenure-track appointments during the upcoming year: one for African history shared with University Studies, and one in the modern Middle East and North Africa to replace Professor Jon Mandaville, who will retire at the end of this academic year after a long and distinguished career at PSU in both History and Middle East Studies. The History Department submitted a proposal last spring for a new interdisciplinary PhD in Pacific Northwest Studies, and we are optimistic about its prospects for approval. If approved, we will launch this new program in 2010. This would be the first humanities-based doctoral program at PSU, and is an appropriate development for PSU as we look to a very bright future under the leadership of our new president.

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- Student (\$10)** –Neweletter, free entrance to Endowed Lecture
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# Friends of History

Department of History

2008 Fall Newsletter  
[www.history.pdx.edu/foh/](http://www.history.pdx.edu/foh/)

## Environmental Historian John R. McNeill to deliver 21st annual FOH Endowed Lecture on April 23, 2009 at PSU



THIS YEAR, the Friends of History is honored to bring renowned environmental historian and Georgetown University Professor John R. McNeill to Portland State University to deliver the 21st annual FOH Endowed Lecture on Thursday, April 23, 2009. McNeil is a member of the History department and the Edmond A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown where he teaches environmental and world history as well as international history. He has several published books, articles, history website submissions and edited books to his credit; and is currently working on a history of yellow fever in the Americas and has an environmental history of the Cold War targeted as his next projected work.

## Fall 2008 Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH  
**Letters From Iwo Jima**

CRAMER HALL 494 AT 6:00PM  
*Hosted by PSU Grad Student Adam Neff. Come and join us for free pizza, free soda and a free showing of one of Clint Eastwood's many masterpieces.*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH  
**Civil War Round Table at PSU**

CRAMER HALL 494 AT 7:30PM  
*Robert Cromwell is a National Park Service Archaeologist at Fort Vancouver Historic Site.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH  
**Civil War Round Table at PSU**

CRAMER HALL 494 AT 7:30PM  
*Kurt R. Nelson, PSU History Alum, will talk about his research and the Civil War connections spotlight in his 2007 book on the battles and skirmishes that helped to define Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. This is a free and open event to the public*

## Letter from the President

OVERALL, THE 2008-2009 school year promises to be a time of increase and change, as PSU welcomes a new president, the University receives a Sustainability-related \$25 million challenge grant, and the History Department adds two professors to the faculty.

The Friends of History enjoyed a banner year in 2007-2008 with record audience attendance at several FOH sponsored events leading up to the standing-room only crowd listening to Professor Ervand Abrahamian at the 2008 Endowed Lecture in April.

With the help of hard-working FOH volunteers, we even squeezed in a few major events (PSU Day at the Oregon Historical Society, a special lecture by President Jim Basker from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in NYC, and a tour I had led in May of two classes from Fernwood Middle School through Portland's historic Lone Fir Cemetery) specifically developed by FOH as part of a historic partnership with the Oregon Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

I consider it an honor to work with Commission Chair (and PSU Vice Provost) Mike Burton and my fellow OLBC commissioners, including Professors Dick Etulain, Elliott Trommald, Tony Wolk, Chet Orloff, Wilson High School teacher William Stack, Lincoln playwright and presenter Stephen Holgate and others as we fully research, write and present programs on Lincoln and his Legacy

to Oregon. The Friends of History and the Civil War Round Table will be presenting more of these programs in November of 2008 and throughout 2009.

As the Friends of History enters its 25th year of providing vital support to the PSU History Department and its mission, this is not a time for our group to sit back on its laurels. There is much work to be done this year, with the opportunities being presented by Dean Kaiser's matching funds challenge, and separate fundraising efforts the FOH will be putting in place to help supplement the funding totals given for student research, as well.

This Silver Anniversary season for the Friends of History will be a productive year, a year of meeting challenges, bringing about change, empowering others and truly "letting knowledge serve the city." I look forward to your support, assistance and advice.

— K.C. Piccard-Krone  
President, Friends of History

### FOH AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES:

**FOH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** continues to meet on the last Wednesday of the month in Cramer Hall Room 441 (History Dept Conference room) starting at 7:15pm. The assigned books for the remainder of 2008 include *Londinium* by John Morris (Phoenix Press). The Book up for discussion in December is *The Far Pavillions* by M.M. Kaye. Note: the book club does not meet in November but resumes meetings for 2009 on January 28.

**CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE** opened up their 7th season of presenting quality history related programs with the Sept 10 screening of the 1939 classic Hollywood homage: "Young Mr. Lincoln" that starred Henry Fonda as our 16th President.

**ALPHA THETA** will be holding their first Hot Lips and Hot Flicks movie night of the year on Wednesday, October 29 starting at 7pm in the History Department. PSU graduate student and vice president of PAT Adam Neff will present and lead a discussion about Clint Eastwood's masterful *Letters from Iwo Jima*, a WWII movie told from the Japanese point of view.

## Friends of History projects win coveted endorsements of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

It all started with a letter FOH President KC Piccard-Krone received from Eileen R. Mackevich, Executive Director of the Commission appointed by Congress to oversee the national planning to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday on February 12, 2009.

It read:

"Congratulations! I am writing to officially convey the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission's Endorsement of the Project entitled: "An Evening with President Lincoln."

We are proud to be associated with this project and your earlier Friends of History project: "Restoring Lt. Lamson: Lincoln's Stalwart Web-foot" and appreciate your efforts in commemorating the Lincoln Bicentennial."

Now, programming of this calibre would not have been possible without the collaborative spirit and scholarly input of volunteers from the Friends of History, the Civil War Round Table, the Oregon Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the PSU History Department.

On November 15, the next endorsed program will be unveiled as the Friends of History and Friends of Lone Fir will host a re-enactment of the dedication ceremony of the Soldiers Memorial at the hastily constructed Gettysburg Cemetery which originally took place on November 19, 1863. Barely 4.5 months earlier, the battleground at Gettysburg was covered with the bodies of thousands of dead and dying soldiers, and the war-ravaged country was in need of a respite from the killing. President Lincoln was invited to speak as a last minute addition, and talked for only three minutes, with 272 words now forever known as "The Gettysburg Address."

145 years later, this scene and others from the dedication will be recreated starting at 9am on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery in Southeast Portland. Over 260 Civil War Veterans came out West and settled down in Oregon and made Lone Fir their final resting place.

Uniformed Reenactors will present the colors, fire a 21 gun salute and lay wreaths at the foot of the War Memorial in the center of the historic cemetery. Lincoln expert and playwright Stephen Holgate will intone the immortal



words of Lincoln just yards away from the burial plot holding the remains of former slaves who escaped their masters using the Underground Railroad before they made their way to live in freedom in Portland.

FOH board member and OLBC Commissioner Elliott Trommald is the featured lecturer at the second part of the program taking place Saturday afternoon starting at 1pm in the Vanport Room 338 in the Smith Memorial Center. Following a short film he will talk about the significance of the Battle of Gettysburg and the meaning behind the "Gettysburg Address." Both the morning program at Lone Fir Cemetery and the program at Portland State University are free and open to the public. Parking is free at Lone Fir Cemetery (21st and S.E. Morrison) and in the PSU parking structures. For info, please call (503)725-5473.

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