

Greetings from the chair

As Saint Gregory of Tours writes in his memorable opening to the *History of the Franks*, "A great many things keep happening, some of them good, some of them bad." On the bad side, the University continues to weather a deep funding crisis that jeopardizes graduate assistantships, library acquisitions, and our ability to hire new faculty. On the good side, we believe we may see the light at the end of the tunnel, and the Governor's budget proposal gives the University renewed hope of what Lindsay Desrochers, vice-president for budget and planning, dares to call "financial stability." In the meantime, the History faculty continues to do exciting research and teaching, sustained by the generous support and encouragement of Friends of History.

This fall Ken Ruoff has published an article on "Touristing the Empire" in *Ratio*, a Japanese journal, based on his current research into Japanese tourism in Korea and other colonies in the 1930s and 1940s.

Bill Lang co-authored a chapter, "Early Contact and Incursion, 1700-1850," in *As Days Go By: Our History, Our Land, and Our People: The Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla*.

Richard Beyler contributed the article "Science" to *World Fascism: A Historical Encyclopedia*.

Jim Grehan's new book, *Before the World Economy: Everyday Life and Consumer Culture in 18th-Century Damascus*, will be published early in 2007 by University of Washington Press.

Katy Barber, now director of the Center for Columbia River History, has won a prestigious Hickey Foundation Grant to support "Celilo Stories," a series of public programs in February and March that will commemorate the flooding of the Celilo Falls by The Dalles Dam.

The new face you may have seen in the History Department this fall is that of Amy Lonetree, assistant professor of Native American Studies. Lonetree is a member of the Ho-Chunk nation of Wisconsin and a historian of the Native American experience, with her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. Her dissertation and current

research concern the representation of American Indians in museums and the growing role of Indian communities in planning those exhibits, a subject on which she has published articles this year in both the *American Indian Quarterly* and the *Public Historian*. We all welcome her addition to PSU community.

As I began to prepare this letter, a number of my colleagues reminded me of the recent achievements of our graduate students. Ten students have graduated from the M.A. program in history since just last June.

Jeffer Daykin, who is currently completing his thesis with Ken Ruoff, has published a paper on the depiction of slavery in 18th-century French travel narratives in *The European Legacy*, and has also won a prestigious paper prize from the World History Association for a paper on the reception of John Dewey's ideas in China.

Former M.A. student Eliza Jones has published a paper that she coauthored with Prof. Katy Barber in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*.

Caroline Litzenberger has three former graduate students currently pursuing doctoral degrees at Cambridge and Oxford Universities: Rachael Vorberg-Rugh, Hank McCurdy, and Tiffany Shumaker. Another of her former students, Michael Springer, has received his Ph.D. from St. Andrews University, is about to publish a book with Ashgate Press, and is currently teaching at the University of Central Oklahoma. Yet another of her former graduate students, Terri Barnes, now teaches history at Portland Community College.

The accomplishments of our students make us proud.

THOMAS LUCKETT
CHAIR

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Department of History

2007 Winter Newsletter
www.history.pdx.edu/foh/

2007 Dodds Endowed Lecture in American History brings Virginia Scharff to PSU



"Enriching," "compelling," and "intellectually and emotionally expansive" have been used in the past to describe the considerable contributions Prof. Virginia Scharff has made in her quest to re-map the history of the American West. The award-winning scholar, best-selling author, and professor of history at the University of New Mexico (UNM) will be coming to Portland State University on Thursday, March 8, 2007, to deliver the Friends of History Endowed Lecture, an annual lecture designed to encourage community interest in historical issues.

Entitled: "Home Lands: How Women Made the West," the lecture will draw on Scharff's writings and research, and from her current preparations for the 2007 exhibition she is developing for the Autry National Center of the American West in Los Angeles. The Endowed Lecture will start at 7:30 p.m. in 338 Smith Memorial Student Union at Portland State University. A book signing session will immediately follow the lecture.

Scharff also serves as the director of the UNM's Center for the Southwest which sponsors special events and programs to promote a better and more balanced understanding of Southwestern history, culture, landscape, and environment." In

2004, Prof. Scharff was elected a fellow of the Society of American Historians (SAH) in "recognition of the literary and scholarly contributions of her historical work." She was the Frederick W. Beinecke senior research fellow at the Howard R. Lamar Center at Yale, and she has consulted in numerous radio programs and television documentaries including WGBH-TV's "Biography of America." In 2003 she was appointed the Women of the West chair, Institute for the Study of the American West at the Autry National Center of the American West in Los Angeles.

Her scholarly works are critically acclaimed, including *Twenty Thousand Roads: Women, Movement and the West* (University of California Press 2003), and she edited *Seeing Nature Through Gender* (University Press of Kansas, 2003). However, fans of western detective fiction, in particular the popular "Mustang Sally" mystery series will recognize Scharff as the writer of mysteries under the pseudonym "Virginia Swift."

Under her pen name, she is a regular on the mystery conference circuit and most recently was a featured panelist at the

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Letter from the president

2007 brings many exciting changes, as this winter edition marks the debut of a third issue of the Friends of History newsletter, along with a brand new format and a newly minted logo for Portland State University introduced in October. There are simply too many new and emerging History Department programs and projects that could not wait until the spring newsletter, in addition to reports on works in progress at the time of the deadline for the fall 2006 newsletter.

Thanks to the brilliant and indefatigable efforts of the Friends of History board, PSU History Department faculty members, and our volunteers, the opening months of the 2006-2007 academic year were filled with exciting and elucidating offerings, and we met many "Friends" at these events at PSU and around Portland.

Friends of History helped to kick off the 2006 PSU Weekend in October with the extremely well attended panel on "Historical Perspectives on the Current Middle East." November started out with our Phi Alpha Theta president, Ashlee Hill, reporting on her research in Paris that was partly funded by a grant by the Friends of History. Ashlee gave the audience members witty insights as to how she achieved "Zen and the Master's Thesis: the Joys of Research in Paris."

The month of December found me and Evans Van Buren, Civil War Round Table chair, participating in the festivities and lectures surrounding the opening of the traveling exhibit: "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln and the Journey to Emancipation" at the Collins Gallery in the downtown Central Library. The Civil War Round Table board also arranged for several personalized tours of the "Forever Free" exhibit especially designed for FOH and CWRT members.

These exclusive tours during the exhibit's 41-day stay in Portland were guided by Elliott Trommald, noted Lincoln scholar. Trommald's profound commentary gave the attendees an entirely new perspective on our 16th President and reminded all that the Bicentennial Observance of Lincoln's Birthday is only a little over two years away.

As 2007 opens, the Friends of History will continue with their new monthly email updates on the latest FOH presentations, panel discussions, and book signings, giving you a finger on the pulse of the FOH at all times. Naturally, the must attend special event is the FOH Endowed Lecture, which will be delivered by the "modern Renaissance woman of the West"—Virginia Scharff on Thursday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m in 338 Smith Memorial Student Union.

FOH also plans future events for projected book releases by faculty members Victoria Belco and Jim Grehan. The FOH will sponsor special book signings and lectures to mark their achievements.

FOH board member Katy Barber, who wears two hats as a PSU assistant professor of history and as the director for the Center for Columbia River History (PSU is a member of this consortium), reports that the CCRH has a series of scheduled public programs leading up to the 50th anniversary observance of the inundation of Celilo Falls on March 10, 1957.

We promise to keep you apprised of these and other FOH and co-sponsored happenings and look forward to seeing you there. Have a great 2007!

K.C. PICCARD-KRONE
PRESIDENT
FRIENDS OF HISTORY AT PSU

Scharff lecture . . .

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Tony Hillerman Mystery Writers Conference held November 2006 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At the conference Swift/Scharff promoted her latest whodunit *Hello Stranger* (Harper Collins), which is currently in the running for a 2007 Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America. The heroine of these novels is described as a "former hippie-turned-college-professor" (*Publishers Weekly*) who juggles her academic duties with her amateur crime solving work while working gigs as a country western vocalist for a band



in Laramie, Wyoming. Scharff will talk about her "Guilty Pleasures: the Historian Writes Mysteries" at the Endowed Lecture

Dinner that precedes the Endowed Lecture on March 8.

On Friday, March 9, 2007; Scharff will lead a brown bag discussion group in 494 Cramer Hall on the topic "Where and What is the West?" starting at noon. The Endowed Lecture and the Friday brown bag are free and open to the public. The Endowed Lecture dinner with Prof. Scharff is the only ticketed event. For more information or to purchase tickets for the dinner, call the History Department at 503-725-3917.

FOH affiliate reports

FOH BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

After a December hiatus the book discussion group returns on January 31 with an in-depth look at *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. (Simon and Schuster). The book for February's discussion is Joseph Ellis' *American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson*. (Vintage Books) Because of February's shortened month we will meet on February 22. Michael D. Doubler's *Closing with the Enemy* (University of Kansas Press) is assigned for the March 28, 2007 meeting. We will meet on April 25, 2007 to discuss *The Confident Hope of a Miracle* by Neil Hanson (Vintage Books).

All meetings are held in the PSU History Department Conference Room at 441 Cramer Hall (1721 SW Broadway) at 7:15 p.m. For more information or to add your email address to the book club email list, please contact Dick Winningstad at lemans3@comcast.net.

FOH CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

January and February will see CWRT members John Hathaway and Joe Bennett lecture (respectively) about Civil War land and sea battles and equipment.

The presenter for the March 14 meeting, Bruce Mullins, may be remembered as one of last year's sponsors of the Endowed Lecture and Dinner. Mullins, vice president of lecture sponsor Coffee Bean International and a world traveler, devoted "java" drinker, and coffee historian, will present "The Caffeination of a Divided Nation: The Position and Perils of Coffee during the American Civil War."

The Civil War Round Table broke all attendance records when FOH board member and CWRT co-founder G. Thomas Edwards concluded a two-part series he started in September with "Later Reconstruction" at the December 13 meeting. At the November CWRT meeting, longtime FOH member and Oregon Historical Society Honorary Councilor Lewis L McArthur regaled the members with the results of his recent research into "The Origins of Civil War Place Names in Oregon." Diane Rulien, executive director of the 3-D Center of Art and Photography and a PSU alum with a B.S. In history held a screening of rare Civil War slides complete with a special projector, silver projection screen, and 3-D glasses at the October meeting.

CCRH Events

Starting in January of 1995, Portland State University joined the existing consortium making up the Center for Columbia River History that consisted of WSU-Vancouver and the Washington State Historical Society. William Lang, a PSU history professor, was the director of the CCRH during its formative years, and the current director is Katy Barber, assistant professor. In addition to the regular events and student projects under construction, the CCRH is commemorating a milestone in March.

- The CCRH will be wrapping up the lecture series marking the half-century loss of a local landmark with a free public conference on Celilo Falls to be held the weekend of March 17 and 18 at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles. Free and open to the public,

it will bring together anthropologists, archaeologists, artist elders, historians, linguists, poets, and more. There will be panel discussions and informal conversations on the meaning and history of Celilo Falls, which was inundated on March 10, 1957, by the rising waters of The Dalles Dam. Registration is free, but must be received by March 1. For registration forms, check out the Web site at <http://ccrh.org/calendar.php> or call 360-258-3289.

- The James B. Castles Fellowship is a \$3,000 fellowship open to graduate students, professional historians, and independent scholars and is offered by the Center for Columbia River History. The deadline for applying is March 1, 2007, and the link to the instructions can be found on the CCRH website: <http://ccrh.org>.

INTRODUCING

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