UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Department of History

College of Arts & Sciences | Newsletter | Winter 2014

2013 Schell Lecture

The History Department was privileged to welcome Dr. Geoffrey Megargee to campus this fall to deliver the 2013 Herbert S. Schell Annual Lecture in History. Dr. Megargee's lecture, titled "The Universe of Nazi Camps and Ghettos," summarized some of the research he has conducted for the last decade at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where his primary role is to serve as the General Editor for the Museum's multi-volume *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933-1945*.

When the work of identifying all of the detention sites, ghettos, forced labor camps, military brothels, and POW camps began, historians estimated that less than 10,000 such sites were set up by the Nazis during World War II. The team led by Dr. Megargee initially revised that number up to 20,000, and then further revised it to 42,500 sites last spring. As the British newspaper *The Independent* noted, this research "casts a disturbing new light on the sheer scale of the machinery of imprisonment and oppression put in place by the Nazis throughout Europe, from Italy and Russia." As Dr. Megargee noted during his lecture, an effort of this size required extensive cooperation with the German civil service apparatus to pull off and would have been almost impossible to hide from any German citizen who was even remotely observant of the world around them.

Dr. Megargee's talk happened to coincide with terrible weather hitting Vermillion, but the History Department optimistically scheduled it for a venue seating 150. Despite the poor weather, the lecture space in the Muenster University Center was packed, and 75 additional chairs had to be

brought in to accommodate all who were interested. Even more impressive, only two audience members left after Dr. Megargee's initial presentation, with the remainder staying for another 35 minutes of questions and answers.

As an added bonus, Dr. Megargee was able to come in a day early to interact with Dr. Burrow's graduate seminar in European History. The graduate students had read his *War of Annihilation: Combat and Genocide on the Eastern Front, 1941* (2005) and were able to spend a couple of hours with him talking not only about the book but also about the craft of conducting historical research. All agreed that it was a valuable professional development experience.

The History Department is pleased that it could bring a scholar of Dr. Megargee's caliber to campus to present cutting edge research, and we look forward to continuing this longstanding tradition in the coming years. If you are in the area, we hope you will join us for the next Herbert S. Schell Annual Lecture in History. You can keep track of this and other events on the University of South Dakota History Department Facebook page.

From the Chair's Corner

Greetings from the cozy confines of East Hall, where the fall chill has settled in and we are awaiting the imminent arrival of the season's first snowfall. As we start thinking about the end of the fall semester, I wanted to let you know all of the exciting things that have happened since you last heard from the History Department.

This has certainly been a year of great change in the History Department. The first thing you will notice is that the Chair's Column has a new author. After over 41 years of service to the university and serving for 16 years as Chair of the History Department, Dr. Judith Lynn Sebesta retired at the end of the spring term. The department will miss her leadership and her guidance, but we are pleased to still have her roaming East Hall. It was a busy year for retirements as Dr. Robert Hilderbrand also announced his departure after the Fall 2012 term.

While both Judy and Bob will be missed both in the classroom and through the work they did with our students, we are also excited to be adding new faculty to our ranks. Bob's mid-year departure allowed us to immediately initiate a national search last spring, and we were pleased to welcome Dr. Sara Lampert to the department this fall. Sara did her doctoral work at the University of Michigan and specializes in early American social and cultural history, an area in which the department has long wanted to offer more course work. The department has a second search underway this year for a Medieval/Classical historian who will join us next fall; that position will maintain existing departmental strengths in Classics even as we expand into medieval history.

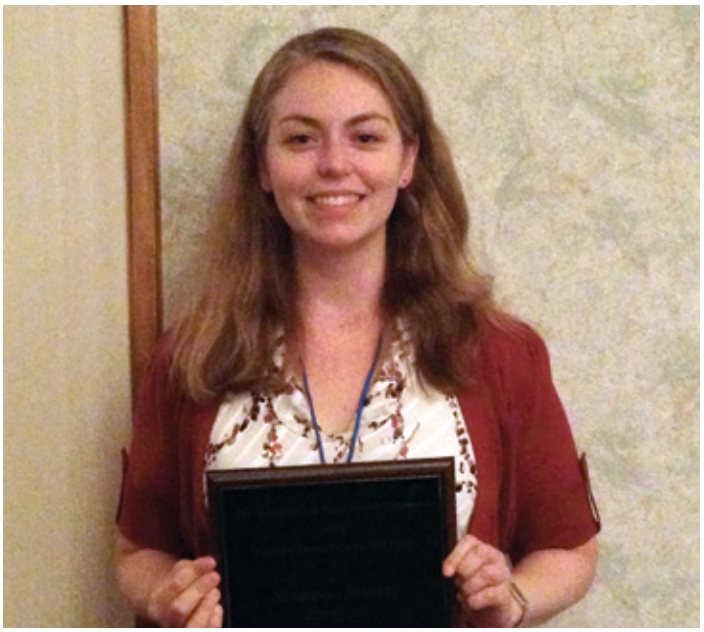
The department continues to find better ways to serve our students. We have devoted a lot of time this last year to rethinking and upgrading our graduate program, and I am confident that we are already providing a better graduate experience for our MA students. They have better guidance and access to resources through a new department handbook, they have access to more graduate-only seminars, and they are getting more practical hands-on experience in local and regional archives than ever before. On the undergraduate side, we are planning improvements to the annual Student History Conference this year and are working with a donor/alum to develop a unique research-intensive experience next year for our more advanced students. That's just the beginning, and we look forward to the great things that will happen in the coming years.

Judy's announcement of her retirement provided the impetus for me to come back to the History Department, and after ten years in the Arts & Sciences dean's office and three more in the provost's office, I have returned "home" to become the next chair. I am excited to be back in East Hall and am looking forward to working closely with my colleagues. I hope to hear from you and would encourage letters, phone calls (605-677-5218) and emails (Kurt.Hackemer@usd.edu) with updates about what's happening with our alumni. I would also encourage you to "like" the University of South Dakota History Department Facebook page so you can keep track of everything that's happening in Vermillion.

Alumni News

Emma Fikkert Kollasch was a student at the University of South Dakota where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in the major field of History and minor fields of Latin and Psychology. A native of Storm Lake, IA, Emma has completed her Master of Arts degree in Museum Studies at the University of Leeds, England, and has begun her study of law at Concord Law School. She is employed as the IRA Specialist at Security Trust & Savings Bank in Storm Lake, IA, and has recently begun training in the Trust Department and pursuing insurance licenses as well.

Shannon Murray, who is now a doctoral candidate at the University of Calgary, won the Best Graduate Student Paper at this year's Northern Great Plains History Conference. Those who knew Shannon will not be surprised, but it is so nice to see our graduates perform at a high level once they leave the university. Congratulations, Shannon!



Dr. Aaron Robert Woodard, a USD adjunct/alumni working at University Center, won the Arlyce Samp Award for his 2012 Dakota Conference Paper "Manuel Lisa Splits the Sioux in the War of 1812". He is also having another article published in *The Journal of the West* titled "Jedediah Smith and the Arikara War of 1823."

John Andrews, MA is the new managing editor of *South Dakota Magazine*. John is a veteran staffer of the bimonthly Yankton publication that explores the culture, history and geography of the state. Andrews is a native of Lake Norden and a former *Brookings Register* staffer who studied at both South Dakota State University and the University of South

Dakota. He joined the magazine's editorial staff in 2007. In his expanded role, Andrews will oversee the daily writing, editing and proofing.

Jeremy Petersen has been accepted into the MS in Library Sciences, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Congratulations to **Justin Elhoff** and Elizabeth Dross Elhoff on the birth of Estella Renee Elhoff earlier this fall. Justin is now a pediatrician in Charleston, South Carolina, where he gets to experience some unique local interpretations of the Civil War.

Congrats to our Graduates

MA History

John Carroll Quinn
Lou Ann D. Jensen
Jim W. Baker
Zachary David Ball
Michael Ray Boring
Abbigail Ann Clindaniel
Nicholas W. Estes
Joseph A. Knoer
Rebecca Ann Peterson
Christian D. Pirlet
Gil F. Ridenour
Austin J. Vos

BA History

Ryan Richard Eichelberg
Sheryl Marie Gillen
Michael Jay Gurney
Elizabeth Catherine Horton
Samantha K. Albers
John Jerome Buchkoski
Terrance Edward Davis
Alexander Wayne Downing
Nicholas Alex Falk
Taylor Scott Hamblin
Travis Dale Iversen
Nina Suzanne Larson
Matthew David McGirr
Christopher James Moritz
Chad Michael Neswick
Mathew Sewell
Tyler Jordan Smith
Arlo Richard Tobin
Mark Warren White

BS History

Joel Thomas Brewer
Garrett DeVries
Eric Gage
Isaiah Howard
Christopher Michael Marlow
Drew Michael Morris
Michael Anthony Ramsey
John Thomas Silvernail
Ryan James Bartholomaus
Steven Kenneth Campbell
John Kennedy Claussen Jr
Daniel Roger Davies
Ian S. Hafner
Janine Marrie Hoffmann
Cody Samuel Robert Horton
Andrew Faber Larson
Rory D. Moore
Laci Lynae Paul
Rebecca Elizabeth Rathbun
Kendra Kay Howard
Louie Donald Krogman
Thomas Joseph Rosenbaum
Jill Stevenson

2013 Scholarship Recipients

Carl Christol History Award
Bridget Wilds, Kelsey Kenzy, John Little

Robert Stark Scholarship
Erick Peterson, Haley Brees, and Ashely Lynch

Donald Bechtel Scholarship
MacKenzie Stone, Austin Johnson, Tiffany Eide

Cedric & Evelyn Cummins Memorial Scholarship
Haley Brees, Ashley Lynch, Ryan Trandahl

Ramon Harris/ Robert Wallace Scholarship
Katie Klassen

Cliff Eggers Memorial Scholarship
Erick Peterson, Tiffany Eide

Anna M. Goetz Scholarship
Samuel Reuland, Erick Peterson

Robert "Bid" Miller
Ryan Trandahl, Ashley Lynch

Harrington Book Award
Haley Brees

Jacque Manning Book Award
Haley Brees

Faculty News

Scott Breuninger

During the past academic year, Dr. Breuninger has continued to split his time between his research on the Irish Enlightenment and his administrative duties for the Honors Program. In February 2013, he presented a paper as part of a panel of Berkeley scholars

discussing their work, entitled "Berkeley and the Irish Enlightenment: How 'Irish' are 'We Irish," at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (New Orleans). He also attended the 2013 annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies in Cleveland, where he continued to serve as chair of the Irish Studies Caucus. As part of his duties, Dr. Breuninger organized two panels (The Irish Enlightenment V and Wealth, Poverty, and Civility in Eighteenth-Century Ireland) and presented a paper entitled "'Being of Service to Mankind:' Samuel Madden, Irish Patriotism, and Enlightenment Cosmopolitanism." His current research project is part of his broader work on the Irish Enlightenment and focuses on the interplay of economic, moral, and political languages in the publications of the Royal Dublin Society, as well as the personal and organizational networks within which the founders of this important "improving" organization lived and worked.

Steve Bucklin

We have had a year of change at the History department. Two department members have retired, a new professor has joined the faculty, and we are in the process of searching for another. This is an exciting time for our department!

I finished my project for the South Dakota Department of Transportation. Two chapters on aviation and another on the Interstate Highway System are scheduled for publication in *South Dakota History*. I was also able to secure the donation of a very interesting collection of 160 oral histories from the family of Frank Day. Mr. Day collected tape recordings of a variety of people, mostly from West River, including ranchers, gamblers, bootleggers, trappers, cowboys, and even a Native American survivor of the Wounded Knee Massacre. I hope this collection provides scholars and enthusiasts with insights and evidence into people who deserve our attention.

Steve Bucklin, Molly Rozum, and Kurt Hackemer at the 2013 Northern Great Plains History Conference in Hudson, WI

Several of you contacted me over the course of the last year. Jack Nichols and I had lunch together at J.L Beers in Sioux Falls. The burgers and brew were tasty and it was great to catch up with Jack, who is now practicing in a major law firm. Andrea Peterson stopped by the office this fall and visited with Dr. Lehmann and me. (See picture) Andrea, who speaks and reads German fluently, is currently completing her master's degree in International Affairs at George Washington University and we had a delightful conversation. She has worked in a variety of government offices and has a bright future ahead of her. Doctor Hackemer and I both got to visit with Shannon Murray at the Northern Great Plains History Conference in Hudson, Wisconsin in September. Shannon, who is pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Calgary, presented a paper at the conference that earned her the Best Graduate Paper Award.

Lauren Verlaque also caught up with me, although I missed her at the office. She left a note under the door with her email address and we subsequently corresponded. For those of you whose parents sometimes wondered what you can do with a History Degree, I should note that Lauren graduated as the Outstanding Graduate Student in the M.S. in Clinical Psychology program at Georgia Regents University (formerly Augusta State University) and will soon start her Ph.D. program. She is currently an adjunct professor at GRU in Psychology, doing psychological testing in a local private practice, and conducting research on potential susceptibilities for PTSD in military personnel with traumatic brain injuries. Lauren's experience demonstrates that historians learn skills that transfer to a variety of disciplines.

Lauren, who lived in McCook Lake part of the time, noted: "My visit to SD was phenomenal - it had been entirely too long, and it was great to see that big Midwestern sky again. Campus looks great . . . and it made me smile to realize that East Hall smells exactly the same."

I felt the same way when I returned to Vermillion in 1996!

Stay in touch and best wishes to you all!

David Burrow

2013 has been an exciting year for me, with many changes both personal and professional. In January 2013 I became Director of Graduate Studies for the History Department. I am also excited to be chairing the search for a medieval historian, who will also teach Latin for us. I continue to enjoy the rotation of my core Russian and German courses, and this fall I am teaching a graduate seminar for the first time, on Modern European history. In the spring I anticipate teaching my course entitled Revolutions and Terror for the second time, incorporating the Reacting to the Past module I wrote on the Russian revolution of 1917. I recently returned from the International Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, where I was invited to present my Reacting module as part of a panel on "Revolutions in Teaching/Teaching the Revolutions."

Of course, the biggest change has been personal: on May 25, I married Erin Conlon. Erin is a proud townie and has quadrupled the number of people I know in Vermillion. We somehow manage to squeeze in time to participate in Vermillion Community Theatre (where we met), sing with the University Men's and Women's Chorus, and dabble in brewing beer.

Kurt Hackemer

This has been quite the interesting year for Kurt Hackemer as his responsibilities on campus continue to evolve. Dr. Judith Sebesta's retirement last spring and the resulting open chair position in the History Department was all the impetus he needed to come home to East Hall. In March, he announced he would be stepping down as associate provost and take over as chair in May. However, administrative departures elsewhere in the university resulted in him not only assuming the chair's position but also staying on as associate provost through the end of the Fall 2013 term. This November, USD provost Dr. Chuck Staben was named as the next president of the University of Idaho, effective March 1, 2014, and Dr. Hackemer was asked by President James W. Abbott to serve as the university's interim provost for the Spring 2014 term while a national search is conducted for the permanent position. Dr. Hackemer has agreed to do so (sadly cancelling his spring courses as a result), but will return to the History Department as chair this coming summer.

Despite all of the administrative excitement, Dr. Hackemer has managed to do a bit of research on the side. His article, "Finding Dakota Territory's Civil War: A Call for Further Research," appeared in the Summer 2013 issue of *South Dakota History*. The article reexamines the historiography of the Civil War in Dakota Territory and argues that historians have yet to accurately capture the impact of the war on the area's Anglo settlers. A book chapter titled "Civil War Naval Developments" will appear this spring in a Blackwell Publishing collection of essays devoted to the current state of Civil War scholarship. In the meantime, Dr. Hackemer maintains his active involvement with the Society for Military History, where he sits on that organization's governing council and runs its web site and newsletter.

Sara Lampert

Sara Lampert is thrilled to be joining the USD History Department as Assistant Professor of U.S. history. Lampert grew up in New Jersey, just down the road from Rutgers University, where she earned her B.A. in history and art history. She received her Ph.D. in U.S. history from the University of Michigan in 2012. Lampert teaches courses in colonial and early U.S. history, as well as history of women and gender, religion, race and ethnicity, and popular culture. She is particularly excited about her courses for Spring 2013, Religion in American History, and Race and Slavery in America.

When she is not in the classroom, Lampert is working on her book, *Navigating Family, Celebrity, and Respectability: The Gender Politics of American Theater*, which uses the history of popular entertainment in the early nineteenth century to explore women's changing relationship with public life and market capitalism. In 2014, Lampert will be presenting some of this work at the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians and the Organization of American Historians, with generous support from a College of Arts & Sciences Travel Grant.

In December 2013, look for Lampert's book chapter "Bringing Music to the Lyceumites: The Bureaus and the Transformation of Lyceum Entertainment" in *The Cosmopolitan Lyceum: Lecture Culture and the Globe in Nineteenth-Century America*, edited by Tom F. Wright (University of Massachusetts Press). Her review of Daniel Cavicchi's *Listening and Longing: Music Lovers in the Age of Barnum* (Wesleyan, 2011) will appear in the December 2013 issue of the *Journal of Popular Music Studies.*

Clayton Lehmann

Clayton Miles Lehmann continues his work on Emperor Charles V and the early sixteenth century. He presented part of one chapter, "Plus ultra and the Imperial Ideal of Charles V," at the European Studies Conference in Omaha in October. He completed his translation of Gómara's *General History of the Indies*, and Angela Helmer of the Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Philosophy has joined him in reviewing the translation and preparing annotations.

Mr. Lehmann anticipates a large crew on the study-abroad program in Greece, The Isles of Greece! for the summer of 2014. He also continues his regular appearances with the South Dakota Brass, and in November joins the pit band for USD Theater's production of *Les Misérables*.

Mr. Lehmann is teaching Beginning Latin this year following the retirement of Professor Sebesta and while the department searches for a new Latinist.

Molly Rozum

In addition to teaching courses on South Dakota, the U.S. West and U.S. Women, Dr. Rozum spent the last year working on her manuscript entitled "Grasslands Grown," about the emergence of sense of place and regional identity on North America's northern U.S.-Canadian grasslands. Last spring she especially enjoyed teaching a graduate course on the U.S. West and looks forward to the spring of 2014 when she will teach a graduate course on Great Plains history.

Rozum also reviewed new monographs on North American Great Plains women for *South Dakota History*, on late-1870s stagecoach robberies on the Cheyenne-Deadwood Trail for *North Dakota History*, on a four-generation Kansas arm for *Nebraska History*, and on the Crow nation's relationships with other northern plains tribes for *Annals of Wyoming*. Finally, she reviewed a collection of essays on place in western Canada for Canada's labor history journal, *Labour/Le Travail*. Rozum currently serves as a consultant for a documentary film in progress on 1870s and 1880s settlement of the central Great Plains.

Over the course of the last academic year Rozum shared her regional research with USD's history club and presented a lecture on "Oscar Micheaux: Black South Dakota Homesteader, Novelist, and Filmmaker" for the newly revived African-American Students Organization on campus. For the Clay County Historical Preservation Commission she presented "The Timber Culture Act of 1873 and Ideas about Trees on the Grasslands" at the W.H. Over Museum and under the auspices of the Commission organized a talk by Fraser Harrison, author of *Infinite West: Travels in South Dakota*, for which she also served as an outside observer on behalf of the South Dakota Humanities Council.

Rozum attended the Western History Association's conferences in Denver (2012) and Tucson (2013) and the Northern Great Plains History Conference in Fargo (2012) and Hudson, WI (2013). Visiting the border town of Nogales, Arizona—separated by a steel fence from Nogales, Sonora—to hear a local rancher, sheriff, and historians speak on the southern borderlands proved a highlight of the Tucson WHA conference, as did a panel critiquing Ken Burn's latest documentary, The Dust Bowl, at the NGPHC in Hudson.

Judith Sebesta

Judith Lynn Sebesta retired in May after teaching for 41.5 years at USD. The University and Board of Regents honored her with the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus, the third time such an honor has been given to a USD faculty member. (This honor was first given to her late husband, Charles R. Estee, Chemistry.) She continues to teach one on-line course and co-editing The On-Line Companion to the Worlds of Roman Women. Projects for retirement include working on a backlog of articles, picking up her study of Egyptian hieroglyphs, weaving and learning how to spin fiber. She will present a paper titled "Public Roles of Provincial Women: Flaminicae of the Imperial Cult" for the ACL Panel Women of the Roman Empire which will be held at the 2014 APA meeting in Chicago, IL.

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- ☐ **History Alumni Award for Graduate Students**
- ☐ **Everett Sterling Book Award**
- ☐ **Cedric/Evelyn Cummins Memorial Scholarship**
- ☐ **Cliff Eggers Memorial Scholarship**
- ☐ **Donald Bechtel Scholarship**
- ☐ **History Current Fund (supports student research)**
- ☐ **Roger J Bromert Memorial Scholarship Award**

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