Students In The News

Remember Adam Efren Lopez. Adam, a history major, won the 2013 Emerging Leadership Award from the Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE).

ILACHE is a statewide organization that is dedicated to creating awareness of Latino issues in higher education and provide a statewide forum for Latino educators, community representatives, and other supporters for the social and professional advancement of Latinos through educational policy reform, advocacy, identification of best practices, and the dissemination of research and information.

Adam is also a Golden Apple Scholar. The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program recruits and prepares a diverse group of bright and talented college sophomores who have the promise for successful careers as excellent teachers in high-need schools throughout Illinois.

In addition, Adam Lopez has received both the Rosen and Hainds awards and the Outstanding Student Award from the NIU Department of History.

Graduate Student Conference to Honor Alfred F. Young

The NIU History Graduate Student Association will dedicate its sixth annual conference on November 1, 2013 to the memory of Professor Alfred Young.

Prof. Young was a renowned historian of early America who taught in the NIU History Department for 26 years. He passed away in 2012.

Professor Linda Kerber of the University of Iowa will deliver the keynote address at the conference, which is free and open to the public.

Terry Fife, a former student of Professor Young’s, sent along the following tribute:

It was my good fortune to have spent the 1980s studying with Al Young at Northern Illinois University and then collaborating with him at the Chicago Historical Society. First and foremost, Al was a gifted, generous, disciplined, and dedicated teacher. At NIU, where many of the undergraduates were first generation college students, Al brought passion and enthusiasm for history to a large lecture hall. He took the responsibility of teaching the American history survey course as seriously as he did the creative small seminars he led on the Revolution.

Al appreciated the power of visual thinking and learning long before computers and power point presentations were commonplace in classrooms. He introduced thousands of students to the power of seeing history, encouraging them to view historical images and artifacts as primary sources and evidence, not simply illustrations. For those who were history majors and those lucky enough to have been graduate students at NIU during his tenure, Al invested his energies in developing and teaching those courses where he guided students about the ways, means, and methods of doing history.

Continued on next page
Continued from page 1

Al brought his own high standards and his ethos of doing history to the many professional relationships he nurtured. Consider your subjects and your sources carefully, he would counsel. Look in creative places and in history’s many corners and crevices for your evidence and then interrogate the hell out of it. Tease out your interpretation of the past while you grapple with the nuances and contradictions—all the “delicious details”—Al so appreciated. “Getting it right” was a phrase Al used often as he considered his own work and the work of others. And those of us who learned to be historians under his tutelage will forever and always consider the importance of thinking about deference in historical context. Curating a major exhibition with Al at the Chicago Historical Society was a transforming journey for both of us. For Al, the experience marked the beginning of a prolific period where his scholarship reached new audiences.

In my own transition from being Al’s student to being his colleague, he taught me the critical importance of nurturing and balancing a personal life with a professional one.

Al and Mally were a productive and nurturing partnership. They were a working couple and a couple that worked. In their beautiful Oak Park garden they cultivated flowers, vegetables, families and friendships. While hosting many wonderful Fourth of July picnics and other informal outdoor gatherings, they served as wise and affirming role models for those of us laboring to raise families and to launch careers. Parenting three dynamic daughters with a progressive partner provided Al with plenty of insights and inspirations that informed his life and his scholarship. His legacy as a historian with strong feminist sensibilities owes much to Mally, Sarah, Emily, and Liz Young.

Many of the historians Al mentored and encouraged pursued careers outside the academy, making their marks in museums, publishing, archives, and even the business world. Those of us who traveled these roads owe much to him and to his unwavering enthusiasm for “alternative” careers in history. In the process of crafting an enviable legacy as a teacher and mentor, colleague and creative scholar, Al Young gifted us with something more: a passion for history and a road map for practicing and presenting it in many places and spaces.

In his life and in his life’s work, Al absolutely “got it right.” Along with helping shape the way we now understand Early America, he leaves behind vivid memories of an inquiring mind, a generous spirit, and a beguiling grin for those of us who were privileged to know him. A great lover and student of films, Al also offered unforgettable advice on the cinematic front: “Never let history get in the way of a good movie.” —Terry Fife

Welcome to New History Faculty

Andy Bruno, Ph.D.
University of Illinois

Emma Kuby, Ph.D., Cornell
Modern France

Natalie Joy, Ph.D., UCLA
Early American and Native American History

Andrea Smalley, Ph.D., NIU
Director of Teacher Certification, U.S. History
Award-winning historian Timothy Snyder presented the ninth annual installment of the W. Bruce Lincoln Endowed Lecture Series on September 19, 2012.

Timothy Snyder is Professor of History at Yale University. He received his doctorate from the University of Oxford in 1997, where he was a British Marshall Scholar.

Snyder’s presentation was based on his recent best-selling book *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*, published in 2010. Named book of the year by a dozen publications, *Bloodlands* has been translated into more than 20 languages, and was a bestseller in four countries. Several hundred students, faculty and community members attended the lecture.

The 2013 Lincoln Lecture will be presented by Richard White, Professor of History at Stanford University, on September 25, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. in Altgeld Auditorium.

The lecture series brings to NIU scholars who address topics of interest to both the public and the academic community. It is free and open to the public.
Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

Alumnus of the Year Award 2012: Tom Arne Midtrod
Dean’s Award: JoAnn LoSavio
Outstanding History Student: Wayne Duerkes and Adam Lopez
Jeannie Hainds Scholarship: Megan Gore and Wayne Duerkes
Marvin Rosen Scholarship: Benjamin Donovan
Oscar Matasar Scholarship: Wayne Duerkes and Brittany Kilgus
History 495 Research Paper Prize: Hannah Beebe and Ian Stewart
Hugh Jameson Award: Nicholas Stefanski
James Shirley Essay Prize in Asian History: JoAnn LoSavio
James Shirley Essay Prize: Jeremy Knake
J.P. White Award (Fall 2011): Dustin Printz  Runner Up, Justin O’Connell
J.P. White Award (Spring 2012): Joshua Ward  Runner Up, Kaitlyn Brannick

Phi Alpha Theta - Honor Society Inductees

Samantha Bohlin  Kimberly Lamz
Christopher Coulter  Ronald Leonhardt
Vito DeNicolo  Stephanie Luisi
Wayne Duerkes  Alexander Pitner
Megan Gore  Jesse Shattuck
Patti Gant  Andrew Starck
Brittany Kilgus  Erica Thompson
Victoria Kothrade  Erica Williams

The NIU History Club is for NIU students who are majoring/minoring in history or just have an interest in history. The club is designed to be a resource for history students to help through their school career. For the most up-to-date information on meetings, join our Facebook group: http://www.facebook.com/?ref=hp#L/groups/194573717277785/ or e-mail us: niuhistoryclub@gmail.com and request to be apart of our mailing list -Twitter: @NIUHistoryClub

Wayne Duerkes 2012
Lincoln Laureate Honor

To say Wayne Duerkes is incredibly busy is an understatement. He’s married, has three children, a vet of the U.S. Marine Corps, serving in the Gulf War in the 1990’s, and named winner of the prestigious 2012 NIU Student Lincoln Laureate award. This is an accolade reserved for the university’s top senior.

The Student Lincoln Laureate award is presented annually to one senior from each of the state’s public and private four-year colleges and universities. Recognizing excellence in both curricular and extracurricular activities, the awards were presented in November during the Student Laureate Convention at the historic Old State Capitol in Springfield, IL.

Wayne is also a member of NIU’s Research Rookies and produced a research article that will be published in the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society. He has also served as president of the History Club.
2013 Picnic and Awards Ceremony

J. Patrick White History Education Scholarship
  Zachary Jagodzinski (Fall 2012)
  Lauren Frese (Runner up)
  Heather Jurs (Spring 2013)
  Eric Neuman (Runner up)

Exemplary Student Teaching Award
  Jake Spottiswood
  Christopher Robinson

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
  Dean's Award
  Ron Leonhardt

Outstanding History Student Award
  Samantha Costello
  Rachael Kahley
  Jeannie A. Hainds Scholarship
  Benjamin Donovan
  Ron Leonhardt

Marvin Rosen Undergraduate Scholarship
  Brandon Wayne Phillips

Oscar Matasar History Scholarship
  Thomas Bouril
  Natalie Cincotta

HIST 495 Research Paper Prize
  Janette Clay
  Denise Tune

James R. Shirley Award in Asian History
  Ron Leonhardt

James R. Shirley Essay Prize
  Ashley Palin

Hugh Jameson Graduate Student Essay Prize
  William (Buddy) Avila

Phi Alpha Theta – National Honor Society Induction Ceremony
  Thomas Bouril
  Ashley McMahon
  Bradley Tallon
Faculty News and Publications

Stanley Arnold presented "We Were Better Runners: Gender, Race and the 1932 and 1936 Summer Olympics" at the American Historical Association annual meeting in January 2012. He also appeared on a segment of the Travel Channel’s Mysteries at the Museum discussing FDR’s health.

Sandra Dawson published “Selling the Circus: Englishness, Circus Fans and Democracy in Britain, 1920-45” (Manchester University Press, 2012).


Emma Kuby received the inaugural Lawrence R Schehr Memorial Award for her paper, “The ‘Sensual Pleasure’ of Violence: French Discourses on Torture and Sexual Deviancy in the Algerian Way (1954-1962).” An expanded version of her winning paper will be published in the journal Contemporary French Civilization.

Ismael Montana was awarded a grant from the British Library Endangered Archives Program for an archival preservation project in the Public Records and Archives Administration in Tamale, Ghana. His book, The Abolition of Slavery in Ottoman Tunisia, will be published in 2013 by the University Press of Florida.

Beatrix Hoffman published, Health Care for Some: Rights and Rationing in the United States since 1930. (University of Chicago Press), A talk she resented on the book was broadcast on C-Span’s Book TV Program.


Brian Sandberg was selected as a participant in the NEH Summer Institute on “Networks and Knowledge in the Medieval Muslim-Christian-Jewish Mediterranean,” held in Barcelona, Spain in July 2012.

Heide Fehrenbach and David Rodogno (Institut des Hautes Etudes, Switzerland) received funding from the Fonds National Suisse and the Graduate Institute to run a workshop on the history of humanitarian photography, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in December 2012. Heide was also named Board of Trustees Professor at NIU.


Damian Fernandez has been awarded the Solmsen Fellowship of the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin for academic year 2012-13.

Rosemary Feurer was quoted in a New York Times article, “As Goes Wisconsin…”, published March 2011.

Trude Jacobsen has published Rise of the Sarimanok, Volume I (CSEAS 2013), a history of NIU’s Center for South Asian Studies, as part of the Center’s 50th anniversary celebrations. The book is co-authored by MA program graduate Maria Hancock Nihei.

For more department news, please visit http://www.niu.edu/history/
In Memoriam

James D. Norris, Professor and Dean Emeritus, passed away on Wednesday, January 16, 2013.

Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Chris McCord writes: “Dr. Norris’ distinguished service to NIU and to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1979-2000 included the creation of several new academic units, such as the Department of Computer Science, the Women’s Studies program, the Division of Statistics, and the Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault. He championed new doctoral programs in biological, mathematical, and geological sciences, always with an eye toward enhancing NIU’s reputation as a comprehensive teaching and research university.” Distinguished Research Professor Clyde Kimball observes, “James Norris had a cosmic view of the needs and aspirations of the many diverse disciplines for which he had responsibility” and an “energetic drive to develop academic programs that would enhance NIU’s reputation as a comprehensive university.”

Dr. Norris also served as Executive Secretary to the University Council and then as President of the Faculty Senate. James Norris had an active publishing career. His books on economic and business history include: Frontier Iron: The Maramec Iron Works, 1826–1876, A History of the American Zinc Company, and Advertising and the Transformation of American Society, 1865-1920.

Ronald E. Shaw, Ph.D., passed away on Monday, July 16, 2012 at his home in Clinton, Iowa.

Before returning to pursue his Bachelor’s degree at NIU, Ron was employed as a brakeman for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad for over 18 years. He went on to complete his M.A. degree in the History department and all the requirements for the Ph.D. in History. He wrote his dissertation, “Origins of Disunity: Communities, Conflict, and the Chicago Freedom Movement,” under the direction of Dr. Sundiata Djata. Ron Shaw was awarded the Ph.D. posthumously at NIU’s 2012 Graduate Commencement ceremony, with his family in attendance.
Greg Bereiter, History Ph.D. candidate, who works with Professor Brian Sandberg, has received a 2012-2013 Chateaubriand Fellowship from the French Government for his dissertation project on militant Catholicism and religious violence in France, 1584-1610. (This is an extremely competitive fellowship –15 were awarded; only 8 of these including Greg’s were for the full academic year.) He also received NIU’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2013-2014.

Robert Fulton, Ph.D. has been awarded a prestigious Bourse Jeanne Marandon Fellowship for research in France in 2013-2014. Robert also received the 2013 Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Student Award.

Robert Hanserd, (Ph.D. 2011) was appointed Instructor in the Department of Humanities, History and Social Sciences at Columbia College in Chicago.

John Hink, (Ph.D. 2012) has accepted a tenure-track position at Concordia University Nebraska.

Angela Lahr, (Ph.D. 2005) has accepted a tenure-track position at Westminster College in Pennsylvania.

Cheryl Lemus (Ph.D. 2011) was appointed assistant professor in the College of Liberal Arts at Ashford University.

James Lamar McMillan (Ph.D. 2009) has been appointed assistant professor of history at the University of Iowa. Cornell University Press has published his first book, The Memory of All Ancient Customs: Native American Diplomacy in the Colonial Hudson Valley.


Santiago Torres (M.A.) has been awarded a Jeffrey T. Lundsford Fellowship for 2012-2013.

Lael Weinberger (M.A.) has received the 2012 Outstanding M.A. Graduate Student Award.
April 23, 2013, was the fourth annual Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day, held in the Duke Ellington Ballroom at Holmes Student Center. We were fortunate to have several students represent the history department this year! Congratulations to the winners and all participants! Additional info/pictures can be viewed here: http://www.niu.edu/history/undergraduate/URAD%20Competition.shtml

NATALIE CINCOTTA * People’s Choice Award
HISTORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY: GERMAN PHOTOS FROM THE EUROPEAN EASTERN FRONT OF WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)
Authors: Natalie Cincotta
Department: History
Faculty Mentor: Heide Fehrenbach & Vera Lind

WAYNE DUEKES * Honors Capstone
"THERE’S NO VALLEY SO SWEET" THE MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN THE LOWER FOX VALLEY RIVER REGION: 1833 – 1852
Authors: Wayne Duerkes
Department: History
Faculty Mentor: Bradley Bond

JACOB LAWRENCE
EXAMINING THE SOCIAL NETWORKS OF ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
Authors: Jacob Lawrence
Department: History
Faculty Mentor: Jerome Bowers

RONALD LEONHARDT
Authors: Ronald Leonhardt
Department: History
Faculty Mentor: J.D. Bowers

JESSIE SHATTUCK
THE ROLES OF ANGLO-SAXON WOMEN IN SAXON MISSIONARY WORK
Authors: Jessie Shattuck
Department: History
Faculty Mentor: Valerie Garver

ANDREW SMITH
KNIGHTS IN BATTLE: A COMPARISON OF THE MASCULINITY OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH KNIGHTS FROM LATE 11TH - 12TH CENTURIES
Authors: Andrew Smith
Department: History
Faculty Mentor: Valerie Garver

JENNIFER WEGMANN-GABB
RETHINKING THE NARRATIVE OF THE CHARLEMAGNE WINDOW AT CHARTRES CATHEDRAL
Authors: Jennifer Wegmann-Gabb
Department: Art History
Faculty Mentor: Ann Van Dijk & Valerie Garver
Faculty Spotlight

From NIU Today: To say Professor E. Taylor Atkins doesn’t expect his students to conform to his high expectations is an understatement to be sure. Taylor’s top priority is for their success. Sometimes professor Atkins becomes frustrated and cynical when confronted with students who aren’t academically well prepared or who have little interest in what he has to offer.

Yet whether they fail to bring intellectual curiosity, the willingness to tackle challenging material or goals beyond good jobs after graduation, Atkins is not deterred. “I inform students on the first day that I will not apologize for making them work hard, do things they don’t yet know they can do, ponder things they’d rather not think about or otherwise hold them to high standards of performance,” Atkins says. “The best compliments I have received are from students who did not get A’s in my classes but who thought I was fair, appreciated my making them work hard and who left the class still interested in the subject matter.”

Atkins, who came to NIU in 1997 as an assistant professor in the Department of History and has served as director of undergraduate studies in history from 2005-2012, teaches general education surveys in modern Asian and world history, and a three-semester, 300-level sequence in Japanese history.

At the graduate level, he has taught reading seminars in Japanese history and modern colonial empires, and a research seminar on using popular culture in historical investigation. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He since has authored a book titled, “Blue Nippon: Authenticating Jazz in Japan,” which won the 2003 John Whitney Hall Prize, and edited the collection, “Jazz Planet.” Another book, “Primitive Selves: Koreana in the Japanese Colonial Gaze, 1910-1944,” was published in 2010. “By bringing into the classroom textual, visual and musical materials from my own research projects, I have tried to involve students in the interpretive process,” Atkins said. “I have encouraged history students to explore music as a source of understanding the past, and—at the invitation of music faculty—have instructed ethnomusicology students on historical perspectives and research.”

Valerie Garver, an associate professor in history who team-taught a course with Atkins last spring on “Knights and Samurai,” praises her colleague for making it possible for students to rise to his high expectations and for his ability to make his own intellectual curiosities theirs. “Some students who took our course assumed it would focus solely on military history,” Garver said, “Although we approached knights and samurai from a cultural and social perspective, something new for our students, Taylor was able to make even the student more ardently focused on military history deeply interested in the cultural milieu of the samurai.”

Colleagues also praise his teaching innovation; when students in the “Knights and Samurai” course asked to write and perform a play for local school children, Atkins was their strongest supporter. He not only brings recording of Japanese jazz to his classroom but performs the music for students on his bass guitar and percussion instruments. young minds — is infectious would be an extreme understatement. Dr. Atkins involved in the class the way a late-night talk show host might engage a guest and the studio audience.”

Presidential Teaching Professorship

E. Taylor Atkins

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The Department of History gratefully acknowledges the generosity of alumni and friends who have contributed during the past fiscal year to its endowments.

Let Us Hear From You

Keep up with friends, classmates, and events by sending us information about yourself.

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E-MAIL                TELEPHONE

DEGREE AND YEAR GRADUATION

OCCUPATION         EMPLOYER/FIRM

Your Information

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