Faculty News - New Books

Vietnam’s Year of the Rat
by Ronald Frankum

Vietnam’s Year of the Rat explores the Lunar New Year 1960 and the dynamic relationship between two competing groups vying for control in the Republic of Vietnam. One group, led by United States Ambassador Elbridge Durbrow, worked toward directing Vietnam towards an American-style democracy that focused on forcing reforms within the Saigon government. The other group, headed by Republic of Vietnam President Ngo Dinh Diem, attempted to navigate the demands of Durbrow and the State Department and to confront internal opposition and an emerging external threat while trying to further the goals of the Republic.

The result was a series of failed opportunities by both sides to resolve the differences of the two complementary, if conflicting, strategies. Vietnam’s Year of the Rat offers an alternative to the now standard historiography for this period of the study in the Vietnam War by providing a Vietnamese viewpoint into the story of that long and tragic war.
**Faculty News - New Books**

**The Holocaust: MEMORIES AND HISTORY**

Edited by Victoria Khiterer, with Ryan Barrack and David Misal

Victoria Khiterer (Editor), with Ryan Barrack (Editor) and David Misal (Editor) (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014), 415 pp

This book is a collection of seventeen scholarly articles which analyze Holocaust testimonies, photographs, documents, literature, and films, as well as teaching methods in Holocaust education. Most of these essays were originally presented as papers at the Millersville University Conferences on the Holocaust and Genocide from 2010 to 2012. In their articles, the contributors discuss the Holocaust in concentration camps and ghettos, as well as the Nazis’ methods of exterminating Jews. The authors also analyze the reliability of photographic evidence and eyewitness testimonies about the Holocaust. In addition, the essays describe the psychological impact of the Holocaust on survivors, witnesses and perpetrators, and upon Jewish identity in general after the Second World War. The scholars explore the problems of the memorialization of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union and the description of the Holocaust in Russian literature. Several essays are devoted to the representation of the Holocaust in film and tracing the evolution of its depiction from the early Holocaust movies of the late 1940s - early 1950s to modern Holocaust fantasy films. The scholars also show the influence of Holocaust cinema on feature films about the Armenian Genocide. Lastly, several authors propose innovative methods of teaching the Holocaust to college students. The younger generation of students may see the Holocaust as an event of the distant past; therefore new teaching methods are needed to explain its significance. This collection of essays, based on new multi-disciplinary research and innovative methods of teaching, reveals new information and provides fresh perspectives regarding the Holocaust.

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**Faculty News**

**Articles**

**Dennis B. Downey**, “Pennhurst State School and Hospital” Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia (Summer 2013)

**Dennis B. Downey**, “Catholic Social Thought: Rights and Responsibilities” Catholic Witness (Fall 2013)

**Dennis B. Downey**, “Disability and Vulnerability” Catholic Worker Newsletter (Fall 2013)


Faculty News

Conference Presentations

Onek Adyanga, “The International Criminal Court (ICC) and Africa” - Quest Lecture, October 3


Robyn Davis, “Franklin and his Friends: The Cultivation of Science in Early America” – Quest Lecture, September, 26

Victoria Khiterer, “The October 1905 Pogroms and the Russian Authorities” to the ASN World Convention, Columbia University, April 2014.


Victoria Khiterer, ”Suppressed Memory: the Long Road to the Commemoration of the Victims of the Holocaust in Babi Yar (Kiev)” to the Sixteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies.

Victoria Khiterer, ”Dmitry Bogrov and the Assassination of Stolypin” to the 45th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS).

Victoria Khiterer, ”Jewish Pogroms in Ukraine in October 1905” to the 45th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES).

Victoria Khiterer, ”Life and Fate of Soviet Jews in the Film Papa (2004)” and “Jews in Soviet Cinema: the Film Commissar by Aleksandr Askol’dov” to the 19th Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, April 2013.

Victoria Khiterer, The plenary talk “The Ukrainian 2014 Revolution and Anti-Semitism” and the paper ”How Jewish was Jewish Culture in Kiev before World War I?” to the 20th Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, May 4, 2014.

Victoria Khiterer, ”Jewish pogroms in Ukraine during the civil war (1918-1920)” – Quest Lecture, October 17

Clarence Maxwell, ”The Americas – The Middle Passage and Beyond” for the African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference on Remembering the Slave Trade (March 2014) in Bermuda for the African Diaspora Heritage Trail organization. Bermuda is one of the places of memory for the ADHT.

John McLarnon, ”Cecil Moore, Civil Rights S.O.B.” – Quest Lecture, September 19

Faculty News

Book Reviews


Victoria Khiterer together with the Director of the Blavatnik Archive, Julie Chervinsky, Director of Library Operations, Andrew Welaish, organized the exhibition “The Untold Stories of Soviet Jewish Soldiers in the Red Army During World War II,” which was shown at McNairy Library and Learning Forum from March 17 to April 10, 2014.

The exhibition presents photos and videos about Jewish life in the Soviet Union on the eve of World War II, participation of Jewish soldiers in combat, the life of Jews in evacuation, Nazi anti-Semitism during the Holocaust, and post-war life in the Soviet Union. Video recordings of interviews with Soviet Jewish veterans show their unique Jewish experience and the anti-Semitism that the veterans encountered in the Army and at home. The exhibition includes Soviet propaganda posters, soldiers’ letters from the front, postcards, and war maps. The display also includes photographs of battles and Soviet Jewish soldiers and veterans, including photos of Jewish soldiers during victory celebrations at the fall of Berlin.

Victoria Khiterer with her students Kevin Hildebrand and Ashton Potts organized the exhibition “A Glimpse of the Art, Culture and Historical Influence of Kiev, Ukraine” in McComsey Hall.

Faculty News

Creative Works

Professor Jeffrey Veidlinger (University of Michigan) and Julie Chervinsky, Director of the Blavatnik Archive, at the exhibition. (Photo courtesy Maxim D. Shrayer)

Dr. Victoria Khiterer, Director of the Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide.

Professors Gennady Estraiakh (New York University) and Maxim D. Shrayer (Boston College) presenting their papers at the conference (Photos courtesy Maxim D. Shrayer)
The 33rd Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide

Victoria Khiterer (Conference Director) with the Conference Committee Members Professors Tanya Kevorkian and Onek Adyanga and Ms. Maggie Eichler organized the 33rd MU Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide on April 2 -4, 2014.

Scholars discussed the various forms of resistance to the Holocaust and Genocide: armed and passive resistance, uprisings in ghettos and concentration camps, partisan and underground movements, church resistance, and the aid and rescue of the victims of the Holocaust and Genocide. The Conference commemorated the centenary of the beginning of World War I and the Armenian Genocide, 75 years since the beginning of World War II and the twentieth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide.

Forty-three scholars from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and other scholarly organizations and universities in the U.S., Great Britain, Israel and Ukraine participated in the conference. There were fourteen conference sessions and two documentary films screened during the conference. The film Misa’s Fugue, (2012, Director and Producer Sean D. Gaston) was shown on opening night. The film is the true story of Holocaust survivor Frank “Misa” Grunwald, who was imprisoned in several concentration camps during the war. The second film shown at the conference was the world premiere of Music to Madness – the Story of Komitas (2014, Director David Robert Deranian), which depicted the horror of the Armenian Genocide.

The keynote speech was delivered by Professor Zvi Gitelman from the University of Michigan. In his thought-provoking lecture “Rumination, Resignation and Resistance,” Gitelman showed that resistance to the Nazi regime was often counterproductive. He pointed out that armed resistance typically provoked vengeful measures against inhabitants of the ghettos and concentration camps, or against residents of local villages in the case of partisan resistance.

Innovative lectures were delivered by Maxim D. Shrayer (Boston College) Jewish-Russian Literature as a Form of Resistance to the Shoah, 1940-1946,

**Student News**

**History Department Award Winners**

Joseph W. Law, Guy Kurtz Bard Award

Sharon Folkenroth Hess, Richard C. Keller Award in American History

Abbey Lichtenberg, Louis & Margarete Koppel Award in European History

James Rooney, Charlotte A. Lafferty History Scholarship

Cara Uhrich, C. Maxwell & Edna H. Myers History Award

Brian T. Pearson, Dr. Robert D. and Roma J. Sayre Excellence in American History Scholarship

Abby Gruber, Joseph E. Walker American History Scholarship

Tracy Barnett, Robert F., Louise G., and Joan M. Williams Scholarship

Christopher O’Brien, The Francis J. Bremer Award

Stephen Burciaga, Jack Loose Sons of the Revolution American History Research Award

**Winners of the 2014 Robert Sayre award:**

**Tracy Barnett**, Sectionalism: Cause of the Know-Nothing Party’s Defeat in the Election of 1856

**Connie Flowers**, German Soldiers in the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War

**Kaytee Moyer**, The Impact of Slavery on Representation at the Constitutional Convention of 1787

Students and Faculty at the History Department Award Winners’ Dinner.
Departmental Honors Thesis


Ashley Danielle Swift, *The Indolence of a Prince: Royal Parenting and the Development of an Heir* (Erin Shelor)

Sharon Folkenroth Hess, *Brewed in Penn's Woods: German and English Beer Production in Pennsylvania from 1681 to 1800* (Robyn Davis)

Joseph W. Law, *Sir John Fortescue: A Political Philosopher in Late Medieval England* (Mary Sommar)

Alyssa Ackerman, *The Art of the Courtesan in 17th-19th Century England* (Erin Shelor)

On Saturday, April 5th, the following students participated in PAT's East Regional Conference at Shippensburg University:


**Tracy L. Barnett**, “Daniel Sickles and the III Corps at Gettysburg: The Unauthorized Advance that Defined July 2, 1863”

**Sharon Folkenroth Hess**, “Grave Ramifications: Britain’s Social Classes and the Anatomy Act of 1832”

**Timothy M. Seidel**, “One People, One Language: Deciphering the Myth of a Pennsylvania German-Language Education Law”

**Maria Cook**, “Italian American Women and Family Dynamics in New York, 1890–1920”

**Wesley B. Toth**, “An Interpretation of Modern and Postmodern Historiography”

**Jessica L. Jackson**, “Brunhoff’s Babar and French Colonialism of the Twentieth Century”

**Daniel J. Harpold**, “The Corps System During the American Civil War”

**Brian T. Pearson**, “A Judicious Juxtaposition of Jeb and Johnston's Jaunts”

Professor Frankum presents awards at the History Department Award Winners’ Dinner.
Alumni News

Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration.
Thomas Edison

Dear Alumni,

The History Department sincerely congratulates you with your successes.

We are proud of you and your professional achievements.

Paths to Success

Michael R. Fauser, B.A. in History, Graduated in 2011

Work:

Since December 2013 I have been working for the Shoah Foundation as a Holocaust survivor oral testimony indexer. In this position I am required to view testimonies of various lengths through a video interface that allows me to assign terms and keywords that are referenced by the interviewee. These testimonies have not been previously processed, so my goal is to make them as accessible as possible to the end user or researcher. There are approximately 50,000 terms in our controlled vocabulary and there is a good amount of subjectivity to indexing. It is therefore important that I utilize my previous knowledge, as well as continue to research the subject matter in order to deliver a superior finished product.

I continued on to graduate school after Millersville, receiving an M.A. in History from Shippensburg University. My job search lasted about five months and included approximately thirty-five applications.

MU experience:

I feel my education at Millersville was a good start in my field of public history, museums and non-profit organizations. Additional schooling and practical internships were absolutely necessary.

Advice to Students:

My advice would be that it’s never too early to be thinking of your next step. If you plan to go to grad school for history, starting thinking about writing an undergraduate thesis. If you plan on going into museums, public history, or teaching start interning right away. If you can’t intern, volunteer. Many institutions value experience as much as education. While you will need the degree, the experience will set you apart from the others. It is best to try to intern at a small institution as well as a large one. These divergent experiences will give you the broadest exposure to the inner workings of a museum, archive, or historical society. Also, always stay on the lookout for financial assistance, either through grants, fellowships, or assistantships. There is money out there but the application process is highly competitive and you really have to be creative in where you look.

Justin Neideigh, BSE in Social Studies Education (BSE-SSTH), May 2012

Work:

Social Studies Teacher at Donegal High School (public high school in Lancaster County, PA)

I do have a job in my desired field and am working in a field in my college major. It took me a little more than a year and a half (21 months) to find a full time job. After graduation, I served as a substitute teacher in 17 school districts in 4 counties. I completed 94 teaching applications, 17 interviews, and 4 long-term substitute jobs before landing a full-time, permanent teaching position. After being hired, I was informed by the HR department that I was selected for the job out of over 350 other applicants for the position.

Advice to Students:

Take advantage of every single opportunity you get while in college and in the field placements. This is your chance to learn, grow, and challenge yourself. Work hard at everything you do - whether it’s coursework, the student teaching placement, professional networking, or the sometimes, seemingly overwhelming experience of the post-graduation job

Work:
I currently work as an academic English teacher and student adviser for an international high school program in China. Many of my students have already been accepted to U.S. colleges and universities for this upcoming fall semester, so right now I am helping them get acquainted with some of the social and academic experiences they will encounter. Prior, I taught British Literature and helped students develop their personal statements and college application materials. My primary goal is to encourage my students to use and understand the English language for communication, not just know grammar and random vocabulary for a test. It is my responsibility to prepare my US-bound students as best as I can for active participation in American social and academic life.

It took about four years after graduation to secure a full-time teaching position, and I feel that I had to move to China to find it. I did not, however, actively pursue a teaching career immediately after college; it took me a few years to really decide how, when, and where to break into the field of education.

MU experience:
I do feel as though the quality of the education though was top-notch, particularly when considering the very fair in-state tuition. The knowledge I gained from my Millersville experience DID prepare me for the modern workforce, but not necessarily in the job search process.

Advice to Students:
Get involved! I know that it’s cliché but it’s true. If I could change one thing about my Millersville education, and truth be told, I would probably only change one thing. I would have tried really hard to intern at the International Studies office. I studied abroad as part of Millersville’s London Metropolitan program in 2005, and now I realize that a perfect bookend to that experience would have been an internship position in the same field. I am attempting to get a job in international education right now and I keep thinking, “argh...I should have taken advantage of the opportunity to get study abroad office experience in college...” So, get involved. You never know when extra skills or experiences will come in handy. Millersville’s on-campus jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities can help you learn more about your personal interests and career aspirations. Don’t be like me; get involved on campus.

Timothy John Bianchi II, B.S. Social Studies, Spring ’08

Work:
This is my sixth year as a social studies teacher at Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School. I teach ninth grade “American Studies,” which spans the Gilded Age to the Age of Kennedy, and I teach a senior elective. I graduated in May of ’08 and accepted the position in June of ’08.

MU experience:
Millersville is highly regarded for their teacher preparation around the mid-state.

Advice to Students:
Remember that as a young teacher, you truly don’t start learning about the art and science of teaching until you inherit your own classroom. There is much to learn about curriculum, instruction, and assessment, as well as about the content you teach. Therefore, a novice teacher must be the first to arrive at school and the last to leave. One thing that nobody can take away from you is your work ethic and passion.

Kyle Breneman, BA History, 2006

Work:
I am a librarian at a small private college where I teach students research skills and provide research support to students and faculty. I work with students at all levels: traditional undergraduates, graduate students, and non-traditional students working to finish out a college degree. I help them find the information that they need for their research, whether that means finding a physical book in our library, giving them search tips to find online journal articles, talking about how to use Wikipedia, helping them craft citations, or showing them search hacks to allow them to more efficiently find information using Google.

Advice to Students:
Take advantage of your time in college to take every opportunity to gain experience in your chosen field. Switch your focus from how you can gain money over the summer to how you can gain experience in your field. Internships are invaluable! The more real-world experience you can get before you hit your actual job
search, the better. Build close relationships with one or two of your professors at Millersville. Let them get to know you so that they can give you feedback and advice on internships and what you might best do after college.

Brigette Cathleen Kamsler, BA in History with a minor in Art History, 2007

Work:
I am the Archivist for the Missionary Research Library Archives and William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives Project at Columbia University in the City of New York. My project, which is funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, seeks to process and make available hundreds of feet of records to local, national and international researchers. I am also active in the Columbia University Libraries system, as well as the archives profession as a whole.

I have a job in my desired field. After graduation from Millersville, I immediately attended the University of Pittsburgh for my Master's in Library and Information Science (MLIS) with a specialization in archives, preservation and records management. Two weeks after graduation in 2008, I was hired as the Archivist and Research Center Coordinator at the Historical Society of Frederick County, Maryland. I worked there for three years, and was then hired at Columbia University in 2011.

MU experience:
My education at Millersville gave me an advantage because of the way it taught history. The Craft of History was an invaluable class because it taught me to look at events and recognize bias. I also learned how to research and cite my sources. While I was attending MU, I had a part-time job at the Archives and Special Collections, which has literally set my career for the rest of my life. Were it not for that job, I do not know where I would be now.

Advice to Students:
Explore your interests and look at them from a variety of perspectives. Get as much experience as you can, whether it a paid job or an unpaid internship. Learn as much as you can from the amazing sources that are at your fingertips. Take a variety of classes and just enjoy the moment because it is fleeting.

Sarah Drennen, BA History, May 2012

Work:
Educational Program Coordinator/Volunteer Coordinator/Weekend Supervisor at Historic Rock Ford Plantation, home of Revolutionary War General Edward Hand. I give tours, group tours, field trips, work with collections, planning events, coordinate all volunteers, and handle integral office work. I am also currently working on my MA in Museum Studies through Johns Hopkins University.

MU experience:
I feel as though I wouldn’t have got my job if it hadn’t been for my MU education.

Advice to Students:
Don’t give up! Graduating from college is one of the best feelings in the world, you need to experience that!

Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan, BA History & English (dual major), May 2011

Work:
While attending Millersville, I worked as a public program coordinator at my local public library, which I continued after graduation, as I had plans to begin graduate school that fall. I obtained my Masters in Modern History at the Queen’s University of Belfast in Northern Ireland, where I lived from 2011-2012. I was offered a position with the House Archives prior to the completion of my MA, and I began working there in July 2012. In January 2014, I began working toward my PhD in History concurrently with my present position with the University of Leicester in England.

I provide historical research for legislators, scholars, and the general public on topics related to the history of Pennsylvania, the General Assembly, and a wide variety of subjects related to legislative history in the state. At present, I’m assisting in a biographical project detailing the lives of each Member who has served in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, am in charge of our historical quarterly newsletter, and offer lectures on women’s history in PA.

MU experience:
My experience with the MU history department highlighted the strengths of the faculty, who offered candid and encouraging advice on both academic and professional levels.
Advice to Students:

I would advise current MU students to get as much experience in fields even remotely related to their hopeful careers. Internships, work experience, even volunteering, is what will make the difference between a decent degree and a real career. Internships will provide not only instructive hands-on experience in the field, but can teach essential networking skills that are integral to making the necessary connections for job searches and graduate school.

Katie Knaub, BA in History minor in Business/ graduated 2003

Work:

Director of Education at the National Watch and Clock Museum, Columbia, PA

Right after I graduated I started working as a museum educator. I also went on to receive my MA in History Museum Studies.

MU experience:

MU professors helped me in my career path along with the internship opportunities I took during my years as student. My internship opportunities helped me get a job right after graduation because of the connections I made with staff during those internships.

Advice to Students:

Explore all your options and research the field you want to get into. Internships are a great way to learn what jobs you like and what you don't like. They also serve as a way to meet and talk with people actually working in the field who can give you some great career advice.