I had a great experience in one of my classes a few weeks ago. I made a connection. As historians, we make connections all the time, and one of the things we try to do in our classes is teach students how to make connections. When I prepare for my classes, I look for connections that I can highlight for students and for materials that will illustrate connections for them. But in this class meeting, I noticed a connection that I hadn’t prepared for or expected. I had one of those eureka moments we all hope our students will experience. This particular eureka moment came about when the class and I were discussing the stagnation of the late Roman economy and the development of early medieval manorial “systems.” This is pretty dull stuff for most people. But I was really excited about the connection I had made – and even more excited to share this connection with the students who had helped me make it! This rather mundane experience highlighted for me the role our students play in our own learning and scholarship, and prompted me to look for the ways the history department has been helping students to enhance their learning.

I am grateful for the many history faculty members who devote so much of their time to informally mentoring students, which is one of the ways they help our students make connections (both historical connections, and academic networking connections). Thanks to the efforts of our faculty in working with students outside of the classroom, our students are producing great work that is leading to many opportunities: conference presentations, research activities, teaching practice, internships, and even graduate school.

Thanks to the contributions of donors – including the many student donors who give through the “choose to give” campaign each year – we were pleased to have been able to support students in their scholarly activities outside of the classroom. Two of our students were awarded funds to participate in the undergraduate research conference at the McNeil Center at the University of Pennsylvania. BYU is a member of the McNeil Center consortium of schools, so we expect to be able to send a few students each year to this event. A number of history majors also participated in BYU’s Cambridge Pembroke Kings Summer Honors program where they were able to work closely with scholars at the University of Cambridge. Finally, we were able to provide donor funds to seven students who presented their research at academic conferences last year.

Because of the economic downturn, our endowment accounts were frozen for a time. We are now able to draw on them again. Our scholarship committee will be able to award 8 students either single-semester or full-year tuition scholarships – thanks again to our generous donors.

Great things are happening in the history department at BYU. We are making connections for ourselves and for our students. I hope you enjoy reading about what we are up to in this issue of our newsletter.

Donald J. Harreld, History Department Chair
What are the choices when some family members choose one religion and some choose another? This is the topic of my new book, *Conversions: Two Family Stories From the Reformation and Modern America*, to be published by Yale University Press in August.

Anyone who has been around conversion knows that it’s often accompanied by the possibility of family conflict. That was certainly true in the Reformation, my primary area of research.

The division of Christianity after 1520 into rival churches revived the possibility of changing religions, something largely dormant during the Catholic Middle Ages. As the Church splitted into Lutherans and Reformed and Anabaptists and more, then conversion again became, just as in the ancient world, a common if often unsettling occurrence—especially for families.

My book starts with the experience of a single family, to give the larger phenomenon of conversion some flesh and blood. In 1654, a 21-year-old Dutchman named Jacob Rolandus converted from his family’s Reformed religion to Catholicism; fortunately, he recorded the tumultuous events of that year in his secret journal, part of which was written in code. This reveals that his conversion devastated his family, even more than was usual in such cases: Jacob’s father was a Reformed preacher, his grandfather a celebrity preacher, and Jacob had been expected to become a preacher himself.

Because he was still a minor, Jacob knew that his family would try to stop him. He decided that the only way he could practice his new religion was to leave home, and so in the middle of one May night he fled to Antwerp. His desperate father, sure that his son had been brainwashed, soon followed with a posse of relatives, but Jacob managed to evade him. He stayed in Antwerp for several years, became a Jesuit, and finally a missionary in Brazil, trying to convert others.

All the while, Jacob claimed to still love his family, and wrote them long letters saying so. But he also quoted the scripture favored by generations of young Christian converts: that he had to love God more than parents. His devoutly Reformed sister wrote Jacob for three years, trying to persuade him to reconsider and return home, but in vain. Finally she gave up, and for the last 26 years of his life Jacob never heard from any of his family again.

Not all families of the Reformation ended up this way. Some others did reject their children for converting, or even killed them. But most families practiced some form of tolerance, which ranged from barely speaking to peacefully interacting, always full of hope that the deviant family member would change. And a few families managed to find what we today might call acceptance, as family members simply respected the decision of other-believers.

My book tries to understand the attitudes and assumptions that underlay each sort of decision, and especially to understand how these few families went beyond mere tolerance to attain genuine acceptance. To make this old seventeenth-century even more immediate, it also tells in alternating chapters the story of a modern American Evangelical family undergoing much the same difficulty as this Reformation family (when their son converted to Mormonism), though with some distinctly modern twists thrown in, involving other issues that might also divide families today, such as politics and sexuality. After several crises, the modern family reconciles, and the focus is on the dynamics and processes that made this possible.
OUTSTANDING STUDENT - Chase Arnold

Since Chase became a history major in 2008, he has enjoyed a rich undergraduate career. He has worked closely with several members of the department as a research and teaching assistant. The impact of these mentoring opportunities can be seen in the several scholarships and grants he has been awarded. These include the Karl G. Maeser Scholarship, an ORCA Grant, and other funds offered by the David M. Kennedy Center and the Honors Department. Chase was able to in turn use this funding to finance a variety of unique research opportunities, including participation in the Cambridge Direct Enrollment program and the completion of a 3-month field study in Ghana. He is currently refining this last research experience into his history capstone and honors thesis, presenting the cultural transformations that occurred in Asante society because of British colonialism and cocoa cash cropping. Chase is also preparing to begin a master’s program in African Studies at the University of Cambridge this Fall. His overall hope is to secure a career in the international development community, in particular, evaluating, revising, and implementing projects aimed at rural development in West Africa.

VALEDICTORIAN - Lee Depperman

Lee is originally from Illinois and served his mission in the Idaho Boise Mission. He has done all of his undergraduate education here at BYU and has greatly enjoyed being a history major. Some of the highlights of his experiences in the BYU History Department include presenting papers at the 2010 National Phi Alpha Theta conference in San Diego and at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He has also enjoyed being a staff member and Editor-in-Chief for The Thetean. After graduation he plans on pursuing a M.A. and Ph.D. in 19th Century American history at the University of Kansas. He enjoys reading, and outdoor activities, such as fishing.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Congratulations to Cameron Jones and Mark Christensen on receiving Dissertation Fellowships from the Academy of American Franciscan History.

- Joseph Antley won the Mormon History Association’s 2010 Juanita Brooks Award for the Best Undergraduate paper in Mormon History for “America’s Early Treasure Quest: Joseph Smith and the Effort to Recapture the Supernatural in America’s Northeast,” which began as a History 200 paper.

- The departmental McNeil Center Committee (comprised of Dr. Mason, Dr. Pulsipher, and Dr. Kerry) has selected three students who will present their scholarship in April to the University of Pennsylvania McNeil Center for Early American Studies: Jessica Johnson, Matthew Johnson, and Rachael Givens.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Rachael Givens</td>
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<td>LeRoy R. Hafen Award in North American History</td>
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<td>Cristina Campazano</td>
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**FAITH AND REASON ESSAY**

Rachael Givens

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Mark Earl Brotherson Memorial Scholarship:** Kiera Beddes, Cassi Burdge

**Arthur Becker Scholarship:** Annette Penrod

**Dr. William J. Snow Scholarship:** Jeffrey Kunz

**History Department Scholarship:** Aaron Day, Samantha Parkvold, Mariya Apitsiauri

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**Faith and Reason Essay Competition**

This year a donation provided prize money for the first Faith and Reason Essay Contest. Rather than award a paper written for a class, this contest invited students to write and submit an essay that explored the intersection between faith and reason in their own life and scholarship. Please contact Kris Nelson at (801) 422-1654 for more information.

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*Below: Award recipients at the annual History Department award banquet.*
Historical Lessons for Understanding North Korea

by Kirk Larsen

North Korea (officially known as the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea or DPRK) seldom goes for very long without appearing in the headlines. Whether it is a burgeoning nuclear weapons program, an abysmal human rights record, or the latest military provocation, North Korea’s ruling regime appears to constantly be doing something that angers, threatens or otherwise concerns its neighbors and the international community at large. Given that the DPRK’s record of such actions goes back decades, one can ask whether history can shed any light on North Korean behavior both present and future. While the careful historian should be quick to avow that the same set of historical circumstances never appears twice in the exact same way, one can also consider the wise conclusion that “History never repeats itself, but it often rhymes.” An examination of the past may indeed shed some light on the likelihood of the next provocation escalating to an all out military conflict. If history’s rhymes are any guide, this scenario does not appear to be very likely in the short- or medium-term future. Unfortunately, this also means that small-scale provocations will likely continue for some time to come.

Another Korean War?

Some of North Korea’s latest military provocations, most significantly the sinking of a South Korean frigate, the Cheonan in March 2010 and the North Korean shelling of the South Korean-occupied Yeonpyeong Island in November of 2010 which killed two South Korean soldiers and two civilians, have raised fears of the outbreak of full-scale hostilities on the Korean peninsula. The presence of two immense armies facing each other across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the endless barrage of North Korean anti-foreign vitriol combine to increase this sense of anxiety and threat.

However, it is important to note that the troubling events of 2010 are far from the first cases of North Korean provocations since the 1953 cease-fire that ended open hostilities in the Korean War. A far from comprehensive list of such previous North Korean acts includes the 1968 Blue House raid (when North Korean commandoes reached the outskirts of South Korea’s Presidential residence intending to kill then President Park Chung Hee); the seizure of the USS Pueblo in the same year; the shooting down of an American EC-121 spy plane in 1969; the 1976 “ax murder incident” which left two American soldiers dead in the DMZ; a bombing in Rangoon Burma in 1983 which killed 21, including several South Korean cabinet members (and narrowly missing ROK president Chun Doo Hwan); the 1987 bombing of KAL 858; the clashes that followed the 1996 landing of a North Korean submarine on a South Korean beach; and numerous naval clashes off of the western coast of the Korean peninsula in the late 1990’s and early 2000’s. In short, North Korean provocations are nothing new.

While the events listed above (and many others not mentioned here) are widely divergent in motivation, scale, and type, they do share one common characteristic: none of them led to a significant escalation of military conflict on the Korean peninsula. This is largely due to the restraint practiced by the United States and South Korea but also partly due to the fact that the DPRK has generally spaced and calibrated its provocations in such a way as to make it difficult to unequivocally justify a forceful retaliation.

Both sides remember the ultimately futile devastation of the Korean War and have, to date, worked to avoid a full-scale second outbreak of that still unresolved conflict. Nearly every military analyst concludes that the ROK and the United States would “win” such a conflict but only after days or weeks of intense fighting that could potentially reduce the South Korean capital of Seoul—a vibrant city of well over ten million that is within rocket range of the DMZ—to piles of smoking rubble. The sad truth appears to be that the DPRK regime knows it can engage in small-scale provocative actions safe from the risk of a major escalation due to the restraint practiced by both sides. The tragic result of such a situation will likely continue to be future cases of North Korean provocations.
Recent & Upcoming Publications

The Boston Massacre
Neil York

In The Boston Massacre, Dr. Neil York sets the background to the incident, discusses the 1770 “massacre” itself and the trials that followed, and reviews how we have placed the event in our national historical memory. He includes transcribed documents related to all of those areas, and the more notable attempts to capture the “massacre” visually, beginning with Paul Revere’s famous engraving. None of the images can be considered perfectly accurate; all had their own points to make—but that is true of the written texts as well.

Contesting Slavery
Matthew Mason

This volume, co-edited by Matthew Mason, started at a “state of the field” type session at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic in 2007. As the commentator on the panel suggested, recent scholarship had “driven a bulldozer” through older interpretations of the politics of slavery and the coming of the Civil War, but had not created a new narrative to replace the one that was demolished. Dr. Matthew Mason and John Craig Hammond took that as a bracing challenge, and set about assembling this volume in response. It represents the “state of the field” as did the original conference session, and it also starts (if not finishes) the process of creating that new narrative. It does so primarily by looking forward from the Revolution rather than backward from the Civil War. Dr. Mason is excited to see the impact it has, and expects that impact to be felt mostly amongst fellow scholars and in graduate seminars.

Creating Catholics
Karen Carter

In Creating Catholics: Catechism and Primary Education in Early Modern France, Dr. Karen E. Carter scrutinizes Catholic religious education in rural parishes in France through its two leading forms: the explosion of Catholic catechisms for children and their use in village schools. Carter argues that the study of catechism in village schools was an integral part of a comprehensive program, implemented by both clerical and lay leaders, for the religious, ethical, and moral education of children. Her research demonstrates that the clergy and a majority of the lay population believed in the efficacy of this program; for this reason, parish priests taught catechism in their parishes on a weekly basis, and small village communities established and paid for a surprisingly large number of local schools so that their sons and daughters could receive an education both in basic literacy skills and, through memorization of catechism, in Catholic faith and practice.

Galen, De diebus decretoriis, from Greek into Arabic
Glen Cooper

The history of medicine involves several subspecializations, including the histories of science, astrology, magic and superstition, as well as intellectual and social history. All of these intersect in Glen Cooper’s monograph study of the 2nd C. Greek physician Galen’s astrological medicine, a neglected area. The core of his first volume study is the 9th C. Arabic translation by Hunayn ibn Ishaq; the second volume is in Greek.
In febrile illnesses, the critical days are the days on which an especially severe pattern of symptoms, a crisis, was likely to occur. The crisis was thought to expel the disease-producing substances from the body. If its precise timing were known, the physician could prepare the patient so that the crisis would be most beneficial. After identifying the critical days based on empirical data and showing how to use them in therapy, Galen explains the critical days via the moon’s influence.

Cooper discusses the translation of the Critical Days in Arabic, and sketches its possible significance in the intellectual debates and political rivalries among the 9th-century Baghdad elite. He argues that Galen originally composed the Critical Days both to confound the Skeptics of his own day and to refute a purely mathematical, rationalist approach to science. These features made the text useful in the rivalries between Baghdad scholars. Al-Kindi (d.c. 866) famously propounded a mathematical approach to science akin to the latter. The scholar-bureaucrat responsible for funding this translation, Muhammad ibn Musa (d. 873), al-Kindi’s nemesis, may have found the treatise useful in refuting that approach.

Henry Hulton and the American Revolution: An Outsider’s Inside View
Neil York

Dr. Neil York’s *Henry Hulton and the American Revolution: An Outsider’s Inside View* (Colonial Society of Massachusetts) discusses the life of Henry Hulton, an Englishman sent to Boston by George III to try and crack down on smuggling in the Bay Colony. There from 1767-1776, he failed utterly; the colonists could not be made to behave as London preferred.

Hulton wrote a history of the rebellion as he saw it unfold over those years, which is transcribed in the book, along with a number of letters. Though Hulton was critical of the “demagogues” who brought on the imperial crisis, his perspective was slightly different from Massachusetts loyalists who lacked his transatlantic experience.

My Fellow Servants
William Hartley

My Fellow Servants is a collection of Dr. Bill Hartley’s published essays dealing with the historical development of priesthood quorums and of Church administration and operations. These essays resulted from Dr. Hartley’s career-long assignment from Church Historian Leonard Arrington in 1972 to research and write priesthood history. Two of these articles received “Best Article” awards from the Mormon History Association. The publication deals with such matters as how the Church functioned before it had stakes, the beginning of wards, the development of the office of bishop, pioneer-era tithing systems, LDS pastors in England, major priesthood restructurings in 1877 and 1908, Seventies operations in the stakes, Aaronic Priesthood offices shifting from men to boys, histories of baptism modes and of Mormon Sundays, and what “active in the Church” meant for members during the Brigham Young era.

(Re)imagining Content-Area Literacy Instruction
Jeffery Nokes

Today’s teachers need to prepare students for a world that places increasingly higher literacy demands on its citizens. In
this timely book, Dr. Nokes explores content-area literacy and instruction in English, music, science, mathematics, social studies, visual arts, technology, and theatre. Each of the chapters has been written by educators who are experts in their discipline. Their key recommendations reflect the aims and instructional frameworks unique to content-area learning. This resource focuses on how literacy specialists and content-area educators can combine their talents to teach all readers and writers in the middle and secondary school classroom. The text features vignettes from classroom practice with visuals to demonstrate, for example, how we read a painting or hear the discourse of a song.

Renegade Women
Eric Dursteler

In the narrow sense, the word “renegade” as used in the early modern Mediterranean referred to a Christian who had abandoned his or her religion to become a Muslim. With Renegade Women, Eric Dursteler redefines and broadens the term to include anyone who crossed the era’s and region’s religious, political, social, and gender boundaries. Drawing on archival research, he relates three tales of women whose lives afford great insight into both the experiences and condition of women in, and the broader cultural and societal practices and mores of, the early Mediterranean.

Through Beatrice Michiel of Venice, who fled an overbearing husband to join her renegade brother in Constantinople and took the name Fatima Hatun, Dursteler discusses how women could convert and relocate in order to raise their personal and familial status. In the parallel tales of the Christian Elena Cievalelli and the Muslim Mihale Satorovic, who both entered a Venetian convent to avoid unwanted, arranged marriages, he presents young women who used the frontier between Ottoman and Venetian states to exercise a surprising degree of agency over their lives. And by detailing the actions of four, a family of Muslim girls and their Christian mother, on the Greek island of Milos -- Aissè, her sisters Eminè and Catigè, and their mother, Maria -- who together left their home for Corfu and converted from Islam to Christianity to escape Aissè’s emotionally and financially neglectful husband, Dursteler unveils how a woman’s attempt to control her own life ignited an international firestorm that threatened Venetian-Ottoman relations. A fascinating narrative of female instrumentality, Renegade Women illuminates the nexus of identity and conversion in the early modern Mediterranean through global and local lenses.

The Ring and the Cross
Paul Kerry

The Ring and the Cross. Christianity and The Lord of the Rings engages a fascinating debate that has emerged among readers of the Oxford Professor J.R.R. Tolkien’s most famous work. Is The Lord of the Rings Christian? Certainly Tolkien was a devout Catholic convinced of the efficacy, beauty, and salvific power of his faith. But was his masterpiece calculated to be an escape from his orthodoxy or a deeper, richer, and imaginative view of its embodied truth? What views did Tolkien hold on this subject? If the book be Christian then where are the places of worship, the religious rituals, or Christian allegories (which Tolkien said he eschewed)? If the book favors Northern myth and paganism, then whence the profound morality that spins out of its pages and on which the plot turns (“It was pity that stayed Bilbo’s hand”). This punchy volume brings together well-known Tolkien experts who stand on both sides of the pond and on both sides of this hot-button topic and who model civil debate and scholarly practice.
Several years ago the department asked faculty to consider developing history courses that were more topical than national or chronological in focus. In response to that invitation, I decided to combine two of my loves - history and food - and created a class on food history. One of the central contentions of the course is that food is a unique marker of identity, and to illustrate this, at the start of each semester I ask the class to prepare an autobiographical food that provides some insight into their personal or family history. To illustrate this concept, I prepare the following recipe for the class, and use it as a way to discuss the impact of my LDS mission to Italy on my subsequent scholarly interests and career.

I learned the recipe from an Italian elder, Ezio Caramia, a missionary from Naples, who in addition to having worked as a prison guard in the most dangerous prison in Italy, was also a trained chef. While I, like most missionaries, thought fine food was a kilo of pasta with a jar of tomato puree poured over it, Elder Caramia introduced me to inexpensive, fast, but delicious food, like these beans, which have been a standby in my own kitchen ever since. I think they are pretty tasty, and even inveterate bean haters have been known to be converted after trying them.

Dr. Eric Dursteler can be contacted via telephone at (801) 422-5260 or email at ericd@byu.edu.

Fagiolini al Caramia

1 can french cut green beans, drained
½ Knorr bouillon cube (chicken, beef, or vegetable)
1-2 garlic cloves, minced
2-3 Tablespoons of olive oil

Saute the garlic in the olive oil over medium heat. As it starts to soften, add the bouillon, break it up and mix thoroughly. Stir in the beans, mixing completely with garlic, oil and bouillon, and heat until warm.

Serve immediately, and be sure to provide breath mints for your guests.
As the winter frost begins to melt from the roof-top of the JFSB, it is once again time for the members of Phi Alpha Theta to pause and reflect on another successful year of bringing history students and faculty together.

In September Phi Alpha Theta got off to a fiery start at a department barbeque. The opportunity for students and faculty to interact amidst the beauty of the Provo River was only made better by delicious Argentine-style meat, provided by our own Dr. Jeffrey Shumway and Dr. Matt Mason. Spurred on by the success of that first event, we prepared for our next move—the opening social. There, presentations given by students and faculty members highlighted the resources and opportunities available to the students of BYU’s history program, from study abroad to The Thetean, the history student journal. Later in the semester, Phi Alpha Theta sponsored a successful History Career Night to give students an idea of what can be accomplished with a degree in history. Presenters discussed how history students can use their history degree in diverse careers and graduate school programs. Phi Alpha Theta members volunteered their time and experience at the Peer Mentoring Center, where students taking history department courses could seek counsel and advice in regard to their current studies and future careers.

After Christmas break, Phi Alpha Theta started the new semester strong, ushering in Black History Month with a viewing and discussion of the film “Soundtrack for a Revolution,” an award-winning look at the civil rights movement and the music that inspired it. February also had room for romance, and on the 17th Phi Alpha Theta invited all to join in a discussion of the origins of modern dating culture. It was the perfect mix of what Phi Alpha Theta loves, history, and what all BYU students love—talking about love.

In the midst of all of this fun, the students of Phi Alpha Theta have still found time for a little work, and this year many are reaping the benefits. Several Phi Alpha Theta students presented papers at the Southwestern Historical Association in Las Vegas, and three of our members presented research at an Ivy League venue, the University of Pennsylvania McNeil Center Conference. The arrival of graduate school acceptance letters has also brought good news for many in Phi Alpha Theta. Chase Arnold, our illustrious president, has found himself between a cloud and a soft place with offers of graduate scholarships from both Stanford and Cambridge University. Phi Alpha Theta is sorry to lose him, but to such a foe we gladly surrender.

In closing we would like to thank all who have been a part of Phi Alpha Theta. If you all enjoyed spending time with us as much as we did you, let’s definitely do...
“You only love money! You hate the important things in your life!” So go a wife’s words to her husband. Though a statement like this seems all too at home in any number of contemporary conversations, the wife who wrote this lived almost four thousand years ago, in northern Iraq.

Impressed into a clay tablet and sent 700 miles to a city in the central plateau of Turkey, her letter, like some twenty-three thousand other documents, evoke a rich human negotiation between family relationships and the necessities of an arbitrage trade. The wife’s plea was a reaction to long business trips, taking several years at a time, and evoked her feeling of loss, suggesting tensions between work and family as poignant four millennia ago as today. Ancient sources, like this wife’s complaint, can be used as windows into the past; but they can also end up being framed as mirrors on contemporary issues. When teaching students about these merchants, it is important to find a balance between recognizing universal human elements and seeking out the particular circumstances of the ‘Old Assyrian’ trade—both components of a historical perspective.

The Old Assyrian merchants seem quintessential examples of capitalist tendencies in the human past. From 1950-1800 BCE, they plied a trade between Asshur on the Tigris and the cities of the Anatolian plateau, including the later capital of the Hittite empire. Tin and textiles purchased in Iraq could be sold for nearly double their price when they crossed the Taurus mountains, and the opportunity for profit encouraged a range of financial arrangements that allowed merchants to leverage their participation in the trade. In particular, many merchants operated joint-stock funds. Buying a share for 1 mina (roughly a pound) of silver would yield 1/4 mina of gold in ten or twelve years—doubling their investment, in addition to annual dividends. Many merchants began to base themselves in Anatolia, staying for years as they sought the cheapest silver through a series of trades in wool and copper in addition to the tin and textiles that they brought from Iraq. Some individual merchants could boast an annual volume exceeding ten talents of silver. A peasant could earn less than a fiftieth of that amount.

But with prosperity came other tensions. Perhaps the most well documented aspects of the trade were the litigious and disagreeable inheritance fights between sons. In one case, a younger son emerged from the father’s deathbed in a remote corner of the Anatolian plateau with amendments to the will. An ensuing fight between the brothers elicited hundreds of depositions and required the transportation of the entirety of the father’s archive back to Asshur to be adjudicated before a committee assigned by the city assembly. From the reams of tablets created in this settlement, almost a hundred documents survive. Other fights in other families often resulted in brothers drifting away. In this case, the confrontation only ended with the elder brother’s murder. The younger brother did not likely commit or participate in the murder (if so, his chutzpah to seek the ‘blood money’ from the local king is to be both commended and abhorred). But the two brothers’ quarrel was resolved without a negotiated resolution. Like wives and families left in Asshur, I explain to my students that every rose in an Old Assyrian merchant’s life still had its thorn.

Not all families were so contentious. Other families worked together to accomplish the trade over two generations with a respectable amount of cooperation among brothers and cousins, fathers and sons. But between concerns about utukku-demons torturing some for the actions of their relatives, a lively tension between individual and collective interests played out in one of the earliest documented layers of active interregional markets. Brothers lent large amounts of silver to each other when in trouble and fathers could ensure that their daughters were protected from the calamity of not getting married by investing money in their name. But even husbands and wives kept a balance sheet of sorts. The wife who wrote her husband with the complaint above, finished her letter by reminding him that he owed her the revenue from several textiles she had sent him. In effect, after complaining about his commercial myopia, she was still effectively saying, “Show me the money!”

The past is a foreign country, and yet sometimes it seems all too familiar. Perhaps that is why historians like John Lewis Gaddis claim that one of the greatest opportunities history offers student and historian alike is to combine perspectives and in so doing broaden our own. I hope encountering the Old Assyrian trade does so for my students.
Jay Buckley recently earned the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation’s 2010 Meritorious Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to Lewis and Clark scholarship, particularly his award-winning *William Clark: Indian Diplomat*, which was recently published in paperback. His local history of Orem [Utah] was published last spring. His forthcoming co-edited volume *Building Thomas Jefferson’s “Empire of Liberty”: Zebulon Pike and the Opening of the West* will soon be published by the University of Oklahoma Press. He also presented a paper at the Western History Association in October.

Brian Cannon was named President Elect of the Agricultural History Society at the Society’s annual meeting in Orlando in June. He represented the Society at an international conference on rural history, hosted by the British Agricultural History Society at the University of Brighton in September. Cannon team-taught an interdisciplinary biology/nature writing/history course, Integrated Natural History of Utah, during the 2010 spring term. The class entailed traveling along and studying the human and natural history of four river systems in the state.

Mark Choate’s recent book, *Emigrant Nation: The Making of Italy Abroad* (Harvard University Press, 2008) was featured at the book prize panel of the Council for European Studies conference in Montreal, and is coming out in a mass-market paperback edition from Oscar Mondadori as *Nazione d’emigranti. Come gli italiani all’estero hanno fatto l’Italia* (May, 2011). Mark presented a conference paper in the Netherlands at Leiden University, and was awarded the Brigham Young University Class of 1949 Young Faculty Award for 2010-2011.

Glen Cooper’s first volume of his historical and textual study of Galen’s prognostic treatise, *Critical Days*, will appear May, 2011. His research into printing early Renaissance medicine was presented at the Renaissance Society of America meeting in Venice, and will appear in *Early Science and Medicine*, 2012. For the same journal he published an article on Galen’s astrological medicine and its influence. His ongoing research into Byzantine medicine was presented at the History of Science Society meeting in Montreal, in a paper about 12th C. Byzantine princess Anna Comnena’s medical knowledge. He has been invited to publish an article on the history of Graeco-Roman astrology for an edited volume about the classical sciences for Oxford, along with one Guggenheim and two MacArthur Fellows. His interview for the LDSRadio: Insights about the spread of Hellenism through medieval Islam, Byzantium, and Europe is available online. He has been invited to collaborate on a Mellon funded digitization and database project concerning the 9th C. Arabic translations of Greek scientific treatises, a project organized by G. Crane of Tufts and M. Schiefsky of Harvard.

Eric Dursteler’s new book *Renegade Women: Gender, Identity and Boundaries in the Early Modern Mediterranean* will be appearing with Johns Hopkins University Press in May 2011. He was the Director of London Study Abroad program during winter semester 2011 and became a Book Review Editor for the *Journal of Early Modern History*. He published an article on the great French historian Fernand Braudel in a volume on French historians of the twentieth century published by Blackwell and received a BYU Alcuin Fellowship, and the Helen Williams Award for the outstanding course from the Association for Distance Education and Independent Learning for his online course, History 302 “The Italian Renais-
sance”. Dr. Dursteler also presented a plenary lecture this past year at the Renaissance Society of America conference in Venice, entitled “On Renaissance Bazaars and Battlefields: Recent Scholarship on Mediterranean Cultural Contacts.” Rebecca de Schweinitz presented new research on young people and the civil rights movement in the West at a 2010 conference at the University of North Carolina. At the Mormon History Association Annual Conference she presented a historiographical paper, “Where Nothing is Long Ago: Childhood, Youth, and Gender in the Mormon Past and Present.” She has also begun work on the movement to lower the voting age to 18 and presented a paper, “Do Your Thing, VOTE 18: Civil Rights and Youth Rights in the NAACP, 1969-1972” at the 2011 Organization of American Historians Annual Conference. Dr. de Schweinitz was named BYU’s “American Studies Professor of the Year” in 2010, a student-nominated award. Leslie Hadfield joined the department in August 2010 to teach African history. Hadfield received her Ph.D. in African history from Michigan State University where she focused on South African history. Her dissertation was entitled, “Restoring Human Dignity and Building Self-Reli ance: Youth, Women, and Churches and Black Consciousness Community Development, South Africa 1969-1977.” This study provides a grassroots social history of the leading anti-apartheid movement within South Africa in the 1970s and deals with the role of youth and women in the movement, church material support, rural Eastern Cape history, development, and health care. Hadfield has lived in South Africa and speaks Xhosa. She has also studied Swahili in Tanzania and has a broad range of interests in African history throughout the continent. She will teach Modern Africa, South African Liberation Movements, and other World history and African history courses. William Hamblin spent the 2010-11 academic year in Jerusalem with the BYU Study Abroad program. In addition to visiting the major historical and spiritual sites in Israel and Palestine, the program included trips to Jordan and Egypt. Gerald M. Haslam lectured on “The Evidence For and Against the Existence of a Sister of Abraham Lincoln Named Nancy Who Died in Infancy in Washington County, Kentucky,” at the Twelfth Annual Conference on Illinois History in Springfield, IL, in September 2010. Earlier, in April 2010, he presented the all-day Spring Genealogy Workshop for the Greater Omaha Genealogy Society in Omaha, NE, on: “Danish Family History,” “Reading the Old Scripts,” “Norwegian Family History,” and “Crossing the Pond Back to Germany in the late 1800s.” He is writing a book with the tentative title, “Abraham Lincoln’s Mother Nancy Hanks: Her Maternal Kinfolk and Ancestry” which deals definitively with the question of Nancy Hanks’s illegitimacy. On 7 Apr. 2010, he married Zuly S. Haggmann, a native of Venezuela. They honeymooned in the Caribbean, where they got marooned on an island off of Santa Marta and had to be rescued by a Columbian gunboat. Kirk W. Larsen presented papers at international conferences in Canada and South Korea. He also gave public lectures on both Korea and China in venues ranging from the University of British Columbia to BYU’s own Kennedy Center. He thoroughly enjoyed working with students in a variety of venues including the China Teachers Workshop (Kennedy Center), an International Affairs conference hosted by the Wheatley Institution, and directed undergraduate research including a student who conducted a series of fascinating and potentially significant interviews with North Korean defectors. Matt Mason presented papers at the annual meetings of the Southern Historical Association and the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. He also
helped organize and host BYU’s October 2010 conference “Assisting Victims of Human Trafficking Through Research, Policy and Practice,” and presented a paper at this conference. As a result of that conference, he has become the faculty advisor for BYU’s reinvigorated chapter of Free the Slaves, an organization that seeks to fight modern-day slavery locally and globally. Meanwhile, his research is now centered on a biography tentatively entitled “From Knapsack to Gettysburg: Edward Everett, Slavery, the Sacred Union, and the Coming of the Civil War.” As this working title suggests, he remains title-challenged, and welcomes suggestions.

Jenny Pulsipher is currently working on a draft of her second book, a biography of a seventeenth-century Nipmuck Indian sailor, land speculator, and political gadfly named John Wampus. She will be traveling to England in May to research some of Wampus’s English contacts, and will make a trip to New England in August for further research. She hopes to complete a draft of the book by the end of the summer. An essay on Wampus will be published in fall 2011 by the University of Nebraska Press in Native Acts: Indian Performance in Early North America. Susan S. Rugh’s interest in old highway motels has led her to the skid rows of today’s western metro areas. Once upon a time the colorful neon signs and blue swimming pools beckoned to families on vacation. Now the bright paint has faded and the pools are full of gravel, but the motels still provide cheap housing—for the homeless, drug pushers, and the sex trade. City social agencies are converting the biggest of the old motor lodges to women’s shelters and temporary housing for transients, but rooting out the crime of the urban underworld has proved to be more difficult. Her historical detective work on family owned motels and the Asian Indian immigrants who are taking over the economy motel market is a spin off of her last book, Are We There Yet? The Golden Age of American Family Vacations (2008). Understanding why and how the old motels still exist makes the task of tracking down clues an enthralling mystery story for Professor Rugh. If you know of an old motel worthy of her attention, please email her at susan_rugh@byu.edu. Thanks primarily to a Japan Foundation Research fellowship, Aaron Skabelund spent four months in Japan continuing his research on the postwar Japanese military, commonly known as Self-Defense Force. For this project and a book chapter on the relationship between the SDF and religion he co-authored and presented at the “Religion in the Armed Forces” conference sponsored by the Institute for International Studies at U.C. Berkeley in December, Aaron traveled throughout Japan to conduct interviews and archival work. His first book in English, Empires of Dogs: Canines, Japan, and the Making of the Modern Imperial World, is scheduled to be published by Cornell University Press in late 2011. Neil York published two books this past year: The Boston Massacre: A History With Documents and Henry Hulton and the American Revolution: An Outsider’s Inside View. He also attended a gathering at the Massachusetts Historical Society in October to mark the completion of a five volume collection, Portrait of a Patriot: The Major Political and Legal Writings of Josiah Quincy Junior (also published by the Colonial Society of Massachusetts) and he edited the first volume; Professor Dan Coquillette of Harvard Law School edited the other four.
Dr. Jeremy I. Adelman, a Professor of Spanish Civilization and Culture and Director of the Council for International Teaching and Research at Princeton University, was the invited keynote speaker at this year’s annual Russel B. Swensen Lecture in March. His lecture explored how the process of imperial decomposition shook the political and economic coordinates of Spanish America, from which emerged new concepts and practices for how public affairs should be governed. He illustrated how the idea of “the nation” was only one of several models of how to reorganize sovereignty when the old regimes collapsed. He sought to convey to the audience how the emergence of public opinion, elections, and escalating political violence became some of the means by which Spanish colonists and Spanish Americans grappled the challenge of imagining governable communities and how this was not an endogenous process. According to Dr. Adelman, global competition and conflict patterned the demise of the dignitas of the monarchy; it was international warfare that cascaded into civil warfare. From this came a plenitude of possibilities to shape community, exercise freedom, and define authority. The nineteenth century was not a botched century of missed opportunity. It opened up a whole range of alternatives which need not be white-washed from the historical landscape as failure. Indeed, many of them endure still. The History Department was grateful to have Dr. Adelman address us.

Summer Reading Recommendations

_The Bells: A Novel_ by Richard Harvell

_Cleopatra: A Life_ by Stacy Schiff

_Constantine: Roman Emperor, Christian Victor_ by Paul Stephenson

_The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations_ by Jonathan Sacks

_Home Waters: A Year of Recompenses on the Provo River_ by George B Handley

_King Leopold’s Ghost_ by Adam Hochschild


_Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don’t You Grow Weary_ by Elizabeth Partridge

_Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914_ by J.R. McNeill

_On Zion’s Mount: Mormons, Indians, and the American Landscape_ by Jared Farmer

_The Rebbe: The Life and Afterlife of Menachem Mendel Schneerson_ by S. Heilman and M. Friedman

_The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains_ by Nicholas Carr.
Each year the History Department awards prize money for outstanding student papers, excellent past performance and helps students obtain an education through generous scholarships. These funds do not come from the general operating budget of the university. They have been provided by alumni of the History Department. Thank you to all who have contributed so generously in the past. If you are an alumnus we hope you will consider a donation to the department endowment, which is used to fund awards and scholarships. For more information, contact Kris Nelson at (801) 422-1654.

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our appreciation to Dr. Michael DeGruccio who has served this year as a visiting assistant professor and Cindy Ness, a secondary education CFA, for her years of teaching. We also wish our former staff members Daniel Kirkpatrick and Sara Moore a fond farewell and much success in their future endeavors. They will be greatly missed!

Please join us in welcoming our new staff members Kris Nelson, Michael Brizzee, and Sarah Christensen to the History Department.

Thank you to Dr. Craig Harline, Dr. Kirk Larsen, and Dr. Edward Stratford for their contributions to this edition of the newsletter. Also, a special thanks to Dr. Ignacio Garcia and the office staff for this newsletter’s compilation and design.

History Department
Brigham Young Univ.
2130 JFSB
Provo, Utah 84602