

# THE HISTORY HOUSE HERALD

## Welcome back, students!

*New and exciting things happening in the History, Political Science, and Public Policy department...*



Welcome to the 2014 - 2015 academic year! For our returning students, you'll notice some changes and new things happening. For our new students, welcome! Get ready for an exciting beginning to your four years

here at MCLA. This is our new newsletter that we will put out every semester. We'll have departmental information, student news, and opportunities you may not know about otherwise. Stay tuned, and keep reading!

## VOL. 1, #1

### Section 1:



Jose Vargas comes to campus in November. His compelling life story and activism put him on the frontlines of American politics.

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MCLA HIST/PSPP students doing internships get experience and apply their knowledge. Opportunities are wide, and value is a constant.

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### Section 2:



There are lots of things going on this fall in the HIST/PSPP department. Check out some of these in the 'News and Points of Interest' section.

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The URC is closer than you think! Have you presented before? If so, do it again. If not, you should strongly consider it if not required of your classes.

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*"The unexamined life is not worth living."  
--Socrates*

## Message from the Chair

Dear Students,

Hello and welcome back. The History, Political Science & Public Policy Department would like to invite you to our department Open House on Wednesday, September 17, from 11:30am - 1:00pm. Pizza and refreshments will be served. Please

come to meet faculty and fellow students while helping us kick off the news academic year.

Best Wishes,

Professor Janis

## Jose Vargas Coming to Campus Nov. 13

[Jose Vargas](#) connects the idea of immigration and equality in a powerful way. He was born in the Philippines, but moved to the United States in 1993 as an adolescent because his mother wanted a life with more opportunities for him. He became an award-winning journalist working for outlets such as *The New Yorker*, *Huffington Post*, *Washington Post*, and other notable news institutions. However, despite his professional success, integration into American culture and society, and his fame he hid a deeply personal secret: he was an undocumented immigrant. After years of trying to conceal this aspect of his identity, he revealed his story in an essay for *New York Times*

*Magazine*, “My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant.” You can find some of his more recent work with TIME [here](#). And, here’s a great [video resource](#) Vargas produced for his TIME series on immigration. He has also been very involved current immigration crisis, even getting [arrested in July of 2014](#) while on the Texas border.

These talks present MCLA students with a tremendous opportunity to get to know and discuss one of the most important political issues of our time – immigration – with someone who is on the frontlines of the issue. Three opportunities to get involved with

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*Jose Antonio Vargas is an award-winning journalist and immigration activist. He also happens to be an undocumented immigrant.*

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## HIST/PSPP Students Excel in Internships and Fellowships



*Brendan Peltier and Sen. Elizabeth Warren in Washington, D.C.*

Brendan Peltier comes back to MCLA this fall as both the SGA President and a recent intern through the Washington Center in Washington, D.C. Brendan made it through the application process and was able to select the internship of his choice from a range of opportunities. Of his internship, Brendan says, “Being a political science major with an interest in politics, it is crucial to have the hands-on experience of Washington, D.C., to fully understand how politics work. Being in Washington has allowed me to experience new interests as well as understand the fundamental goal of the American political system.”

Zac Feury also completed an internship this

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## News and Points of Interest on MCLA and HIST/PSPP

You may have noticed that Bowman Hall is finally under construction for the much-anticipated renovation. This is certainly a cause for joy, excitement and anticipation. You may also note that Prof. Petra Hejnova is no longer in the department as she has taken a position with Syracuse to be home with her family. Prof. Hejnova – for those who did not know her – was wonderful, and we all wished her well at our departmental banquet last spring. Prof. Hejnova’s moving on, however, is not *all* bad news.

### New Faculty Search

At some point during the fall semester, we will have job candidates on campus for teaching demonstrations and meetings with students. This is a very important process for the College, the candidate, and you – the students. Your input and feedback on the candidates, if you get to meet and

evaluate them, is extremely valuable. Be on the lookout for more information regarding this process as the term moves on.

### Spring 2015 Courses

You may say to yourself, “But the fall just got started!” While this is true, that’s no excuse to not prepare for the future. Once you get into the swing of the term, be sure to start thinking about advising and how you can be proactive in that process. Find out who your advisor is on Banner, and do not be hesitant to email for any reason. The spring upper-level courses are as follows:

Prof. Daly

- HIST 403: Terrorism
- HIST/PSPP 450: Career & ePortfolio

**Continued...**

## News & POI (Cont.)

### Workshop

#### Prof. Janis:

- HIST 320: American Immigration & Ethnicity
- HIST 403: History of American Radicalism

#### Prof. Jones-Sneed:

- HIST 320: Reading W.E.B. DuBois (cross-list with Honors)

#### Prof. Pecor:

- HIST 330: US and Latin America

#### Prof. Taylor

- POSC 315: Politics of Communication (cross-list with Honors)
- POSC/HIST 315: American Foreign Policy

#### Prof. Taskin:

- POSC 315: American Character and Values

## Travel Courses in Spring 2015

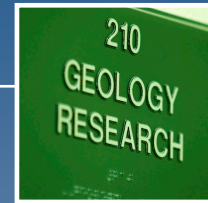
As many of you may know, Travel Courses are one of the best things we have going here at MCLA. More to the point, the HIST/PSPP department is a leader in the number of travel courses offered on campus. If you want to know more about these in general, please visit [MCLA's Travel Course website](#). There are no HIST/PSPP travel courses this year, but there will be at least 2 in 2016.

## Vargas coming to MCLA (Cont.)

immigration will be available to students this fall. First, there will be a community forum led by Prof. Taylor's POSC 210 class on Oct. 30. On Nov. 6 there will be a screening of Vargas's documentary, "Undocumented," followed by a panel discussion. Then, Jose Vargas will be on campus Nov. 13 with a full day of activities in which students can be involved. If you want or need more information please contact Prof. Taylor at [j.b.taylor@mcla.edu](mailto:j.b.taylor@mcla.edu). What a great opportunity for MCLA and MCLA students!

For a recent example of the work Jose Vargas has been doing, check out this piece that was published in [Politico](#).

The MCLA Public Policy Speaker's Series is made possible through the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.



## Have you presented at the URC?

The URC is a great way to gain experience, hone skills, and prepare for life after MCLA. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, any job you have will require you to apply your knowledge, and present your findings, so start now at MCLA in the URC. See the [URC website](#) for info.



## Open House 9/17

Don't miss our HIST/PSPP Open House on 9/17 in the History House at 11:30. Come to meet other HIST/PSPP students, professors, and get some free food! Bring friends who may be thinking about HIST/PSPP as a major or minor.

## Internships (Cont.)

summer with the City of North Adams. Zac was deeply involved with research for the City as the Mayor and City Council work on finding revenue for North Adams. Zac also helped City Administrator Mike Canales develop language for the founding of an Arts Commission.

Both Brendan and Zac were able to take advantage of a program for Massachusetts' residents. If you are a resident of MA, you are eligible for grant from MCLA and the Commonwealth to be applied toward your costs. The grant amount varies based on the number of credit hours your internship is so don't let costs be a door in the face of your internship plans just yet! Get more information from [CSSE](#) or anyone in the HIST/PSPP department.

## Alisia True and Century America

Alisia True recently completed a project through COPLAC entitled, "Century America." COPLAC schools had students do a project based on the experiences of their institutions during 'The Great War' – WWI. Alisia's excellent work can be seen at [mcla.centuryamerica.org](http://mcla.centuryamerica.org).



*N.A.N.S., c. 1915  
Courtesy A. True*

### Nicole VanBramer Spent Summer at Samuel Harrison House

Nicole's summer internship had her working in Pittsfield at the Samuel Harrison House. Of her time there, Nicole says, "My experience for this internship has been eye opening, it showed how much work, effort, time and research goes into making a historical site/museum. This internship gave insight to the local history around where I live. I have learned a lot about Samuel Harrison and the African American community centered in the Berkshires during the Civil War."

### Taking Care of Russian Icons

Sam Thomson represented MCLA and completed an internship in Clinton, MA, during the 2014 summer. Sam said, "I was a curatorial intern at the Museum of Russian Icons. Having the opportunity to curate an entire exhibit was a unique experience. Through my time at the Museum I was able to focus my career path while expanding my knowledge of Russian history."

### Education a Focus of Summer Internship

Many MCLA History majors are also Education double-majors, or at least have plans to teach. Internships can be very enlightening for that career path as Hayley Cooper discovered this past summer. Hayley says of her time in an Albany internship, "I did my internship at Parsons Child & Family Center in Albany NY and I was there twice a week. My internship was at a school that helped cognitively low functioning or behavioral challenged kids from 6-8th grade, and I got to aid in teaching lessons specifically those around history."

*The Department of History, Political Science & Public Policy is always available to you – the students. Please do not hesitate to come see us in the History House at 72 Porter Street. Also, if you are participating in something academically or co-curricularly please let us know so we can put it in the newsletter. To see what's going on all the time, 'Like' us on [Facebook!](#)*

## Honor Societies in HIST/PSPP

The Department of History, Political Science & Public Policy at MCLA is home to two honor societies: Phi Alpha Theta (History) and Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science). Admission to these honor societies is based on GPA, and the induction ceremonies are held at the annual HIST/PSPP Banquet in the spring.

Membership requirements for the Alpha Beta Omega chapter of Phi Alpha Theta are: students must be juniors or seniors and complete a minimum of 4 courses in History, achieve a minimum GPA of 3.1 in History and a GPA of 3.0 or better overall. Membership is open to History majors or minors. There are numerous internships

available for members. More information can be found [here](#) and on the [Facebook page](#).

Pi Sigma Alpha's requirements are at least 10 hours of political science upper level course work with a GPA of at least 3.0 in those courses. As with Phi Alpha Theta, there are numerous opportunities for internships and conference presentations. For more on Pi Sigma Alpha check out their [website](#) or their [Facebook page](#).

If you are interested in joining either of these groups, email Prof. Taylor for PSA or Prof. Janis for PAT to check on eligibility. Membership is open for majors and minors of both fields.



*Have you considered the benefits of college honor societies?*

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