

HISTORY HOUSE HERALD

Message from the Chair

By Prof. Anthony Daly



Welcome to the 2018-19 academic year! Whether you are a returning student or new to MCLA, I hope the semester is off to a good start for you and that you are excited about your classes. The semester starts off with our traditional September open house, an opportunity to enjoy some food, introduce new students and faculty, and allow everyone to catch up after returning to campus.

As you look through this newsletter, you will find information about happenings and accomplishments from our various programs—a major and minor in Political Science and Public Policy, a major and minor in History, and a recently-added minor in Public History.

We are excited about a grant from MassHumanities that will provide funding for “Historic North Adams,” a cloud-based website and mobile app, along with the first “History

Harvest” event. Led by Dr. Ely Janis, these initiatives will strengthen the connections between MCLA and the North Adams community and provide opportunities for our students to create digital content related to the rich history of our area.

We are also excited about the this fall’s Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture; this year, the featured speaker is Ta-Nehisi Coates, national correspondent for *The Atlantic* and best-selling author.

In faculty news, we wish Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed the very best in her retirement after twenty-five years of contributions to MCLA and the wider community. We celebrated her efforts in the last issue of this newsletter and also joined with colleagues and friends to thank and congratulate her at a reception over the summer. You can read more in these pages about our new specialist

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PAGE 2: Our students have been busy inside and outside the classroom. From innovative online COPLAC courses to great hands-on internships with museums and political campaigns.



PAGE 4: After a thought-provoking spring lecture from cybersecurity expert Clint Watts, MCLA will welcome Ta-Nehisi Coates to campus for the fall Public Policy Lecture.



PAGE 6: Study abroad with MCLA! Students reflect on their semesters in Argentina and London while we recap last year’s successful travel courses and give you a preview of those to come in Spring 2019.



PAGE 8: Meet the department’s newest faculty member and learn about new academic projects and course offerings.

“You must look at facts because they look at you” -Winston Churchill

in US history, Dr. Amanda Kleintop, who joins us after completing a Ph.D. at Northwestern University.

Congratulations to Dr. David Cupery, who received the college’s 2018 Junior Faculty Award at a banquet in May. Dr. Cupery’s citation emphasized his excellent teaching, scholarship in his field of Latin-American politics, and many contributions to the MCLA community.

As you head into the semester, remember that the faculty in the department are dedicated to student success, so don’t hesitate to contact us to ask assistance—drop us an email, look up our office hours on the department web sites, find us on Facebook or drop by 72 Porter St.

Student Spotlight: Summer Internships and More

Like many MCLA departments, the Department of History, Political Science and Public Policy works hard to help its students gain practical experience outside of the conventional classroom. This can come in the form of internships but also includes faculty-led independent studies, conferences & non-traditional courses. This section profiles some of these experiences along with the accomplishments of one of our student-athletes.

Sam Burgess, Class of 2019, History

Over the summer I volunteered as an Interpreter at the Hancock Shaker Village. I had two apprehensions when I was considering this for a summer internship. First I had very little knowledge of Shaker history. Second, I was not terribly comfortable with public speaking, especially when it came to delivering frequent presentations to upwards of 30 patrons. However, after the first couple of weeks, I had received enough training from the Education Department to be trusted with giving 30-minute presentations in the Dwelling House and the Machine/ Laundry Shop. These presentations covered aspects of Shaker history and culture, from the origins of the religion to life at the Hancock Community to Shaker innovations and their use of water-powered, belt-driven machinery. While a major part of this internship was delivering scheduled presentations, an equally important aspect was being prepared to answer questions and offer explanations to patrons throughout the village. Overall, the experience I gained in both oral presentations and public speaking was likely the most valuable aspect of this internship.

Meghan Cook, Class of 2019, Political Science

This summer I interned at the State House in Boston with the State Representative for my home district, William "Smitty" Pignatelli. Not only is he my district representative, but he also is the Chairman of the Joint Committee for the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, so I dealt with both district concerns and committee work. At the State House I attended lectures for the intern series, hearing from senators and representatives, as well as Governor Baker. I reviewed and filed testimony on bills for the committee from constituents, created fact sheets on different bills, as well as a small research project on agriculture bills. Representative Pignatelli was great, allowing me to sit in on meetings and take initiative on my project. He showed genuine interest in my thoughts and opinions. I had an amazing opportunity this summer. The experience was very rewarding and allowed me to really envision myself in public service.



Senior political Science major Meghan Cook (right) together with State Representative William Smitty Pignatelli and a fellow intern.

Bryan Vega, 2018, Political Science

I spent this past summer interning at the Southern California Immigration Project, a nonprofit immigration law firm. SCIP was founded by Elizabeth Lopez a USC alum and advocate for human rights. It focuses on providing legal aid and representation for asylum seekers and victims of female genital cutting. In the beginning, I began by watching the interviewing process of already existing clients. Elizabeth then allowed me to conduct some interviews and she would stop by to check in on me. Eventually I was assigned my own case. I had to conduct the client's interview and fill out his asylum application. The client I was assigned only spoke Spanish so I had to translate all of his information from Spanish to English. I am so fortunate to have landed this internship. I have always been fascinated by immigration, and this internship was eye opening and fulfilling. Moving forward I would like to pursue a paralegal certification and plan to continue on to law school.

Tiana Darling, Class of 2018, History

For the last semester of my senior year, I completed an independent study on the history of the Soviet space program. This project was motivated by my interest in the history of space exploration and goal of working in an air and space museum. The course, advised by Professor Daly, involved readings and discussions as well as a final research paper and presentations at the MCLA and Statewide Undergraduate Research Conferences. My research focused on the impact of secrecy on the Soviets during the space (continued on page 5)

Looking Forward: Alumni Notes

As you near graduation, you may be asking yourself what comes next. Our department works hard prepare you for the competitive and ever-changing job market. We want your next steps to be fulfilling and we want your college years to be conducive to that end. This section of the newsletter highlights stories from recent graduates. For this edition we spoke with 2009 History major **Kevin Pink**.

Could you tell us a little about your professional path since MCLA? Where are you currently working/studying and have you completed any additional education after graduating from MCLA?

After graduating in 2009, I worked for the College in Residential Programs & Services, oversaw the timeshare program at Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort, and subsequently took a position in marketing with The Center for EcoTechnology, an environmental non-profit organization that helps people and businesses save energy and reduce waste. In October, I will have been at CET for four years. I have transitioned into a role as a Program Specialist, administering programs that help businesses reduce and divert waste and K-12 schools increase environmental education while implementing recycling and composting programs.

What is your long term professional goal and how has it changed, if at all, since you started out at MCLA?

I initially enrolled at MCLA as a History major with the intent of becoming a high school history teacher. Along the way, my goal changed. I realized that while I liked history and education, I didn't want that to be my career. My time at MCLA had given me a thorough appreciation for community, however, which led to a shift in my professional goal. Between student clubs and organizations, Residential Programs & Services, and faculty and staff that take a vested interest in campus life, it is impossible not to develop an appreciation for community. My long-term professional goal is somewhat flexible at the moment, but definitely involves an active role in my community, and I absolutely ascribe that to my time at MCLA.

Do you have a favorite memory or course from your time in the History and Political Science Department?

Picking just one favorite memory or course from my time in the History Department is no small task. African History in Film & Literature was a novel experience (a pun for which I will not apologize). Dr. Bence presented a breadth of lived human experiences through artistic media to provide context for societal

changes that followed both the long arc of history and sudden upheavals across a massive continent with an astonishing number of vastly different cultures. It was a truly enlightening experience, a wake-up call that the world is a much bigger and more varied place than I'd imagined. On the social side, my favorite memory was creating panels of staff and faculty for campus events like MCLA Squares. The fact that faculty and staff members would willingly participate in campus life after-hours was such a wonderful surprise, and a great example of what life can be like in a community of people that want to be together.

Are there particular skills, knowledge or experience that you gained as a part of our department that have come in handy for you professionally? If so, how?

I can't say enough about what my time at MCLA did for my critical thinking, research, and writing skills. In every position I have held since graduation, my ability to acquire, analyze, and synthesize information has set me apart. I don't think I would say I had an easy time writing any History papers, but I am immensely grateful to my professors for always pushing my fellow students and me, challenging us to locate that extra piece of evidence or find the most succinct way to express a concept or event. In professional communications to clients, capture and analysis of data, and expression of ideas, my ability to write has been a true asset for me professionally, especially because it is uncommon in the fields in which I have worked. Research & Bibliography was a difficult course, but it paid dividends. Work diligently on your writing skills and you will reap significant rewards in the future.

Do you have any advice for our current students? Something you wish you would have done differently in college or maybe an opportunity you regret not taking advantage of?

Never stop learning. Take advantage of the vast array of experiences available to you. Inside and outside of the classroom, there are so many wonderful opportunities to interact with people who are very different from you; each of these represents a "teachable moment". Travel the world with your professors (and talk to them about life- they know a thing or two!). Get involved in student government. Join a team or a club. Hike The Natural Bridge or The Top of the World. Stay up too late talking to someone who lives on your floor about something mundane. You will be amazed at the kind of information you accumulate; not all of it will be relevant in the moment, but I guarantee you'll learn something that will come in handy later in life (*continued on page 8*)

Great Guest Speakers at MCLA



Department students with cybersecurity expert and author Clint Watts before his Spring 2018 Public Policy lecture.

During the Spring 2018 semester we built on our tradition of bringing relevant and respected speakers to campus and that trend will continue throughout the 2018-2019 academic year.

For the spring installment of our biannual Public Policy Lecture Series, we looked for expertise on an issue that could speak to the deepening polarization and mistrust which have become all too common in U.S. politics and policy making. Our choice was Clint Watts, whose varied and impressive career has featured stints as an FBI agent, NBC News contributor, and the executive officer of the Combating Terrorism Center at the United States Military Academy. Watts' lecture, entitled, "Russian Spies, Social Media, and Fake News: An Inside Look at Russia's Cyber Warfare Campaign against American Democracy," made a mind-boggling topic accessible for a full house of students and community members. Before the talk, our students enjoyed the chance to interact with Mr. Watts on a more intimate basis during a classroom visit and a pre-talk reception.

For the fall installment of the Public Policy Lecture Series—named in honor of former Massachusetts governor Michael S. Dukakis and his wife Kitty—we have the privilege of welcoming renowned writer Tanehisi Coates to campus. Coates has made his name as a best-selling author of books such as *Between the World and Me* and *We Were Eight Years in Power*. He is a national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, has taught at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the CUNY Gradu-



The Fall 2018 Public Policy Lecture will be given by Tanehisi Coates, best-selling author and national correspondent for *The Atlantic*.

School of Journalism and is a writer for the *Black Panther* and *Captain America* comic books. In 2015, Mr. Coates was the recipient of a "Genius Grant" from the MacArthur Fellows Program. He is a widely-respected voice on issues of race and social justice. The lecture will take place in the Campus Center Amsler Gymnasium at 7pm on Thursday, November 8th. The event is free and open to the public.

Both the fall and spring installments of the Public Policy Lecture Series are made possible through a generous grant from the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.

Two other departmentally-organized guest lectures warrant mention. On April 17th the MCLA community heard from award-winning *Boston Globe* columnist Kevin Cullen about his many years of experience covering Northern Ireland, providing perspective regarding the ongoing peace process in the age of "Brexit." This talk was part of our annual Conflict Prevention and Resolution Speaker Series.

On September 17th (just as the History House Herald went to press!), Williams College Professor of History K. Scott Wong gave our annual Constitution Day lecture. Dr. Wong's talk, entitled "American Immigration History: A Story of Ideals and Contradictions", provided students, faculty and community members with a better understanding of the historical foundations for our country's current immigration politics and policies.

Student Spotlight (continued from page 2)

race, using archival materials such as government records, newspapers, interviews, and memoirs, in addition to secondary sources. I argued that the secrecy of the Soviet Union contributed to their early successes but ultimately limited their accomplishments in the rocket program and the space race as a whole. The statewide URC, held at UMass Amherst, was a great experience because I was able to share my research with a broader audience and experience presenting at a much larger research conference. This independent study was my favorite academic experience at MCLA. It allowed me to focus in-depth on a topic that I am extremely interested in, as well as taught me important aspects of independent research and academic presentations.

COPLAC Online Seminar

In spring 2018, history majors Morrison Robblee and Ryan Psutka participated in a COPLAC Digital online seminar, a project of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges. These seminars are team-taught, enroll students from across COPLAC's national member colleges, and feature innovative pedagogies and the use of digital tools to research and present projects. Here is Morrison's description of his particular course: "During the Spring 2018 Semester, I enrolled in a Digital Humanities course titled Voices of Migration that was offered through the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC). This cross-country online class, which met through video chat class sessions, combined the interdisciplinary subject of global migration with the process of oral history collection. In addition to studying the basics of international migration, pairs of students collaborated on collecting oral histories from an ethnic group located near each participating college; my partner and I collected oral histories from members of Pittsfield's Greek population. Highlighting the course's digital emphasis, each group's final project consisted of creating a website to showcase the recorded oral histories. This has been one of my valued educational experiences due to the course's humanities focus coupled with an emphasis on utilizing new digital technologies. I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to participate in such a unique, non-traditional learning experience." For more information, go to: <http://divided.coplacdigital.org/mcla/>

New Leadership New England Women's Leadership Conference

During the summer of 2018, senior political science major **Victoria Munoz** attended this five-day residential conference aimed at educating and empowering the next generation of women leaders. She writes: "Attending NEW Leadership New England was an enriching and formative experience that I shared with 25 other young women from colleges and universities across New England. Although the conference is focused on government, politics, and public service, each of the young women who attended the conference came from different backgrounds and brought their own unique perspective to share with the group. By the end of the week I had formed special friendships with each of these young women and I look forward to seeing all the amazing things they will inevitably do in the future. My favorite part of the conference was that every day we had multiple female guest speakers come to share their stories and experiences in their respective fields. We had lawyers, teachers, state and local representatives, leaders in the non-profit and business sectors, and even an FBI agent. I enjoyed hearing so many successful women's stories. The various "expert panels" helped me to explore my interests and realize more options of what I can do when I graduate this May. The weeklong conference culminated in touring the Capitol in Concord and then a mock hearing for a bill that is currently in the New Hampshire legislature. NEW Leadership New England was a wonderful opportunity that allowed me to meet an amazing group of women and develop leadership skills I know I will use in the future."

Student Athlete Profile: Meg Richardson, goalkeeper for Women's Soccer, History minor

In spring 2018, Megan Richardson, goalkeeper for the Women's Soccer team, won the Sue Getchell Award at the MCLA Athletics Banquet, an award given to the upper-class, female identified team student-athlete who has demonstrated excellence in both academics and athletics. Megan is pursuing a degree in Math and Education, with a minor in History. She writes: "As a double major in Mathematics and Secondary Education, in addition to having a minor in history and being a member of the Women's Soccer team, I make it a priority to efficiently manage my time. Soccer is a major time commitment--we only have one day off a week - so I have needed to plan out every hour of my day to stay on (continued on page 8)



Study Away

The Department of History, Political Science and Public Policy is the most active on campus in offering faculty-led, short-term study away opportunities in the form of travel courses, which pair on-campus, semester long academic work with 10-12 days of travel to the destinations that students have been studying. Some of our students opt for semester-long experiences in other countries. This section profiles Spring 2018 department-led travel courses to Cuba, Japan and the American South, those to come in Spring 2019 in Ireland and Mexico, and the semester-long study abroad experiences of our students in Argentina and London.

Spring 2018 Travel Courses

Henry Ayles, with Professor Cupery on the Cuba Travel Course. "If you ask any American what they know about Cuba they will respond with 'antique cars,' 'Cuban Missile Crisis,' or 'Guantanamo Bay.' But, Cuba is much more than that. It is an incredibly beautiful country filled with delicious food, genial people and an incredible culture as rich as it is complex. But, the true value I took from this trip was not through surface-level sight-seeing but through the deeper engagement we experienced and the bonds we developed with the Cuban people over scheduled activities, shared meals and exploring on our own. It was, for example, the difference between reading a book on the history of the Cuban jazz scene and being able to actually sit down with the musicians to talk about their experience in-between sets. It was a life-changing, mind-expanding experience that I would recommend for everyone."

Current Student Government Association President Declan Nolan joined Professor Janis and Professor Pettey for a Civil Rights bus tour. He writes that it "was one of the highlights of my MCLA experience! One of my favorite moments was getting to meet Rutha Harris; she was a member of the Freedom Singers group, spreading the word of rebellion across the country. As someone who loves gospel music, learning about the history these songs had in this fight for equality inspired me to learn more about the connection between music and current fights for equality. It was amazing to travel the country in a bus with my peers and I would recommend this trip to anyone! Travel courses are a wonderful and affordable way to travel during college, gain credits, and immerse yourself in the information you're learning about in class."

Professor Huang led a group to Japan. Riding high-speed Shinkansen trains, city subways and buses, the group traveled to and explored the world's largest metropolis—Tokyo, the exquisite ancient capital Kyoto,



History and Political Science majors Drew Weisse, Henry Ayles, Mike McAndrew, Sam Payne and Charlie Weissfellner together with Prof. Cupery in colonial Trinidad, Cuba.

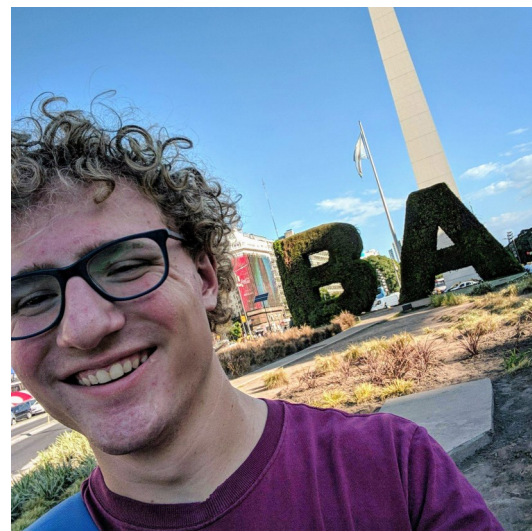


Professor Huang with students at the medieval Matsumoto Castle in Japan

the medieval castle town Matsumoto, and Nagoya, the gateway city to the Japanese Alps. The historical and cultural sites they visited, many on UNESCO's World Heritage list, included temples, shrines, palaces and castles, and museums. These visits allowed students to gain an intimate knowledge of Japan's history and religions, and a deepened appreciation of Japanese culture and aesthetics. Throughout the journey, students experienced the famous Japanese courtesy and hospitality and tasted the country's delicious food. One highlight of the trip was the five-mile hike on the ancient post road in Kiso Valley, which meanders by waterfalls, forest and farmland. Adding a bonus reward to this travel course was a ten-hour layover in Beijing, China on way to Japan. The group toured Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City.

Spring 2018 Semesters Abroad

After a semester spent studying at Argentina's University of Belgrano, Senior Political Science major **Corey Powers** writes that he "had the fantastic opportunity to live in Buenos Aires! I studied Latin American culture and politics, gaining a much different perspective than I would get studying in the U.S., simply per natural biases and history. Out on the street, I had to adjust to cultural differences and the language just to order coffee. For example, I didn't use the closest store to me out of embarrassment for a few weeks after I left my groceries on the conveyor and just walked out mid-conversation because I didn't understand the Spanish during my first week. Thankfully, I can say I now have a good grasp of the language and have used it many times since returning! Going abroad was an amazing time, affording me many great memories, a new language and an expanded viewpoint of the world."



Together with senior History major Madeleine McKeon, senior **Kate Vogel**, a Public History minor, spent the semester at London's Westminster University. Vogel writes the following: "Like all great travelers, I have seen more than I remember, and remember more than I have seen.' These words spoken by former British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli convey everything I feel about my time abroad. Fittingly, he was born around the corner from where I interned during my junior semester in London. There are so many great memories that I have from my time traveling around the British Isles. I was able to see amazing things like the Book of Kells, Westminster Abbey, the Magna Carta, Culloden Battlefield and so much more. And while I can't remember every single lesson I learned in classes, I will forever remember that I am capable of doing more than I ever thought possible. I was able to excel in classes taught in an educational system extremely different than our own, while also working for the first time in my field of study. Studying abroad was extremely hard work and truly nerve-racking but it was also the best decision I made during my college career and I am so grateful that MCLA gave me the opportunity."



Spring 2019 Travel Courses

Professor Daly will once again be offering his popular Ireland Travel Course. The interdisciplinary course looks at Ireland's storied history and rich culture. The group will visit the cities of Dublin, Belfast and Kilkenny. Other highlights include Glendalough, the Giant's Causeway and the Cliffs of Moher.

After successful travel courses for Peru and Cuba, Professor Cupery will offer a travel course for Mexico for the first time. The course aims to present students with a better understanding of our southern neighbor through the study of Mexican history, politics and culture. Participants will travel to Mexico City and Oaxaca along with Merida and the surrounding Yucatan Peninsula.

Student Spotlight (continued from page 5)

on top of my course work and also reach the personal goals that I set for myself. I chose to add the history minor because I like how it complements my mathematics major. In addition to the challenge, my favorite thing about mathematics is the problem solving and critical thinking skills that are involved. Adding the minor in history has greatly improved my critical thinking skills and my ability to make connections between events, problems, or circumstances that seem unrelated at first glance. As a math educator, I need to be creative to find ways to educate students as individuals – to not only teach students the math concepts, but relate those concepts to things they are interested in. This makes it easier for students to comprehend and commit the material to their long-term memory. Adding the history minor has allowed me to do this creatively in order to improve my mathematics instruction. My long-term goal with the history minor is to add the secondary history certification to my educator's license.

New Faculty Spotlight

Interview by senior History major Madeleine McKeon

"I read *Gone with the Wind* way too young," Amanda Kleintop laughs, "I've always been a bit of a nerd." Professor Kleintop is the newest faculty member of the MCLA History department. She just received her PhD in July from Northwestern University in Chicago. Her research focuses on the American South, particularly the Civil War and emancipation, an interest she developed during her own undergraduate liberal arts experience. Dr. Ed Ayers, a professor of Southern history and current president of Kleintop's alma mater, the University of Richmond, was particularly inspiring to her. Her work in Ayers' Digital Scholarship Lab helped guide her to the field of public history. Kleintop continued her work in public history during an internship with the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission. During that experience, she worked with the National Park Service and developed educational materials for Virginia museums.

So why the transition to academia? "I always knew I wanted to go to graduate school...I always had a bit of an academic piece in me." "Getting a PhD didn't mean I couldn't work in public history anymore, it meant I could choose both." That duality is part of what she loves about MCLA. "I wanted a job where doing public and academic history aren't two separate things." She's already putting her experience to good use by working with Professor Janis on the History Harvest Project (November 3rd), a digitization project intended to preserve local history that will feature a mixture of artifacts and oral histories. "I want to find ways to engage with the community of North Adams."



Kleintop's other plans at MCLA include teaching an Honors course in public history and encouraging travel opportunities like she had during undergrad. She also understands that the cost of travel can be prohibitive, which is why she hopes to offer courses on abolition that travel more locally and keep costs down. Most of all she hopes to encourage students to think critically about history and see its relevance. "Who tells the narrative? When another person is telling the story how different is it? How much history relates to today, that's what keeps me studying....I have a hope that in classes, and the work that I do, I do service to the social justice that comes naturally to the study of emancipation."

Alumni Notes (continued from page 3)

(potentially on Jeopardy, where knowing who Zheng He was could be quite lucrative). In the process, you'll also find friends and mentors who will be instrumental to your personal and professional development. Get the most out of your educational experience by never turning off your desire to learn. But most importantly, remember to experience all of it with a sense of humor- life isn't always easy, but the good days and bad days are both better when you can find something to laugh about.

Annual eportfolio workshop alumni visit:

On Monday, October 29th, Ben Alibozek '12 will return to campus to talk with students in HIST 450/POSC 450 Career and ePortfolio Workshop. Ben graduated Magna Cum Laude with a major in History and one minor in Political Science and another in Criminal Justice. During his time at MCLA, he completed an internship with the Office of the Public Defender in Montgomery County, Maryland, as part of a semester at The Washington Center. In 2017 he graduated as part of the 205th class from the New York State Police Academy, and he is currently a State Trooper. He will be bringing the benefit of his experiences in the "real world" after college to a conversation with the class and then to a lunch with faculty and students. Contact Professor Daly if you would like to join the lunch. Ben's visit is part of a regular program that brings History and Political Science alumni back to campus, supported by funding from the MCLA Hardman Special Initiative Fund.

Other Department News

Department Awards

Each spring, we gather as a department to select the students who will receive our departmental awards, presented at our annual April banquet. The Ames Samuel Pierce Award, named for a long-time professor in the department, is presented to a first-year student in History or Political Science who demonstrates academic excellence. The 2018 recipient was **Lauren Kexel**. The Edmund K. Luddy Memorial Award, named for another long-serving professor in the department, is presented to a non-graduating student in History or Political Science who demonstrates academic excellence. The 2018 recipient was **Mark Guarino**. The Bob Bence International Studies Scholarship was established by an alumnus to honor Professor Bence, who retired in 2012. The award is presented to a History or Political Science Major who demonstrates an outstanding degree of knowledge and interest in world history and global affairs. The 2018 recipient was **Charlie Weissfellner**.

New Innovative History Course Sequence

A range of new courses have been developed out of department conversations about how to broaden students' experiences in their first few years beyond traditional survey courses. Last year, we introduced HIST 220 Reformers, Rebels, and Revolutionaries in East Asia and HIST 230 War, Science, and Society. Spring 2019 will see the third of these new introductory courses offered. HIST 240 Reacting to the Past is an active, complex role-playing simulation that turns the college classroom into a space for lively debates of ideas and seeks to draw

you into the past, promote your engagement with big ideas, and improve your intellectual and academic skills. In a Reacting game, you are assigned a specific role in a particular historical context. Reacting roles, unlike those in a play, do not have a fixed script and outcome, so while you will be obliged to adhere to the philosophical and intellectual beliefs of the historical figures you have been assigned to play, you must devise your own means of expressing those ideas persuasively, in papers, speeches, or other public presentations, and pursue a course of action you think will help you win the game. By playing these roles, you will also come to understand how individual decisions, institutional arrangements, or mere fate help to shape history.

North Adams History Harvest

This winter, students from HIST 290 Historical Methods and Theory will help run the first North Adams History Harvest at the North Adams Public Library. Whether you're a student at MCLA or your family has lived here for generations, share your stories and treasures by adding them to a growing digital collection of local history. Everyone is welcome to bring historical items – such as diaries, photographs, letters, maps, business memorabilia, images, and other family/cultural heirlooms – to the North Adams Public Library on Saturday, November 3, 2018. Volunteers will digitize your items, interview you to hear your stories, and return your items to you with preservation materials to help you care for your pieces of North Adams history. We hope that you can join us and be part of this exciting community project.

Spring 2019 Course Offerings

In addition to survey courses and methods courses, the department plans to offer these upper level courses:

HIST 310 History of India

HIST 310 Chinese Culture and Civilization

HIST 320 US history elective to be announced

HIST 320 Robbers Barons, Reformers and Radicals

HIST 401 US history seminar to be announced

HIST 403 French Revolution and Napoleon seminar

HIST 450 Career and ePortfolio workshop

TRVL 300 Ireland Travel Course

POSC 313 American Political Institutions

POSC 315 Women in US Politics

POSC 316 Model UN

POSC 343 Political Economy

POSC 450 Career and ePortfolio workshop

CCAP 300 Conversations on Race

TRVL 300 Mexico Travel Course