

HISTORY HOUSE HERALD

Message from the Chair

By Prof. Anthony Daly



Welcome to the 2019-20 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. We hope to see you at the History House (72 Porter Street) on Monday, September 16th from 12-1.

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 minor in Public History.

In faculty news, we wish Dr. Ely Janis the best as he begins a two year leave from the department; he will be serving as Dean of Academic Affairs. We have started the process to hire a professor who will teach a variety of courses in US history after 1877, beginning in January 2020 and continuing through spring 2021. Stay tuned in the next few months for details on the successful candidate and the courses that will be offered in spring.

A fellowship at a top university is something to celebrate, and we are thrilled that Dr. Amanda Kleintop was awarded a four month fellowship at Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition for spring 2020. With office space and access to Yale's library holdings, she will be working on preparing her manuscript project for publication; *The Balance of Freedom: Abolishing Property Rights in Slaves after Emancipation*, combines and contributes to political, economic, and legal histories of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Finally, congratulations to Dr. Samantha Pettey, who received the college's 2019 Junior Faculty Award at a banquet in May. Dr. Pettey's citation emphasized her excellent teaching, including the creation of many new courses, scholarship in the study of female candidates and US elections, 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 for advice or assistance—drop us an email, look up our office hours on the department web sites (www.mcla.edu/hist or

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PAGE 2: Our students have been busy with internships, independent studies and more. In this section we profile some notable experiences.



Page 3: Check out our most recent alumni spotlight, where we talk to Siobhan Greene 2017' about her experiences at MCLA and teaching in North Dakota.



PAGE 4: Study abroad with MCLA! We hear from students that spent last semester abroad and those who did a travel course and also tell you about upcoming opportunities.



PAGE 6: Our department helps bring great speakers to campus. Here, we describe these series and the next speaker to visit MCLA.



PAGE 7: Our students and faculty are busy organizing and participating in all sorts of cool extracurriculars, including Model United Nations. Learn more in this section.

"We must dare to be great; and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage."

~Teddy Roosevelt

MCLA

or www.mcla.edu/posc), or drop by 72 Porter Street—and look for us on Facebook.

All the best to you for a productive and enjoyable semester.

History & Political Science Internship Spotlight

Supporting Student Internships

An internship can be essential for some history and many political science students in order to gain the exposure, skill development and networks necessary for landing a desirable job after graduation. For that reason, political science majors are required to complete an internship and history majors are encouraged to do one. However, we as a department recognize that some of the most desirable internships may be far from home, meaning added expenses and, potentially, lost earning power as a summer or on-campus job is foregone for an unpaid position. Put simply, sometimes the best internships are financially viable. To confront this, our department continues to raise money from alumni and other donors to fund an internship scholarship fund. We are particularly interested in using this fund to support internships in our nation's capital. In fact, our efforts to expand access to internships in Washington D.C. have already born fruit and three students from our department will be spending the spring semester in D.C. interning, taking classes, and attending workshops and lectures. These experiences will be overseen by The Washington Center, a partner institution with a long history of overseeing a variety of academic and professionalization programming in the capital. Our plan is to build off our fundraising efforts and generous support from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to make a semester in Washington a viable option for any hard-working student that is interested.

Student Internship Spotlight: Matt Delson, Political Science, class of 2020

I spent the summer interning at Arise for Social Justice, a non-profit agency dedicated to the pursuit of economic, social, and environmental justice. While there, I learned how to successfully engage local communities, acquired techniques in door-to-door canvassing, and sharpened my skills in public speaking and event planning. Specifically, I helped plan a town hall meeting with the Massachusetts Department of Energy and Resources, and had the honor of directly working with a Springfield City Councilman to enact the event. I also assisted in the research and composition of grant proposals. My time as a grant research assistant in MCLA's Office of Institutional Advancement helped immensely with grant writing and interning at Arise further improved my skills in this area. Most importantly though, my summer at Arise gave me a sense of the expectations, responsibilities, and work environment in a political workplace. I now know with certainty that political science was absolutely the right major



Student Internship Spotlight: Bianca Lascase, Political Science, Class of 2021

I spent the summer interning in the district office of Massachusetts Representative Stephen Lynch. However, I initially thought I hadn't done well enough in my nerve-wracking interview with Rep. Lynch's very intelligent and professional staff member, Shaynah Barnes. But, Ms. Barnes called me back two weeks later and asked me to start immediately.



My work in the office mainly involved constituent services, which meant interacting with people from the district on phone calls and handling office paperwork. Sometimes these were calls where people had opinions on the political climate and political decisions of the day. But, the more interesting part of the internship was that I was able to use my Haitian background to help the office and the constituents. My parents are from Haiti and I can fluently speak Haitian Creole as well as English. This was important as we would usually get calls from people needing help with immigration papers. I gained a few things from this internship. I learned about professionalism and how to network myself. I increased my knowledge of the Massachusetts House of Representatives after my inside experience working for one of the reps. I also hope my experience helps show others who speak different languages that it can help them gain an upper hand in getting political jobs.

Alumni Spotlight: Siobhan Greene, History, '17

This edition's alumni spotlight is on Siobhan Greene. Siobhan graduated from MCLA in 2017 with a double major in history and education and a minor in political science. Certainly a well-rounded student! Siobhan's hard work and generous spirit have taken her to Mandaree, North Dakota, where she is now in her third year as a high school teacher.

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?

About a month after I graduated from MCLA in 2017, I accepted a teaching position in Mandaree, North Dakota on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. I just began my third year of teaching high school social studies there. This year I am teaching US history, world history, North Dakota studies, government, law and justice, psychology, geography, and career management. I have also taught sociology and consumer education.

Last year, I was on the North Dakota Social Studies Academic Content Standards Development Committee. We redesigned the social studies standards for the state, which was something I never thought I would be a part of, especially so early in my career.

A few months ago, I began a master's program at SNHU for Curriculum and Instruction with a technology integration focus.

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

My long term professional goal is to continue teaching and move into an instructional coaching position in the next 10 years. When I first left MCLA, I was not sure if I would stay in education long-term. After my experiences during the last three years, I have decided I will likely remain in the field, though not solely as a teacher.

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

There are a lot to choose from. One that stands out is from my first semester at MCLA. I was at the history house open house and talking with Professor Daly. I had spoken with him at an accepted student event in the spring. He remembered who I was. He told me about the Ireland travel course and encouraged me to take the course. For me, that open house and conversation set the tone of my time in the department. We were close-knit, and everyone knew everyone. Even though



there were professors I never had or only had once, they knew who I was, and that closeness gave me the freedom to try a variety of things knowing that even if I failed I would learn from that failure.

If you completed an internship, independent study or travel course during your time at MCLA, could you describe the experience(s) and any way it has helped you?

I completed two independent studies, one with Professor Jones-Sneed and one with Professor Cupery, and a travel course to Ireland with Professor Daly while at MCLA. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to have taken those courses. The Ireland travel course was a fantastic experience, and the memories from it are cherished. Little did I realize how much these independent studies would help me in my future career. One was on the Indian Removal Act and Trail of Tears. Teaching on a reservation, it is helpful knowing federal policies towards Native Americans and the changes that have occurred over the last 200 years in those policies. The independent study has given me a solid foundation in the federal policy. My independent study on the Cuban Revolution helps with how I teach the Cold War.

Alumni Spotlight continued on page 5

Study Abroad with MCLA

The Dept. of History and Political Science is one of 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. Spring 2019 was no different with trips to Ireland and Mexico. We hear from some student participants of those trips and tell you about upcoming opportunities.

Ireland, by Alex King, History '20

It is actually hard to describe the Ireland trip of Spring 2019. It at once felt incredibly familiar, with some sections of Belfast greatly reminding me of certain areas of Boston. Then at times it felt as though I had been transported to a different world, as the small things like cars, road markings, and greetings were completely throwing me through a loop. Honestly, it was perhaps the perfect first travel experience for this very reason.

I would describe the land of Ireland as marvelous. On every bus or train ride I could see long stretches of fields brimming with more livestock than people. I would be remiss to not mention the sheep--they were everywhere. Natural wonders like Glendalough and the Giant's Causeway were highlights of the trip. It is hard to find the right words to describe just how stunningly beautiful they were... actually stunning works quite well. Also, the wind at the Causeway was just freaking awesome, and it made the experience ten times better.

The actual history that I got to see while at Ireland may stick with me longer. Having spent over a year just inundated with Irish history, getting to complete that stretch with being able to physically set foot in locations of great significance was incredible. From Kilmainham Jail, to the black taxi ride it was just enlightening. But my personal highlight was getting to see St. Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny. After spending so much time looking at pictures of cathedrals and reading about them, it was exhilarating to be able to see one in person, especially the many funerary effigies for the Butler noble house that rest in the Cathedral. I can say with the utmost confidence that my week in Ireland was the best week of my life thus far.

Mexico, with reflections from Teresa Leahy, History '19 & Bryan Vega, Political Science '19

Despite the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border, the two countries can sometimes seem worlds apart with a history - distant and recent - scattered with misunderstanding, disagreements and outright war.

Professor Cupery's Mexico Travel Course sought to chip away at our misunderstandings and reveal the nuance, warmth and beauty of our southern neighbor. Students toured archaeological sites, like Chichen Itza and Teotihuaca. They explored world class museums, such as the house of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. They met with artisans and informal vendors and learned about the many different experiences and beliefs that, collectively, have made up Mexico, past and present. In the evenings the group sampled the culinary variety of world-famous Mexican dishes and wandered the beautiful cobbled streets of colonial Oaxaca and Merida, taking in street performers. There was even time to experience Mexico's natural beauty through a nature hike and swims in thermal springs and underground 'cenote' pools and a visit to see the flamingos of the Celestun biosphere.

What stood out most to the students? History major Teresa Leahy '19 noted how "It seemed almost everyone we talked in Mexico to was excited we were traveling to visit their home and welcomed us." Political science major Bryan Vega '19 writes that "The Mexico travel-course was the highlight of my MCLA experience. Being exposed to a country that is so close in proximity yet so vastly different was a great learning experience. I think that my trip to Mexico allowed me to see Mexico differently, it was an eye-opening experience. The trip encompassed various regions of Mexico so were able to try tons of new foods, sight-see, and learn about Mexico's rich history."



History and Political Science majors Corey Powers, Teresa Leahy, Meghan Cook, and Bryan Vega at Monte Alban in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Study Abroad (continued from page 4)

Some of our students choose to take a 'deeper dive', by spending a full semester abroad at a partner institution. That was the choice of Amanda Judson and Sarah Groux during spring 2019. Here are their reflections.

Semester at Sea, Amanda Judson, History '20

This past semester I elected to study abroad, although I went about it in a slightly different way than usual. Semester at Sea is a program that allows students to study on a cruise ship that has been converted into a classroom as it sails around the world. On my voyage, I visited 12 different countries on four continents, all while taking a full course load. The most amazing thing about this experience for me was the fact that I got to do some real hands-on learning. History is a subject that does not change much depending on where in the world you learn it, but somehow learning about the return of Hong Kong to mainland China is different when you are on the streets of Shanghai or Kowloon. You can learn about the history of both places in a classroom setting for years and still not truly grasp the rift caused between the two until you see it first-hand – and this was just from one of the four classes that I took, all of which afforded me similar experiences in varying locations. Semester at Sea is a program that allowed me to appreciate the value of what I was learning and put it into a real-world context. Sometimes learning about history can seem like a sort of fiction, because we are so disconnected from the things we are reading and writing about, but visiting all of these places while in a living-learning environment allowed me to reconcile the facts with what I saw in-person. Students of all subjects should take advantage of any opportunity to turn their classroom knowledge into practical knowledge, and Semester at Sea is only one option of the array of opportunities that MCLA offers students. I cannot possibly put into words how strongly I would recommend this program to anybody, as it allows you to grow into someone more open and responsible, subjects you to the unfamiliar, and shows you how different people around the world truly are – while still providing you the time of your life.



Amanda Judson, History '20 in Japan during her semester at sea.

Barranquilla, Colombia, by Sarah Groux, Political Science '20

Studying political science and Spanish at MCLA prepared me to have a worthwhile experience in Barranquilla Colombia. Throughout the semester I was able to practice Spanish by talking with local friends and joining clubs, such as a student committee for international relations. Barranquilla has the second largest carnival in Latin America, full of traditional parades, costumes, music, and dancing. My host university was located 20 minutes from the Colombian Caribbean, giving students many opportunities to go to the beaches and see unique wildlife such as monkeys and iguanas. I also had the opportunity to travel to the coffee triangle, a region which is plentiful of rain, greenery, and wildlife all year long. Within the coffee triangle stood the tallest palm trees in the world! Traveling to other major cities such as Medellin and Colombia's capital, Bogota, were also some of my favorite experiences.

Studying in Colombia introduced me to a different cultural and socioeconomic atmosphere than I've been used to. There were a multitude of informal street vendors selling delicious foods, coffee, and juices in the busy streets. In addition, larger cities such as Medellin have a system of metro cables built for public transport running from the mountains and into the center of the city. I'm glad that I had the experience to study in Barranquilla. Although experiencing such a different culture was occasionally uncomfortable, it was definitely well worth it.

Guest Speakers at MCLA

MCLA hosts a number of important annual speaker series, which bring notable thinkers, authors, innovators and policy-makers to campus. A few of these are organized by the Department of History and Political Science. For example, the **Public Policy Lecture Series** has included talks by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Robert Gates and Gloria Steinem, among many others. The **Boschen Conflict Prevention and Resolution Series** has featured notable journalists, scholars and practitioners, including Kevin Cullen of the Boston Globe and Joanna Slater of the Washington Post.

Each September we help organize a **Constitution Day Lecture**. This series is intended to increase public awareness of the importance of our founding document and its continued relevance for our society. This fall's lecture will take place at **5pm in Murdock 218 on Tuesday, September 17th** and will feature Wentworth Institute of Technology Historian Allison K Lange. Dr. Lange has conducted an impressive body of research on the U.S. women's suffrage movement. As we commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the 19th amendment – which granted women the right to vote – this year's lecture should help provide the historical context for understanding the continued struggle for equality in our country.



Fall 2019 Constitution Day Dr. Allison K. Lange will help commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the 19th amendment.

Study Abroad (continued from page 5)

Spring 2020 Travel Courses

Prof. Huang's **Japan** travel course is themed on the interplay between Japan's traditions and modernity. Through pre-travel classes and visits to some of Japan's most famous places, including the cutting-edge metropolis Tokyo, the exquisite ancient capital Kyoto, and the evocative city of Hiroshima, students will gain an in-depth knowledge and an intimate experience of Japan's history, religion, culture and society. Prof. Cupery's **Peru** travel course will bring students face to face with Peru's stunning natural beauty and rich cultural diversity, past and present. The group will visit world wonder Machu Picchu and other remarkable Incan archaeological sites and spend two days touring the islands of beautiful Lake Titicaca, including a homestay with families in a traditional indigenous community. Students will also experience a variety of excellent Peruvian cuisine, music, dance and markets.

Alumni Spotlight (continued from page 3)

Are there particular skills, knowledge or experience that you gained as a part of the History and Political Science Department that have come in handy for you professionally? If so, how?

The History and Political Science Department and MCLA pushes a well-rounded curriculum for students. Had I not taken a wide range of courses in my undergraduate degree, I would not be able to do my current job. When I graduated, I never thought I would become the only social studies teacher at my high school. I fully intended to be teaching history and maybe a government class or something similar type subject. I never thought I would be teaching all these other classes, but MCLA prepared me for being open to new experiences, I have found my way forward. The skills I learned in the History/PoliSci department gave me the ability to learn and adapt to the new courses I offer quickly.

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

My best advice is to talk with professors. When you are unsure of something, reach out. Show up to office hours. Go to class. MCLA and definitely the History/PoliSci department have amazing professors who want to see their students succeed. They are a fantastic wealth of information and resources and always happy to make time to talk with you. I do wish I had had an opportunity to take more classes outside of my major but being a double major, History and Secondary Ed, made that near impossible. The classes I chose for my core have been useful to me in my career and personal life just as much as my major classes were.

Model United Nations at MCLA

Our department has a long history of leading MCLA's Model United Nations delegation to the North American Model UN Conference in Toronto as part of a course introducing students to the international system, public speaking and other essential MUN skills. This trip was once again a smashing success with 16 MCLA students joining Professors Cupery and Pettey for four, fast-paced days on the University of Toronto campus. Aside from more conventional United Nations committees, students simulated everything from the Sierra Leone civil war peace negotiations to a hypothetical 2024 election season across the United States. Last year, departmental faculty and students decided to expand this popular activity by partnering with the Political Science Club. Faculty and students attended a second spring 2019 conference at Mount Holyoke College and will be attending a fall conference at Yale before heading back to Toronto next spring as part of the course. The plan is to attend ~3 conferences a year with the club dedicating part of their weekly meetings to preparing for these conference. We spoke with current Political Science Club president Joe Bellas – History and Political Science '20 – about why he values Model UN.

"I wanted to expand Model UN at MCLA not only due to high demand for it by students, but also because I saw firsthand through the conferences that I have attended that these conferences are a good way for people of all majors to increase their abilities in problem solving, public speaking, networking, and most importantly, researching topics that they are unfamiliar with. And as a student, research skills are of the utmost importance. Model UN is a valuable experience for students looking to challenge themselves through a series of debates on topics that may interest them. It also offers students a chance to expand their social network, and travel to locations that they may not normally get the chance to, such as our trips to Toronto and upcoming trip to Yale. Plus, Model UN is a very fun experience. Not only do you get to have fun simulations, like trying to have Silicon Valley secede and declare war on the US proper during the 2024 elections, and dealing with rebelling NASA astronauts on Mars who have been sieged by Martians (both actual scenarios I have dealt with in conferences I have attended). You also get to spend a lot of time outside of sessions with people you meet in committee getting to know them, as well as attending various social events that Conference staff prepare, such as a social formal, or a karaoke night. Finally, because of support from the college, these experiences are almost completely free for the students."



Joe Bellas, Hist & POSC '20, with his Outstanding Delegate award from the Mount Holyoke Model UN conference.

Commonwealth Honors Thesis

Over the 2018-19 academic year, Madeleine McKeon '19 researched and wrote a Commonwealth Honors Thesis on the conflict between King Henry II and Thomas Becket: "The Archbishop and the King: Church and State in Twelfth-Century England." Madeleine worked with a wide range of secondary sources and a rich base of primary sources such as contemporary chronicles and Becket's letters. Studying a time period that is far from our contemporary world presents significant challenges, but Madeleine's work ethic and passion for the project resulted in an excellent thesis. Along with Professor Daly, the committee overseeing this work was comprised of Professor Rosanne Denhard of the English/Communications Department at MCLA, an expert in the literature of medieval and Renaissance Britain; and Professor Donna Seger, historian of medieval England at Salem State University.

Madeleine presented her work at the MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference in April, at the statewide Undergraduate Research Conference at UMass Amherst later that month, and also at the national conference of Alpha Chi in Cleveland, where she won the Patricia Graham Prize for best paper/presentation in World History. Her formal thesis defense in May, in front of an audience of faculty, friends, and family, showcased her knowledge and polished presentation skills. It was a fitting end to a very impressive year for Madeleine. We wish her all the best as she begins life after graduation – starting with participation in an archeological dig in Ireland during the summer!

Other Department News and Initiatives

“Harvesting History”

History students and faculty aim to expand access to and democratize North Adams history with the North Adams Archives (www.northadamsarchives.com). North Adams Archives is an open, online archive of over 300 historical artifacts gathered from the North Adams, MA, community. The project began in 2018 when the North Adams Public Library (NAPL), the North Adams Historical Society (NAHS), the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), and people throughout North Adams teamed up to collect and digitize their local history in a local History Harvest. In Fall 2018, history students in HIST 290: Historical Methods and Theory collected and digitized items that people donated. In Spring 2019, students in HIST 320: Introduction to Public History created an online archive and exhibits to make that history available to the public. Since then, the History Harvest expanded to include other local organizations, like the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. The MCLA Library has also made its digital collections available on the online archive. Throughout the process, students and collaborators in the North Adams community have discussed their responsibility to share history, to make sure others can share their stories, and how important history can be to understand North Adams today. Dr. Amanda Laury Kleintop will continue to grow the project in collaboration with the History Department, MCLA’s Freel Library, NAHS, and NAPL.

Student Awards

Every Spring semester, the Faculty Association Awards Committee, puts out a campus-wide call for faculty to nominate students for the Outstanding Student Award. Criteria for the award includes academic excellence, distinctive engagement with campus activities and associations, and service to the college, and the wider community. Our department nominated **Victoria Munoz** and she was chosen as the one winner and awarded with a plaque at Baccalaureate. Victoria graduated with a double major in Political Science and Sociology and throughout her time at MCLA she was very involved in SGA, resident hall life, leadership programs, clubs, and more. A line from her nomination letter is most fitting to describe the reason she won: “She has perfected the difficult balance of staying engaged in campus life while excelling academically and has made our campus community stronger as a result.” Congratulations, Victoria, and best of luck on your next endeavors.

At the end of every year, 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 2019 recipient was **Samantha Herrington**. 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 2019 recipient was **Meghan Doyle**. The Bob Bence International Studies Scholarship was established by an alumnus to honor Professor Bence, who retired in 2019. 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 **Corey Powers**.



Department students and faculty at the Spring 2019 Awards banquet.

Spring 2020 Course Offerings

HIST 104 Modern World Civilization

HIST 113 US History before 1877

HIST 114 US History after 1877

HIST 230 War, Science, and Society

HIST 305 Russia from 1682

HIST 310 History of Japan

HIST 320 US History elective to be announced

HIST 330 Latin American Politics and Society (cross-list with POSC)

HIST 401 European Empires in the Nineteenth Century

HIST 403 US history seminar to be announced

POSC 201 US Government and Public Policy

POSC 202 Comparative Government and Public Policy

POSC 304 Constitutional Law

POSC 316 Model United Nations

POSC 316 Latin American Politics and Society (cross-list with HIST)

POSC 323 Political Behavior

POSC 401 Race and Ethnic Politics

TRVL 300 Japan Travel Course

TRVL 300 Peru Travel Course



Several of our department faculty members participated in the annual early fall hike up Mount Greylock for new and returning MCLA students. Pictured are: Dave Cupery, Ely Janis (currently Dean of Academic Affairs), Samantha Pettey, Kailai Huang, and Amanda Kleintop.