

History of Science, Technology & Medicine

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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Friends and Colleagues,

Last year proved a challenging first year as director of our Program in History of Science and Technology as the national and state financial crisis struck us particularly deeply. Nonetheless, our spirited faculty and graduate students continue collaboratively to revise courses to meet liberal education core requirements, to present and publish their research, and to inaugurate a new system of preliminary exams that require two essays and will be more closely linked to a portfolio model.

Alan Shapiro retired at the end of the last academic year. We had a fine symposium in his honor on April 19, with talks by his close colleagues, Jed Buchwald and Noel Swerdlow, a well-attended reception at the McNamara Center, and a subsequent dinner where colleagues (including former students, some of whom came from a distance) toasted his many achievements. We remain hopeful that we will be authorized to search for his replacement at some point in the future, knowing that one strength of our program has been its historical and historiographical breadth. Thanks to all of you who made a contribution to the fellowship endowment in his name -- we have now raised nearly \$20,000.

Individual accomplishments are listed below, but I should note that two colleagues, Jennifer Alexander and Michel Janssen, were on leave for the year; Michel spent his sabbatical at the Max Planck in Berlin and Jennifer took research trips from her home base, including to Geneva, Switzerland. Tom Misa and Bob Seidel are leading a research project on the history of the Institute of Technology that will commemorate IT's seventy-fifth anniversary. Hyung Wook Park, Gina Rumore, and Suzanne Fischer completed their Ph.D.s this past year and, as you will see below, have gainful employment despite the economic challenges in academe.

After a multiyear exile on West Bank, this fall we will bring the graduate student offices back to the Institute of Technology. In fact, there were some good things about that West Bank location, including a closer connection to the Babbage facilities, easier connections to students and faculty in history and philosophy, and a convenient walk through tunnels to Wilson Library. Back on East Bank, we are gaining somewhat larger space and access to a seminar room in Shepherd Labs, plus the location is more central in terms of most faculty in HST as well as the students and faculty in the History of Medicine -- making the graduate HSTM connection less virtual. So, when you are on campus, be sure to check out our new digs.

Once piece of sad news is that long time-colleague, Edwin T. Layton, Jr., died recently (see brief *éloge* by Mary Thomas below). He taught in our program from 1975 until his retirement in 1998. His commitment to education is continued by the Layton Award given each year to an outstanding TA. If you want to make a contribution to that fund, we have a new "Make a Gift" link on our webpage at www.hst.umn.edu.

Since he was too modest to mention it in his comments below, I want to congratulate Alan Shapiro again for receiving the Taylor Award for Outstanding Service in the Institute of Technology! This award is given to one member of the faculty each year. In Alan's case it is recognition of his significant leadership of our program over fourteen years, conducted even as he maintained his deep commitment to teaching and research. This was a fitting tribute as he retired.

The network of faculty, students, alumni, and friends continues to be strong. We especially thank those of you who remain interested and connected to the program through your professional activities, your personal correspondence, and your contributions. Experiencing your enthusiasm maintains our momentum in a positive direction.

For those of you going to the History of Science Society meeting, mark your calendars for 9 pm on Friday night, November 20. We will host a UMN alumni and friends wine and cheese reception from 9:00 to 11:00 pm in suite 326, one of the third floor terrace rooms in the Hyatt Regency. Hope to see you there!

Truly best wishes,
Sally Gregory Kohlstedt

Elogie: Edwin T. Layton, 1928 – 2009

Friends, colleagues, and alumni of the Program in the History of Science and Technology were saddened to learn of the death of Edwin T. Layton on 13 May 2009, in Toronto, Canada, where he had lived with his wife Margaret since retiring from the Program in 1998.

Dr. Layton, or "Ed" as most of us knew him, earned his Ph.D. from UCLA, then taught at Ohio State University and Purdue University before joining the faculty of historians at Case Western Reserve from 1965 to 1975. During these years, Ed developed what would become his life-long passion for the history of technology, a passion that he brought to the University of Minnesota in 1975, and spread to others as one of the early members of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT). Among his multiple publications in the field were his book entitled *The Revolt of the Engineers: Social Responsibility and the Engineering Profession*, and his widely cited and ground-breaking essay on the complex relationship between science and technology entitled "Mirror-Image Twins: The Communities of Science and Technology in 19th-Century America." Both of these works represent Ed's main approach to the history of technology: The cultural context surrounding a technology is as important to the history as the technology itself--technology does NOT exist in a vacuum.

At the University of Minnesota, Ed regularly taught the year-long survey in the history of technology, often attracting up to 200 students to his classes. In addition to four graduate students that he had advised at Case Western, Ed formally advised five students at Minnesota, of which I was the last. Although he had to pass me on to other advisors upon his retirement and subsequent move to Canada, my work and that of all the graduate students whom he advised and taught shows his influence. None of us ever took him up on his opening line with new graduate students ("So, how would you like to study hydraulic turbines?"), but that never deterred him from taking an active and supportive role in helping us figure out what we did want to study, and also helping us figure out how to become excellent teachers. We sometimes dreaded meetings with Ed, but in a good way: We knew he would push us, prod us, even nag us, to go to that next level of inquiry and research, to never be satisfied with the easy answer, and help us to achieve more than we thought we could as historians. And you'd better have read the book like you were supposed to, because he definitely had read it!

Ed Layton, Jr., will be missed by his former students, colleagues, and historians in the field not only for his active interest and support, but also for his dry wit, humor, and ability to laugh. He is survived by his wife Margaret, son George, step-son David Kirby and wife Louise, granddaughter Paula, and an international body of friends.

--- Mary M. Thomas (2001, HST Alumnus)

Alumni Updates

Brett Steele (1994)

Alexandria, VA

I've certainly learned a great deal about the government contracting business here in the Military-Industrial-Academic Complex over the past year. My work in the business development office of Ideal Innovations, Inc. involved a great deal of recruiting, proposal writing, marketing research, and shameless schmoozing for a wide range of Department of Defense opportunities. That said, my VPs keep encouraging me to continue developing my research program on the economic foundations of business and military strategy, especially since it now has significant training and marketing implications.

Meanwhile, it has been an eye-opening experience trying to keep up with the reading assignments of my wife's MBA courses. Yes, it stuns me to now see how much those lucrative professional programs drop the ball on R&D and product innovation, especially when considering what gets presented in basic history of science and technology courses.

On a more cultural note, we took advantage of Tamera's short semester break in August to hang out in the sublime temples and shrines of Kyoto. We were especially delighted to discover that one can eat so well for so little out of ordinary Japanese grocery stores.

steele.brett@gmail.com

John P. Jackson, Jr. (1996)

Boulder, CO

I continue to work on the "big book" on the influence of Darwinian theory on American social theory with David Depew. David spent several weeks here at CU this summer and there is nothing like daily conversations to move the project forward. At this stage we hope to have a book proposal to a publisher this September.

My teaching assignment this year has changed and this fall, for the first time in eight years, I will not be supervising one of the department's big freshmen level classes. That means instead of my usual compliment of twelve (or so) Teaching Assistants to supervise, I have zero. It is a strange freedom to be responsible only for my own teaching.

On the lighter side, my family and I have been deeply involved with playing Zimbabwean marimba music. We helped host "Zimfest", an annual three-day gathering of Zimbabwean musicians from all over the country. The highlight for me was seeing my kids on stage at the Boulder Theater bringing the audience to their feet for an hour of dancing and cheering. It is experiences like that that remind us of why we become parents.

john.p.jackson@colorado.edu

Chris Young (1997)
Milwaukee, WI

Chris wears his HSTM t-shirts with pride. It is great when people ask about the University and the Program and I can talk a bit about my background. At a small college, such conversations are rare and highly valued, so I find myself wearing the shirt on campus pretty regularly. Thank goodness no one expects to see me in a tie! I am on sabbatical this year, but only part-time. We get one semester, so I am spreading my teaching release over the full year. My project is to explore the changing concept of "habitat" in the work of ecologists from about 1910 to the present. I plan to include some work on the programs developed in local natural history societies and conservation groups to compare the concept in academic and broader public usage. To get the project started with the right tone, I visited Mark in Lansing and joined Michael to see how AC/DC interprets the concept of habitat on stage. It turns out, when it comes to conservation, we are on a "Highway to Hell" and even with all the talk about going green, it was good to be "Back in Black." I hope to see many of you in Phoenix, or on Facebook.

ccy@wi.rr.com

Erik Conway (1998)
Pasadena, CA

I'm still employed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as its historian. My history of atmospheric science at NASA was published last fall. I'm also nearly finished with two more books. One, co-authored with Naomi Oreskes, will be published next spring. It's a study of a small group of physicists who lent their skills to the denial of various environmental problems. The other is a history of robotic Mars exploration. I'm working on its final chapter, but don't have a timeline for publication for it yet.

I plan to be at HSS this fall, so I hope to see everyone there!

conwayerik@sbcglobal.net

Diana Kenney (1998)
Marstons Mills, MA

I'm still working at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, as a science writer and editor. I had my first publication in a scientific journal this past year: an article in "Genetics" about early geneticist Thomas Hunt Morgan, which I co-authored with Gary Borisy, the MBL's director (who was recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences). Opportunities to flex my science-history muscle come up often here, which is great. I saw John Beatty at the annual History of Biology seminar at the MBL last spring, and audited his lecture for a nice dose of the past! I also co-wrote several federal grants this year, which is a new kind of writing for me. Otherwise life is good. I became certified to teach Zumba this year (a Latin dance-fitness class) and I'm having a lot of fun with that. My son is 11 and loves science, among other things (he gets plenty of exposure at his summer camp in Woods Hole). My husband and I leave for Provence in a few weeks in celebration of my 50th birthday. We've rented a villa with 8 friends. Can't wait!

kenney.diana@gmail.com

Mark Largent (1999)
East Lansing, MI

I spent much of 2008-2009 switching gears as I started a new research project, this one on contemporary public concerns about mandatory vaccines. I just finished my fourth year at Michigan State University and will stand for tenure this year (so please cross your fingers for me and refrain from posting anything scandalous on my Facebook page). Annabelle is thriving - she's three now - and we are settling into our new normal (as I'm told it's called). By far, the highlight of my year was the annual concert outing with Professors Chris Young and Michael Reidy that took place in August.

largent@msu.edu

Michael Reidy (1999)
Bozeman, MT

I am still teaching at Montana State University (MSU) in the Department of History and Philosophy, running the Science, Environment, Technology, and Society (SETS) undergraduate option, and beginning my second year as Director of Graduate Studies within the department. I am also neck deep into my research project: a history of mountaineering and science in the nineteenth century. As part of that project, I am teaching a new course within the department called "Mountain Histories" where students research and write an in-depth capstone paper on some aspect of exploration at high altitudes. I think it will be pretty cool. I am also continuing my work with Bernie Lightman and others on the John Tyndall Correspondence Project. I recently found out that our National Science Foundation grant to collect and transcribe all of John Tyndall's letters has been approved for funding. The grant means that Montana State will lead a group of scholars from twelve other universities in four countries in studying the life and work of John Tyndall, and we will be able to hire a two-year postdoctoral researcher (anyone interested?) to work on the project. This past year I also received the Charles & Nora L. Wiley Faculty Award for Meritorious Research, the most prestigious research award in the College of Letters and Science at Montana State University. As with last year, however, by far the most meaningful event in my life was my annual trip to Lansing, Michigan to see a concert with Mark Largent and Chris Young. AC/DC brought down the house!

mreidy@montana.edu

Kai-Henrik Barth (2000)
Doha, Qatar

Greetings from the Middle East! In July 2008 Kati, Per-Niklas, and I moved from Washington, DC, to Doha, Qatar, where I am teaching at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service branch in Doha. Qatar is a small country in the Gulf, known for its enormous oil and gas resources. Qatar's emir and his wife have decided to put much of this revenue into education, and they attracted leading U.S. university branches, such as Cornell medical, Texas A&M engineering, Virginia Commonwealth arts and design, Carnegie Mellon business, Northwestern media and communication, and Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, to Doha's new "Education City."

Georgetown's branch here is now in its fifth year, employing 30 faculty to educate about 200 undergraduate students in international politics and culture. Our students come from about 40 countries, mostly from the Gulf and the Middle East, but also from Europe and the U.S. This highlights two differences to many U.S. universities: the diversity among the students, and the very small class sizes. Some classes are as small as three or four students, and the average class has probably around ten students. In general, I know most students by name, and the many social events have helped to

form a strong community identity. Working with my students has been very rewarding (despite the occasional anti-Western sentiments), and I am learning more about culture and politics of the Middle East as well.

Qatar is making a rapid transition, and it is exciting to be part of this unique experiment. Most of the country's 1.5 million inhabitants are expats (mostly laborers from South Asia, who build the country under often extremely difficult circumstances), whereas Qataris are a distinct minority (about 20% only!) in their own country. This minority is very wealthy, and many of my students drive Porsches or even Bugattis to school. This leads sometimes to problems: if you are young and very rich, why would you work hard on course assignments?

I teach courses on international politics, mostly on science, technology and security, with an emphasis on nuclear nonproliferation. This semester I am also teaching Qatar's first Honors Seminar in International Politics. My own research focuses on the nuclear aspirations of the Gulf states and the associated proliferation concerns. Beyond the classroom I have been active in faculty governance, spending many hours per week in meetings with faculty and deans. This was actually much more fun than it might sound, and this experience leads me to consider a career in university administration. For the current academic year 2009-2010, however, I have decided to focus on my book project on nuclear proliferation.

Outside the university I have put much time into photography, including working with Photoshop and printing my own photos on fine arts papers (see some results [here](#) or [here](#) and [here](#). If you like to look at some photos from our Doha experience see and.

For Kati, the past year has been challenging, especially her adjustment from business owner to 'official' house wife. She has been busy settling the family and keeping all afloat while trying to redefine herself in a business environment that is particularly challenging for women. As first president of Sustainable Qatar, Kati organizes and promotes environmental awareness within the Qatar community. She is a contributing author to the Qatar Better Building Guidelines by the UNESCO Doha Office and is a member of the newly founded Qatar Green Building Council. Her book *Green Roof Systems: A Guide to the Planning, Design and Construction of Building Over Structure*, coauthored with Susan Weiler, was finally released by Wiley and Sons in April 2009.

Per-Niklas is back to school as a second grader at the American School of Doha, and he loves it. In fact, he wants to shorten his weekends to one day, so that he can go to school more often! They must be doing something right. Beyond school he loves his Spanish lessons and is crazy about soccer. At home he enjoys, like many seven year old boys, some online games, especially Lego Star Wars and some Pokemon stuff (I still don't understand the rules...). His school is as diverse as my university, and he really grows in this diversity.

Life in Doha is not always easy and definitively not for everyone. The whole town is under construction, which brings noise and dust on top of the scorching heat. And there are only few green spaces. Also, beyond the fantastic new Museum of Islamic Art (designed by I. M. Pei!) and some great sports events (we saw live tennis events with the Federer and the Williams sisters, for example), Doha is not exactly the hot spot of museums and entertainment. Furthermore, we moved twice within Doha in the past 8 months, because of poor construction of the houses we were in. Our new house is very nice and spacious and has a bigger garden, where Kati can turn the desert into a jungle.

One of the biggest perks here is travel, and we have taken advantage of it. In the past ten months we have been in Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand), the U.S., Jordan, and Europe (including stops in Madrid, Northern Spain, French Alps, Dutch North Sea Island Ameland, and family and friends in Germany, and final stop in Berlin). We are off to India in September for an amazing tour of Rajasthan (the Golden Triangle of Delhi, Agra, Jaipur), to Sri Lanka in November, and Christmas and New Year we will spend in Beirut, Lebanon, and Damascus, Syria, with friends.

2009 is also the 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, and we will celebrate this event in November with a big party in honor of Gorbachov, without whom Kati and I would have never met!

Overall, our experience has been good, and we decided to renew my contract for another three years. So, come visit!

khb3@georgetown.edu

Tania Munz (2000)
Berlin, Germany

I hope everyone had a happy, healthy, and productive year. I've now spent two years in Berlin at the Max Planck Institute and have one more before my time is up. Berlin has been wonderful both intellectually and in terms of friends and colleagues, who've come through the MPI. I had the pleasure of seeing some Minnesotans over the past two years (including Sally Kohlstedt and Michel Janssen) and hope to see others in the time that remains.

2008/09 was a busy year: I taught a seminar on Science and Animals at the University of Chicago during spring quarter. It was great to be back in the US and getting to return to my undergrad home. While in Chicago, I also got a chance to catch up with David Sepkoski, Margot Iverson, and Mark Largent, which was lovely.

This past year, I gave talks at the MPI, HSS, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, at Georgina Montgomery's excellent Animals Workshop at Michigan State, the University of Chicago, and in Budapest at the ICHST. Next week, I go to the ETH Zurich to speak about Konrad Lorenz's films and the International Film Encyclopedia Project. I reviewed two very good books (Gregory Radick's *Simian Tongue* and Deborah Coen's *Vienna in the Age of Uncertainty*), [wrote a short internet piece](#) and an entry on Karl von Frisch for the *Encyclopedia of the Life Sciences*.

Currently, I'm busy with my book prospectus on von Frisch and the Honeybee Dance Language, revising a paper on Konrad Lorenz's geese for *Isis*, and co-organizing a workshop with Veronika Lipphardt on "Sciences of Communication" to be held at the MPI this upcoming March.

Please let me know if you're passing through Berlin - I'll take you out for Kaffee und Kuchen! I hope everyone's well and look forward to seeing you at HSS in Arizona this fall.

tmunz@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Al Martinez (2001)
Austin, TX

So, after painstaking endless writing, editing, resubmitting, and proofreading, my new book finally came out: *Kinematics: The Lost Origins of Einstein's Relativity*, by Johns Hopkins University Press.

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0801891353/> It is actually unimaginable, the amount of struggle that I trudged to get this finished. It does not fit in my own head, but it was still worth it; the one main regret being that I did not insert a sentence in the Preface to the effect that "Having finished, it is odd for me now to not see in this book any clear trace of the seemingly endless war that it involved." Good grief. Meanwhile, I'm finishing the next would-be book and wrapping up my files to go up for tenure at UT Austin now in the Fall of 2009. This has come with some drawbacks, amongst which I'll mention: a) acid reflux, and b) I have not yet made the transition to digital TV. Anyhow, I hold onto my good memories of Minnesota, and I'm thankful for the luxury that we get to enjoy: the quiet lively moments in which we try to figure out what really happened and why, in the neglected past. I am often struck by the impression that writing

history is like composing a mosaic, putting back together the splintered and long distant bits and pieces of other people's lives; it can be an engrossing and inherently rewarding occupation. Anyhow, I regret not having the freedom to attend Alan's retirement get-together, but I hope to somehow make it up to him. I also hope that everyone is well and doing good; I was very glad to see several of y'all at the HSS last November.

almartinez@mail.utexas.edu

Kevin Francis (2002)

Olympia, WA

After five years, I'm still happily engaged in teaching at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. This fall I will be teaching a program on temperate rainforests with a forest ecologist. My contribution will focus on Pacific Northwest environmental history / policy, which means revisiting some of the issues I worked on as a Forest Service biologist 15 years ago. I'm looking forward to our extended (and hopefully not too soggy) field trips on the Olympic peninsula. In the winter I am teaching a class on Native American history with a colleague in Native Studies, where I will focus on historiography and philosophy of history.

I've continued to spend a fair amount of time at Evergreen on governance activities—serving as the “coordinator” for the math/computer science/lab science planning unit last year and the coming year, and working with the Evergreen Foundation (think scholarships) to increase our endowment.

Tom and I spent most of the summer in Alabama and Georgia with his folks, while his dad recuperated from a month-long hospital stay. We're back in the Northwest now and trying to make up for lost time. I just returned from backpacking the Wonderland trail on the west slopes of Mt. Rainier.

I hope to see folks in Phoenix (for HSS) or Friday Harbor (for the Columbia History of Science Group). As one of the program organizers, I'm also hoping to see some great proposals! As always, Tom and I welcome visitors, so please get in touch if you find yourself in Olympia or Seattle.

francisk@evergreen.edu

Juan Ilerbaig (2002)

Toronto, Canada

Claustre, Pau (who is now 6) and I moved to cold Canada a couple of years ago, so you could all elect a democrat as president (we were in Minnesota under Clinton and in Miami under Bush). Since we absolutely love living in Toronto, this means you'll have Obama for the rest of your lives. After spending some time working at Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, I am currently the Coordinator at the Modern Literature and Culture Research Centre, Ryerson University. I am also working part time on a masters in Information Science (Archival Science) at the University of Toronto. Claustre is also teaching at Ryerson, and Pau has just started elementary school.

jilerbaig@mlc.ryerson.ca

David Sepkoski (2002)
Wilmington, NC

2009 began on a high note for me when I got the chance to return to Minneapolis to give a colloquium talk for HSTM (I specifically asked for a January date so I could relive the authentic Minnesota experience). It was a real treat to see old friends and to meet the current crop of students in the program, and Mark B. hosted an excellent party for me at his house. The strangeness of being on the 'other side' of the grad student lunch and the podium notwithstanding, I had a great time. The rest of the year has gone pretty well, too. The highlight was publication of *The Paleobiological Revolution*, a book I coedited with Michael Ruse for U of Chicago Press. It was well worth all the work that went into it to finally see the finished product. Aside from that I had a couple of essays come out in other volumes, gave a few talks, but mostly have been trying to finish my book on the history of paleobiology. Mark B. and I had an unforgettable experience down in Tallahassee earlier this summer at a small conference in honor of E.O. Wilson. After our papers 'Ed' gave us hugs--and we got to see him decapitate an ant with his thumb! I also had nice visits at various times with fellow UMN alums like Tania Munz, Margot Iverson, and Paul Brinkman, and I look forward to seeing the rest of the gang at HSS this November. I'm presenting my first ever poster, so stop by and check out some 'classic paleobiology' simulations (if I can't get them working on my laptop I'll run Ms. Pacman instead).

sepkoskid@uncw.edu

John Gustafson (2004)
Madison, WI

In 2007 my wife Karen was offered a good job (check out fusmadison.org) in Madison, Wisconsin, and I had...more-or-less... completed what I had wanted to accomplish at Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College (Cloquet, Minnesota). We headed to Madison! Once we packed our bags and hit the road, Bush Economics collapsed, and my naïve plans to work only part-time and to thus become a part-time gentleman of science ala Charles Darwin, albeit without the porcelain factory back-up plan, were dashed like the Portland Vase. Fast-forward to early 2009, when I finally secured a part-time teaching gig at Madison Area Technical College. I really enjoy teaching introductory physics and math courses, and this allows me to do other activities in addition to earning money. Once again I find myself pursuing my original plan, but now without a nest egg.

My current avocational projects in the history of science are the following.

1) I became intrigued with Pre-Columbian American technology, mathematics, engineering, and science-like accomplishments, and wish to do more with this topic. While in Minnesota and working at a tribal college, I outlined a new introductory course on this broad topic. The original goal of the proposed course was to encourage science- and math-phobic students to reconsider careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. For me, this research has opened up a reexamination of the prerequisite roots of Eurocentric science. There is much to be learned about Eurocentric science by looking at what did and did not happen in other cultures.

2) I am planning to soon write an article on Arnold Sommerfeld's visit to Madison and the University of Wisconsin as a Karl Schurz Memorial Professor during the winter of 1922-23...a transition time in the history of quantum physics. Not long after, Heisenberg and Dirac visited Madison. Wigner too was here for a short period. Currently, I can only assume they all were Cheese Heads or perhaps Packers fans until I dig further into the records.

3) My 2004 dissertation continues to attract scholarly interest. I have been busy answering one e-mail request for a copy, thus making perhaps a total of twelve people who have read it...one of which may be my 98-year old mother

(Mom is a lifelong member of the Socialist Labor Party and she continues in excellent health and wit, thank you!). Regardless, I continue to explore the early history of quantum theory...especially Wolfgang Pauli's role in it. Pauli was amazing!!

Greetings to all!

jgus@tds.net

Don Opitz (2004)

Chicago, IL

Much of the past academic year was spent in preparation for new work to come. I successfully won a handful of research grants, two from my home institution, DePaul University, and a third from the Dibner program at the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA. I used one grant this summer to fund additional research for my project on the history of women's horticultural education in Britain in the late-19th century. The remaining two will help fund new archives research intended to expand the argument of my dissertation concerning the role of the British aristocracy in the advancement of Victorian science. This fall I am taking a research leave to devote to this project, which I expect to be in progress over the next couple of years.

Meanwhile, I foreshadowed my work on women's horticultural education in talks I gave at Friday Harbor, DePaul, and Leicester (UK). To stimulate my thinking for the book project, I also gave a paper on the Rayleighs in a session devoted to collaborative couples in the sciences at the International Congress of History of Science and Technology in Budapest. The archives work and conferences in Europe provided good excuses for sight-seeing, too, in places like the Scottish highlands and along the Danube River. My partner Cliff McReynolds provided good company - and skillful research assistance - with his new Nikon D90 camera in hand.

But the memorable highlight of the year was April's colloquium and reception commemorating Alan Shapiro's retirement. It was wonderful to catch up with everyone and learn about the exciting new directions the HSTM program is taking.

But (despite my successful talks on horticulture), this year was a challenge in my garden plot. My absence and neglect during summer travel, and perhaps the colder than average weather, resulted in only meager yields of peppers and tomatoes and no signs of eggplant or carrots whatsoever.

dopitz@depaul.edu

Paul Brinkman (2005)

Raleigh, NC

I've spent most of 2009 riding Charles Darwin's coattails. It started last fall when David Sepkoski, Niles Eldredge, and I went out for drinks after a Darwin talk at UNC-Wilmington. So similar were our views on Darwin's "conversion" that I was inspired to dust off an old paper (from John Beatty's UMN class) and whip it into shape for publication. That should be out in the *Journal of the History of Biology* later this year. I've also had the opportunity to speak on Darwin a few times this year, including the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta (David got me that gig); at a Darwin conference at New York University (with Mark Borrello and Rich Bellon [Rich got me this one]); and later this year in Bahia Blanca, Argentina; in Boone, NC; in Raleigh, NC; and in Phoenix, AZ at HSS (again with Rich).

I also revised a paper on the founding of the Field Museum (written originally for a UMN seminar taught by Sally Gregory Kohlstedt and Rich) and published it in Mary Anne Andrei's new *Museum History Journal*.

Finally, I submitted a revised version of my dissertation to the University of Chicago Press in June. Watch for the book, *The Second Jurassic Dinosaur Rush*, in the spring of 2010.

One of the highlights of the year with respect to paleontology was a three week field excursion to the desert of southern Peru last fall.

I got a promotion, of sorts, so now I'm a Research Assistant Professor at N. C. State University. I'm hoping to parley this into an opportunity to teach a Darwin seminar there next spring.

On a more personal note, I turned forty this year. Michel Janssen tried valiantly to convince me to meet him in Amsterdam to see Bob Dylan on my birthday, but other obligations kept me pinned down in Raleigh. I can't help thinking, though, that I should have gone to the show.

brin0142@umn.edu

Georgina Montgomery (2005)

East Lansing, MI

2008-2009 flew by with teaching, writing, hosting an international conference, and serving on a range of committees and so forth. The highlight of the year was having the opportunity to live and work at the Amboseli Baboon Project. For 8 days I awoke at 4.30am and saw the sun rise out in the bush while watching baboons and interviewing the Kenyan researchers who work at the project. (See photos)

Looking ahead, I have an article coming out in *Endeavour* in September and hope to finally submit my book manuscript for review so I can move on to the next project. I will also be finishing an edited volume entitled *The Animal Turn* which I am co-editing with Linda Kalof (Professor of Sociology at MSU) and publishing with Michigan State University Press.

When not working, I am enjoying exploring Michigan with Bob, Angel, and the newest member of our family, Levi.

montg164@msu.edu

Susan Rensing (2006)

Oshkosh, WI

The big news for me this year is that I accepted a new position at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. In the fall, I started as Assistant Professor of History and Women's Studies. I was sad to leave so many good friends and colleagues behind in Starkville, MS, but I'm excited to be back in the Midwest. I'll be developing new courses for the Women's Studies major at Oshkosh, starting with a Feminist Bioethics course that I'll be teaching in the spring. Looking forward to seeing everyone more often!

rensings@uwosh.edu

Karen Ross (2006)

Troy, AL

After finishing the program in 2006, I moved to South Carolina for a two-year position in a small liberal arts college in Clinton, Presbyterian College. It was the best start to my professional career I could have hoped for – great colleagues, earnest students, and small classes! After that contract was up, I moved west (while staying in the Deep South) to Troy University in southeastern Alabama for a tenure track position in the History Department. Here I am teaching American history and history of medicine in a medium sized department. The luck gods have struck again, and I am in the company of wonderful colleagues and lively students.

kdross@troy.edu

Betty van Meer (2006)

Charleston, SC

I have been enjoying visiting professorships for the past three years. My first stop was Presbyterian College, where I was responsible for a variety of Modern European history courses. My favorite colleague there was of course Karen Ross; it was great fun representing the 'Minnesota contingent' in the faculty for two years. Last year, I moved to the College of Charleston, where I introduced students to the History of Technology and Culture this past spring.

Whenever time allows, John and I love to stroll along Charleston's beaches and indulge in fresh sea food.

vanmeerb@cofc.edu

Suzanne Fischer (2009)

Detroit, MI

I'm delighted to say that I defended in May. Thanks to everyone who helped me out. I've been in Detroit and at my job as Curator of Technology at The Henry Ford for about a year now, and I've enjoyed learning about the museum's amazing collections (I'm the curator of, among other things, adding machines, eyeglasses, and telegraphs), putting up an exhibit on telephones, being an advocate for digital projects at the institution, collecting computers and researching mechanical television. I'm presenting at SHOT this year (on a panel with and organized by colleagues from CBI), and at the Association of Moving Image Archivists, talking about history museums and the web. This summer, I rode my bicycle across the state of Iowa.

fisc0310@umn.edu

Faculty Updates

Mark Borrello (HST)

Back to school. The Darwin year is nearly done and thoughts turn to historiography and Liberal Education requirements. The past year has been particularly busy with finishing my book, preparing materials for the tenure dossier, and talking about Darwin, Darwin, Darwin. Back in October '08 I had the opportunity to defend evolutionary theory from the Intelligent Design Top Dog, Michael Behe on Power 105 FM in Kingston, Jamaica. Unfortunately, they didn't fly me down for the interview – no, I just called in from my office in the Ecology building. In January, David Sepkoski came to give an HST colloquium talk on Punctuated Equilibrium and stayed with me and Regina and the kids. We hosted our first departmental party and we had enough beer wine spring rolls and pancet (thanks to Regina) for everyone who stayed late. In February the Bell Museum had a great Darwin day celebration with short pecha kucha style (6 minutes and 40 second talk for 20 images) presentations that were a lot of fun. In April I gave a talk at NYU where fellow UMN types Paul Brinkman and Rich Bellon were also on the program. In May I got to spend some quality time at Woods Hole MBL with John Beatty discussing the role of theory in biology and immediately following that workshop, I headed down to Tallahassee to celebrate E. O. Wilson's birthday by giving a talk on his changing views on group selection and then visiting the FSU marine and coastal lab and heading out into the gulf of Mexico to do some sampling with Ed. In July I went to Brisbane Australia for the ISHPSSB meeting. Australia was great fun and I managed to get in some surfing at Byron Bay after the conference with my friend and colleague from Bar Ilan University in Israel, Oren Harman. I've got a few more talks coming up in the fall, and am looking forward to Rachel Mason Dentinger's dissertation defense in November and my book coming out in the spring (Not to mention Nico and Gia starting back to school and Alba starting pre-school).



borello@umn.edu

John Eyler, Emeritus (HMed)

During the past year I enjoyed a terminal sabbatical and completed three pieces on the history of American research on the epidemiology of influenza and on the flu virus. I retired from the University at the end of June, and Audrey and I have settled in our house in Gig Harbor, Washington. I am currently serving the second year of a two-year term as the Vice President of the American Association for the History of Medicine which, unless precedent is broken, will be followed by a two-year term as President. The freedom of schedule that retirement offers is wonderful. In our case it included music, travel, entertaining friends, and reading without taking notes. I am also finally getting around to some auto restoration I have put off for years. We welcome visits from friends and from former colleagues and students.

eyler001@umn.edu

Jennifer Gunn (HMed)

I used to pride myself on having rugged research sites like Pierre, South Dakota and Grand Forks, North Dakota. But this year I made it to my first Friday Harbor conference and this summer I spent time in Paris and London working on an edited volume on influenza with my collaborators Susan Craddock and Tamara Giles-Vernick -- academic life can be so

rough. We also delivered a paper based on that work at the International Conference on the History of Medicine and Global Connections at the Wellcome Trust. The volume, *Influenza and Public Health: Histories and Dialogues for the Future* (Earthscan, Ltd., London, UK, forthcoming 2010) has a chapter by John Eyler. Europe was quickly replaced by brief research trips for my rural health book to Alabama -- where I got to see Karen Ross -- and Madison, Wisconsin. I'll be giving a paper from that project on the role of public health nurses in building the rural public health infrastructure at the American Association for the History of Nursing meetings in September, 2009. Otherwise, I'm learning just how much bureaucracy John Eyler protected me from as program director, and looking forward to having lots of new graduate students around the Wangenstein kitchen table this fall.

gunnx005@umn.edu

Michel Janssen (HST)

After spending a sabbatical at the *Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte* and living in Berlin for a year, I return to the Twin Cities and the U of M, to the brand new 35W bridge and the remains of history and philosophy of physics in this town. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the HSTM program will soon get permission to resume the search for a replacement for Alan Shapiro and that the philosophy department will be able to search for a replacement of Antigone Nounou, the heart and soul of PIG, the Physics Interest Group. I am excited that Charles Midwinter will at least informally join our small group of graduate students working in history of modern physics this year. And I'm pleased that another valued PIG member and long-term friend of our program, Clayton Gearhart, will finally be a speaker rather than an audience member at our Friday colloquium. Don't miss his talk on the headaches the pesky problem of the specific heat of molecular hydrogen caused scores of early quantum physicists. In Berlin, when I wasn't busy following the *Bundesliga* and Hertha BSC in particular, I worked with the thriving quantum history group in Jürgen Renn's *Abteilung* of the institute. One of the exciting new initiatives of members of this group is to look at early quantum textbooks. There will be not one but two sessions on this topic at the HSS meeting in Phoenix this year. I've been roped in for another talk on Van Vleck. In September I'll be talking about Van Vleck at his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin--Madison. I'll also be talking about Pascual Jordan on a few occasions, maybe even in our own colloquium. I'm excited to be teaching an honors seminar on Einstein in the spring, the first time I'll be teaching honors students. By that time, I hope the completed manuscript for *The Cambridge Companion to Einstein* will finally be at Cambridge University Press. I don't even want to think about how long that's been overdue. You can find my chapter on general relativity and my appendix on special relativity on my home page, beautifully illustrated by French artist Laurent Taudin. I made various Einstein pilgrimages in Berlin, most importantly to his summer house in Caputh, where I had a new picture of myself in Einstein's bathtub taken to replace the 1995 one that has been on the HST(M) website for years and that doesn't show the toll that almost 15 years in this business has taken on its subject. The guy taking my picture for my new driver's license the other day offered to try again three times, but I just knew that would be pointless.

janss011@umn.edu

Susan Jones (HST)

2008-09 was a transition year for the leadership of the Program in History of Science and Technology (HST), as Sally Kohlstedt became Chair and I became Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). Since the HST and History of Medicine Graduate Programs are now fully merged, I also work closely with Jennifer Gunn, who is interim Chair in History of Medicine. Our graduate students have been good sports while I learned the ropes of the DGS job and they navigated the new guidelines for the merged Graduate Program. This year promises to be an exciting one for the Graduate Program, as six new students have joined us and the HST students have new digs. Last year was also notable for me in terms of research, as my *Isis* article was published and I completed a book manuscript on the history of anthrax for Johns Hopkins University Press. My husband can now look forward to a year without discussions of anthrax at the dinner table!

jone0996@umn.edu

Sally Gregory Kohlstedt (HST)

Returning from sabbatical in New Zealand in July of 2008, I was quickly caught up in administration of the program, assisted by advice and files from Alan, even as I continued manuscript revisions and gathered illustrations and permissions for the nature study book manuscript. That project should make it between hard covers early in 2010, so be watching for *Teaching Children Science: Hands-On Nature Study in North America, 1890-1930*. For a preview [see](#). My full course load had me returning to "Science in American Culture" after six years, a good opportunity to catch up on recent scholarship in the early history of American science, and included teaching our graduate research seminar. Maria Rentetzi and I published a series of essays on women in the physical sciences in *Centaurus*, based on a conference held on the Isle of Syros two years ago. Important family news includes the wedding of our oldest son, Kris, to Courtney Mollen, in Chicago in March -- and I am working hard to avoid the stereotypes suggested by the term mother-in-law -- plus the announcement of David's election to the National Academy of Sciences. Now I am looking forward to working on the research materials accumulated while on sabbatical in New Zealand.

sgk@umn.edu

Tom Misa (HST)

It's been a big year in the computer-history world, with several exciting developments at Charles Babbage Institute (CBI). Our book *Gender Codes* went to the the IEEE Computer Society Press in August. Starting with an international workshop at CBI last May, our authors try to identify the "missing pieces" in the persisting gender gap in computing. While computing was distinctively hospitable to women in the 1970s, women's participating in computing education and the IT workforce peaked in the mid-1980s -- and has fallen dramatically since then. No one is quite sure "why?" We suggest that computing's male-centered public image is in need of a make-over, and this profusely illustrated book begins the process.

I did a set of public lectures on "Minnesota's 'Hidden History' in Computing" last year (and am reprising several this fall). The set of talks, with guest appearances also by CBI's Jeffrey Yost and the Bakken's David Rhees, covers the striking though little-appreciated local history. Minnesota companies played pioneering roles in stored-program computers, magnetic memory, supercomputers, and the early Internet. For more, see [.](#)

This fall HST students Nathan Crowe and Maggie Hofius, as well as HST alum Ron Frazzini, are writing chapters for our 75th anniversary history of the Institute of Technology. CBI's project to document and analyze NSF's FastLane system continues as well.

tmisa@umn.edu

Bob Seidel (HST)

We have been putting together a 75th anniversary history of the Institute of Technology for Dean Stephen Crouch, who is already planning to rename it after our history appears. Amy Foster's history of the aeronautics department provided a good start for our team, which includes Tom Misa, Maggie Hofius, Ron Frazzini and Nathan Crowe. We've found lots of interesting stories, too many to squeeze into the space allotted, but perhaps it won't go to waste when the 100th anniversary nears. It's fun working in a collaborative group again, especially with this team.

Chris and I resumed cruising this summer (she never quit) sailing from Liverpool to Rome via Lisbon, Gibraltar, Barcelona, Cannes and Florence. It took us about three weeks and was most relaxing, especially after the long, cold winter. We stayed here over the winter break—bad move! Look for me in the south this winter.

rws@umn.edu

Jole Shackelford (HMed)

Summer 2009 was devoted to the home front and to chronobiology. I have a growing interest in exploring the history of biological rhythms research (chronobiology), or in urging others to do so, and to that end I spent much of my summer reading time skimming or reading texts connected with chronobiology in order to put together an NSF grant proposal in collaboration with Sally Kohlstedt and Jennifer Gunn. We met the early August deadline, and now we wait

In other news, I came home one day this summer to find a shipment of books from Oxford University Press on my doorstep. This in itself is not too surprising, since I usually order books at the annual meetings and sometimes books are back ordered. Also, I get books from publishers that are intended for review in *Early Science and Medicine*, for which I am a book review editor. But, when I opened the box and found four copies of a smallish book written in Japanese having something to do with William Harvey (see attached photo), I immediately concluded that this was somebody's postal error. Examining the book for any sign of Roman alphabet characters, other than the name William Harvey, I discovered Owen Gingerich's name and my own (see attached photo detail). It slowly dawned on me that this was a translation of a book that I had written for Oxford University Press a few years ago, and that now I was looking at a book that I had written, but cannot read.

shack001@umn.edu

Alan E. Shapiro, Emeritus (HST)

Retiring was a lot more fun and easier than starting 38 years ago. No new courses to plan, lectures to prepare, or syllabi to work up, just lots of parties, receptions, and dinners. Most apt was the Midwest Junto's reception in my honor at a brewery (Boulevard) in Kansas City. Most rewarding was "Alan Fest" (as the graduate students came to call it) -- a colloquium, reception, and dinner -- that the Program threw in my honor. Most satisfying was being chosen to lead the academic procession at the IT graduation as the Mace Bearer. Linda and I have been doing much travel and have more planned in the coming months. Otherwise, aside from not teaching and no pay check, not much has changed.

ashapiro@physics.umn.edu

Roger H. Stuewer, Emeritus (HST)

I continue to devote much time to editorial work for *Physics in Perspective*, the journal that my good friend and colleague, John S. Rigden, and I founded eleven years ago, and for the Resource Letters of the *American Journal of Physics*, which I have now edited for the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) for thirty-one years. The latter responsibility carries with it membership on the AAPT Publications Committee, and in that capacity, as well as to serve on the AAPT Committee on History and Philosophy of Physics, I attended AAPT meetings in Denver, Colorado, in February and in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in July. I also continue to participate on a project on the history of nuclear physics in Austria, which took me to Vienna for ten days in June, and I continue to serve on the American Physical Society (APS) Committee on Committees, the APS Audit Committee, and the APS Council until the completion of my four-year term after its meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, in November. Further, I chaired the 2009 Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize

Committee of the History of Science Society; the Prize will be awarded at the HSS meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, in November. In February 2010 I will go to the joint AAPT/APS meeting in Washington, D.C., where I will meet with the Resource Letters Editorial Board, and where John S. Rigden and I have organized a session on "Enhancing Physics in the Classroom and Beyond."

rstuewer@physics.umn.edu

Dominique Tobbell (HMed)

I thoroughly enjoyed my first semester at the University of Minnesota and feel very privileged to be a part of the HSTM community. The semester was certainly an eventful one. In addition to launching the Academic Health Center Oral History Project (conducting five oral histories along the way), I had two articles published, one in the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* and the other in the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*. I also began the work of turning my dissertation into a book, which is tentatively titled, *Pills, Power and Policy: How Drug Companies and Physicians Resisted Federal Reform in Cold War America*. The summer was no less eventful: I presented at the Business History Conference in Milan, where my dissertation was runner-up for the Kroos Prize in Business History. I also bought my first house and brought home my first puppy. Taka the German shepherd has been all too happy to distract me from all things academic, a function I expect him to continue as he grows into his oh-so big paws!

dtobbell@umn.edu

Current Student Updates

Frazier Benya (HST)

My fourth year has been a good one. I spent most of it completing the new exams, and am now ABD! I enjoyed the process of getting to read and write in areas that I am very interested in, however it took a little longer than I was hoping it would take. I am now jumping right into the dissertation. I will be examining the congressional discussions on overseeing biomedical research in the 1960's and 1970s, which resulted in the National Research Act and the creation of the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research.

This past year I also wrote my first and second published book reviews, both published in the JHB. And I also began working as an RA at the Center for Bioethics at the U, on a project called EthicShare.org. It's a website designed for those interested in bioethics, which pulls together bioethics literature into one website, includes popular press materials relating to ethics, and incorporates some community features like group discussions, conference announcements and job postings. Check it out!

And lastly I decided this year to pursue a Masters in Bioethics at the U in addition to my Ph.D. I will be in the first master's class starting this fall, and am very excited about working on both of my interests: history of science and bioethics.

benya004@umn.edu

Sara Cammeresi (HST)

I am heading to Rome this fall with my husband and the cat. I will conduct research in Jesuit archives; Sid will continue to work remotely; and the cat, we imagine, will pursue *il dolce far niente*. My research will be supported in part by Union Pacific Research Grants from the Center for Early Modern History. I will also continue to work for CEMH, helping to coordinate the publication of the Minnesota Studies in Early Modern History. I am happy to report that the first volume of this new series came out in January, and we expect the second to be out before the end of the year.

Also, I would like to invite you all to join the UMN History of Science, Technology, & Medicine group on LinkedIn (a professional social networking [site](#)).

cammeres@umn.edu

Maggie Charleroy (HMed)

This past summer I worked on assorted public history projects with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Ellis Island Foundation/National Park Service. This included work with collections management, historic interpretation, and educational programming. I will be taking up residence on the West Bank this semester as an Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellow at the Minnesota Population Center.

charl086@umn.edu

Jonathan Clemens (HST)

This will be my first year in the HSTM PhD program and I am extremely excited to start! Prior to enrolling at the University of Minnesota I earned a B.A. in history from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a M.A. in history from the University of Hawai'i. My primary research interests are the history of digital technologies and the transformative effects of the Information Revolution.

cleme263@umn.edu @umn.edu

Nathan Crowe (HST)

Greetings! I have successfully finished another year, my third, here in Minnesota and am finally figuring out what it takes to get through the winters. Stephanie and I did a substantial amount of cross-country skiing this past winter, seriously making us consider investing in our own sets of skis. However, doing so would simply ensure that the first job I will get will be in a hot climate, devoid of any snow. We stayed active this spring and summer too, training for and completing our first triathlon on July 4th in Oak Grove, Minnesota. We both successfully finished, which was our only goal.

I also attended ISHPSSB in Brisbane, Australia in July and successfully presented a paper on the early foundations of developmental biology. I greatly enjoyed becoming a part of the ISHPSSB community and made some useful contacts that will help me as I write my dissertation on the history of cloning.

crowe051@umn.edu

Adrian Fischer (HST)

Last year has been a year of decisions for me. I decided to switch from the History of Science to the History of Technology. My main focus of study is technology and labor between the 1850s and 1950s. Furthermore, I decided to go for a Master's degree and I will finish it by the end of 2009. Also, I discovered my passion for museum work. During the summer I worked as an intern at the Bakken Museum of Electricity in Minneapolis. I am very glad that I have the opportunity of staying there working as an assistant curator for the fall. The variety of tasks and projects is what I specifically enjoy - preserving, cataloging, researching, teaching, organizing, etc. So far, I am really happy with the decisions I made and I am looking forward to the decisions ahead.

fisch406@umn.edu

Maggie Hofius (HST)

I'm livin' the dream as they say, keeping busy and enjoying it. This past year was spent finishing up coursework, learning to love the Cyrillic alphabet, and working on a history of the Institute of Technology at Minnesota with Tom Misa, Bob Seidel, Nathan Crowe, and Ron Frazzini. This year I also took on additional responsibilities as benevolent dictator-- (ahem) I mean president--of my housing cooperative. It has been fun, but I am looking forward to passing off the torch this fall.

hofiu002@umn.edu

Neal Holtan (HMed)

Progress on the dissertation is moving along slowly but steadily from doing archival research now to writing. I presented some preliminary ideas about mid-twentieth century human genetics in Minnesota at the AAHM annual meeting in 2008 followed by a talk in Barcelona at the Third International Workshop on Genetics, History and Public Understanding: European Society for Human Genetics Annual Meeting. Locally, I've made similar presentations to the Minnesota Department of Health's Maternal/Child Health Task Force and the St. Paul - Ramsey County Department of Public Health. Other work related to history includes membership on the board of directors of Hennepin History Museum, an article in their quarterly journal about the history museum at Hennepin County Medical Center, and service on the advisory committee for the HCMC Medical History Museum. In the spring of 2009 I spent four weeks in Philadelphia at the American Philosophical Society library and archives under one of their library fellowships. It was an amazing opportunity and I recommend it highly.

Personally, I've done a fair amount of traveling for business and pleasure with my partner, Steve Dent. We had the fabulous experience of spending three weeks in India last December. On August 30th, we got a new dog, an 11 week old miniature poodle puppy named Jacques.

holta002@umn.edu

Kate Jirik (HST)

I'm so excited that after six years, I am finally a third year student. I'm starting the process for my exams and hope to have them done by May 2010. My area of interest continues to be the intersection of science, politics and ethics/religion. My research right now is focusing on institutions for people with cognitive impairments at the turn of the twentieth century. I'm hoping to expand the historiography to include the contributions of women in professional

capacities that have been neglected so far. I've presented at the Midwest Junto several times and am hoping to present at the 2010 American Association for the History of Medicine conference.

I attended a great conference in New York in September 2008 and can hardly wait to go back so I can go sightseeing. I went to Montreal for a week in August for vacation.

jjri0006@umn.edu

Peter Kernahan (HMed)

I spent the summer working on my dissertation and now have a more or less complete draft! A research trip to Boston provided a productive interlude.

kerna001@umn.edu

Christine Manganaro (HMed)

I spent the summer of 2009 working on my dissertation and raising a puppy. This fall I am a visiting faculty member at Macalester College in the departments of history and American Studies. I teach courses on race and gender in science, Hawai'i, the history of race research, and American expansion. I look forward to defending my dissertation this winter.

mang0084@umn.edu

Joe Martin (HST)

For the majority of the summer I was researching at the Niels Bohr Library at the American Institute of Physics, and other archives up and down the east coast. I gathered material relating to the development and disciplinary identity of solid state physics after World War II, which I plan to fashion into a dissertation prospectus over the next semester. The remaining time I spent visiting family and friends in New Zealand, where I took full advantage of the antipodean winter—because we don't get quite enough of that up here. The picture is from the ski slopes overlooking the Cardrona Valley.

mart1901@umn.edu

Rachel Mason Dentinger (HST)

During the past year I have continued to work on my dissertation on the history of coevolutionary studies, and I should be finished writing by the end of the summer. Bryn and I are still living in Toronto, where I have been lucky enough to join the John Tyndall Correspondence Project, under Bernie Lightman at York University, designing the project's website and transcribing Tyndall's letters. All in all, it has been a pretty uneventful and productive year.

By contrast, I am looking forward to many major life changes over the course of the next six months. In September, Bryn and I will move across the continent to Eugene, OR, where he will begin a new post-doc, working as co-PI on an NSF grant that he wrote in collaboration with an ecologist at the University of Oregon. As a seventh-year graduate student I am also thrilled to be planning my defense for later in the fall. Last, but certainly not least, I am due to give birth to our first child in late January 2010!

maso0090@umn.edu

Matthew McGeachy (HMed)

This year marks my transition from my undergraduate degree to my first year in the PhD programme in the history of medicine, and I'm very excited to begin the next phase of my academic life. In addition to beginning a new degree, I'm preparing myself for moving back to the U.S. after four wonderful years in Toronto, Canada, a city I will miss very dearly. My partner, Susannah, and I are looking forward to starting our new lives in the Twin Cities.

This summer has been occupied with wrapping things up in Toronto, including the various committees I sat on at the U of T, and looking for an apartment to live in in the Cities! I still found plenty of time for leisure, however, and we took a trip to the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake and are planning a trip to the Stratford Festival. On a slightly larger scale, I spent one month walking El Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage route in northern Spain, with a dear friend: it was a truly memorable experience!

Goals for the year include getting to know my fellow students in the Programme, connecting with faculty members across the University, filling in the woeful gaps in my knowledge base, and trying to narrow down some topics for my eventual research. I began an oral history of Therapeutics, a psychotherapeutic community that existed in Toronto from the 60s to the 80s, several years ago and want to expand that project, even from a distance, and polish a paper I have written based on my interviews. If I'm really ambitious, perhaps I can even submit something for publication by year's end (!)! I'm also looking forward to exploring my new home and connecting with the theatre community. Looking forward to a great year!

mcgea012@umn.edu

Jessica Nickrand (HMed)

I am very excited to begin the HSTM program at Minnesota! I just finished my undergrad at Michigan State University this spring, and spent a good amount of time this summer in the Twin Cities working with the Council of Scholars Program for entering first years at the U. While here, I plan on studying concepts of gender and sexuality in American public health and medicine.

nickr002@umn.edu

Richard Parks (HMed)

I am currently writing my dissertation on ideas of "regeneration" in the Jewish community of Tunis during the 1930s. If I don't finish this year, the department will disown me and I will be working at Subway. Seriously though, I spent a month this summer doing research in Paris and then two weeks at a workshop at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC focusing on the Jews of North Africa during WWII. It's been a good summer and I am now writing, as well as working as the Managing Editor of French Historical Studies and part-time as a Fellowship Coordinator for the Undergraduate Honors Program. Good times!

park0667@umn.edu

Barbara Reiterer (HST)

This past year was my second year in the program and I continued taking classes and, as a teaching assistant, trying to make a difference in the academic lives of undergraduate students. Compared to my first year, I made some additions to my yearly program, i.e. I took some adventurous first steps in writing grant proposals.

I am still interested in the history of the social sciences, exile and migration, and gender and (social) science. This summer, I spent several weeks in Vienna doing some preliminary research on the situation of Austrian female social scientists in the early 20th century, and also in New York tracing some of those who emigrated to the United States in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Now that the summer comes to a close, I am getting ready for year three which comes with preliminary exams as its defining feature.

reite053@umn.edu

Jacob Steere-Williams (HMed)

This fall I will be entering my fifth year in the HSTM program. I spent last year in London on a visiting doctoral fellowship at the Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine, where I conducted dissertation research and got spoiled by the rich archival resources and new-made friends in London. After teaching a summer course in our program on the History of Disease, I am now head deep in writing. My dissertation continues to be on 19th century British epidemiology -- specifically studies of milk-borne typhoid fever -- although I will also be examining how analytical chemists contributed to the construction that milk could be a threat to the public's health.

I am looking forward to presenting at the annual HSS meeting this fall in Arizona, the AAHM meeting in Rochester (MN), and drafting an article for *Medical History*.

will2019@umn.edu

Joris Vandendriessche (HMed)

I am starting the MA program in the History of Medicine this year. Last year I finished my studies at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL) in Leuven, a university town about 20 miles from Brussels, Belgium. At the KUL I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Modern History (2008) and a Master's Degree in Modern Cultural History (2009). My research has mainly focused on themes in public health history. In my bachelor study I wrote a research paper on the historiography

of public health and in my master's thesis I wrote a biography of the Antwerp doctor and politician Victor Desguin (1838-1919). Wanting to learn more about medical history, the program in the History of Medicine at the U of M seemed perfect. A Fellowship of the Belgian American Educational Foundation (BAEF) made this plan possible. Next year I hope to explore themes in public health history, but also get to know other aspects in the history of medicine. Medical history for me holds the promise of an interesting and vibrant field of research and I am very much looking forward to learning about it. In my free time I am interested in badminton, as a player and as a youth coach, and also love running and hiking.

vande906@umn.edu

Michael Ziomko (HST)

For my original colleagues in the program whom I knew best and even some more recent but already graduated -- Jay Aronson, Paul Brinkman, Juliet Burba, Erika Dirkse, Margot Iverson, Suzanne Fischer, Amy Foster, Ron Frazzini, John Gustafson, Mark Largent, Nick Martin, Alberto Martinez, Karin Matchett, Paul Morf, Tom Noerper, Don Opitz, Hyung Wook Park, Susan Rensing, Karen Ross, Gina Rumore, James Satter, David Sepkoski, Rick Swanson, and Olivia Walling -- I want you to know I am still working at it, now in my first one-year extension. While you have gone on to, I hope, wonderfully rewarding positions serving in a variety of academic, museum, and independent vocations, I have gone back to work full time in development at Children's Hospitals in the Twin Cities. But Descartes, Boyle, and Newton, the sirens they are, call to me still. I am turning my Descartes chapter on material cohesion into a separate master's thesis. In case time runs out, I want at least to have a master's. But my goal is the doctorate, and as you know, I am a dogged -- even if at this point old -- kind of guy. Lately I am buoyed by the work that has come out of Alan's suggestion that if I am to make a scholarly point about Descartes, I must translate the key articles of the original text, his Principles of Philosophy. I knew the Latin would finally come in handy, and though it's slow, it's fascinating and engages me anew. For instance, I learned from the Introduction to the Oxford Latin that it dealt only with classical Latin. So I wondered about dictionaries for ecclesiastical, medieval, and early modern Latin. Indeed, they exist -- what fun! The twelve hundred year development of the English language pales by comparison. I'm still making pottery in my basement studio and involved with the Empty Bowls in Powderhorn Park. You're all invited: Friday, November 6th, Park Building, lunch or dinner -- hundreds of handmade bowls, great soup, and good company, with the donations going to feed hungry folks in our neighborhood. My best wishes to you all for your happiness and health.

mziomko@umn.edu