NOTES FROM THE DIRECTORS

Welcome to the 2012 newsletter of the graduate program in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine Program. With the economy stabilized, new university leadership, and the end of salary freezes and cuts, things feel remarkably good as we reflect on the past year. Undergraduate enrollments in HST are at an all-time high, an essential part of maintaining strong support from the College of Science and Engineering (formerly IT), and classes in HMed have attracted traditional pre-health professional students and students from the relatively new Biology, Society and Environment major in the College of Liberal Arts. In May, Jole Shackelford and post-doc Tulley Long, with able assistance from Maggie Hofius, organized and hosted “Fascinating Rhythms: A Conference on the History and Philosophy of Biological Rhythms Research,” the culmination of our two-year NSF grant.

Our enterprising graduate students have won nationally competitive travel grants and fellowships, most notably Joe Martin as a Philadelphia PACHS fellow and Barbara Reiterer (now Louis) at the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC. Our former students have done exceptionally well on the job market this past year, with Amy Fisher moving to the University of Puget Sound, Jacob Steere-Williams to the College of Charleston, and Christine Manganaro to the Maryland Institute College of Art. Richard Parks is taking up a two-year Mellon post-doc at Brown University, and Frazier Benya is a Program Officer at the National Academy of Engineering in Washington, D.C.

We also celebrated the new books of our colleagues Susan Jones and Dominique Tobbell. Susan was promoted to full professor and Dominique won a McKnight Land Grant Professorship, the University’s highest honor for junior faculty. Particularly exciting news is that we once again have a historian of early modern physical science, Victor Boantza, whose Ph.D. is from the University of Toronto; he has most recently had a research fellowship in Sydney, Australia. Last year we enjoyed having Rebecca Slayton here for a year teaching the ethics and the history of technology and this year Todd Dresser joins us for a year in the same capacity.

Do visit our emerging new web page (www.hstm.umn.edu), a work in progress but with ever more information about who we are and what is happening. We will have our usual Minnesota Party at the HSS meeting in San Diego and hope to see you there if you attend the meeting.

Jennifer Gunn, Director, History of Medicine (Medical School)
Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, Director, History of Science and Technology (College of Science and Engineering)

PHOTO: People at the beginning-of-year party at Sally’s home
SAVE THE DATE
April 20, 2013

Practicing Science, Engaging Publics:
A Conference in Honor of Historian Sally Gregory Kohlstedt

Sally Gregory Kohlstedt’s work has significantly influenced and improved our own. Her personal dedication as a scholar, mentor, teacher, and friend has inspired us all. In recognition of her many contributions and in celebration of a career that will continue even after she chooses to retire (which she hasn’t, by the way), we invite you to join us for a day-long conference on topics spanning the breadth of Sally’s impressive expertise and culminating with a banquet where we will raise a glass in appreciation.

We hope that you can keep this date open on your calendar.

If you have questions, you may contact the coordinators, Mark Largent, Jennifer Gunn, Don Opitz, Chris Young, or Juliet Burba.

Alumni Updates

Joe Cain  PhD (HST 1995)
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I continue my career at University College London's Department of Science and Technology Studies. Last year, I was appointed Head of Department. In the UK, this job is something of a cross between line manager and Scottish Laird, though the tartan is reserved for those north of the border. All those years watching Alan, Roger, and Sally manage the programme in UMN has paid off as in this period of austerity, I'm happy to say I worked out ways to hire 7 permanent posts this year (we're now 15 academics and 3 administrators). We're also trying for a few more. Running hiring processes is often more sad than happy. So many fantastic people. So many possible futures. Yet, only one person can fill a post. It can be heart-breaking.

Shortly after my appointment, I was awarded a UCL prize for being the Head of Department who has made the most significant improvement to the public engagement culture of a department. I'm not sure how that happened, but we celebrated nonetheless. I think this was something of a "lifetime achievement award" (I thought I was still young!) because I continue to be strongly committed to taking history of science to community groups and clubs through walking tours, film nights, public lectures, and all sorts of interactional events. I don't think there is an American equivalent to the "University of the Third Age". It's a network of clubs for pensioners. Each club runs weekly talk series, book clubs, travel groups, and so on. Audiences normally are highly engaged, active, smart, and great fun. They're ready to go ten minutes before the scheduled start. They jump into questions. They pay close, close attention. They serve tea and homemade biscuits mixed with gratitude and respect. Best of all are the stories they bring. I frequently give talks about history of science stories with local connections. One favourite focuses on the Crystal Palace and Park in Sydenham (where the 1854 dinosaur statues are located). The story mentions the 1936 fire that destroyed the glasshouse and brought ruin to the pleasure park. Every single time I give this talk, a hand goes up during questions, and someone tells me they saw that fire, visited the park, or spent their youth studying the dinosaurs – showing photos to prove it. It's a regular leveller for the academic. What was it Sally always told us about amateurs vs. professionals?
This year, I've also been promoted to Professor of History and Philosophy of Biology. It's close, but not exactly equivalent, to the American "full professor". More like the German rank of the same name. I'm finding it's a bit like moving from the House of Representatives to the Senate. I've yet to learn the secret handshake, but I'm told the different hat I get to wear at graduation is worth those years of sweat and toil.

Chris Young PhD (HST 1997)
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I am spending more time on collaborative work at Alverno College, including coordination of science education. We applied for a large NSF grant to fund a scholarship program for future science and math teachers. If it comes through, you'll be hearing more about that (and little else). We (a colleague from history and another from our professional communication program) also applied for a smaller NEH grant that would allow us to conduct an extensive study of "water access" in Milwaukee. This would focus historically on those who have benefitted from the geography of the city, but whose role has been unexamined (mostly women and minorities) against the dominant narrative of industry, breweries, and agricultural transport. We would like to involve a cohort of students in multiple disciplines. Toward that end, I am developing a natural history course that can be adapted to emphasize local geographical, ecological, geological, hydrological, and anthropological interests.

I have been fortunate to stay engaged in the discipline by reviewing manuscripts for others. Opportunities to do the research that would lead to more publications remain few and far between. If I have missed you at recent meetings (Columbia History of Science Group and ISHPSSB), I hope to catch up when I can get back to HSS and the Midwest Junto. It was great to see Don, David, and a few others at Northwestern in May, but too briefly!

The year almost slipped by without a visit to see Mark in DC, but never fear, we found a way. We posed proudly with Joseph Henry in front of the Smithsonian.

PHOTO: Young and Largent

Diana Kenney MA (HST 1998)
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I am still at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., working as the science writer/editor in the Communications Office. The highlight of the past year was attending the TEDxSummit in Doha, Qatar, in April, along with
about 600 other TEDx organizers from all over the world (I co-organized TEDxWoodsHole in 2010 and 2011). This summit was a life-changing experience that connected me to a global network of young, ambitious, talented people who are doing great work under sometimes brutal conditions. They included inventors, designers, engineers, eco-artists, entrepreneurs, activists, all kinds of organizers. I was especially inspired by the young people I met from Arab nations who are still absorbing the ramifications of the Arab Spring. Africans, too, Chinese, Russians--these "Internet kids" are thinking way beyond their parents' mindset to a new global society where anything is possible. If the new friends I made in Doha are any indication, our planet's future is in good hands! Side trips at the summit included a tour of Al Jazeera (fascinating); the I.M. Pei-designed Museum of Islamic Art; and camel riding and dune bashing in the desert. All in all, a completely eye-opening 10 days. Another highlight this year was the opening of our new exhibit center at the MBL for visitors to Woods Hole. I was very involved in co-creating the exhibit, and wrote all its text (writing exhibit labels is an art unto itself, one that I learned by doing!) If you come to Woods Hole, please let me know, or at least stop by and see what I've been up to in the Pierce Exhibit Center!

PHOTO: At the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar, with colleagues from Turkey, Greece, India, and the United States. (I am second from left)

PHOTO: Pierce Visitor's Center, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole.

Mark Largent PhD (HST 1999)
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I spent the last year on sabbatical in DC at the National Science Foundation as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow. It was a tremendous opportunity for me, and a great way to spend a sabbatical year. Brie and Annabelle joined me in DC for the year and they home-schooled for Annabelle's kindergarten year using the area's parks, museums, and cultural events. It was a wonderful experience. I'd strongly encourage anyone interested in science policy to apply for an AAAS fellowship (and I'd be more than happy to offer some advice as you apply!). My work at NSF focused primarily on finding ways to demonstrate the impacts of federal investments in science, particularly investments in scientific infrastructure.

My book _Vaccine: The Debate in Modern America_ was published this summer by Johns Hopkins University Press. I gave my first talk on this subject at Minnesota about four years ago, and I am very happy to finally see this project completed. I have begun work on my next project, a history of Reye's Syndrome, and I have some course releases in 2013 to work on it.

The biggest news in my life this year is the expected addition to our family in December. Annabelle is every bit as excited to be a big sister as Brie and I are to have a baby in the house.
Hi everyone, it's good to read your updates, here's mine. I was glad to visit the U of M in fall 2011 to give a talk, and I was happy to see friends and mentors, though disappointed that Barbara was away that weekend. It was cool to meet some graduate students, and I didn't remember how green and lush the campus is, before the ice arrives, and it was strange to see that despite the passing years there are still jugglers with bowling pins near the physics building, who knows why. Meanwhile, I finished my new book, titled: *The Cult of Pythagoras: Math and Myths*. It's about invention and the evolution of myths in the history of mathematics, including stories about Pythagoras, Gauss, Galois, the golden ratio, etc. It will be available this October from University of Pittsburgh Press:


and I'm flattered that they featured it on page 1 of their fall 2012 catalog:

[http://www.upress.pitt.edu/browseByCatalog.aspx](http://www.upress.pitt.edu/browseByCatalog.aspx)

About the process of writing this book I have to say that ancient Greek is a pain. I had to deal with some Latin, a headache, but nothing compared to Greek. What an endless pain, struggling to do accurate translations. I am stunned by the degree to which translators just freely interpolate words, hide ambiguities, and twist the meaning of original sources. Maybe we knew that, sure, but I had imagined that for the really old sources translations by now should be so polished and accurate that we could just trust translators. Take Einstein, the physicist who in less than a century was misrepresented as a mathematician and a religious role model, and then consider Pythagoras, who was a religious leader who became misrepresented as a great mathematician and a scientist. The good news for graduate students is that there's still plenty of work to be done just explaining what actually happened, and unraveling the layers of myths that writers have piled on everything.

As for me, I've been taking a necessary break from research and writing, because my father suffered a stroke on Christmas Day 2011, and I've been working since then to try to help improve his condition. Plus he was in three hospitals for three months, until late August, this has been my summer struggle. Everyone: beware of hospitals, run from them, beware of beds and bed sores, etc. But UT Austin has kindly granted me a leave of absence for fall 2012, to keep helping him, so wish us luck.

*PHOTO: At University of Minnesota, Northrop Auditorium in background*
Kevin Francis PhD (HST 2002)
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My work at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, continues to challenge and reward. I taught in two interdisciplinary programs. In fall and winter, "Animal Morphology, Motion, and Mind" combined biology, drawing and animation, and history of science. One highlight was developing a series of workshops on scientific illustration that provided an excuse to do more drawing than I've done since my (pre-Minnesota) art school days. In spring, "Language and the Evolution of Mind" focused on the origin of the human capacity for language. For the next two years, I will teach full-time in the Masters of Environmental Studies program. Tom and I continue to split time between Olympia and Seattle, where he teaches at the University of Washington, and welcome visitors in either spot.

David Sepkoski PhD (HST 2002)
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This last year has been fairly exciting and eventful. I spent last fall as a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, where I began a new project on the history of data and databases in paleontology and natural history. I've also begun planning for a new book on the relationship between biological ideas about extinction and biological and cultural valuations of diversity over the past 200 years. In the spring I returned to UNC Wilmington (for the first time in nearly 2 years) to teach my normal courses in history of science. In April, my book *Rereading the Fossil Record: The Growth of Paleobiology as an Evolutionary Discipline* was published by University of Chicago Press. As many of you will know, I'd been working on that book for most of a decade, so this was a very satisfying moment.

I am also currently experiencing a major professional transition. After 6 years at UNCW I have decided to leave that job to take a position as a Senior Research Scholar at the Max Planck Institute. Despite the stress of moving to Europe and leaving a tenured job, I'm very excited about this change. I had a wonderful time there as a visitor, and the opportunity to throw myself full-time into research for the next 3-6 years in such a stimulating and productive environment was simply one I couldn't pass up. Plus, Berlin is a fantastic city, and I encourage people to come visit me there! My new email address is dsepkoski@mpiw-berlin.mpg.de.

In other respects, things are also going very well. Ella turned 9(!) this June, and is looking forward to visiting her dad in Berlin. I'm planning to be at the meetings in San Diego this November, so I look forward to seeing many of you in person soon.

Ioanna Semendeferi PhD (HST 2003)
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I came back from Europe a few days ago. Despite the economic slump it is still beautiful! At the professional front, we made progress in our NSF-funded educational-research project on science ethics here at the University of Houston. Please visit our website: [http://www.uh.edu/ethicsinscience/index.php](http://www.uh.edu/ethicsinscience/index.php) for more information. I hope to see you at the HSS meeting in San Diego. Keep in touch.
John Gustafson PhD (HST 2004)
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My best greetings to all! Life in Madison is still fascinating, enjoyable, and at times frustrating. I will not be surprised if the Wisconsin legislature soon ordains \( \pi \) to equal exactly 3.00000 in order to simplify all the world’s pesky math problems...but I digress. For a status report on life as we...Karen and I... know it, you might read my 2011 entry to the HSTM newsletter, except slow progress has been made in 2012: I am close to completing history-of-physics article one of three; we will soon have 3 +1 grandchildren; my Mom will be turning 101 in a few weeks and she continues to ask me if I have a job; and...are you ready for this?...Karen and I will be retiring and returning to Knife River, MN next July, 2013! Until then, please say hello whenever passing through Madison!

Don Opitz PhD (HST 2004)
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I’m excited to announce that my co-edited volume, For Better or For Worse? Collaborative Couples in the Sciences, is out: [http://www.springer.com/mathematics/history+of+mathematics/book/978-3-0348-0285-7](http://www.springer.com/mathematics/history+of+mathematics/book/978-3-0348-0285-7). In addition to two chapters by yours truly, the book features an insightful foreword by our own Sally Kohlstedt. It seems that the fluid, domestic context for scientific work is one that continues to claim my interest, and in addition to this latest contribution I am now engaged in further projects involving this theme. For the 2013 International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine to be held in Manchester, I’ve co-organized a symposium on “Homemade Science: Domestic Sites and the Gendering of Knowledge” with Brigitte Van Tiggelen. I am also returning to the concept of “family economy” for analyzing the scientific work of British gentlewomen, to be included in a forthcoming special issue of Science as Culture.

Other developments include my winning the coveted “Goodwill Beaver” award at the Columbia History of Science Group’s meeting in Friday Harbor last spring. Little did I know that my repeated mention of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, should delight our Canadian contingent so! And speaking of Victoria, my article on the giant water-lily bearing her name is currently working its way through the editorial process of a journal worthy of Her magnificence.

The year has been particularly trying in other respects, such as illness related to chronic Crohn’s colitis and heartache after being dumped, but I have much to be thankful for. Sources of enjoyment, healthfulness, and peace, as always, include regular Ashtanga yoga practice, gardening, French horn performance, purring cats, and fun gatherings with the Opitz clan, fortunately based here in Chicagoland. And my humble abode is always open to friends – so come visit!

Paul Brinkman PhD (HST 2005)
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This has been another busy and eventful year for me. We opened our new building in April, with a new, state-of-the-art vertebrate paleontology lab. I finally landed a long-promised, permanent state position as the assistant manager of this lab. One of the many benefits of this new position is that I get to spend half my time pursuing my own history of science research program. As far as I know, this is the only vertebrate paleontology lab in the world with a mandate to do history as well as science.
I had my first history of science intern this summer: Elizabeth Dobson. She did a long journal transcription for me and she’s looking for a history of science PhD program.

I have finally convinced the History Department at NCSU to make me a visiting faculty member. For now this means library privileges and an inexpensive gym membership. In the near future, however, I’d like to try teaching a class on the cultural and scientific history of dinosaurs.

This was another busy year for fieldwork, as well. As part of my next book project, I spent February in Argentina chasing after Elmer Riggs and revisiting as many as possible of his historic field sites. Needless to say, this was a great trip. I went to the White River badlands of northwestern Nebraska with a small group of undergraduates in May-June. And I spent three weeks in July-August in eastern Utah collecting early Cretaceous dinosaurs.

I saw David Sepkoski briefly at Powell’s Books in Chicago in May – it was nice to catch up with him.

Rich Bellon and I are planning to apply for an NEH Landmarks of American History grant that will take us both to Chicago for two or three weeks in the summer of 2014.

I am very much enjoyed revisiting Minneapolis in September!

PHOTO: From my birthday

Juliet Burba PhD (HST 2005)
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Many of you know that I’ve been a curator at the Bakken Museum (Minneapolis) since 2008. Much of my work this past year has focused on planning and fundraising for new exhibits. Some highlights will be an exhibit focused on Frankenstein author Mary Shelley and late-18th/early 19th-century electrical science, and another that will bring many more of our historical instruments out of the collections vault and into public spaces. I’ve discovered the thrill and agony of fundraising for large projects and am hoping to score the funding soon so our plans can be realized.

This spring I had the opportunity to teach a history of medicine course at the University of Minnesota on medical technologies, which I enjoyed thoroughly. One feature was a class visit to the Bakken, where students worked with historical medical devices from the collections.

One of my odder experiences since my last update was an appearance on NBC Dateline for an episode that aired in February, 2011. The show was aimed at debunking Three’s Company star Suzanne Somers’ book on alternative cancer treatments, and I brought along a radionics device from the Bakken’s collection for an interview about its use.
Georgina Montgomery  PhD (HST 2005)
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Well, 2011-2012 seems to have zoomed by... After enjoying a research semester during the fall of 2010, I taught 3 classes in the spring of 2011 and chaired one college and one university committee. The coming year holds minimal service and a year-long Lilly Teaching Fellowship which involves meeting with five other faculty from different disciplines to learn about best practices in teaching and conducting a SOTL project in my Gender and Evolution course in the spring. I am looking forward to HSS in SanDiego where I will be chairing a session and meeting with the Women's Caucus which I co-chair with Erika Milam. I also hope to enjoy some celebrating as Ruse's Darwin volume, which includes an essay I wrote on gender and Darwin, should be completed by then. I am also working with a former undergrad student and the MSU museum to develop an exhibit on Eliza Burt Gamble

On a more personal note, Olly is about to turn two and Bob got his PhD in the spring and is now a postdoc. Both will be traveling with me when I return to Minneapolis in April for the conference and to wish Sally well!

PHOTO: Olly enjoying the Rachel Carson exhibit at the MSU museum.

Susan Rensing  PhD (HST 2006)
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This past year managed to be both productive and fun. I created two new courses that I will be teaching regularly, "Body Politics" and "History of Sexuality in the U.S.". I also was awarded Faculty Development funds for writing my book manuscript this summer. And I've been enjoying working with two students who are revising their research articles for publication in our undergraduate journal, Oshkosh Scholar. For fun, I've been embracing the joys of the Sconnie-lifestyle. I built my very own cornhole set, perfected homemade soft pretzels, kayaked a lot, and went to New Glarus and Bayfield for some food/beer tourism.

PHOTO: In Bayfield, WI

Soma Banerjee  MA (HST 2007)
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Hello everyone, I’m enjoying my Canadian academic experience. Over the last couple of years at UBC, I’ve advanced to candidacy and I’m presently writing my dissertation titled “Bhadralok Physics and the Establishment of Modern Science in India (1900-1940).” I have got lots of support from my advisor and the history department at UBC, and it has been a very satisfying experience. In 2011, I received the International Research Mobility Award to work at the archives in India.
I also received the Nehru Award in 2012 for the most promising research program in Canada related to South Asia from the Institute of Asian Studies.

Simon Fraser University offered me a lecturership position in 2011 and I have lectured a course on “History of Physics” in Fall 2011 and I will do another on “South Asia and Modernity” in Fall 2012. I thank Michel Janssen for giving me several excellent teaching resources in history of physics for the SFU course. I published a book review of Robert Anderson’s “Nucleus and Nation” in *Annals of Science* and I have submitted a chapter of my dissertation on Satyendranath Bose to an edited collection of essays on *Science and Narratives of Nature: East and West* (edited by Bernie Lightman and others) published by Routledge.

I am also excited to be part of the *Situating Science Cluster* in Canada funded by SSHRC. As a part of this cluster initiative I was invited by Manipal University in Karnataka, India (December 2011), to give a talk on “Bhadralok Physics and Indian science.” I also gave a paper at a conference (on STS in South Asia) at the University of Calgary in June 2012 on “Cosmopolitanism, Modernity and Physics in Early Twentieth Century India” which I plan to submit to *Physics in Perspective*. I was happy to see Michel and Nathan Crowe and I got to chat with Maggie Hofius at HSS Cleveland. Hope to meet many others at future academic gatherings.

*PHOTO: With Laxmi en-route to Jasper from Banff, Alberta.*

**Margot Iverson** PhD (HST 2007)  
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2011 was a good year for me. After two years working at the Institute of Medicine in Washington, DC, I completed my work there as a program officer for an effectiveness study of government treatment programs for members of the military and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). I also got married, moved to Boston, and am now about to begin a master's program in clinical psychology at Boston University.

**Suzanne Fischer** PhD (HST 2009)  
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This has been an eventful year. In late January, we opened Driving America at the Henry Ford Museum, an 80,000 sq ft exhibit on American automobility and the product of many years of work. It's a new permanent exhibit, so you have twenty years or so to come visit it. I am very proud of the exhibit and all of the work our team did to develop and produce it (I curated about a third of the artifact cases).

This year I also explored freelance writing, contributing occasional pieces to TheAtlantic.com's Technology channel. My long-kicked-around project on the history of psychokinesis research remains quiescent.
My big news, though, is that after 4 years in Detroit I am moving to the Bay Area to take a position at the Oakland Museum of California. I will be Associate Curator of Contemporary History and Trends and will be researching and collecting contemporary California history and developing exhibits and programs that put contemporary issues into context using the museum’s history, art, and natural science collections. The museum is known for its innovative community outreach projects and I am excited to be a part of it. Since I am moving in October, when you read this newsletter I will probably still be packing!

Rachel Mason Dentinger PhD (HST 2009)
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After two years in London, my family is settled in well and still enjoying the privilege of living just outside the gates of Kew Gardens. Now 2.5 years old, Oban is currently obsessed with dinosaurs, thanks to a recent trip to the Natural History Museum. Bryn just became the Head of Mycology at Kew and this fall I will be starting as a postdoctoral researcher at Imperial College, as part of the project, "One Medicine? Investigating human and animal disease, 1850-2015." I hope to see some of you next summer in Manchester, for the International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

Hyung Wook Park PhD (HST 2009)
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I am enjoying my quite happy life here at Ulsan, South Korea, although I am expecting a happier life in a major trade hub in East Asia, Singapore. In fact, I have been offered a tenure track post in the Division of History at Nanyang Technological University. I think that this is a good position with several serious historians of science and technology around me, along with the pretty strong STS community within the city as a whole (some of the members are teaching at the National University of Singapore). Before my relocation to another city across the national boundary, I plan to conduct my archival research at the Bentley Historical Library within the University of Michigan. This archive has a large number of archival papers of Nathan Shock, a major gerontologist in the NIH. In addition, there is a small collection of the Aldred Warthin Papers which might also be useful for my book project. I hope that I can finish a near-final version of my book before the end of this summer. Meanwhile, I met with a number of Minnesota alumni at the 3-Societies Meeting at Philadelphia where I presented my paper on "failures in science," which will be my next project.
Gina Rumore  PhD (HST 2009)
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As I sit to write this, I find myself overwhelmed by all the changes the past year held for Anneke (5), Marlo (2.5), and me as we have worked through what it means to be a family of three. We have made some fun family trips – a couple of weeks enjoying the mountains and lakes of northern Idaho and a fun winter week in Mexico were highlights. We have even attempted camping (a bit of work with two little kids and one mom!). Ani started Kindergarten this month, and Marlo has grown from a baby to a talking, rambunctious toddler. There is rarely a quiet moment at our house. I continue to enjoy swimming, biking and running: In the past year I have competed in one marathon and two half marathons, a 1.76 mile open water swim, and three triathlons.

On the professional front, I taught three HSTM courses at the University of Minnesota this past year: History of Science in American Culture, Senior Research Topics in the History of Medicine, and History of Ecology and Environmentalism. I also have an article, drawn from my dissertation material, coming out in the next issue of JHB. In April I gave a talk at ASEH based on my current research on the Long Term Ecological Research Network. This talk turned into a joint poster presentation for the annual Ecological Society of America meeting and another for the upcoming LTER All Scientists Meeting. The scientists I am working with are extremely interested in collaborating with historians, and it has been a fun and professionally rewarding experience working closely with ecologists and environmental historians to better understand the role of humans in ecosystem change. As the new academic year begins, I have started work as a Program Coordinator, doing grant writing and coordination, at the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota. It has been a huge shift from teaching, research and writing, but the work is interesting and the work environment is great. I look forward to returning to my own research and to teaching after I adjust to this new position.

One thing I am particularly proud of is that through all of the professional and personal changes of the past year, my girls are thriving. Thanks to all of you who have provided friendship, love and support. We are so fortunate to be enveloped in such an amazing community.

PHOTO: With Anneke and Marlo

Amy Fisher  PhD (HST 2010)
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Greetings from the Pacific Northwest! Recently, my husband, Sean, and I moved to the area so that I could start my new faculty position at the University of Puget Sound. I am pleased to be joining their Science, Technology, and Society Program. After a hot, dry summer in Colorado, we are also looking forward to living near the ocean.
**Pete Schmidt** PhD (HST 2010)  
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I am happy to report things are going well for Kimberly and me here in San Diego. I am beginning my seventh year teaching full-time at Grossmont College, where last spring I attained the rank of Assistant Professor. Last year Grossmont participated in a county-wide program celebrating the life Henrietta Lacks and the book by Rebecca Skloot, where I presented on issues of ethics in science. This fall, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of *Silent Spring*, and we will be holding events here on campus focused on cross-disciplinary approaches to environmental studies, and once again I will be presenting on the book and its place in American scientific and cultural history. At long last I am also revising chapters from my dissertation for submission as articles, as well as continuing my research into science fiction and science for a course I will be teaching for the first time: Humanities of the Future. I am also prepping for an exciting linked course with one of my colleagues in Spring, which will join the aims and content of one Humanities class with those of an introductory English course. And, of course, I will be attending HSS here in San Diego and look forward to seeing all of you here!

**Joris Vandendriessche** MA (HMed 2010)  
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The past academic year was a productive one. In general, I made significant progress on my doctoral research on nineteenth-century medical societies as scientific institutions in the city, an article was published on medical expertise and political tensions in late nineteenth-century Antwerp and I was actively involved, together with colleague dr. Evert Peeters, in the organization of the conference Between Autonomy and Engagement. Performances of Scientific Expertise, 1860-1960 (University of Leuven), at which we were delighted to welcome U of M professor Jennifer Alexander as one of the keynote speakers. I also met again with Minnesota colleagues at the AAHM meeting in Baltimore. One and a years after I finished my MA, it was great to be so kindly taken up again in the Minnesota community. Finally, I've just returned from an amazing holiday in Tanzania and find myself ready for next academic year!

**PHOTO: During my recent holiday in Tanzania**

**Michael Ziomko** M.A. (HST 2010)  
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Of the things I thought might be of interest, apophthegmatic triptychs did not occur to me until lately. Bless those Greek words and all that they have come to mean.

As many of you know, I am a potter and several years ago I started what has become a wonderful annual event here in my neighborhood called Powderhorn Empty Bowls. Last year was our seventh celebration -- over 1,700 people came to have soup and enjoy bread that was baked in our earthen turtle oven. We raised more than $28,000 to help feed our neighbors, support community gardens, and for the first time, sponsor a pottery fellowship for a young artist. The event
this year is November 2nd at the Powderhorn Park Rec center, 11 am to 7 pm. It would be great to see you if you can come, though I am aware that the HSS annual meeting often occurs during that week causing a conflict.

I have finally and officially withdrawn from the doctoral program. I offer my gratitude to the program and especially Alan, Sally, Arthur, Michel, and Jole. The highest expression of that gratitude which I can imagine is my continuing interest in the subject matter and topics of the program and my enduring desire to learn. For example, currently forming in my mind is the second chapter of my Cartesian studies -- plural worlds and the continuing role of God in Descartes' concept of material cohesion. Not as much punch as "The Murder of Matter," but still, engaging for me. And, of course, the exercise also helped to bring me to apophthegmatic triptychs. But more on that directly.

My fundraising work continues with the Fairview Foundation, which I joined late last year. I am charged with the planned giving work, which I enjoy very much, and raising immediate cash for senior services and hospice care. Somehow this all seemed terribly appropriate. Happily the work has put me back in touch with a number of my former colleagues at the U since Fairview owns the University medical center.

This past spring I acquired a business partner for my pottery. She is interested in making money, which I like very much and which has never been my strong suit. So I will make and she will market funeral urns for cremains. Such an idea would never have occurred to me, but it turns out to be a good fit because of my studio work. A couple of years ago I started writing on my pots. Or to be more precise, I incised words into the clay walls of my bowls and platters. The historical precedence of this practice dates to the clay tablets found in the ruins of the Tigris Euphrates civilization from around 3500 BCE. They are the oldest, extant books, composed of fired clay tablets, tied together with a rope of sorts. The story of Gilgamesh was preserved in such a way. Thanks to Aaboe and Neugebauer I had been alerted to the significance of Mesopotamia, and now it was becoming an increasingly important part of my life.

The question is, What to write on the pots? Answering that led me phrase by phrase and bowl by bowl to a place I had not anticipated. Production pottery is based on making many pots the same size and shape. In the trade we call it "multiples." Multiples almost always come in sets of 4, 8, or 12 -- place settings for dinnerware. In the spirit of sets, I began to write aphorisms, but in threes. The New Testament "faith, hope, and charity" is well known and served as a model. I started coming up with threesomes that were meaningful to me, and then I began to find other threesomes everywhere. For example, in a book on the social history of the medieval period, I learned that one tenet of popular medieval mysticism was: Good -- to learn; Better -- to teach; Best -- to love, which I thought was beautiful. Aphorisms of this sort could reasonably be associated with a tradition of wisdom distilled to concise sayings -- known as apophthegmata -- which was generally and historically attributed to the sayings of the early Eastern Christian monastics. When I put threesomes on bowls, I make what I have come to feel is a new kind of set of multiples that is joined to a particular discipline for both the making and the using of the pots. In a way, this threesome discipline produces both a pot and a prayer.

Triptychs are currently thought of primarily in terms of art -- three hinged pieces of work, generally religious, that are thematically related. But originally triptychs were three writing tablets, again hinged or tied together. It is unknown to me, but I would like to think that such writing tablets might also have been thematically related. My bowls are -- they are my apophthegmatic triptychs, and they tie my life together.
Nathan Crowe  PhD (HST 2011)
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Well, I suppose a few things did happen since the beginning of last year. In the fall, I successfully defended my dissertation and Stephanie and I moved down to Tempe, Arizona so that I could begin a three-year postdoc at the Center for Biology and Society at Arizona State University. The Center soon found the need for Stephanie's services, and she was hired to help coordinate the various digital humanities projects that the Center is involved in. Much of my postdoc is associated with The Embryo Project Encyclopedia, and I help coordinate a graduate training program in digital humanities offered in the spring semesters. I've also been hired as an adjunct faculty member in the ASU honors college for this fall to teach one of their mandatory introductory courses.

Stephanie and I are enjoying our time in the Southwest. We're living in a house for the first time since...high school. The state has amazing natural beauty, and we've taken opportunities to hike in the Grand Canyon, Flagstaff, and Sedona as well as several of the mountain ranges nearby. We plan to expand our travels to include Colorado, Southern California, and New Mexico in the near future.

After recovering from a massive effort to finish the dissertation, and everything involved with a move across the country, I was finally able to do some writing this year and I submitted an article earlier this summer. Several other articles are already in the works as well as I gear up to begin the long process of manuscript writing. I look forward to seeing many of you in San Diego in November, and I hope everyone is enjoying all the great things Minneapolis has to offer. We miss it! And please do get in touch if you find yourself in our neck of the woods.

PHOTO: Nathan and Stephanie

Neal Ross Holtan  MD MPH PhD (HMED 2011)
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I achieved the long-awaited goal of receiving the PhD degree from the University of Minnesota's Program in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in May 2011, defending my dissertation on the history of public health genetics in Minnesota in the mid-twentieth century. While currently still working full-time as a physician leaves me little time for history, I did receive a research grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa to study and write about the first birth control clinics in Iowa in the 1930s, an effort to be finished by mid-2013. My other research interests include the history of the torture rehabilitation movement in the 1970s and the history of substance abuse prevention in the later part of the twentieth century. I'm also considering the feasibility of turning my dissertation into a book or multiple papers. Besides sitting in as a guest speaker in a few of the program's seminars and classes at the University of Minnesota, I am involved in the community as a member of the steering committee for the Hennepin Medical History Center and an advisor to the Center for Victims of Torture regarding the preservation of its historical documents.
Matt McGeachy MA (HMed 2011)
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I graduated with an M.A. in History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in August 2011, writing a major paper on the National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians under the supervision of Sally Gregory Kohlstedt. I am currently working toward an M.A. in Theatre Studies at York University in Toronto, focusing on dramaturgy and new play development, where my work is supported by the York University Graduate Fellowship for Academic Distinction. After graduating from HSTM, I stuck around and worked as a teaching specialist for HMed 3002 while dramaturging a new play by Carson Kreitzer for Workhaus Collective in Minneapolis. In Summer of 2012, I served as dramaturg for The Playwrights’ Center Core Apprentice Intensive and served as the assistant director of the Kennedy Center New Play Dramaturgy Intensive at the MFA Playwrights Workshop in Washington, D.C., where my knowledge of the history of science and medicine came in unexpectedly handy working on a play about seventeenth-century midwifery and demonology during the rule of King James I. While I miss the Twin Cities, I am pleased to be back in Toronto, and welcome all members of the HSTM program to drop in on me when they are in town!

Jacob Steere-Williams PhD (HMed 2011)
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I am delighted to report that I am starting a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the College of Charleston this fall. I’ll be teaching modern British history and some HSTM. Charleston seems a lovely, historic place, and it’s great to know that I’ll have another one of our alums in Betty van Meer as a new colleague. Having been in Charleston now for only a month or so I’ve come to the conclusion that I don’t say "Y'all" properly, and need to work on getting a seersucker suit. Research has been busy this past year, with very fruitful trips to Pretoria, South Africa and Melbourne, Australia. This summer I’ve been plugging away at my book manuscript on Victorian epidemiology, and have a chapter in the forthcoming book Victorian Medicine and Popular Culture. One real gem of the year, though, was spending a long weekend in July in Kennebunkport, Maine, with Nate and Stephanie Crowe celebrating Frazier and Alex’s wedding.

PHOTO: With Nathan Crowe at wedding of Frazier Benya and Alex
This year I successfully defended my dissertation, Complexity and Verification: The History of Programming as Problem Solving, and graduated from the program. Defending my work and having the opportunity to have a conversation with so many faculty members about my dissertation was the most fulfilling moment in my academic career. I’m currently teaching a course based on my dissertation at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. I am also working on a prospectus with the intention of publishing my work. I would be farther along, but I spent most of the summer swimming and tubing, because for the first time in my entire adult life I do not have homework. I’ve also been inadvertently creating a niche for myself in the science fiction community, having been interviewed about the role of technology in the movie “The Hunger Games” and speaking at CONvergence about the role of women in the STEM fields with the Skepchicks. I look forward to new opportunities now that I have completed my PhD...and yes, graduating (after being in college, full time, for about 12 years) does result in a touch of re-entry disorder.

Christine Manganaro PhD (HMed 2012)
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So far 2012 has been very good to me. In March I accepted a history of science position in the department of Humanistic Studies at the Maryland Institute College of Art. In June I defended my dissertation. And at the end of July, Gompers (pictured with me on our last Minnesota camping trip) and I moved to Baltimore, where we had the great fortune to find an apartment five blocks away from Frazier Benya and her husband Alex. This fall I will teach courses on Darwin and the scientific revolution as well as a freshman critical studies course. I miss Minneapolis already, but am grateful for a terrific job in a city with a lot to offer and with proximity to extended family and good friends whose coast I'm sharing for the first time.

PHOTO: With Gompers on our last Minnesota camping trip.
Rita Murphy  M.A. (HMED 2012)  
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I am in my second year at Boston University's School of Public Health, where I am aspiring to earn my Masters in Public Health. I am emphasizing in Maternal and Child Health at BU, which is a direct reflection and transformation of my interest and passion in women’s health and reproductive medicine that was cultivated during my time at UMN. If all the stars remain aligned, I should be graduating with my MPH in May 2013.

I am still looking for the ideal practicum to complete my MPH, but in the process of searching for the perfect fit I did obtain a year-long part-time job at Harvard University. My duties at Harvard will be through the Alcohol and Other Drug Service office working with Harvard’s student athletes on minimizing binge drinking and use of other recreational drugs. This will be an interesting and challenging approach to public health for me, but I am looking forward to working with college students and Division I athletes again!

Richard Parks  PhD (HMED 2012)  
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I am a historian of medicine, with a particular interest in the public health of Jewish communities in North Africa during the colonial era. As a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, I am currently working on an article examining the medicalization of childbirth and motherhood in colonial Tunisia's Jewish community. I have published several articles, including "The Jewish Quarters of Interwar Paris and Tunis: Destruction, Creation, and French Urban Design," in Jewish Social Studies and "Divide et Impera: Public Health and Urban Reform in Protectorate-era Tunis," in the Journal of North African Studies. My next project will be a monograph examining the reception of Darwinian social science in colonial North Africa.

Faculty Updates

Jennifer Alexander  (HST)  
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This last year has been one of travel, research, and writing. Over the summer I spoke at workshops in Leuven and in Brittany, and continued work on the book manuscript Technology and Belief, about engineers and theologians who joined together to help recreate Europe in the wake of World War II. People continue to be interested in the efficiency project (Mantra of Efficiency, Hopkins 2008), and I have built upon that study in publications in Isis, History and Technology, and contributions to two edited collections. We spent much of the summer without modern conveniences – as usual – escaping from reality and playing explorer in the mountains of northern Wyoming, hours from the nearest paved road and in a quiet so intense that a single car engine can be heard from two miles away. So I am also pondering the frontier, and the separatist zeal that drove people to abandon their mod-cons and head into the wilderness. And pondering also the pleasure of returning to the modern world, to the electricity and the machines. Electricity, for me, always coincides with back-to-school, and so that pleasure of return is always decidedly mixed. But my pleasure in my car is pure, always: the pleasure of mobility. It is worth thinking about.
Mark Borrello (HST)
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This year began with publication of our paper “Experimental Evolution of Multicellularity” in the January 16 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (it’s an open access paper full text available here http://www.pnas.org/content/109/5/1595). It was incredibly exciting to see our worked picked up and discussed all over the web and in various media outlets including the New York Times and the Mumbai Mirror. Borrello! I’m continuing to research the history of individuality and the evolution of multicellularity and working towards a book on the subject. I completed my first year as book review editor for the Journal of the History of Biology; if you’ve got a book you’d like to review don’t hesitate to contact me. It looks like the year should end with the publication of the Cambridge Encyclopedia of Darwin and Evolutionary Thought which includes my essay on the evolution of social behavior. I was also pleased to see the paperback version of Evolutionary Restraints come out in May (get your copy now at the low low price of $25). Looking forward to an exciting year.

PHOTO: Multicellular Yeast

John Eyler (HMed, Emeritus)
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I continue to enjoy an active retirement advising my few remaining graduate students, doing research on the history of epidemiology, and serving my second and final year as President of the American Association for the History of Medicine. But all is not work. Music, travel, entertaining friends, and reading occasionally without taking notes continue to provide much joy. I have also found time to restore my Grandfather’s Model A Ford, and, on those lovely, sunny Northwest evenings, can sometimes be found puttering along back roads at 35 mph.

Jennifer Gunn (HMed)
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This has been the year of giving talks, which has required lots of new learning. I have given public lectures on the history of tuberculosis in the Upper Peninsula mining region of Michigan, marriage (there is a marriage amendment on the ballot in Minnesota this fall), Civil War care givers, medical school anatomists’ use of cadavers in the 1910s, women in coal mining, and rural obstetrics. As a native Southerner who has spent a lifetime assiduously avoiding the Civil War, I was amazed by how compelling I found the letters home from Minnesota Civil War soldiers. They recounted their observations of the South and the health effects of war, and reflected on what they were thinking when they enlisted (one thought enlistment his most foolish action ever). The variety of the talks I wrote combined with the greater depth of my research on rural medicine and the fun of graduate student dissertation topics has made this year intellectually stimulating. I’ve also seen family and made trips that combined research and visits with friends. I finally saw the cliff
dwellings of Mesa Verde, long on my wish list. In the over-100-degree southern Colorado sun, the logic of nestling dwellings under the cliff edge was obvious; we could have used some more cliffs in Minnesota this summer.

Michel Janssen (HST)
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The Dutch national soccer team went home after three straight losses in the group stage at Eurocup 2012. The Steelers were eliminated from the NFL playoffs by Tim Tebow! But the Dutch redeemed themselves at the Olympics with Ranomi Kromowidjojo (remember the name) and Epke Zonderland (check out http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jm_mQXr6JL0). And let's face it: the Steelers, had they advanced, would probably have suffered even greater embarrassment against the Patriots a week later. There's always a silver lining. So, no, the Cambridge Companion to Einstein, which was due in December 2004, is still not done (thank you for not bringing this up to my face). I still have not written up "Einstein: the young turk vs. the old sage." But I did finish my latest paper with Tony Duncan, "(Never) mind your p's and q's," as well as my paper with Charles Midwinter, "Kuhn losses regained." You can find both on Pitt's Philsci Archive. And as DGS I batted 4 for 4 in terms of fellowship applications won (two for incoming students, who unfortunately both declined, a DDF for Aimee Slaughter and an IDF for Joe Martin). Of course, I cannot take too much credit for that, but, hey, I would have gotten plenty of the blame had it been 0 for 4. I will likewise claim partial credit for one of the two highlights for our program this past academic year, the HSS session in Cleveland on solid state physics put together by Joe Martin, in which both Joe and Charles spoke. My role? I'm (co-) advising both of them, alright? Sitting in that session, proud of my charges, I couldn't help thinking of Jon Landau's famous comment about Bruce Springsteen: I've seen the future of the history of physics. I developed a whole new appreciation for Springsteen, by the way, when New Jersey native and experimental evolution wiz Mike Travisano picked his second album for a recent meeting of the Minnesota franchise of the Seventies Album Club. Mike was also implicated in the other HSTM highlight of the year, Mark Borrello's author-meets-critics session in our Friday colloquium. In all the years I've been here, I'd never seen such a triumphant victory for Roger Stuewer's "Minnesota model" of history staying close to the science.

Susan Jones (HST)
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Greetings! I am looking forward to a great year here, teaching three courses and continuing work on my NSF-funded project, “Plague's Third Pandemic.” This will culminate in a book that traces the development of disease ecology, the idea of “endemicity,” and how both changed the identity of bubonic plague in the twentieth century. (This project has personal significance for me, since I saw a case of plague in a cat while in veterinary practice in 1993. I had not learned anything about the disease in vet school; reading history of science and medicine on the side for fun gave me the idea for the diagnosis!) I’m particularly glad to be working with our graduate students, whose ideas, language skills, and archive-hunting prowess continue to stimulate me as a scholar and teacher. It is also exciting to contemplate a new program of studies on environment, ecology and health in conjunction with the arrival of Professor Brett Walker in the fall of 2013. Brett, a Regent’s Professor at Montana State University, is a long-time colleague in environmental history with expertise in early modern and modern Japan. We are very fortunate to have him joining our faculty and the Department of Earth Sciences (as his tenure home). Finally, we continue our collaboration with our Dutch counterpart, the University of Utrecht’s Descartes Centre. Our first exchange student, Floor
Haalboom, has just finished her Master’s degree at Descartes based on work she did last year with us at Minnesota. I recently visited Utrecht and met with Wijnand Mijnhart, Descartes’ Director. We affirmed our institutions’ continued interest in transnational studies and in the exchange of students and faculty. So stay tuned—another action-packed year begins, and I send all best wishes to the Program’s alumni and friends.

Sally Gregory Kohlstedt (HST)
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It is hard to believe I have been director of the HST program for nearly five eventful years; some suggestive details about what has kept me busy are in the directors’ essay at the heading of this newsletter. Teaching on American science continues to invigorate and challenge me, especially as contemporary events pull me ever further forward to engage the subjects, especially genetics and computer technologies, most on the minds of our undergraduates. And I count graduate student advisees a special privilege. Scholarship is always a process and several projects finally are getting to the print stage. One article is on the women who framed museum education in the early twentieth century that took me to wonderful Berlin for three summer stints at the Max Planck Institute. Don Opitz invited me to write the foreward for his co-edited volume, For Better or For Worse, an interesting if expensive work that has just appeared in print. David Kaiser and I also finalized an Isis reader on science, technology and medicine in The American Century that should appear in the next few months from Chicago. On the personal side, David completed his stint as chair of Earth Sciences last summer and celebrated with a sabbatical leave that took him for extended stays in China (again), in Japan (again), and Britain (again) but is now home again. He continues to be fascinated by the rate at which science is progressing in Asia. We also spent an amazing two weeks in South Africa in early January (just ask me because I am still processing all I saw and learned). We returned home the day after the birth of two premature but amazing granddaughters, Sloane and Lucy. Needless to say we landed in Minneapolis and immediately flew to Chicago to see them. Life is good.

Thomas J. Misa (HST)
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At CBI we are wrapping up our NSF funded study of the FastLane system, the central nervous system for NSF's core business of grant making. We completed nearly 800 in-person and on-line interviews, seemingly a record for studies of computing (where we've been told "no one studies computing with an 'N' larger than 100!"). We've begun oral histories with computer security pioneers and notables in our second NSF project. Jeff Yost published The IBM Century: Creating the IT Revolution (IEEE CS Press 2011), and this summer we will publish a unique 20-hour oral history that documents the Control Data Corporation through the eyes of its CEO Robert M. Price. I published a "retrospective" on Steve Jobs in Science this past fall, in addition to three book reviews in Nature.

Bob Seidel (HST, Emeritus)
Minneapolis, Minnesota

I have spent my first year of retirement visiting China and Haiti and Santa Fe, New Mexico, where I took refuge from the Minnesota Winter. Alas, there was not much of a Minnesota winter, but the visit was capped by my daughter's wedding and a side trip to Tucson to see distant family members.

While I am on the verge of becoming a grandfather for the third time, I continue to write and present work, most recently at the American Chemical Society, where I spoke of the history of chemical engineering in the land grant colleges on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act.
I attach a picture of the work in Haiti in the hopes of inspiring your emulation.

PHOTO: Church in Haiti

**Jole Shackelford** (HMed)
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I continue to research and teach early science and medicine, but have devoted considerable time the past couple of years to a new topic -- the history of biological rhythms research and chronobiology. I contributed a paper on the Paracelsian conception of transplantation to a conference devoted to transplantation that was convened at Cerisy-la-Salle in Normandy by historian François Delaporte and surgeon Bernard Devauchelle last May, which I expect to be translated to French and included in a conference volume. I will continue work on this topic during the fall semester 2012. The NSF grant to map out the history of chronobiology, a collaborative effort with colleagues Sally Kohlstedt and Jennifer Gunn, climaxed, if not culminated, in the conference Fascinating Rhythms, convened by myself and Tulley Long 11-12 May 2012. Fascinating Rhythms brought together working and retired scientists and physicians, historians, and philosophers to exchange ideas on various aspects of the history of the recent scientific investigation of biological rhythms. Tulley and I currently are finishing up remaining tasks under the terms of the grant extension this fall.

**Alan Shapiro** (HST, Emeritus)
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All is still well in the retired life. We continue to travel. I gave a talk in Berlin in July at a conference on color in the 17th & 18th centuries and used the occasion to spend five days in Krakow, since it is relatively close. Krakow is definitely worth a visit, as is nearby Auschwitz, which will no doubt leave you in a bit of a state of shock.

One good thing you can say about global warming is that Minnesota winters are becoming a bit easier to handle. Even so, we have been taking a mid-winter getaway to Hawaii each year. I continue my work on Newton and optics.

**Dominique Tobbell** (HMed)
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This past winter my book, *Pills, Power, and Policy: The Struggle for Drug Reform in Cold War America and its Consequences*, was finally by the University of California Press/Milbank Series on Health and the Public. I also had chapters published in two edited volumes: Kim Phillips-Fein and Julian Zelizer, eds., *What’s Good For Business: Business and American Politics since World War II* (Oxford University Press, 2012) and Jeremy Greene and Elizabeth Siegel Watkins, eds., *Prescribed: Writing, Filing, Using, and Abusing the Prescription in Modern America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012). Early in the new year, I was very fortunate to be awarded a 2012-2014 McKnight Land Grant Professorship by the University to help support my new project titled, Delivering Care, Governing Health: Academic Health Centers and the States since 1960. Another highlight this spring was being able to co-teach an Institute of Advanced Study Faculty Seminar with Susan Craddock from Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. The seminar, Pharmaceutical Geographies, Pharmaceutical Economies, included faculty and graduate students from History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, History, Bioethics, Pharmacy, Bioengineering, and Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature. One of the highlights of the seminar was bringing to campus three excellent guest speakers: Cori Hayden, a medical anthropologist from the University of California, Berkeley, Kaushik Rajan Sunder, a medical anthropologist from the University of Chicago, and Jeff Sturchio, a former vice president of Merck & Co. and former president and CEO of the Global Health Council.
The year has also been a good one for the Academic Health Center Oral History Project where we have now completed 60 interviews. This year, Emily Hagens served as my research assistant and together we developed a new website for the project http://blog.lib.umn.edu/ahc-ohp/ahc-oral-history-project/. On the website you’ll find transcripts for 38 interviews with faculty and alumni from the Medical School, School of Nursing, University Hospitals and Clinics, College of Pharmacy, College of Veterinary Medicine, and School of Dentistry. We’ll continue to add more interviews as they’re completed.

I continued with competitive judo this year, competing and medaling in two elite national tournaments over the course of the year, once again beating players ranked in the top five in the country in my division. I’m currently ranked seventh in the country in my weight division. Finally, this summer I was promoted to the rank of sandan, third degree black belt.

Current Student Updates

Frazier Benya (HST)
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This past year brought a new job, a new city, and the completion of grad student work! Last September I accepted a permanent job at the National Academy of Engineering in their Center for Engineering, Ethics, and Society as a program manager. It all happened very quickly with my master’s defense in Bioethics on the last Friday in September, then leaving the Twin Cities for Washington D.C. on the following Monday, and starting work in D.C. a week after that. Over this first year I worked half-time for the Academies while I finished my dissertation. I completed my dissertation at the beginning of July and then headed off to southern Maine for a much needed week vacation with my family and great friends that was capped off with Alex and me getting married! One of the best weeks of my life! I will be defending my dissertation in October and am now full time at the Academies. I look forward to next year and the relative calm of having only one thing to work on.

Kele Cable (HST)
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I am very excited to start the Ph.D. program in history of science at the University of Minnesota this fall! Coming from the Morris campus, attending UMN will be quite the change for me - a much larger school, much larger student body, and two(!) campuses. I will lament the tranquility of Morris, but I look forward to the course diversity, events, and connections that the Twin Cities has to offer. (Growing up in St. Paul will make the transition much easier, of course.) I look forward to meeting everyone from HSTM in the coming weeks.

My research interests revolve around the theory of evolution and how it has developed and been interpreted throughout the 20th century (and present day). Of more specific interest to me are the history of non-adaptive evolution and the history of the perceived problems with the Modern Synthesis (with claims of its failure proclaimed on a near-constant basis). However, I do enjoy learning about almost any aspect of history of science and I am excited to explore the rest of the history of biology, as well as the history of physics, chemistry, etc.
Kristína Černeková (HST)
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I am starting my fifth year in the HSTM program and currently working on my dissertation prospectus about mathematical teaching texts at early modern universities.

Jonathan Clemens (HST)
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Over the past year I finished up my coursework and served as an RA on the FastLane History Project at the Charles Babbage Institute, which taught me some valuable research skills and gave me a bit of oral history collection experience. I also attended several (and probably a few too many) conferences. Currently I'm embroiled in reading and writing for my preliminary exam papers. Provided I get over that hurdle, I hope to start a dissertation project in the fall on the social and technical history of video arcade games.

Outside of my professional life it's been kind of a rough year. My grandfather died this past October and my girlfriend, Michele, ended up having major surgery in February. On a more superficial but also disheartening note, I turned thirty and I'm pretty sure I'm starting to go bald. But all is not bleak. Michele made a full recovery and we've been packing our time with interesting experiences. I started training at a boxing gym last November and have been having a good time sweating and punching things. Finally, last week I saw my first firefly. So, things are looking up. Here's hoping for a good year.

Shawn Foster (HST)
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In the 2011/2012 academic year, I became an ABD and began thinking about my dissertation seriously. I intend to study the gradual processes of the establishment of public health education ideas and practices in the early Republic of China. For me, this is a way to understand how science gained authority among Chinese, the public at large as well as the elites. Furthermore, this understanding will be helpful for us to explain the forms, the practices, and the problems we see in today's much more substantial encounters between cultures.

Xuan Geng (HST)
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Recently I have been working on my master thesis on the history of an agricultural institute at Tsinghua University during the 1930s and 1940s. I am also doing readings for my dissertation, which is about American-trained Chinese scientists and agricultural sciences in mainland China. During the summer, I had some unpleasant experiences in several archives, but was lucky to find some useful books in two Chinese libraries. I will continue working on my research topic on agricultural sciences in Republican China.
The most important event is: I got married in June. And we took a honeymoon trip to Paris and Switzerland. It was my first time to travel to Europe and I really love those beautiful countries!

PHOTO: With Bo Wang at our wedding

Bonnie Gidzak (HST)
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This past year found me finishing up my course requirements and presenting at two conferences. Heading into my third year in the program, I am working on my preliminary exams and formulating a thesis prospectus. After a short research trip the southeast branch of the National Archives, I have zeroed in on a dissertation topic – early post-war nuclear science education including schools, exhibits, lectures, and films. I am hoping to also have time this year to continue work on a paper looking at late-1960s public reactions to a nuclear power plant.

On a personal note: This past year I adopted two new pets, a little brown mouse named Beanie (yes, you can actually adopt mice from the Humane Society), and a little black cat named Lily. I taught a few crochet courses at a local yarn shop and I learned how to make a korovai (a traditional Ukrainian wedding bread).

Emily Hagens (HMed)
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This past year has been a busy one! I finished most of my coursework and am trying to re-learn the Latin that I promptly forgot upon leaving high school. I also declared the Early Modern Studies minor. I spent most of my summer RA-ing for Dominique and the Academic Health Center Oral History Project and working on the Masonic Cancer Center history project. I've also been lucky to do quite a bit of traveling to visit various relatives on both coasts and in the Midwest!

Maggie Hofius (HST)
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It has been another great year since my last newsletter update. Thanks to another FLAS fellowship I was able to continue studying Russian while moving ahead with my dissertation project. Working as the research assistant for the chronobiology project also kept me busy this past academic year. This summer I was fortunate enough to take a research trip to Moscow thanks in part to a summer HST travel grant. It was a wonderful and productive research trip thanks to the helpfulness and hospitality of some real gems of people I encountered and came to know. Kate Jirik (HST)
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This past year I passed my prospectus defense for my dissertation entitled, A Reinterpretation of American Institutions for the Feeble-minded, 1875-1920: the development of a “bureaucracy of care”. I took two trips to Philadelphia to work in various archives. The trips were funded by a fellowship from the Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science. Now I am busy going through all the information gathered and matching it to my outline. I anticipate that I will be doing this for the rest of the year. On a fun note, I’m traveling to Belgium and the Netherlands for a vacation in October.
Kate Jirik (HST)
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I have spent the year doing research and working on my prospectus. My focus has changed a bit. The title is now, American Institutions for the Feeble-Minded from 1875 to 1920: a Reinterpretation. My dissertation offers a new perspective on the outlook and practices of institutions for the feeble-minded between 1875 and 1920, as they expanded from the northeastern United States to the Midwest and West Coast. I focus on four relatively unexplored areas that reflect the changing nature of the work and functions associated with the institutions: an expanded set of people important in the formation and running of these institutions; the role “Science” had on the institutions, especially the changing understanding of heredity during this time period; the educational practices of the institutions; and the relationships between the institutions and state governments.

I applied for 4 travel grants to do research and got all 4, a departmental grant, a University of Minnesota Council of Graduate Students grant, a Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science Fellowship and an Andrew W Mellon Foundation Fellowship.

The personal highlight of the year was three weeks in Italy in October 2011. I went to Florence where I got to see Galileo’s telescope (and touch exact replicas of some of his instruments). In Rome, I got to go on the same road that Julius Caesar walked on. I have no idea how the chariots managed the road though, it nearly killed my wheelchair.

Lauren Klaffke (HMed)
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As seems to be the general trend, the year has gone by quickly! This past academic year, I presented a paper at the Midwest Junto, and will be presenting another paper at the MOMS conference in September. I also TA’d for Jacob in the spring. Considering my experience teaching high school, it was a relief to let students freely chew gum in the classroom, but challenging to juggle grading, teaching, and coursework—as you all well know. By the end of the academic year, I felt lucky and grateful to have landed in a program made up of such a wonderful and supportive community of mentors and colleagues.

This summer, with Liz Semler, I’ve been working on a Cardiovascular Division history project that will be turned into a display for the renovated halls of the Variety Club Research Center. Check it out next year, if you get a chance! The research and oral histories from the project will be converted into a website for the Division. I owe a shout out to Jennifer Gunn for finding the project that has enabled me to pay my summer rent and pad my CV. I’ve had some fun this summer too. I visited my family in San Antonio and my boyfriend, Matt, in Southern California, where I rode my first Segway and saw the Barenaked Ladies. (Yes, they’re still performing!) I’ve also begun training for my first half marathon scheduled for October. I continue to be interested in structures of philanthropy within pharmaceutical companies, and hope to apply for a few grants this year so I can get started in this direction. I’m looking forward to the coming semester, though it can take its time getting here—I’m trying to get through a few more seasons of The West Wing first.

Cameron Lazaroff-Puck (HST)
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Coming into my second year in the Ph.D. program I am excited to start working on retracing Maxwell’s steps in his earlier papers on electromagnetism. Indeed I hope to transition this research into a dissertation concerning Maxwell’s Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism. Additionally, I had the opportunity to engage my interest in the history of aeronautical engineering in the spring semester, and although I ended up with a project much more focused on the
I have loved history and technology for as long as I can remember. In second grade, my first ever school project was on the invention of the automotive assembly line. I soon became obsessed with computers and digital technology, starting my own computer repair business to put myself through school. Dr. LaRae Larkin’s Russian history courses rekindled an interest in the Cold War, especially as it related to technology. My master’s thesis was a comparison of the development of computer technology on both sides of the Cold War, and the role of that technology in the collapse of the Soviet Union.

I earned my undergraduate degrees in history and anthropology at Weber State University, and my MA in history at the University of Utah. When I’m not obsessing over old technologies, I’m obsessing over new technologies, Star Trek, and Minnesota’s own Mystery Science Theater 3000.

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Barbara Louis (HST)
Vienna, Austria
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In case you who are wondering: “Barbara who?” As I got married in June, Reiterer is now Louis, which should make my name so much easier to pronounce both in English and in German.

This past year was my second as a doctoral fellow at the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, DC. My dissertation research on Austrian and German exile social workers during World War II took me to the Center for Jewish History in New York for two weeks in December. In addition, I gave several talks on my preliminary findings at various workshops and conferences, such as the German Studies Association’s annual meeting in Louisville, KY, and at the Spring School of the Program in the History and Sociology of the Social Sciences at the University of Graz, Austria. I particularly enjoyed the workshop that our project group at the GHI organized together with the University of Minnesota (thanks, Sally!) in August, which took place on home turf in Minneapolis. My paper for this workshop, “Gender and Identity in Exile: A European Émigré in Social Work” that I reworked into an article has passed the review stage and will appear in the first 2013 issue of National Identities. Another highlight was an invitation to give a talk on Elsa Leichter, one of the émigré social workers in my dissertation, at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in February. I just couldn’t believe somebody would fly me in, put me up in a nice hotel, and even pay me to talk about my research – and that more than sixty people would show up for the event!

As I recently found out that the Dietrich W. Botstiber Foundation awarded me its annual fellowship, I changed my plans for next year. Instead of staying at the GHI in Washington, I decided to move back to Vienna, where I will hopefully finish a draft of my dissertation by next summer.
**Joseph D. Martin (HST)**

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After a year in residence at the Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science, I've returned to Minnesota. I'm excited to start an Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship at the Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science, where I'll have the opportunity to fine tune my dissertation under the supervision of Bill Wimsatt. The past year in Philly was a lively one. On top of the furious typing that comes with this stage of the dissertation process, I enjoyed making my way in a new professional community and pursuing other projects. Anyone interested in the history of the physical sciences, please keep an eye out for the new H-Net list H-PhysicalSciences, which should be launching in a few months. Amy Fisher and I also hope to produce a special issue of /HSNS/ devoted to last summer's conference on Continuity and Discontinuity in the Physical Sciences, which was generously hosted by the AIP. I also received my MA from the philosophy department in December, and I look forward to seeing many of you in San Diego for HSS/PSA, where I'll present a portion of my thesis.

**Charles Midwinter (HST)**

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The 2011-2012 academic year was a busy one for me, both personally and professionally. My wife gave birth to our new daughter, Ariadne Elizabeth Midwinter, on March 31st, 2012. Our other children surprised us with how welcoming they were to the new arrival. Even little Charlotte didn't seem to mind not being the center of attention anymore. She probably dotes on her little sister more than anyone but her mother.

On a more academic note, I was appointed Managing Editor of Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics last spring. At around that same time, I finished my coursework and started on my preliminary examinations. I intend to be finished with prelims and have a prospectus written up by Christmas. By spring semester of 2013 I should be able to start working on my dissertation.

**Jessica Nickrand (HMed)**

nickr002@umn.edu

This fall, I begin my fourth year in HSTM, but my first full year as a PhD candidate. I am working on a dissertation that examines the relationship between health status and urban revitalization in Detroit, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh in the later twentieth century. I am actively looking for travel grants that will allow me to go to these wonderful and exotic locations to look at the city archives. I completed my first course as an instructor in early August, which was actually pretty great—I was lucky to have active and engaged students, which as you all know, makes for a markedly more enjoyable class.

A colleague and I are looking to organize a lunch session at AAHM for graduate students interested in careers outside of academia. If any of you are planning on attending the meeting in Atlanta and are interested in participating during this session in any capacity, please let me know!

In personal news, my partner and I are planning a December wedding, with HSTM alum Matt McGeachy as our officiant. I usually do not look forward to the cold and blustery Midwest winter, but perhaps this year will be different.
Erik Norquest (HST)  
norqu036@umn.edu

I'm very excited to be starting the HSTM program this coming Fall! I received my M.A. in History from the University of Texas - Pan American in 2011 and I'm thrilled with this opportunity to study the history of science with some great, smart people. Thus far in my career I have focused on the history of astronomy and astrophysics during the 19th and 20th centuries. More broadly I am interested in the development and change of scientific institutions and how they influence, and are influenced by, specific individuals that operate within them. I've lived almost all of my life on the Texas-Mexico border, and I'm very interested to see how things change when I move from a six-month summer to a six-month winter. My other interests include reading science fiction & fantasy, watching great TV shows, playing ultimate frisbee, hiking, watching NBA basketball, and drinking good beer.

Bryony Rogers (HST)  
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This year I will be working on my last requirements for the plan A Master’s Thesis. My thesis will be looking at the treatment of gems in Athanasius Kircher’s “Mundus Subterraneus” which I have been working to finish translating these last several months. My broader interests include alchemy and astronomy in the medieval/early modern periods and the social/cultural themes that surround them.

Besides translating Latin this summer, I took the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. for the first time to enjoy the sights and museums. I also recently returned from a trip to China and Mongolia where I learned and trained with Shaolin monks in Kung fu. After an exciting summer, I look forward to TAing and finishing up my thesis this year.

Aimee Slaughter (HST)  
Los Alamos, NM  
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I'm still in New Mexico, and working on my dissertation, but I have some pretty amazing things to report. I was awarded a DDF for the next academic year, so I'll be working hard to finish up this academic year. I'll be in Philadelphia for a month on a PACHS fellowship doing archival research, hopefully the last trip to archives for this project. And, Kris and I married in July, in the gorgeous Valles Caldera!

Hope you're doing well! See you in November!

Quincy Washa (HST)  
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I will officially start as a first year student this fall semester. Originally from Nebraska, I attended the Virginia Military Institute where I earned a B.A. in History and discovered my interest in the History and Philosophy of Science while working on an independent study with one of my philosophy professors. I am interested in early modern scientific and philosophical pursuits pertaining to physics and cosmology primarily during the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment as well as the relationship
between science and religion. During this past year I have discovered a love for CrossFit which I enjoy doing in my free
time and use it to help balance life between work and school.