NOTES FROM THE DIRECTORS

**From Mark:** Greetings to the University of Minnesota HSTM Community! As the 2017-18 academic year approaches we’ve got loads of fantastic news from the year just completed, as well as some exciting things for the upcoming year. Congratulations are due to Adam Fix for winning an Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship this year and Jieun Shin for her success in winning a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. We also want to highlight the appointment of our current student Emmie Miller and recent alum Joe Martin who’ve been named Fellows for the Consortium of Science, Technology and Medicine. Finally, our congratulations to outgoing program director Professor Susan Jones who was named a Guggenheim Fellow and will be working on her book project titled, *Plague Homelands: Disease and Internal Colonization in the Eurasian Borderlands* during her sabbatical this year. In upcoming news, we recently created an HSTM Facebook page as a means for better sharing program news and student and alumni accomplishments. Please feel free to send information to Julia Knoll hstm@umn.edu anytime during the year. We have a cohort of six incoming students this fall which we are all excited about. Professor Tom Misa will also be on sabbatical this coming year after an incredibly successful twelve-year term as the director of the Charles Babbage Institute. In other transition news, we’ve got a new director of the HST program (me), a new Director of Graduate Studies in Associate Professor Jennifer Alexander, and a new position of Director of Graduate Admissions that Michel Janssen will handle along with his duties as colloquium co-director. We are also very pleased to have Bob Gardner continuing his teaching with the program, Tulley Long returning to teach while Susan is on sabbatical, and Joline Zepcevski teaching for Tom Misa. Finally, the HST program will be moving from the first floor of Shepherd Labs into newly renovated space on the 5th floor of Shepherd Labs in December or January. This should keep us all pretty busy this year. I look forward to seeing many of you at HSS in Toronto in November!

**From Dominique:** Highlights of the last year included having Geoffrey Hudson (Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Lakehead University Campus) on campus for the fall semester while he was on sabbatical. In addition to his intellectual contributions, Geoff brought great energy, humor, and discussion to the 5th floor of Diehl Hall. The *Driven to Discover: History of Minnesota’s Medical Innovations Lecture Series* had a successful second year. This lecture series, which has medical students as its primary audience, pairs a U of M medical researcher (current or retired) who speaks about the innovative research she or he has conducted, with a historian who then describes the historical context in which that research occurred. This year’s lectures featured presentations by U of M cardiologist Jay Cohn and retired Mayo Clinic cardiologist and historian of medicine Bruce Fye on the history of heart disease, and U of M transplant surgeon Arthur Matas and University of Wisconsin historian of medicine Susan Lederer on the history and ethics of kidney transplantation. HMED also continued its monthly Monday lunchtime lecture series with ongoing generous support from the Kantar family and C.C. “Bud” and Dawn Clawson. At the end of the spring semester, David Rothenberg stepped down as chair of the Surgery Department, HMED’s home department. Dr. Rothenberger has been a strong supporter of and advocate for the program during his tenure as department chair and throughout his long-time faculty career, which the program thanks him for. Our students continue to be successful with fellowship applications and on the job market. On the fellowship front,
David Korostyshevsky was awarded a Countway Library Fellowship from Harvard University and a University of Minnesota Thesis Research Travel Grant. In this year’s job news, Jessica Nickrand secured a new position as program manager for policy and practice programming at the American Academy of Neurology, and Emily Beck was appointed assistant curator of the Owen H. Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine at the University of Minnesota. We look forward to working with Emily in her new role and continuing the highly productive relationship that has long existed between the program, the Wangensteen Library, and the library’s curator, Lois Hendrickson.

Mark E. Borrello, Director, History of Science and Technology (College of Science and Engineering)

Dominique Tobbell, Director, History of Medicine (Medical School)

PHOTO: HSTM group at end of year party May 2017.

Alumni Updates

Paul Brinkman, PhD (HST 2005)
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I continue to serve as the head of the History of Science Research Lab at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. I also play the role of Adjunct Associate Professor in the History Department at North Carolina State University, where I teach history of science classes. This year I tackled two new courses (for me), one on Darwin & Darwinism and the other on the history of science in America. Somewhat to my surprise, I really enjoy teaching.

Together with a biology colleague at Yale-NUS, I am tentatively planning to teach a two-week foreign study course – part history of science and part field biology – on Alfred Russel Wallace in the Malay Archipelago.
I made significant progress on a new book project on the history of a Field Museum zoological expedition to Africa in 1896. This book is tentatively titled: *The Mecca for all naturalists*.

In connection with this project, I spent almost two weeks in Chicago in June. There I had the opportunity to catch up with David Sepkoski, who was in town teaching a course at the University of Chicago. He and I practically cleaned out Hyde Park’s branch of Powell’s Bookstore of anything related to fossils, extinction and the history of natural history. I also spent twelve memorable days on safari in Uganda.

I see Nathan Crowe (UNC-Wilmington) and Jacob Steere-Williams (College of Charleston) somewhat regularly. We continue to look for interesting ways to collaborate.

This year I began a term as secretary of the History of Earth Sciences Society. I also joined the editorial boards of *Endeavour* and *Archives of Natural History*.

I still dabble modestly in vertebrate paleontology, spending about two weeks this summer collecting Late Cretaceous fossils in western North Dakota with a group from Clemson University (see photo).

I’m looking forward to the History of Science Society meeting in Toronto.

*PHOTO: Collecting Late Cretaceous fossils in western North Dakota.*

Jonathan Clemens, PhD (HST 2015)
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This year seemed to go by in a flash! I've been busy working for *Mouse*: training teachers, meeting with other non-profits, talking to government representatives, working with students, and so on and so forth. I'm taking on additional responsibilities in the upcoming school year and am loving my job.

I've managed to do a fair amount of travelling over the past year for both work and pleasure. I've been to Mouse HQ just off Wall Street in New York City several times now and am beginning to learn the layout of lower Manhattan. I've found a cozy pub, a go-to dim sum restaurant, and am proud to say that I can now navigate the subway system without a chaperone. Michele was able to join me for a visit and together we toured the Statue of Liberty (bigger and more impressive in-person),
several museums, and various historical landmarks. The two of us were also fortunate enough to take a vacation to Munich, Ljubljana (Slovenia), and Zagreb (Croatia) last March. It was an excellent and beer-soaked sojourn: filled with beautiful alpine vistas, old palaces, tons of history, and at least one drunken 2am political discussion with the waitstaff of a German brewery. Would definitely recommend.

PHOTO: Jonathan and Michele at Lake Bled, Slovenia.

Suzanne Fischer, PhD (HST 2009)
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Last winter I moved back to my home state of Michigan to become the Museum Director at the Michigan History Center. I run 11 museums and historic sites across the state, including three lighthouses, a museum about the iron industry, a museum about logging, an ancient petroglyph site, and the Michigan History Museum in Lansing. The interpretation at these sites dates in some cases from the 1970s, so I'm planning for many major exhibit and reinstallation projects. I'm really enjoying all of the planning and strategy work.

PHOTO: "Fresnelfie" at Tawas Point Lighthouse on Lake Huron (managed by the Michigan History Center)

Amy Fisher, PhD (HST 2010)
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Greetings from the Pacific Northwest! It has been a challenging year. I broke the wrist of my dominant hand in fall (I crushed the top of both the radius and ulna when I fell over a stone-turtle sculpture – don’t ask). My first broken bones, my first surgery, and my first concerted effort to grade, write, type, eat, etc., with only my left hand. It was difficult, but I'm more or less back to normal. In addition to teaching two new courses this past year, I joined a collaborative research team examining the history and present state of hot-water use on our campus. (Did you know that hot-water heating accounts for approximately 17% of residential energy use?) As the lead on the project, we applied for and received a grant from our regional power utility to hire four students this summer to study hot-water use in our residence halls. In addition to being involved in this energy conversation project, which has been quite rewarding, I’ve been having a lot of fun this summer writing about 18th and early 19th-century chemistry and spending time with family.
Greeting from the Pacific Northwest! I’m still working at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. I’m starting my fourth year as director of the Master of Environmental Studies program http://www.evergreen.edu/mes. We have about 100 graduate students at any given time so the administrative duties are pretty heavy, but I like teaching at the intersection of natural and social sciences and helping students prepare themselves for various kinds of applied environmental work. Tom Cobb and I collaborated on our first talk integrating history of science and law—“Toward a More Reasonable Doubt?: Legal Models for Climate Science”—which we presented at the Columbia History of Science Group in Friday Harbor. If you have not been, you should consider attending—Minnesota is well-represented every year, so it feels like a reunion as well as a conference.

John Gustafson, PhD (HST 2004)
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Since last report, Karen’s and my life continue to be good at our personal level...good health, enjoyable times, great kids and grandkids, and fine friends that enrich our sometimes overwhelmingly full lives. Dark clouds, unfortunately, have rolled through the lives of some dear friends and relatives...phenomena we understand tags along as we enter this stage of our senior years...and so Karen and I are ever mindful and grateful for our good health and our embarrassment of riches.

I taught introductory algebra-based physics at the University of Minnesota Duluth fall semester 2016, the same place where my interest in physics began some fifty-plus years ago...eliciting an odd, reflective “...been here before...” experience. While being overwhelmed at times with lesson planning and grading for over one hundred students, the fall semester ended with positive feedback and a personal sense of accomplishment. Spring semester found me teaching beginning astronomy, having been asked at the last minute to replace the scheduled instructor who developed a conflict. I enjoyed teaching astronomy. My pedagogy was sprinkled with history of science comments, and the students appeared to be receptive and stimulated by them.

Starting in a few days from writing this newsletter update, I will again be teaching part time at UMD’s Physics Department, leading some physics problem-solving sessions during fall semester 2017. Next spring semester 2018 I again will be teaching astronomy. Soon, I hope to begin an informal History of Physics Reading Group at UMD. We’ll see how it goes. My conclusions? Life is good; science works even if you don’t believe in it; and a long-term view of history is profoundly valuable, especially in these trying political times. Best wishes to all for the coming turn around the sun!
Neal Ross Holton, PhD (HMed 2011)
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Recently, I retired from the practice of preventive medicine after 29 years as the medical director of St. Paul – Ramsey County Public Health. I hope now to spend a lot more time on professional contacts with history of medicine (and science) colleagues and on history projects. It has been difficult for me to sustain momentum in that field after finishing my dissertation and continuing to work, but now, that’s my goal.

While still at public health, I was able to get the county’s permission to donate extensive public health records and photographs going back to the mid-1880s and covering epidemics and diseases from cholera to AIDS. The Minnesota Historical Society quickly agreed to take the whole lot to bolster their material on local government and local public health. The papers are still being processed at MHS. Four of our retirees were able to identify every person (other than patients) in 125 photographs going back to the 1950s.

In regard to history of medicine, I prepared a poster for the 2016 AAHM meeting held in Minneapolis. It was a challenge to get my dissertation condensed into one poster, but I did enjoy doing it and talking with people about it during the meeting. Another project that I’ve been working on and want to finish soon is a paper on the history of the birth control movement in Iowa in the 1920s and 1930s. It was supported in part by a research grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa. I’m revising the final draft now. Finally, I was hired by the Anoka County Historical Society to do 22 videotaped and transcribed oral history interviews of former staff and patients at Anoka State Hospital, a hospital for the insane founded in 1900. I’ll be presenting a talk on that project at the Oral History Association annual meeting in Minneapolis in October 2017.

Potential other ideas involve revising my dissertation into a book, writing about the history of the torture victim rehabilitation movement in the 1970s and 1980s, looking at the positive reinforcement movement’s influence on animal-human health as exemplified by Robert K. Anderson’s work at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health starting in the mid-twentieth century, and interviewing the 13 women in my medical school class of 1973 at the University of Iowa (the class ahead of us had only one woman).

I know. I know. I need to focus. But all of that goes to show though how amazing the field the history of medicine is, and of science and technology, and how lucky I was to be able to enjoy being in the program at the University of Minnesota, use the world-class libraries and archives, and meet fabulous people I never would have met otherwise. The plan to have something interesting and fun to do after retirement seems to be coming true.

My husband and I have a mid-century modern house in Golden Valley with a guest suite in the lower level. We and our two dogs love company, so come visit.
**Margot Iverson, PhD (HST 2007)**  
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Greetings from Cambridge, MA! This past year has been a busy one for me. My daughter Sylvie grew from a cute infant into a rambunctious toddler, and my son Alex is now a map-obsessed four years old and will be starting pre-K in a few weeks. My husband Josh is still working in downtown Boston for an investment management company, and I’ve spent this year at home with our children. I was thrilled to make it to AAHM in Nashville this past April, where I met up with Susan Rensing for a child-free weekend of conferencing and culinary tourism. It was also lovely to catch up with Jennifer Gunn and to see Jacob Steere-Williams. I hope to make it to more conferences and local HST events in the future, and I would love to catch up with any old friends who are passing through Boston/Cambridge.

*PHOTO: The Iverson-Whites visiting Plum Island, MA*

**Barbara (Reiterer) Louis**  
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Greetings from Austria! I am happy to report that things are going very well over here. I am still working at University of Vienna’s Center for Teaching and Learning, where I started on a temporary part-time basis in 2015. Now I have a permanent and full-time position, partly funded by a government grant that we were able to secure last year. This grant is paying for a project (headed by me) to develop online teaching resources mainly for the teachers at our university but generally available to everyone. This task entails quite a bit of writing, which I enjoy tremendously.

Last fall I presented a paper at the ESHS meeting in Prague and had the opportunity to catch up with some of the members of the HSTM community. Also in the fall, I taught a class on academic writing in the history department at the University of Linz. If I can squeeze them in, I continue to take on editing and translating jobs, but unfortunately this has become more difficult in the past year as the responsibilities of my main job have continued to increase.

**Joseph D. Martin, PhD (HST 2013)**  
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I’ve spent this past year in Philadelphia at the Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (formerly PACHS, which we’ve taken to calling The Consortium, with a slightly baleful intonation), where I’ve been conducting research for a new project on university-industry collaborations in the early Cold War. I’ve
enjoyed tackling the early stages of a new project now that the book based on my dissertation, *Solid State Insurrection*, is all but finished and will appear next year with the University of Pittsburgh Press. In the fall I’ll be moving again, this time to England, where I’ll be joining the Cambridge HPS department as a teaching associate for three years. After a year of what amounts to early career research leave, I’m looking forward to getting back into the classroom, and to meeting new colleagues in the UK.

Rich Bellon and I have been having great fun editing the journal *Endeavour* for the past two years. Among our exploits is a new section called *In Vivo* that features short pieces in which historians show how their scholarly expertise can help us understand a matter of current social, cultural, or political import. We are actively seeking pitches, and so if you have an idea, get in touch!

**Rachel Mason Dentinger, PhD** (HST 2009)
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From our damp and gloomy cottage in London to a sun-baked house with a proper yard, the transition to our new life in Salt Lake City has been a good one. Bryn’s lab at the Natural History Museum of Utah is up and running and I am loving being back in a big American university. Oban is entering the 2nd grade and Iona is nearly 3 years old – both are thriving, though everyone in the family would be better off if we could spend more time exploring the amazing mountains and canyons and deserts of our new state. I have been busier this year than I have ever been, as I taught two new classes each semester and put the finishing touches on a book manuscript jointly authored with my colleagues from my post-doc in London; *Animals and the Shaping of Modern Medicine: One Health and its Histories* will be out this fall and it will be fully open access: [http://www.palgrave.com/la/book/9783319643366](http://www.palgrave.com/la/book/9783319643366). And as long as I am tooting my own horn, I was thrilled, in January, to receive the *Journal of the History of Biology*’s first Everett Mendelsohn Prize for my 2016 paper, “Patterns of Infection and Patterns of Evolution: How a Malaria Parasite Brought ‘Monkeys and Man’ Closer Together in the 1960s.” I also finally began to publish from my dissertation this year when “From ‘Actual Forces’ to ‘Token Stimuli’: Gottfried S. Fraenkel and the Evolutionary ‘Raison D’Être’ of Plant Molecules, 1930s-1960s” appeared in *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* in April. I am currently guest editing a topical collection on comparative methods in the life sciences for History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences and I’ve organized a session on the same theme for the upcoming HSS meeting. I am really looking forward to catching up with everyone in Toronto!

*PHOTO: Iona enjoys Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in southern Utah, where we camped in May.*
**Matt McGeachy, MA** (HMed 2011)
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I continue my work as Company Dramaturge at Factory Theatre in Toronto, where I lead new work development activities and casting. 2016/17 was a big year for me, serving as dramaturg for two world premiere productions, both of which were nominated for Dora Mavor Moore Awards (Toronto's Tony Awards); teaching master classes at the University of Toronto, Humber College, and here at Factory; and beginning my term as Treasurer of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas - Canada. 2017/18 will prove to be another busy year with another two world premieres and the launch of a new national commissioning program. We've also been fortunate with travel this year, spending time in Mexico, Berkeley, and with an upcoming trip to Rome and Venice.

Susannah works as the Nurse Practitioner at the Artists' Health Centre, a specialty care clinic for working visual and performing artists. We are looking forward to seeing old friends gathering for the HSS annual conference in Toronto, and also to our biggest and most significant co-production to date as we welcome a baby into our lives in January 2018.

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**Georgina Montgomery, PhD** (HST 2005)
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The Blackwell volume, *Companion to the History of American Science*, which I co-edited with Mark Largent, was published in 2016. With over 40 chapters the volume was a big undertaking, but it turned out wonderfully and includes some great essays by others from UMN! I continue to enjoy doing some interdisciplinary research with two lake ecologists, a philosopher of science, and a psychologist. Our team is funded with a NSF Cultivating Ethical STEM grant and we have published one article in BioScience in 2016 and another in Accountability in Research. In 2016, I also co-authored a short essay for CHANGE about ways to promote interdisciplinary cultures in academic units.

In 16-17 I embarked on an outreach initiative with a friend and colleague in the College of Education. We worked with researchers at MSU and the East Lansing Public Library to develop the Social Justice Reading Group. Once a month, faculty selected books on a social justice topic, read them to kids 4-11, and then undergraduates training to become teachers led small group discussions of the texts. It was incredibly rewarding, with over 150 people attending each month. My colleague and I wrote a short essay about our experience, which includes suggestions for others interested in doing something similar with their local libraries, for the Michigan Reading Journal.
By far the biggest news of last year was that Bob, Olivia, and I welcomed Iris Amy. Iris is now 11 months old and is waving, laughing, crawling, climbing, and close to walking. After my family leave, I have been enjoying a year sabbatical which has been rejuvenating for me work-wise and allowed me to spend a lot of time with Iris and Olivia. It has been a precious and wonderful time.

PHOTO: Iris and Olivia

Don Opitz, PhD (HST 2004)
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As promised, my continuing work on big flowers represented in big books has blossomed with the publication of my chapter, “El tamaño sí importa: Victoria Florilegia y la Encarnación de la Autoridad Botánica,” (translated by Manuel Casals from the English, “Size Matters: Victoria Florilegia and the Embodiment of Botanical Authority,” in vol. 3 (“Illustration”) of Palas y las Musas: diálogos entre las ciencia y el arte, 6 vols. (Mexico City: Universidad Nacional Autónomo de México, 2016). This botanical turn in my scholarly interests has led to a collaborative project, “Plant Matters,” seeded by an internal grant from DePaul University. As I dig into my growing interests in this field, I’m also cultivating projects in the area of gender and science, with focuses on the domestic context of scientific work and the relevance of LGBTQ studies for science studies. Highlights include a joint presentation with Brigitte Van Tiggelen on Agnes Pockels’s and Lord Rayleigh’s “domestic science” to the International Congress held in Rio de Janeiro in July 2017, and an upcoming roundtable contribution on LGBTQ identity politics in the history of science, to be held at the upcoming 2017 HSS meeting in Toronto.

PHOTO: At the Chicago Botanic Gardens with Azul Cohlmia (left) and Rose Doherty (right), undergraduate research assistants for the project “Plant Matters.”

Richard Parks, PhD (HMed 2012)
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I am now permanent at MSU as an Assistant Professor of Practice in Lyman Briggs College. My book, Medical Imperialism in French North Africa: Regenerating the Jewish Community of Colonial Tunis, comes out in October from Nebraska Press. Hope all is well in Minneapolis.
**Susan Rensing, PhD (HST 2006)**
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My first year post-tenure was filled with new responsibilities and projects. I was selected to serve on the Chancellor's Study Group for Work-Life Balance to develop a white paper for positive culture change on our campus: [http://chancellor.uwosh.edu/chancellors-initiatives/chancellors-study-groups/chancellor-study-group-work-life-balance/](http://chancellor.uwosh.edu/chancellors-initiatives/chancellors-study-groups/chancellor-study-group-work-life-balance/). We are currently writing the implementation report and then will begin phasing in a series of new policy changes and initiatives. I was also elected Chair of the College of Letters and Science Equity, Diversity, and Inclusive Climate Committee which has given me a formal home to do the kind of advocacy work that I was doing anyway. I am also serving as the first CAPP Liaison for the Women's and Gender Studies program, which means that I am working with instructors to bring concurrent enrollment Intro to Women's and Gender Studies courses to high schools throughout Wisconsin. This is exciting and important work. Last November, I presented at HSS in Atlanta on a panel organized by Don Opitz on "LGBTQ+ Activism Inside and Outside the Academy." In the spring, I met up with Margot at AAHM in Nashville. In April, I wrote my first piece for Nursing Clio discussing Hulu's *The Handmaid's Tale*: [https://nursingclio.org/2017/04/26/a-post-racial-gilead-race-and-reproduction-in-hulus-the-handmaids-tale/](https://nursingclio.org/2017/04/26/a-post-racial-gilead-race-and-reproduction-in-hulus-the-handmaids-tale/)

And right now, I am just trying to max out summertime kayaking and camping before the semester begins.

**James Satter, MA (HST 2005)**
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For the past five years, I've worked as Manager of Public Operations at the Science Museum of Minnesota, overseeing a staff of approximately 75 people.

**Jacob Steere-Williams, PhD (HMed 2011)**
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HSTM friends, I am sorry for missing a submission in last year’s newsletter, so I suppose this note will have to cover more ground. Abby, Langston (who is 2½), and I are still enjoying Travel and Leisure’s #1 city in the U.S.-Charleston is treating us well and we’ve definitely settled in over the past several years. I think the biggest change is that I eat a heck of a lot more oysters. Abby recently got a new position with our city’s teaching hospital- the Medical University of South Carolina- they also have one of a handful of medical history/history of biology archives and museums in the U.S., the Waring. It’s small by Wangensteen standards, but now that I’m also on the board for the archives Abby and I get to do more ‘working’ lunches between classes.
I’m up for tenure this year at the College of Charleston (trying to remember to breathe), with my packet due in about a week! I’ve had a number of articles come out in the past two years, one on Victorian debates in analytical chemistry (in Ambix), another on urban/rural conceptualizations of milk in the 19th c. (in Agricultural History), and a third on the performative aspects of 19th c. epidemiology (in Social History of Medicine). Like some other alums, I was chuffed to be part of Mark and Georgina’s Companion to the History of American Science, writing a chapter on the germ theory. The newest update on the research front is a couple of forthcoming pubs that are the product of new research on British colonial public health- one on corpses during the South African War, and another on disinfection practices in late 19th c. India- the latter came out of a keynote address that I gave this spring at the Southern Association for the History of Science and Medicine.

The two other bits of news on my end are that late last year I took up the post of Book Reviews Editor for The Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences. I’ve already asked some HSTM’ers for reviews, so if you haven’t had me barking up your email box be warned that it’s coming! I also just accepted the Directorship of the Public Health B.A. Program at CofC- no doubt I need to email Sally and Mark for advice.

We’ve tried to keep a solid HSTM presence in the Southeast, seeing Nathan and Paul with some regularity, though never enough.

PHOTO: A recent pic to prove that one downside to living in a subtropical climate is the rain.

Joris Vanderndriessche, PhD (HMed 2010)
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Past academic year, I continued my work for a book project on the twentieth-century history of the Leuven academic hospitals. Besides archival research in the university’s own collections, I conducted many interviews with former professors of the Faculty of Medicine. A three-month research stay at the Center for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology in Manchester helped to place my research results in a wider international context. I learned a great deal at the CHSTM, in particular on the historiography of cancer. As I moved into the 20th-century history of hospitals, one the most interesting new avenues has been the complex relation between medicine and religion – a relation which in interwar Belgium, at that time still a profoundly Catholic country, took a particular form which I hope to show in an article I’m preparing on Catholicism and hospital reform. On
the personal level, exciting new times are approaching as my partner and I are expecting our first baby in October.

**Chris Young, PhD (HST 1997)**
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Chris Young is celebrating 20 years since completing his degree at Minnesota. I was reminded recently of how long it has been when I started corresponding (inquiring for a student who may be interested in the program!) with some of you who finished “way” after me and found you suggesting I contact others who had finished some years after you! I’m still teaching at Alverno College, in an era of declining enrollments that we hope will stabilize soon. I’ve been putting my administrative and organizational skills to work helping the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee consider possibilities for sharing their model of urban environmental education with neighborhoods in cities across the country. It’s an exciting project with some amazing people. Riley is starting high school, and Michelle is planning some international travel this year in her continuing role as a global project manager in human resources for Rockwell Automation. I hope to get to Toronto for HSS this year!

**Faculty Updates**

**Jennifer Alexander (HST)**
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We have had a busy summer moving to a new house (but in the same neighborhood) and renovating and selling the old one, and hiking and biking in the mountains of Wyoming. A family reunion, celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the building of the family cabins, has led me to ponder more deeply what it means to be technologically backward -- no plumbing, no electricity, but bonding over the wood stove and the chopping block.

**Victor Boantza (HST)**
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This past year I continued my work on the relations between matter theory and experimental practice in the long eighteenth century, focusing on the emergence of pneumatic chemistry, and especially the evolution of notions like ‘air’ and ‘fire’, from the Scientific to the Chemical Revolutions. I have taught classes on pre-1800 science, including the survey from antiquity to Newton and the upper-level course on science and the Enlightenment. I keep enjoying working with graduate students and taking part in the activities of various reading and interest groups on campus. I look forward to leaving my small windowless office space in McNamara and moving back into the renovated Tate building in late August.

I’m deeply disappointed to report that despite the appointment of Tom Thibodeau as head coach and general manager in 2016, the Minnesota Timberwolves underperformed again, badly, finishing the season with a 31/51
losing record. On the positive side, their core of young players (Towns, Wiggins, Lavine) have shown promising signs of growth. On the even more positive side, the Wolves have been very active in the offseason: perennial NBA All-Star Jimmy Butler was acquired from the Chicago Bulls in exchange for Zach Lavine and Kris Dunn (last year’s bust 5th overall draft pick); Jeff Teague will replace Ricky Rubio as the team’s main point guard; other additions include Taj Gibson and Jamal Crawford. On paper, this is a much-improved team, projected by some to end up as the 5th or even 4th seed in the tough Western Conference. While this may be a wildly optimistic expectation, anything short of at least making the playoffs, thus ending a drought of 13 straight seasons, should be considered a failure.

Mark Borrello (HST)
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Didn’t I just write one of these update paragraphs a few minutes, days, months ago? 2016-17 started out great with an invitation to give a keynote lecture at the 18th International Congress of Philosophy in San Cristobal de las Casas Mexico. The conference was great fun and I was fortunate to be there for the day of the dead celebrations. I also had an excellent time at the ISHPSSB meeting in Sao Paolo where I presented a talk in a session with Luis Campos and Oren Harman. Oren and I travelled to Manaus for a few days after the conference where we got to see some sloths, monkeys and the fresh water pink dolphins and attend a performance of the Symphony Orchestra of the Amazon at the magnificent Opera House that was built there at the end of the 19th Century. Exciting changes happening this fall as I am taking the baton from Susan Jones as Director of the HST program. My kids continue to grow – Nico is starting high school at Southwest and Gia and Alba will be continuing in the Spanish immersion program at Anwatin Middle School. Looking forward to the welcome back party at my place in a couple weeks!

Bob Gardner (HST)
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My first year in the HSTM program went pretty well; I had a great time and no one tried to keep me from returning this year :) I worked with some wonderful people in the program, faculty and graduate students. One of my favorite courses I taught was a practical grad seminar on how to design a university course. I’m looking forward to being even more involved with the grad students this year.

Outside of the HSTM program, I was accepted as a Visiting Fellow at the Institute on the Environment at UMN. In that capacity, I co-authored (with the Institute’s Director Jessica Hellman) an op-ed piece in The Hill promoting green infrastructure. I also gave a talk at one of the fellow’s Salon breakfasts. I hope that by working with IonE (whose members are mostly scientists) I can bring some historical perspective and a humanities approach to contemporary environmental problems.

Back at home in Montana, it was a smoky summer and the time passed too quickly with book revisions, family visits, and ranch chores.
Sally Gregory Kohlstedt (HST)
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This has been a quietly productive year with the usual academic assignments on campus, through HSS, and in the Minneapolis community but leaving time for oversight in the completion of our new retreat on Lake Superior. Most recently, I served on an external review committee at Oregon State, giving me an opportunity to visit current and retired colleagues in Corvallis. Personal news is that our older son has now taken an IT position in Minneapolis and will be moving back with his wife and our twin five-year-old granddaughters, making phased retirement in the next couple of years very likely—particularly if the program can get our new dean to hire a tenure-track replacement. The Winchell project continues, with an essay published in the edited volume, *Science Museums in Transition*. Thanks, again, to those of you who contributed to the Kohlstedt Research Travel Fund; I am pleased to report that we are now nearly at $100,000, which yields about $4,000 each year to support graduate students doing dissertation research. So, the beat goes on. Hope to see all of you in Toronto this fall.

Dominique Tobbell (HMed)
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During the year, I continued to work on the recent history of nursing. This included writing an article on the boundary work nurses engaged in as they worked to develop a science of nursing after World War II. The article will be published in the journal, *Nursing Research* in 2018. I also undertook a project with the dean of U of M’s School of Nursing to document the school’s recent history. As part of this work, I have been conducting a series of oral history interviews with faculty and staff at the nursing school.

Emeritus Faculty Updates

Bob Seidel (HST, Emeritus)
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Bob Seidel continues to unload his massive book collection via Amazon.com. With 500 sold, 1000 in active inventory, and thousands more to sell, he is confident of freeing himself of the literary burdens he has filled his basement with by the time he dies at the age of 110. If you are interested, let him know if you want to be notified of new listings. BTW, some of my older books are going at prices unbelievably greater than I hoped. I am reading some of them, too!

Otherwise, snow-birding and clarifying my vision (through cataract surgery) have been the focusing events of the past year. A new granddaughter, Claire Morgan, joined the family on November 17, and helping out with childcare took a bite out of my retirement. We plan to travel to the Tetons and the Amalfi Coast this fall.
All is well, and things have not changed much from last year. I continue with my research, but, to be sure, at a more relaxed pace. My term as President of the International Academy of the History of Science ended at the international meeting in Rio in July, where I delivered one of the plenary lectures on, of course, Newton.

**Current Student Updates**

**Anna Amramina** (HST)
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My second year, which came with taking what felt like a double load of classes and TA-ing (as we say in Russian, fear has eyes wide open), brought me to at least one conclusion. Graduate school works for me as much as I work for it. I also have been collecting material for the dissertation project in Russia, reading up on areas of interest in the XX-century history of science (and XIX-century history of medicine, when no-one if watching, as a guilty pleasure), and creating a home far, far away from home with a lot of from my friends and Minnesota itself. It's a pretty nice place to be, my place.

**Carlie Cervantes de Blois** (HST)
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With a background in Southeast Asian history and languages as well as sustainable agricultural practices, I have worked in rural regions of Malaysia and Indonesia. During summer 2017, I researched the practice and perception of Javanese farmers about sustainable agriculture in Central Java, Indonesia as a collaborative project with UKSW. My graduate research interests include Vietnamese agricultural practices and French colonialism.

**Adam Fix** (HST)
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This past year I defended my prelims, presented a poster at HSS, defended my prospectus, wrote a rough draft of a dissertation chapter while on a pretty sweet Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World fellowship, got an Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship to work at the Center for Early Modern History (did not expect that!), and taught the HSCI 1815/3815 summer course. This coming year I expect to work a bunch more on my dissertation (with the plan to be done at the end of my sixth year, we'll see) and present a chapter from that at HSS in Toronto. Looking forward to our new grad student office next spring!
Macey Flood (HMed)
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I write this surfacing briefly from my preliminary exams, which have been both more trying and more interesting than I anticipated. This past academic year I much enjoyed TA-ing for Jole Shackelford and Jennifer Gunn, finishing up coursework, presenting at a couple of interdisciplinary conferences, and bringing two groups of local herbalists into the Wangensteen. I published two book reviews and, new for me, a conference review in the History of Anthropology Newsletter, which is up and running online after a many year hiatus and I encourage you all to check it out. I look forward to finishing and passing my preliminary exams (fingers crossed) and diving into research.

Samuel Froiland (HST)
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This will be my first year in the HSTM program. I graduated from Lake Forest College with a degree in environmental studies and history in 2016, but I am a native of Minneapolis. Since then I have spent most of my time traveling. In the last year I have had the privilege to spend time visiting and camping in national parks in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado, to attend a summer long urban farming program in Berkley, California, to visit Israel, Palestine, and Italy, and most recently I have been hiking the Appalachian Trail.

My main academic interests are the philosophy of science, environmental history, synanthropy, restoration/conservationism, the agency of things, and forest ecology.

I am greatly looking forward to the coming year, and excited to be joining the team.

Alexander Greff (HST)
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The excitement of preliminary exams is almost overwhelming and fortunately scheduled to end for me this Autumn. I’m continuing my research on the construction of public scientific spaces in the Enlightenment (which I hope to spend some time discussing at the upcoming HSS meeting in Toronto). It being no secret that graduate students have strange ideas about leisure time, I’ve also recently become a research fellow and grant writer for the Minneapolis-based Oakeshott Institute – a collection of historical European and world arms and armor. Sadly, I don’t expect these experiences will contribute in the obvious way to mounting a strong thesis defense, even if I promise to keep the sword-wielding educational.

I’ve also ventured into a minor role of public academic life, co-hosting and producing a podcast called “I Was Told There’d Be Food” – dedicated to all things academia and history and especially to helping one get the most out of their time in graduate school. Hopefully this is motivating enough to keep me on schedule to being ABD by semester’s end.
Lauren Haslem (HMed)  
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Approaching my first year in the HSTM program, I look forward to a challenging year in a new city. I am a native of Cincinnati, Ohio and spent the last six years in Indiana at Purdue University, first as an undergraduate and then as a master’s student. My thesis, titled “'Too Hot to Handle': LSD, Medical Activism, and the Spring Grove Studies” drew on the records of the Spring Grove State Hospital to examine psychedelic researchers’ efforts to safeguard LSD psychotherapy in the 1960s and 70s. I presented my research at the American Association for the History of Medicine conference in May and won Purdue’s 2017 Master's Thesis Award.

Much of my master’s research was inspired by my work as a graduate assistant for the Purdue University Archives. There, I processed materials donated to the Psychoactive Substances Research Collection, which houses items related to the history of psychedelic research and its applications for medicine and healing.

One theme I discern from my LSD research is that the cultural meanings that patients and consumers attached to medical products shaped what they chose to or not to put in their bodies. At UMN, I plan to continue investigating this intersection between the history of medicine, technology, and consumerism.

In my spare time, I like to cook vegetarian dishes and paint along to Bob Ross with my partner Nick. After five years together, we will be getting married in June 2018.

John Heydinger (HST)  
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I have begun dissertation research looking at how human-lion conflict has changed since the end of apartheid in the Kunene Region of northwest Namibia. I will be based in Kunene for the next two years (hopefully). My research is taking place in partnership with the University of Minnesota Lion Center and Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation. Check out the project website at http://kuneneconservation.dash.umn.edu/.

Kate Jirik (HST)  
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This year I have completed the drafts of the first 2 chapters of my dissertation. I presented a paper at the Disability in Education Conference on the origins of special education in the US. I had a book review published in the Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences. I went to HSS in Atlanta and will be presenting at this year’s HSS meeting in Toronto. I had an extended conversation with the Graduate School Dean about disability access at the University and he indicated he was going to address the issues I raised, which I think is pretty cool. I’m the chairperson of the education section of the Organization for Graduate and Professional Students with Disabilities.
Last fall I went to Copenhagen, Hamburg, and Berlin with a number of day trips from those cities. I saw the high school that Leibnitz attended in Leipzig. I got my picture taken with the statue of Humboldt at Humboldt University in Berlin. And I discovered that wurst from the wurst stand by Brandenburg Gate was the best. The stand’s official address is, “between trees 5 and 6 by the Brandenburg Gate.”

Reba Juetten (HST)
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This year I’ve been busily working to finish my coursework and my prelims exams. Having passed the latter at the end of May, my new task is proposing a dissertation. Last fall, I worked on a research project for Jennifer Gunn at the Institute for Advanced Study on health in the Mississippi watershed. As a result, I’ve written an essay on the project that has just been published in the Open Rivers Journal. You can read it here: http://editions.lib.umn.edu/openrivers/article/the-flow-of-health-water-and-information-in-the-mississippi-watershed/. I also worked on an exhibit last summer and fall with the College of Biological Sciences Conservatory for my museum studies minor. You can see the result, “Roots to Healing” in Northrop’s fourth floor gallery through December.

This summer has been more research-focused. As you’re reading this, I am on a summer research trip to Chicago to do archival work at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Earlier this summer, I spent three weeks at the Dumbarton Oaks Library and Gardens in Washington, D.C. participating in a graduate workshop on landscape history. Later this fall, I’ll be taking another trip to New York to do more research at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

In personal news, I’m currently at an international Polish folk dancing festival in Poland. I also got engaged this past winter and will be married next spring.

PHOTO: Reba and Jarek in Polish dance costumes.

Lauren Klaffke (HMed)
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The path to the successful completion of my dissertation continues to be squiggly, but I’m an unfailing optimist, and when I’m not, there’s beer! I began working at the Center for Writing last fall, and I love this work. It’s really rewarding to work with students one-on-one. I will continue this position in the upcoming academic year. I’m continuing to work on the American Academy of Neurology Oral History Project, and I’ll begin working on oral histories for the American College of Surgeons in October. Personally, I completed a marathon last October but developed back issues and have been doing PT. Thanks UMN for the great health insurance! In the meantime,
I’ve been doing more swimming, and yoga. I continue to enjoy adventures with my pup, Alfie, and baking and cooking adventures with friends!

**David Korostyshevsky** (HMed)  
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Last year saw the surgery department project come to fruition. The documentary film and the commemorative book accompanying it were well received by department faculty, staff, and alumni. I am also pleased to report that last year, I passed my preliminary exams and defended a dissertation prospectus! So, now it’s onward to research and writing, which means lots of travel. I examine the production and circulation of early-modern medical knowledge about intoxication and its influence on temperance movements and medical jurisprudence during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Since the spring, research has taken me to Mexico City, Huautla de Jimenez, Chicago, London, Preston, and Boston. I am also proud to have represented our program at the Alcohol and Drugs History Society conference in Utrecht and at an international research symposium at St. Anne’s College, Oxford. As my fourth year in the program approaches, I look forward to continue TAing undergraduate courses and starting the writing process.

**PHOTO: David and Genesea visiting Stonehenge.**

**Nicholas Lewis** (HST)  
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The past year marked my first full year of living in Los Alamos, New Mexico as part of my dissertation effort and my work on the HPC History of Supercomputing Project. Having regular access to LANL has proven indispensable for archival research and for conducting interviews of current and retired Lab staffers. My second publication, a book chapter on the history of custom computer networking at LANL, appeared in print last fall, while my third publication, an IEEE Annals of the History of Computing article on supercomputer selection at Los Alamos in the 1960s, will appear this year. Two additional articles, one covering Los Alamos operating-system development in the 1970s, and the other addressing the controversial IBM/LANL Roadrunner cluster computer of 2008, are in the works for the coming year. In connection with these works, I have conducted a number of
presentations at LANL and elsewhere in the past year. The most rewarding of these was a talk that I gave at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in January, where I had the opportunity to meet a personal hero of mine (pictured). I can only hope that my future work-related trips are similarly star-studded.

PHOTO: Nic with the U.S.S. Enterprise (the real one!) at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Malena Mastel (HMed)
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Hello, everyone! I cannot believe how quickly my first year in the HSTM program flew by! The year was a busy, but rewarding one. I completed roughly half my coursework, learned one of the two required languages, finished the research paper requirements, assisted professors from the University of Pennsylvania and John Jay College with research projects, began volunteering at the Science Museum of Minnesota, and made more cups of coffee for colloquium than I can count. I am very excited to be returning for my second year and look forward to the adventures and challenges ahead.

Emmie Miller (HST)
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This has been a year full of funding applications, career exploration, and continued professional development for me. I was elected to be a co-chair for the Graduate and Early Career Caucus for the History of Science Society. We had a successful Atlanta meeting, and we are hoping to roll out some new programming for this upcoming meeting in Toronto.

I am feeling very grateful to have been named a Fellow for the Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine out of Philadelphia and have won both a fellowship and travel grant through the University of Minnesota’s Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World and the Center for Early Modern History. These awards will help me access archives in London, Wales, Kansas City, and Chicago in the coming year. These materials will supplement and inform the remaining three chapters of my dissertation.

I will also be designing and teaching my own course for the University of Minnesota’s OLLI Scholars Program. Inspired by my dissertation project, I’m designing an environmental humanities syllabus that will pivot around the cultural and natural history of the Arctic from prehistory to the present day, so it will be a hefty amount of material in a very condensed amount of time.

I’m eager to be throwing myself back into the academic melee and look forward to seeing international colleagues at the HSS Meeting in Toronto in November. Hopefully by this time next year, I will have my dissertation wrapped up and I will be on to something new and exciting!
Jessica Nickrand (HMed)
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I left my job at the housing nonprofit to work at the American Academy of Neurology, where I now coordinate and develop all educational initiatives out of the Center for Health Policy----like CME webinars, meeting exhibits and experiential learning areas, science communication courses, and advocacy training. It's been great because it includes all the things I love about teaching--staying current on issues, communicating difficult concepts in an easy-to-understand and absorbable way, and developing course materials--while leaving out all the things I don't love about teaching--like actually teaching! I get to instead work with talented and brilliant physicians (who, weirdly, actually listen to me) and help them hone their own skills, and they serve as the faculty in the courses that I develop. It's the first place I've been at that truly prioritizes work-life balance. Nonprofit life was not at all conducive to finishing my dissertation, so now that I'm at an actual 40-hour-a-week job, please send all good vibes my way so that this is the last newsletter update that reports that I'm still drudging through those last few chapters.

Things in my personal life are also worth reporting--we left the rapidly rising rents in Minneapolis and crossed the river into St. Paul. We are settling into a lovely part of the Rondo neighborhood that makes me feel the most at home I've felt since moving to Minnesota. And hoping that the second time is the charm, my partner Nick and I are marrying next fall.

I'm thrilled to be on a Gopher-heavy HSS panel along with Kate Jirik and Don Opitz, organized by Reba Juetten and Emmie Miller. I'm looking forward to catching up with all of you that I haven't seen for far too long in Toronto.

Jess Olson (HST)
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I am an incoming first year graduate student excited to learn more about history of biological sciences, disease ecology, environmental history. Furthermore, I look forward to developing and expanding my researching capabilities through my coursework this first year. This past spring and summer I have been traveling and working on organic farms in Costa Rica and Sweden, all the while reading plenty of history of science books. In Sweden, I had the privilege of spending many afternoons at the Linnaean Garden and touring Sweden’s only anatomical theatre. I greatly look forward to being part of the consortium of HSTM graduate students and working with all of the members of the department in the fall.

Jieun Shin (HST)
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My fourth year has been extremely productive. While I stayed a whole year in D.C. as a pre-doctoral fellow of the Smithsonian, I completed three chapters of my dissertation about the history of National Air and Space Museum between 1946 and 1976. At the same time, I have met great people here including three advisors at the Smithsonian Institution Archives and the National Air and Space Museum. I also gave three formal and
informal presentations to the staff of the Smithsonian, and received valuable comments about future research. In March, I had a chance to present my first chapter in the History Graduate Student Association Conference at Louisiana State University. I was also very fortunate to be awarded the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for next year, which will allow me to concentrate on writing. In this November, I plan to present a chapter at the HSS meeting in Toronto.

My family and I indeed enjoyed life in Northern Virginia, which has the third biggest Korean community of the U.S. (I will definitely miss Korean foods.) My son, Ryan, began his school life as a kindergartener, and now, finally, he becomes literate. My two-year-old daughter, Jacie, learned how to eat by herself, how to walk, how to sing, and how to throw a tantrum. We plan to move back to campus in late September and already miss the chilly air of Minnesota.

**Dustin Studelska** (HST)
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Over the past year I have passed my preliminary exams and begun my dissertation research into the concept, practical use, and rhetorical use of skill in eighteenth century Europe. To present these ideas my dissertation will focus on case studies of eighteenth century porcelain manufacturing in England and France. These are key sites of production that lay at the crux of craft-oriented skilled labor and industrial innovation. In the coming year I plan to travel to Sévre, France, outside of Paris, to the national porcelain manufactory and to Stoke-on-Trent in England to the Wedgewood archive to view the necessary primary sources. Over the summer of 2017 I was fortunate enough to teach my own version of the course titled “Technology and American Culture”. It was a wonderful experience from which my desire to pursue a career in teaching was further galvanized. On a personal note, in January of 2017 I got engaged to my fiancé, Abigail Rankin. We plan to have our wedding in the summer of 2018.

**Will Vogel** (HST)
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I’ve had an eventful year so far. After completing my prelims and defending my prospectus, I’ve launched into research for my dissertation on the relationship between biomedical communities and the American biological weapons program in the early Cold War. With the generous support of a Tomash grant, I’ve so far visited the Johns Hopkins, American Society for Microbiology, National Agricultural Library, and National Academy of Sciences archives in the Baltimore-Washington, DC area, and will be visiting archives in Madison, WI, Boston, Atlanta, and College Park, MD over the next few months. I’ll also be conducting research in the UK on the Pugwash movement, with the support of a Dunn Peace Research Scholarship. In addition, I’ve published my first paper in the latest issue of *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*, on perceptions of women in the American computer industry in the 1960s through the ‘80s.
It has been an important year for me in 2017. During the past year, I quit my job as a librarian in Shanghai Jiao Tong University Library (SJTUL) in China to start my PhD studies at the University of Minnesota, advised by Prof. Jennifer Alexander. My academic interest is mainly on the history of technology and digital humanity. Currently I am doing research on the history of the Chinese typewriter’s invention and improvement, which involves communication among the United States, France, Japan and China. My first paper on this topic was published in February 2017 in *Studies on Science Popularization*. Over the next few years, I will continue research on this topic. This July, I attended the international meeting of the CADAL project held in Hangzhou, China, whose theme was “Digital Humanity and the Development of the CADAL project.”