

History Department Newsletter



Dickinson history faculty from left to right: Profs. Evan Young, David Commins, Regina Sweeney, Marcelo Borges, Steve Weinberger, Say Burgin, Karl Qualls, Matt Pinsker, Jeremy Ball, Chris Bilodeau, and Emily Pawley



Inside this issue:

Senior history major McKinley Knoop discusses her junior year abroad in Jordan and Morocco **2**

Fall 2017 History Department Events list **3**

Spring 2018 History Course Preview **4**

Department Celebration Highlights Student Project

On Thursday, August 31, the history department faculty welcomed majors, prospective majors, and friends back to campus with a casual celebration at the House Divided Studio, 61 N West Street. Students and faculty braved occasional rain showers to enjoy appetizers on the patio, and explored the digital exhibits related to the Civil War inside (for more info on the Studio, see https://www.dickinson.edu/news/article/2031/civil_war_history_at_your_fingertips)

But the main event was sophomore history major Justin Burkett's

presentation "Loose Leaf History," based on a paper he researched and wrote for his spring 2017 History 204 class with Prof. David Commins (Introduction to Historical Methodology, a required class for all history majors). Burkett's lively presentation focused on five scrapbooks made by Paul Hodge, an African American Carlisle resident who worked for Dickinson from 1917 until his retirement in the 1980s. Hodge began as a waiter in the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity House, Burkett explained, but over the decades the fraternity brothers came to see him as a father figure, referring

Continued on page 2

Welcome Back Gathering *continued from page 1*

to him as "Pappy" until his retirement in the 1980s. Burkett stressed how his work on Hodge's scrapbooks helped him understand how history can "not only broaden our understanding of bigger issues, like Civil Rights, but can also help us learn more about humanity and the day-to-day issues people faced and still face." Through his research, Burkett said, he got to experience "the thrill of getting to know the thoughts, emotions, and life of a man who died years before I was born."

In addition to the chance to learn about Burkett's research, the celebration gave history majors a chance to catch up with each other and their professors at the start of the new semester, and gave first year students a glimpse of what the department is all about.

History Major Shares Insights from Study Abroad



McKinley Knoop in Rabat, Morocco

Each year, numerous history majors take advantage of the many opportunities to study abroad offered by Dickinson's global education programs. Because every region of the globe has a history, Dickinson history majors tend to gravitate to locales as geographically diverse as their concentrations. In AY 2016-17, our majors studied in England (Norwich and Oxford), Italy (Bologna), Spain (Malaga), Denmark, New Zealand, South America, Jordan, and Morocco.

We recently interviewed

current senior history and Middle East studies major McKinley Knoop, who spent her junior year first in Jordan (fall semester) and then in Morocco (spring semester). She shared some insights into the particular value studying abroad can have for a history major, as well as some of its challenges.

Q: How did being a history major impact your experience abroad?

A: Having a background in the history of the region where I studied [the Middle East and North Africa] made a huge difference. While abroad, I was able to see causal connections between what I had learned in my Dickinson history classes, and the modern day decision-making and politics I observed. In addition, my Dickinson history classes taught me to think critically and analytically and with an awareness of possible bias. Without that background, I think it would have been easy to get swept up in the nationalistic sentiments expressed by some of the professors I studied with abroad. For example, some of my professors in Jordan were from Palestine originally, and I noticed an

Insights from Abroad *continued from page 2*

anti-Israeli bias in their teaching at times; knowing how to recognize that helped me separate the bias from the facts and still learn from their classes.

Q: Say more about a valuable classroom experience you had abroad.

A: My favorite class was “Jordan in its Regional Context.” It was taught by the former Jordanian ambassador to Israel/Palestine, and not only was he incredibly knowledgeable about regional politics, he had fascinating stories and insights from his time working with the Jordanian government.

Q: How has studying abroad impacted your understanding of history?

A. While learning about the past, it can be easy to forget that the effects of past events can still be felt today. For example, it’s one thing to learn about the mandate system in the Middle East in a U.S. classroom, but understanding its implications is much easier when talking with people who have lived it. In that sense, studying abroad gave me access to a much wider range of primary sources than I could have at Dickinson.

Q: Any advice for others going abroad?

A. Living in a country where you

aren’t fluent in the native language is incredibly difficult — every interaction suddenly becomes much more complicated and exhausting. Make sure you take care of your mental health and give yourself breaks.

Q: What do you miss the most, now that you’re back?

A: Hearing Arabic every day. I became accustomed to speaking it during every interaction, and even now I find myself mentally rehearsing what I want to say in Arabic before starting a new conversation.



Knoop on Mt Toubkal, Morocco

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! FALL SEMESTER HISTORY DEPT EVENTS:

- ♦ **SAT OCT. 7, 1:30-3PM, Waidner-Spahr Archives.** Campus Expo event during Family & Homecoming Weekend. Bring visiting family, or come on your own, to our “History in the Archives” event: talk with history faculty, view the historical holdings in the Archives, and enjoy light refreshments.
- ♦ **WED NOV. 15, 4:30-5:30PM, Denny 317: 8th Annual Whitfield Bell Lecture with Prof. David Commins.** This year’s History Majors Committee has invited Prof. Commins to deliver this year’s lecture; title to be announced. Refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public.
- ♦ **TUES NOV. 28, 12PM-1:15PM, Denny 317: Honors Thesis Presentation.** Senior history major Sarah Goldberg will present her research in progress for her honors thesis paper. Lunch will be served.

To read more from McKinley Knoop about her experiences in Jordan, check out her blog posts as AMIDEAST’s Fall 2016 Jordan correspondent here: <https://amideastabroad.wordpress.com/jordan-correspondent/>

For more information about Dickinson’s Study Abroad programs, visit the Global Study and Engagement website here: <http://www.dickinson.edu/global>

A Preview of Spring 2018 History Course Offerings

- HIST 107 – (Modern Europe) - Prof. Qualls—TR 9-10:15**
- HIST 117-01 – (American History to 1877) – Prof. Bilodeau—MWF 9:30—10:20**
- HIST 117-02 - (American History to 1877) - Prof. Pawley—MWF 11:30—12:20**
- HIST 118-01 – (American History from 1877) – Prof. Pinsker—TR 10:30-11:45**
- HIST 120 – (History of East Asia) – Prof. Young—MR 1:30—2:45**
- HIST 122 – (Middle East since 1750) – Prof. Commins—MWF 11:30—12:45**
- HIST 204-01 – (Introduction to Historical Methodology) – Prof. Ball—MR 1:30—2:45**
- HIST 211-01 – (US Military History) – Prof. Pinsker—TR 9-10:15**
- HIST 211-02-(Double Jeopardy: African American Women and Protest Politics) – Prof. Burgin—TF 1:30—2:45**
- HIST 211-03 (The Civil Rights Movement: North and South) – Prof. Burgin—MWF 10:30-11:20**
- HIST 211-04 – (Food and the Environment) - Prof. Pawley—TF 3-4:15**
- HIST 213-01 – (Crusades) – Prof. Weinberger—TR 10:30-11:45**
- HIST 213-02 – (Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe) - Prof. Sweeney—MR 1:30-2:45**
- HIST 215-01 – (Medicine and the Body in East Asia) – Prof. Young—MR 3-4:15**
- HIST 215-02 – (Screening Korea) – Prof. Jina Kim—TF 3-4:15**
- HIST 215-03 – (World Migrations Since 1850) - Prof. Borges—TF 1:30-2:45**
- HIST 254 – (Revolution, War & Daily Life in Modern Russia) – Prof. Qualls—TR 10:30-11:45**
- HIST 279 – (History of Film) – Prof. Weinberger—MR 3-4:15**
- HIST 315-01 – (Gender and Sexuality in Modern Japanese History) - Prof. Young—W 1:30-4:30**
- HIST 358 – (19th-20th C European Diplomacy) - Prof. Sweeney—MWF 9:30-10:30**
- HIST 370 – (Cold War in Africa 1945-1990) – Prof. Ball—TF 3-4:15**
- HIST 371 – (Arab-Israeli Conflict) - Prof. Commins—MWF 10:30-11:20**
- HIST 376 – (The Holocaust) - Prof. Qualls—TR 3-4:15**
- HIST 404 – (Senior Research seminar; topic: Imperial Rivals, France and Great Britain 1689-1763) - Prof. Bilodeau—W 1:30-4:30**