



History Department



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McMullen Earns Top Honor

In May, the Department proudly announced that **Elizabeth McMullen** (Clearfield, PA) was the 2009-2010 recipient of the Michael J. McQuillen Award. The award is named in honor of Dr. McQuillen a long-time and distinguished professor of professor who also served as Mercyhurst College president. It is bestowed upon the student who has demonstrated outstanding academic excellence in the discipline.

McMullen, a Public History major, distinguished herself with her strong QPA. Her Senior Project, "Paths to the Past: A Historical Marker Driving Guide to Clearfield County, Pennsylvania," is a thoroughly researched, lavishly illustrated, and well documented guide to the dozens of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission markers located throughout the county. Beth also presented a paper at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional History Conference,



had an article published in Edinboro University's undergraduate history journal, *isions and Revisions*, and was a Mercyhurst Ambassador. She is presently enrolled in West Virginia University's MA program in Public History.

On May 23, 2010 the History Department graduated thirteen majors. Among those joining the ranks of History Department Alumni are: **John Baranowski** (Springdale, PA), **Connor Corcoran** (Pittsburgh, PA), **Elliot Engelmann**

(Woodbridge, IL), **Keneth Hunt** (Long Valley, NJ), **Lindsey Jaskiewicz** (Erie, PA), **John Lamm** (Alexandria, VA), **Sarah Massucci** (Pittsburgh, PA), **Elizabeth McMullen** (Clearfield, PA), **Ashlee Miller** (Erie, PA), **Brandon O'Donnell** (Pittsburgh, PA), **Michelle Richey** (Carson, CA), **Jessica Roth** (Meadowlands, PA), and **Daniel Williams** (Kane, PA).

Congratulations to All!

Beth McMullen's Senior Project has since been published by the Clearfield County Visitors Bureau. On online version of the project is available at their website:

www.visitclearfieldcounty.org

Check it Out!

The Premier of Pompeii

In the spring of 2010 the History Department premiered a film: ***Pompeii: a City Uncovered.***

The film is the first in a series of educational films that will showcase the varied talents and leadership of History students and faculty in producing educational videos featuring Mercyhurst College students and faculty across disciplinary boundaries.

The project was a collaborative effort between the His-



tory, Graphic Arts, Geology, and Music Departments.

The film is part of a new program being developed by

Dr. Randall Howarth that is tentatively entitled the Mercyhurst Film Institute. Dr. Howarth has been integrating film making projects

into his upper division classes since arriving at Mercyhurst twelve years ago.

The next project ***Eleanor of Aquitaine: the Most Powerful Woman in Medieval Europe*** is already in pre-production, and will use on site footage gathered in Europe in the fall of 2011 and the combined talents of at least four other departments at Mercyhurst College. It is slated to premier at Mercyhurst in May of 2012.

Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference at the Hurst

On April 10, 2010, the Alpha Eta Alpha the Mercyhurst Chapter of the national history honors society, Phi Alpha Theta, hosted its very first Regional History Conference.

The Department welcomed some 120 visitors to the campus that day, with 66 papers from 13 different institutions from across Western Pennsylvania, Western New York, and West Virginia. The conference was an opportunity for students to present their work and engage with others in their own discipline, in a day filled with exploration, analysis, and even some fun.



Student paper topics ranged from Ancient history, to U.S. Labor issues, to Popular and Material Culture, and even Music and Propaganda. Presenters from Mercyhurst included **Caro-**

lyn Carlins, Alyssa Magnone, Jenna Wheaton, Elizabeth Eidnier and Ashley Harper.

The conference was definitely an opportunity for

students of history to show their stuff and shine. Prizes were awarded for the best paper presentation in each session, and Mercyhurst Students Jenna Wheaton and Ashley Harper were among the award winners.

The conference keynote speaker was Dr. Kenneth Orosz, from Buffalo State University, who discussed "Bibles, Bogart, and Bravado: A Cameroon Connection to C.S. Forester's *African Queen?*"

In all, it was a great day for the Mercyhurst College History Department, marking the success and growth of Phi Alpha

Dr. Belovarac Takes to the High Seas

Dr. Belovarac was invited by the Sea Education Association (SEA) on a one week cruise in French Polynesia in early January as one of the crew on their tall ship, the *Robert C. Seamans*.

The SEA, affiliated with Boston University, sponsors the Semester at Sea program in which students earn seventeen credits studying maritime history and culture, science and oceanography at their campus in



Woods Hole MA for six weeks, after which they con-

tinue their studies at sea on one of their tall ships. Stu-

dents literally sail the ship as an integral part of the crew and complete an individual research project while at sea. During his voyage, the ship visited Tahiti, Moorea, and Raiatea.

The SEA program is open to students from all majors. Anyone interested in learning more about this fascinating program should contact Dr. Belovarac. It is truly an experience of a lifetime!

History Majors Blogging for the College

In Fall 2010, Mercyhurst College, in junction with the Admissions Department and the Public Relations Office, debuted a series of student blogs on the school's website. Two of the participants in the project are History majors **Steven Bukowski** (Depew, NY) and **Meghan Keener** (Bay Village, OH).

The project was actually the brainchild of the Ambassadors Club. According to Meghan, "It started because the Ambassadors wanted a new way to reach prospective students on a personal and student level. They can see the campus on a tour or the website, but they still don't know what it's REALLY like to be a student at Mercyhurst." Steven, who is Co-Chair of the

Ambassador's Communications Committee which developed the program, agrees. "The intent is to showcase what student life is *really* like at Mercyhurst. We didn't want a sugar-coated, PR-approved idyllic portrait of student life to show to prospective students, and we feel that this approach gives each person considering the school a fair snapshot of what goes on here on the hill."

Both have enjoyed the experience so far, finding it very rewarding. "It's fun for us bloggers to keep a record of our life here, the good and the bad," says Meghan, "and it's really cool knowing that people from all over can read our blogs." She especially likes looking at the stats and seeing people

from all over the world read about life at Mercyhurst. Steven also likes the global aspect of the project, noting that his blog has been viewed by readers in Canada, Russia, Germany, Ireland and other European states. Yet he also realizes that it's not just about entertainment, that there is a responsibility that comes with writing his blog. "It's empowering to think that what we write can either convince or dissuade a student from choosing Mercyhurst," says Bukowski. "Of course we are as tactful as we can, but I'm very proud that our writing doesn't deviate from our original goal: providing a *real* snapshot of life as a student at Mercyhurst College."



www.mercyhurst.edu/admissions/student-blogs/

Alumni Spotlight: Bethany Canfield

Among the first of the Department's Public History graduates, **Bethany Canfield** (2007) is working as a historian in the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office. Following her passion for the Civil War history, after her freshman year Bethany completed an internship for the National Park Service working in historical interpretation at Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park. The following summer she completed a second interpretive internship with the Park Service, this time at Gettysburg National Military Park, after which she also attended the Gettysburg Semester at Gettysburg College. Bethany's Senior Project in Public History, a regional driving and walking tour of Civil War-related sites in northwest



Bethany at Camp Alleghany

Pennsylvania, is being published in 2011 to help commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

After graduation, Bethany enrolled in the Applied History Masters Degree program at Shippensburg Uni-

versity. While there, she returned to Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park for a seasonal appointment while also completing three more internships at the Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA.

Following her graduation from Shippensburg, Bethany earned the position in the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office. Her work there involves reviewing nominations of properties for the National Register of Historic Places, traveling throughout the state to review and consider historic properties, and assisting the public with inquiries and consultation on the historic preservation process.

Public History Internships



Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens

Continuing a strong track record of internship placement by Mercyhurst Public History students, during the summer of 2010 our students completed internships at a wide range of impressive sites: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens (**Alyssa Magnone**), the U.S. Brig Niagara and Erie Maritime

Museum (**Jenna Wheaton** and **Douglas Buettner**), the James A. Garfield National Historic Site (**Elizabeth Kostrencic**), and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (**Caitlin Connick**). Gaining invaluable experiential credit at these facilities, our students helped to fashion museum

exhibits, gave tours for the public, and conducted research on exhibit and educational projects. Although not completely finalized at this writing, this summer's destinations will include **Chelsea Morris** heading off to New York's Fort Stanwix National Monument.

Faculty News & Notes

In September, **Dr. Allan Belovarac** presented a paper entitled, *Battle of Lake Erie Reconsidered: The Vindication of Jesse D. Elliott* at the Ninth Maritime Heritage Conference sponsored by the National Maritime History Association in Baltimore, MD. While there, he also moderated a panel of presenters on merchant shipping in the 19th century. Held every three years, this conference provides an opportunity for scholars and members of local, national, and international maritime heritage and preservation organizations to meet, exchange ideas about issues affecting the broader community.

Dr. Randall Howarth is the lead organizer for Mercyhurst's hosting of the Association of Ancient Historians meeting here at Mercy-

hurst in May of 2011. Over 100 Ancient History scholars from around the world will meet here for three days in May to discuss a variety of ancient History topics. The event will feature a keynote address by Professor Larry Tritle, a decorated Viet Nam War Veteran and widely published scholar in the History of Warfare. Tritle is Professor at Loyola Marymount University. Dr. Howarth also recently had published in an edited volume *Hearsay, History, and Heresy* (Gorgias Press).

Dr. John Olszowka, in Fall 2010, offered a new History based course entitled *American Life in the 1930s*. The course is part of new college wide initiative designed to engage incoming freshmen.

The goal is to expose students to the academic life of the campus and foster a understanding of the intellectual connections between different academic disciplines. *American Life* looked to examine the 1930s in depth focusing on a mix of issues of politics, society, culture, media, and the arts. Dr. Olszowka also reviewed *On the Ground* for the journal *Labor History*. The review appeared in the Fall edition.

Dr. Chris Magoc, History Department Chair and Associate Dean of the School of Social Sciences, has completed work on his fifth book. Published by ABC-CLIO Press in the spring of 2011, *A Chronology of Americans and the Environment* offers a multi-disciplinary

overview of U. S. environmental history by way of several hundred annotated events and key moments in the public lives of important figures from Benjamin Franklin to Rachel Carson. Magoc was very fortunate to have **Beth McMullen** serve as his Research Assistant on the project during the 2009-10 school year. Beth conducted research on many of the events and people comprising the political and cultural history of Americans' relationship with the environment, and many of her entries ultimately found their way into the book. Magoc is currently beginning work on his next project (ABC-CLIO-Praeger), a post-1945 U. S. history textbook.

Remembering Mercyhurst's Past...

1922 – the Sisters of Mercy purchase the land on Cooper Road (now east 38th Street).

1926 – Mercyhurst College opened its doors with Mother Borgia Egan as president.

1933 – the grotto (designed by the first Chaplain, Father William Sullivan) is finished.

1933 – the chapel and the O'Neill tower were finished.

1952 – the gates are installed at the entrance to the college.

1953 – Weber Hall and the "Taylor Little Theatre" finished; Preston Hall constructed.

1968 – Zurn Hall dedicated.

1988 – D'Angelo school of music constructed.

1990 – Sister Carolyn Hermann student center built.

1996 – Performing arts center opens

1996 – Tullio Field opens on campus for football

2002 – Audrey Hirt Academic Center opens.



Alumni News

David Ryan Novicki (2005) recently led the complete restoration of the Billiard Room at the Watson-Curtze Mansion in Erie. Serving as Curator of the Erie County Historical Society, Novicki painstakingly executed this project with the help of two other Mercyhurst history students, **Michele Richey** and **Elizabeth Malec** (2010). The Billiard Room's restoration to its former glory was the highlight of Novicki's two-year tenure at the post. . . .

George Deutsch (2005) recently presented a lecture at Edinboro University entitled, "President Abraham Lincoln and Chief Justice Roger Taney: The Great Antagonists." Deutsch has published multiple articles on the 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and Commodore Oliver H. Perry's Flagship *Niagara*, which played a critical role in the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie. Deutsch designed the wayside marker about Strong Vincent and Joshua Chamberlain on Gettysburg's Little Round Top, worked to erect Vincent's statue in Erie, and led the effort to restore Erie County's Civil War monument. He also helped to lead

the conservation of the 83rd and 145th Pennsylvania's battle flags now preserved in the Erie Library. Deutsch annually teaches Civil War



David Novicki in the billiards room at the Watson-Curtze Mansion

history courses at the Chautauqua Institute in New York and has led more than two dozen battlefield tours for roundtable and university groups. He is currently co-authoring a book on the 83rd Pennsylvania.

Kaitlin Ammon (2007), Curator for the Sam Bell Maxey House in Paris, Texas, is working on a reconstruction project at the site, as well as leading the ongoing development of museum exhibits, education programs, and improved collections management.

Cory Ryan King (2005, History, Social Studies Education) is a Learning Support and Middle School Math Teacher in York,

being a coaching coach at York College. He is happily married and glad to be teaching in Pennsylvania again.

.After serving as a LaSallian Volunteer (teaching social studies) for two years in Tulsa, Oklahoma **Zachary Ufnar** (2007) is Coordinator of Recruitment for LaSallian Volunteers and living in Washington DC. .

Megan Rulli (2008) completed her first year as a founding partner of Wild Winds farm, an organic, community-supported farm in North East, Pennsylvania. Megan was the winner of the McQuillen Award in 2008 and also, on the strength of her work with the Green Team, recipient of the prestigious Carpe Diem award.

Pennsylvania. After leaving Mercyhurst, Cory completed his M.A. in Special Education at a Cambridge College branch campus in Chesapeake, Virginia. He also serves as an assistant wres-

ALUMNI: Please send us news about where you are and what you are doing. We would love to include your news in the next newsletter. Please send to jolszowka@mercyhurst.edu.

History Club on the Road

The year is proving to be a busy one for the Mercyhurst History Club.

First, in mid-October at the height of the fall foliage, Dr Al. Belovarac took members of the History Club and other interested students on a tour of the Erie Cemetery. He examined the evolution of funerary art and how gravestone design reflected cultural attitudes towards death over the past two centuries. Additionally, he guided students through the early history of Erie by visiting the graves of its pioneers, military heroes, and 19th century community



leaders.

Dr. Belovarac will also be leading a second trip for the Club. Billed as “A Night at

the Museum,” the History Club will be a treated to a behind the scenes evening tour of the Watson-Curtze Mansion in Downtown

Erie. The trip is slated for mid-March.

Then in April, Steve Bukowski is coordinating a trip to Western New York. On the trip students will spend the day at Old Fort Niagara. Afterwards, members will stop in Buffalo for a dinner at the Anchor Bar, “home of the original chicken wings.”

Anyone interested in the trips to the Watson-Curtze Mansion or Ft. Niagara is asked to contact Elizabeth Eidnier at:

(eeidni46@lakers.mercyhurst.edu)

Student News & Notes

This spring’s Senior Public History projects include some fascinating work.

Caitlin Connick is developing a prototype exhibit interpreting metal artifacts recently recovered from the Laundresses’ Quarters of Cantonment Burgwin, a mid-nineteenth century U.S. Army frontier fort located in Taos, New Mexico, where the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute (MAI) has been conducting field work for the past two years. Caitlin will tell the story of

Cantonment Burgwin and offer an interpretive illustrated analysis of the metal artifacts.

Alyssa Magnone will produce a similar exhibit featuring the ceramics she has been cataloging from Cantonment Burgwin.

Senior **Caitlin Toner** is currently producing an exhibit commemorating the approaching centennial of *Greater Erie, Plans and Reports for the Extension and Improve-*

ment for the City of Erie. Generally known locally as “The Nolen Plan,” the 1913 document was produced by the famous landscape architect and city planner, John Nolen. The Nolen Plan’s emphasis on smart urban design will be receiving special attention in the next couple of years as the Erie Center for Design and Preservation (ECDP, chaired by the History Department’s Dr. Magoc) seeks to engage community partners in a discussion about the impor-

tance of the region’s historic built landscape in the ongoing redevelopment of greater Erie. Plans call for Toner’s exhibit to be displayed at select locations in the community.

Jenna Wheaton is developing a preservation and interpretation plan for the extant remains of the Erie Extension Canal, which coursed through and served as the economic lifeblood of

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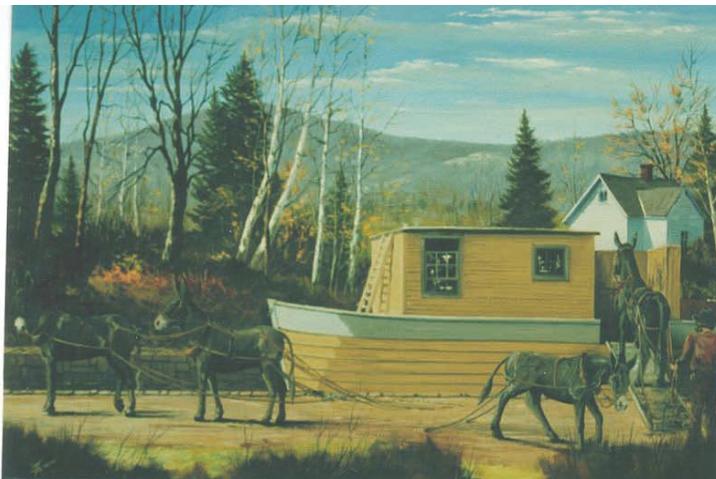
"Thanks to my Public History classes, I was able to fulfill three National Park Service Internships, pursue a Master's Degree in Applied History at Shippensburg University, and receive a Seasonal Park Ranger position at Fredericksburg Spotsylvania National Military Park." ~Bethany Canfield (2007)

Student News (cont.)

northwestern Pennsylvania in the mid-nineteenth century. She is producing a driving and walking tour as part of her project.

Beth Kostrencic is at work producing a thoroughly researched, annotated and heavily color-illustrated 2012 calendar spotlighting the history of Mercyhurst College—its people, places, architecture, and development as a Mercy institution of higher learning since its founding in 1926.

Finally, next fall, students in Dr. Magoc's Introduction to Public History class will be engaged in gathering the



Postcard of Erie Extension Canal, c.19th.

Jenna Wheaton will be documenting and interpreting the remnants of the Erie Extension Canal for her Senior Project.

oral and community history of Girard, Pennsylvania. Mercyhurst College owns a

405-acre piece of property in Girard, site of the former Divine Word Seminary.

Students in Magoc's class will be conducting interviews and going through old photographs and archives as part of a larger sustainable community development project being spearheaded by a partnership of community leaders and Mercyhurst faculty and staff. More to come on this exciting project in our next issue.

Douglas Buettner's senior public history project has been to help create a fascinating exhibit at the Erie Maritime Museum centered on the craft and heritage of wooden duck decoy carvers in northwest Pennsylvania. The exhibit opens this spring.