



# History Newsletter

Spring 2008

## History Department to Welcome New Faculty

Dr. Jennifer Denetdale will join the History Department beginning in Fall 2008. Originally from Tohatchi, New Mexico on the Navajo Nation, Jennifer Denetdale is the first Diné to hold a Ph.D. in history. She received her doctorate from Northern Arizona University in 1999. She has been awarded several fellowships including the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship and the Katrin H. Lamon Fellowship from the School of American Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She was just promoted to associate professor of history at the University of New Mexico.



**Dr. Jennifer Denetdale**

Professor Denetdale's first book, *Reclaiming Diné History: The Legacies of Diné Chief Manuelito and Juanita*, was published by the University of Arizona Press in 2007 and so far has received positive reviews from her fellow Diné. Her articles have appeared in *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *Wicazo Sa Review*, and the *New Mexico Historical Review*. She also published an interview with Vine Deloria, Jr. in the *Journal of Social Archaeology*. Her book for young adults, *The Long Walk: The Forced Navajo Exile*, was published in 2008 by Chelsea House.

Denetdale is very proud that in September 2007, the Navajo Nation Council speaker Laurence Morgan honored her during his "Honoring All Women" events and recognized her commitment to the Navajo Nation. In service to the Navajo Nation, she is a member of the advisory board for the Diné Policy Institute, Diné College, Tsaile, Arizona. The Institute is charged with examining what it means to return to Diné traditions as the foundation for Diné government, education, and other areas of community and nation. Dr. Denetdale's current research project is a history of Navajo women, which highlights her interest in Navajo women, gender, and the politics of tradition.

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The History Department will also welcome two other new faculty members in Fall, 2008. The department anticipates the arrival of a British Empire scholar and a professor in History and Social Studies Education.

## New Members of the History Department

In the fall, the History Department welcomed two new members! Mark and Judy McNicholas welcomed their son, Joseph, into the world in September. Leilah Danielson and Eric Meeks welcomed Mira Meeks to their family in October. Mom, Dad, big brother Adin and Mira are all doing very well!



**Mira Meeks**

## History Graduate Awarded Gold Axe Award

**O**utstanding History student, Jason Naaktgeboren, was one of 16 December 2007 graduates to be presented with the Gold Axe in recognition of their achievements. The tradition of the Gold Axe Award dates back to 1933, a year after the student body adopted an axe as the symbol for Lumberjack athletics.



**Jason Naaktgeboren**

## Welcome New Graduate Students

**T**he History Department is pleased to welcome the following students who began the program this academic year!

Laura Adelia  
Khaled Al-Bateni  
Stephanie Capaldo  
Benjamin Carver  
Rachel Constance  
Jennie Duran  
Martin Flynn  
Elizabeth Grimes  
Corey Hartman  
Martin Kalb  
Kevin Lawton  
Steven Littleton  
James McCrea  
Jason Naaktgeboren  
Joyce Pollack  
Stephani Roberts  
Thomas Sousa  
Jennifer Spensieri  
Liu Yang

## 55th Annual Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies

**N**orthern Arizona University's Latin American Studies Program will host the 55th Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies in Flagstaff, Arizona Wednesday, April 9—Saturday, April 12, 2008. The RMCLAS Annual conference provides an opportunity for scholars and graduate students to share original research on Latin America across many disciplines, including Anthropology, Archaeology, Cultural Studies, Environmental Studies, Ethnomusicology, Film Studies, Gender Studies, History, Linguistics, Literature and Political Science.

RMCLAS is the oldest interdisciplinary Latin American Studies academic organization in the world, having been created in 1953 at the University of New Mexico. Other regional organizations soon followed RMCLAS' lead; the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), which sprang from the regionals, was founded in the 1960s.

The 2008 meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel and is being organized by NAU's Latin American Studies Committee. Professor

Robert Neustadt (Modern Languages) serves as the 2008 president of RMCLAS, and Professor Susan Deeds (History) is the Program Chair. More information on the conference is available at: [www.cal.nau.edu/LAS](http://www.cal.nau.edu/LAS) or [www.rmclas.org](http://www.rmclas.org).



**Dr. Susan Deeds,  
RMCLAS Program Chair**

## Valeen Tippetts Avery History Scholarship

This year, the History Department is pleased to be able to offer a new scholarship in honor of long-time faculty member, **Valeen T. Avery**.

The Valeen Tippetts Avery Scholarship is intended to provide financial support to a deserving undergraduate student. The fund was established by Dr. Avery's children in memory of her contribution to Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Avery was born in 1936 and grew up on a small ranch in Montana. She was the first person in her family to attend college and in 1959 she earned her bachelor's degree from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana. In 1981, with four young children at home in Flagstaff, she started her master's degree at NAU. Two years later, in 1983, she earned her Ph.D. and began her career as an NAU professor of history specializing in the American Southwest and Mormon history. In 1984, Dr. Avery co-authored with Lind King Newell *Mormon Enigma: Emma Hale Smith*, and in 1998 she wrote *From Mission to Madness: The Last Son of the Mormon Prophet*. Both biographies won Utah State University's prestigious Evan Biography Award for Best Western Biography.

Although bold and revered as a scholar of Mormon history, Dr. Avery felt that her teaching was her greatest contribution to the university. Dr. Avery was devoted to her students and had a unique ability to identify and help those most in need of her support and understanding. Dr. Avery touched the lives of many thousands of students at NAU. Student demonstrated their mutual respect for Dr. Avery when they selected her as the 2001 Homecoming Dedicatee.



## History Scholarships Available

The History Department offers a variety of scholarship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Scholarship applications are in the History Department office, LA 219. Scholarships are awarded based on a variety of criteria, including research interest, need, and/or merit. Please visit <http://www4.nau.edu/finaid/> and click on "Types of Aid" for more information.

## NAU Celebrates International Women's Day

To mark the celebrations for International Women's Day on campus, NAU will host a series of panels and a film screening on March 3rd. One of the panels will be devoted to discussing gender related issues that impact Native American communities. The other two panels will seek to understand conversations among feminist scholars that crosses various political, cultural, and intellectual borders to build a collective critical consciousness and communities in order to better understand the complex and multiple issues that impact women's lives.

Four visiting scholars will present and participate in the panels: Professors Shery Lutjens, Andrea Smith, Jennifer Denetdal, and Angela Wilson. NAU faculty (Professors Frances Reimer, Geeta Chowdhry, Sheila Nair, Irene Matthews, Monica Brown, Doreen Martinez, Heather Martel, and Sanjam Ahluwalia) will be presenting their work at the one day conference.

## Alumni News

Debra Redsteer, BS '07, has moved to California and accepted a position working in the History Department and for the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at Cal State Fullerton. She explains that her degree in history for NAU helped her get her positions.

# Faculty Updates

## **Sanjam Ahluwalia**

Fall semester was particularly rewarding, my monograph, *Reproductive Restraints: History of Birth Control in Colonial India: 1877-1946*, was finally published from University of Illinois Press. I also await the Indian edition of my book that is scheduled to be published later this year from Permanent Press, New Delhi, India. Of course, the rest of the academic year and beyond, will be spent fretting about the post-publication life of my book, who says what, where, and how the book is received in my field! In the Spring semester I will continue to work on organizing the one day conference on March 3rd to celebrate International Women's Day.

## **Michael Amundson**

Michael Amundson received a Resident Fellowship from the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming for the summer of 2007 to conduct documentary photographic fieldwork on a rephotography project that he began while as an undergraduate at the University of Wyoming twenty years earlier. Mike drove more than 6000 miles around Wyoming in 5 weeks, painstakingly revisiting more than 70 sites that pioneer Wyoming photographer J.E. Stimson had first photographed taken between 1898 and 1920, and that Mike had first rephotographed in 1987-1988. The highlight of the summer was spending a week in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Mike will finish the project in summer 2008 and then plans to write a new book analyzing the environmental, cultural, and social change that his images captured.

## **Charles Connell**

Dr. Charles Connell had an article published in *Sehnsucht* on the medievalism on CS Lewis. He has papers accepted for presentations at three conferences: The annual ACMRS Conference in Tempe, AZ in February; the International Medieval Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan in May; and the Society

for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East Congress in Avignon, France in August. Dr. Connell will be on leave in the spring, writing three chapters of a book on medieval public opinion, which will be the focus of these conference papers.

## **Leilah Danielson**

Leilah Danielson recently had an article accepted to the leading interdisciplinary journal in U.S. religious studies, *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*. The article is entitled "The Day of the Lord is here and it is a Day of Judgment': Christianity and American Radicalism in the Early Years of the Cold War". It is expected to be published this summer.

## **Susan Deeds**

Susan Deeds continues to work on two research projects related to colonial northern Mexico and will be giving papers at two conferences in spring 2008. She will present "Viviendas, Rustic Spaces, and Social Interactions in Nueva Vizcaya," at the Third Annual Colonial Studies Colloquium, *Interdisciplinary Methods in Colonial Studies: Nature and Society in the Americas*, to be held at the University of New Mexico in March. In April, she will present a paper on water and environmental history in Mexico's colonial north at the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies meeting. She is also serving as vice president and program chair for that meeting which will take place in Flagstaff, April 9-12. Current professional activities include participation as an evaluator for National Endowment for the Humanities collaborative research programs on the Americas and membership on two prize committees: the Conference on Latin American History's Elinor Melville Prize Committee for the best book on Latin American environmental history and the William P. Clements Prize for the best non-fiction book on Southwestern America.

## **Paul Dutton**

Dr. Dutton's latest book, *Differential Diagnoses, a comparative history of health care in the U.S. and France from the early 20th century to the present day*, is receiving substantial attention

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from the media and the scholarly community. Dutton has given 30 interviews to radio, television, and print journalists since the book's release in September. He also published an op-ed piece in the Boston Globe and has received speaking invitations from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, the French American Foundation in New York, and France's Ministry of Health in Paris. Professor Dutton is now co-editing a book on international health care systems for Cornell University Press. He is also working with President John Haeger to create an interdisciplinary health policy institute at NAU.

### **Lomayumtewa Ishii**

Dr. Lomayumtewa C. Ishii has a split appointment between the Applied Indigenous Studies department and the History Department. This semester he teaches HIS 293: American Indian History, HIS 505/HIS 605: Readings/Research in American Indian History, and AIS 350: Research Issues in Applied Indigenous Studies. His current research centers on indigenous-centered historiography. He is completing several articles for publication and is revising his research design that he has been developing over several years. He continues to conduct a Hopi History summer proseminar for the Hopi Tribe in conjunction with the Hopi Lavayi Language Program. Recently, he has provided a seminar on history with Diné College, a lecture on indigenous-centered history at the Tuba City Family Conference, and will be presenting a paper at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Conference in Athens, Georgia this spring. He is also engaged in writing, recording, and producing his original music.

### **Sanjay Joshi**

Sanjay Joshi has spent most of the year, in exhausted delight, with his toddler daughter, Aeka. On the professional front, an article "Virtually There: Cricket, Community, and Commerce on the Internet" was published in the *International Journal of the History of Sport* in September 2007. Another article has been submitted to the *Journal of Asian Studies*. He

continues to work on completing the administrative formalities associating with submitting his edited book on the Middle Class in Colonial India to Oxford University Press. The research for his major project on the middle class family is complete, and Sanjay is looking for opportunities that may allow him a length of time to begin writing up that work. It has been a busy year on the administrative side. He serves as Director of the Asian Studies Program, and in addition to other duties at NAU, has been appointed to chair the South Asia Caucus (SAC) at the American Historical Association. The SAC had its first, very successful, meeting at the AHA in Jan. 2008, and has more ambitious plans for the next annual meeting of the AHA in New York in 2009.

### **David Kitterman**

Dr. Kitterman enjoyed a Fulbright Summer Seminar Fellowship spent in Brussels, Belgium and Berlin, Germany last June. The Seminar studied Germany and the European Union, its expansion, successes and problems needing resolution. It also investigated the international relations of Germany, the European Union and the United States. The contacts made and the discussions with academics and politicians at the EU and in Germany were extremely valuable. This semester he is leading a graduate readings course on World War Two: British, German, Soviet Union's and USA's Experience, along with a senior-level course on Russia and the Soviet Union focusing on its revolutions in the twentieth century.

### **Cynthia Kosso**

Cynthia Kosso just had an article come out in *Journal of Roman Archaeology* (M. Jackson... and others), titled "Geological observations of excavated sand (harenae fossicae) used as fine aggregate in Roman pozzolanic mortars" in the December 2008 volume. Her book review of "Conservation of Ruins" was published in the December volume of the *Construction History Newsletter*. Collaborating with Anne Scott, Cynthia has finished the manuscript titled *The Nature and Function of Water, Baths, Bathing and Hygiene from Antiquity to the Early Modern*

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Period, and it will be published by Brill sometime in 2008.

### **John Leung**

Dr. Leung had a rough year in regard to health issues, having survived two stomach surgeries and one eye surgery. Nonetheless, he made significant progress in the area of curriculum development, teaching two new undergraduate courses: HIS 498 (The History and Historiography of the Samurai) and HIS 399 (Feudal Japan); and one graduate seminar, HIS 560 (China and the Sea). Also, he developed another new undergraduate course which is being taught in Spring 2008, HIS 460 (China and the West). He presented a paper in September, 2007 at the Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies at the University of Utah. The title of the paper was *The Demimonde and Revolution in China*.

### **George Lubick**

Last year was the end of a National Science Foundation grant that covered research on the history of ecological restoration in the United States—a project undertaken with my colleague William R. Jordan, III, of the New Academy for Nature and Culture in Illinois. Early in the year, we wrote an annual report covering 2006; in the fall we added another, more extensive, final report that pulled together our findings over the two-and-a-half years of work on the project. Thanks to NSF funding, we have completed about 60 percent of a book-length monograph on twentieth-century ecological restoration in this country. Further we also developed some of the critical historical precedents for environmental preservation and restoration from the Middle Ages through the nineteenth century. In all we have produced drafts of six chapters and are now shopping around for a publisher.

### **Heather Martel**

In addition to teaching courses on U.S. women, gender and sexuality and early modern Atlantic world history, Dr. Martel is currently writing an article on homoeroticism and power in visual and textual representations of sixteenth-century cultural encounters between the Timucua Indians

of Florida and French Huguenots in their failed attempt to colonize the region.

### **Eric Meeks**

Eric Meeks' book, *Border Citizens: The Making of Indians, Mexicans, and Anglos in Arizona*, was published with The University of Texas Press (Austin) in October 2007.

### **Margaret Morley**

Dr. Morley has been teaching courses for undergraduates, specifically Introduction to History and Writing. Her History 200 students had a good time exploring history as fun, inspired by local historians Richard and Sherry Mangnum.

### **Scott Reese**

Scott Reese's book, *Renewers of the Age: Holy Men and Social Discourse in Colonial Benaadir* will be published this spring by E.J. Brill. Also, his article "The "Respectable Citizens" of Shaykh Uthman: Religious Discourse, Translocality and the Construction of Local Contexts in Colonial Aden," has appeared in the edited volume, *Struggling with History: Islam and Cosmopolitanism in the Western Indian Ocean*, Kai Kresse and Ed Simpson eds. published by Hurst and Columbia University Press. This is also the first volume in the series, *Society and History in the Indian Ocean* published by Hurst of which he is a series editor.

### **Lindsay Wilson**

Lindsay Wilson presented a paper entitled, "Diversity in Science: Nationality, Gender and Method. Marie Bonaparte and the Paris Society of Psychoanalysis," to the Rocky Mountain European Scholars Consortium at ASU in October. She will be developing these ideas further during her sabbatical in 2008-9 as she continues work on her book in progress, *Found in Translation: The Role of Women Intellectuals in Transmitting and Transforming Scientific Ideas in France, 1730-1960*.

# History Graduate Student Immerses Herself in Mexican Culture

By Kendra Moore

I recently spent three months in Cuernavaca, Mexico learning Spanish. My experience was incredible. Not only did I get to learn a new language, but I also got to experience life on the other side of the



Kendra Moore, left, with other program members.

border. I had the opportunity to live with a family and immerse myself in the culture. I went to school from 8-2 everyday and, during my time off, traveled to different parts of the country. I visited Mexico City, San Miguel de Allende, Queretaro, Teotihuacan, Tenochtitlan, Tepoztlan, and Xochicalco to name a few cities and sites. In addition, I spent five days traveling around the state of Oaxaca and helping the “green” and “white” turtles on their migration.

While I enjoyed traveling and living like a tourist in a foreign country, it was the things I learned about the Mexican people during my travels that changed my life for the better. In the traditional Nahua village called Quentepec, I learned joys and sadness of attempting to preserve an indigenous culture in the face of modernism and globalism. I also learned the reality of poverty and the beauty of creating traditional Olmec pottery. In the Oaxacan cities of Mazunte, Oaxaca City, and Chacaua, I learned the realities of poverty in a state largely ignored by the Mexican government and the family devastation that has occurred due to the migration for wage labor. I also learned the beauty of grassroots activism and hope, however, through reading the flyers posted by the locals which aimed to educate about domestic abuse, immigration, environmental protection, and the importance of education. In the streets of Cuernavaca, I

learned about the extreme separation of wealth that exists in Mexican culture. I saw the wealthy members of the government in their BMWs and Jaguars contrasted next to the street vendors, shop owners, and the average Mexican worker who makes the equivalent of \$4.50 a day. I questioned whether or not I would attempt to cross into a new territory if I knew it meant better wages and a better future for my family.



I will cherish my first experience in Mexico for the rest of my life. It left me filled with joy, sadness, and hope. I went there a fearful American tourist and returned a woman with strong emotional and social connections to both sides of the border. As I continue my research in the U.S./Mexico Borderlands, crime, and victimization for my dissertation, I am thrilled that I will be able to return to my new home over and over again for my research. I am also thrilled to be able to share my experiences and lessons learned with both my students and my peers.

## Congratulations to Mark McNicholas

Dr. McNicholas obtained his doctorate in in East Asian history (emphasis China) at Berkeley in December. His research foci are crime, law and society, and especially interactions between commoners and the state in late imperial China (1600-1911). At NAU, Dr. McNicholas has taught world history surveys and upper-level courses in Asian history, as well as HIS 200. Dr. McNicholas' dissertation title is "Forgery and Impersonation in Late Imperial China: Popular Appropriations of Official Authority, 1700-1820." In addition, his article, "Poverty Tales and Statutory Politics in Mid-Qing Fraud Cases," has just been published in Robert E. Hegel and Katherine Carlitz, eds., *Writing and Law in Late Imperial China* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2007).



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