Dear graduate students,

Yes, summer is almost here! Final papers and research presentations of one sort or another are bringing the spring semester fast to a close! And behold, you are reading the last issue of our Graduate Students Newsletter for 2017-18.

In this issue is plenty of exciting news about our students – accomplishments and milestones in their academic journeys. There is also a lot of important information for you as you sit down to plan for the summer and the semester ahead. So read on…

Wing Chung Ng

PS. Your GAR has planned for a short family vacation in the Pacific Northwest in late May, but otherwise will be around should you need to see me; just drop me a line for an appointment a week or two in advance.

Publicity Blast!!!

If you haven’t heard it on TPR, you should be pleased to know that the History MA Program is a proud sponsor of the “Tricentennial Moments.” You can hear periodic underwriting messages about us on the station for the next several weeks.
GOOD NEWS … Yes, we have plentiful!

The following students have passed their comprehensive examinations this semester: Jessica Ceeko, Michael McDonald, Mary Ledbetter-Gallagher, Abdul Kuba, Brandon Trevino (High Pass), Jackson Dailey, and Benjamin Medellin. They will be either walking the stage at the spring commencement to receive their degree or wrapping up over the summer. What a group! We will miss all of them.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Jessica Ceeko has been admitted to the History PhD program at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas with full funding starting this fall! We now add to the list of successful placement Abdul Kuba, who will begin his doctoral study in the Trans-Atlantic history program at The University of Texas at Arlington with a generous financial package.

One of our MA graduates Rikki Reiss Betting recently passed her dissertation defense at the University of Houston. Her dissertation title is "Imperial Counterparts: North Atlantic Women's Travels in the Caribbean and Mexico, 1800-1860." Congrats Rikki!!!

Kuba won the second place prize for research papers in the graduate student category at the COLFA research conference in March.

The Graduate Committee has made its selection for the Nau Fellowships for incoming students and the Nau Teaching Assistantships for 2018-19. The Department is in the process of notifying the recipients. Full details will be available at the year-end award ceremony scheduled for Friday, May 11, 5-7pm. Stay tuned.
Meanwhile, note that application for the first-year fellowship has a rolling deadline; if you know of someone who is thinking about applying for admission to our MA this fall and has an excellent academic record, let the person know about this award.

Taking a class in the summer is a good way to manage your course load, especially if you foresee some significant assignments at school or at work in the coming year. This summer we are glad to offer:

5313 South Texas: Rural and Urban by Elaine Turney
5193 US since the Great Depression by Jerry Gonzalez

Check them out, and don’t wait to sign up as the university uses enrollment data to track student interest and make decision on class availability. Summer will also be a good time to pursue an internship. See the list of potential hosts with contact information on the department website (http://colfa.utsa.edu/history/internships).

The following is a list of our graduate offering for the fall. Registration has begun, and again, don’t wait.

5003 Theories and Methods (Kelly) Tuesday
5323 US-Mexico Border (G. Gonzalez) Thursday
6153 History and Sexuality (Hardgrove) Monday *downtown
6323 Comparative Environment History (Baumgardner) Wednesday
6813 Proseminar on Migration History (Ng) Tuesday
To give you an idea of what to expect from a graduate course, I have asked Dr. Hardgrove to offer a quick sketch of her seminar on History and Sexuality (6153):

“Did you know that the Puritans had the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in American history? Come explore this fascinating topic and learn a new approach to historical analysis.

History of Sexuality examines major issues and themes in the historical study of sexuality, looking at a variety of case studies from the 18th century to the present. The class is comparative, with geographical emphasis on the United States and India. Students will choose a topic of their own choosing as a focus. But instead of a research paper, students will be introduced to the art and science of developing a grant proposal as their final project.

A handful of students who have taken this course have gone onto PhD programs, and report back that this course was one of the most useful in developing research projects AND getting funding to do them.”

For those who are thinking about taking the comps in the fall, the date has been set for Friday, October 5. You need to turn in your completed form (available at http://colfa.utsa.edu/history/masters) to Dr. Ng by Monday, May 14. If you are not sure how to sign up for comps, or have just about any questions about your degree plan, don’t hesitate to contact Dr. Ng.

Finally, if you are thinking about conferences for next year, here are two to consider.

The 2018 annual meeting of the Western History Association, October 17-20, San Antonio; submission for a poster session has its deadline on Sunday, May 15, 2018.


*Flyers for both conferences are attached with the newsletter.