Dear graduate students,

I never would have thought to use snowflake for the décor of our newsletter, and that is until this week! Let me extend a very warm welcome to you all for the spring semester, especially for those who are not used to dealing with freezing temperature.

The department is gearing up for a busy semester: our spring speaker’s series and the scheduled visits of our job candidates are just around the corner; the graduate committee is working through catalog revisions as I am finishing up this newsletter; and a good number of you are preparing for comps and graduation this term.

As usual, we try to provide you with useful and time-sensitive information here in the newsletter, so read on.

Wing Chung Ng

Speaker’s Series

WE are kicking off our spring speaker’s series this coming Friday, Jan 26, with a research seminar by Professor Chen Yao of Xiamen University, China. His talk, “China’s Rise: A Case for Constructing International Trust Power” will be at 3-4pm (MH 4.02.40).

We are also organizing a taco’s breakfast for graduate students that morning at 9:30-10:30 to meet and greet our speaker! Please RSVP about the breakfast by Monday, Jan 22, to Dr. Ng so we can order enough food for everyone.
The History Department will host two additional events featuring visiting speakers in February and March. Stay-tuned for more information.

You will be pleased to know that our search to fill the pre-Civil War U.S. history position is proceeding smoothly. We very much would like to have the candidates meet with our graduate students when they come on campus for the interviews. It may be on short notice but we will send out information/invitation as soon as possible. Check you email.

We are rolling out the 2-step comprehensive exam this spring. Several students are signed up to do the first part of the exam in the format of an oral presentation of their seminar research projects on Monday, Feb 5, at 6pm (in conjunction with LaGuana Gray’s class MS 2.02.20). Fellow graduate students are welcome to attend for the experience and to show support!

For students planning to graduate this spring, make sure to apply for graduation by February 15. Contact Roschelle Kelly if you have any question.
If you think the cold weather is freezing your brain, it is not too early to ponder about a few things for the summer… check out the following on graduate classes, study abroad and a fabulous fellowship opportunity:

**Grad classes in summer of 2018:**

First Summer Session (May 30- July 6) MTWRF 6:00-7:30 PM  
HIS 6483 - Comparative Genocide with Dr. Kolleen Guy  
Second Summer Session (July 7-Aug 12) MTWRF 6:00-7:30 PM  
Course TBD – Dr. Jerry Gonzalez

**Research opportunity…Language study…**

Some of you may already know that the Oaxaca, Mexico, study abroad program has been deferred to the summer of 2018. This presents a unique opportunity for our students who desire first-hand archival research experience, even if you are not sure about a Mexican or Latin American history focus for your work. Financial support is available, especially if you act fast! I encourage you to check with Dr. Catherine Nolan-Ferrell for information.

**Summer fellowship**

**USDN Equity Diversity Inclusion Fellowship - Summer 2018**

The Global Philanthropy Partnership (GPP) and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) are pleased to offer six summer 2018 fellowship opportunities with local governments. Fellows will receive a valuable learning experience while helping local governments to advance their sustainability and inclusion goals.

2018 fellowships will be offered with the City of Austin (TX), City of Baltimore (MD), City of Eugene (OR) - coming soon, City of Fayetteville (AR), City of Milwaukee (WI), and City of San Antonio (TX).

Check out the link here: https://www.usdn.org/public/page/134/2018-USDN-Fellowship
On future conferences, I encourage you to check out the following:

The 122nd meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, to be held in San Marcos, March 8-10. [https://www.tshasecurepay.com/annual-meeting/](https://www.tshasecurepay.com/annual-meeting/) Especially if you are interested in Texas, borderlands, and the Southwest, it is an excellent opportunity to get to know the people in the field!

Then later in the same month, we have our own COLFA research conference at UTSA. History graduate students have always been well represented at this conference and have won numerous awards! Let’s do it again.