Dear graduate students,

Time flies and we are already more than half way through the fall semester. I hope in the midst of your busy schedule, you have found ways to connect with fellow students and the history faculty. A good number of you showed up at our semester’s first “Snack & Chat” a few weeks ago and enjoyed the food and conversation in an informal setting. Many of you were able to attend the gathering hosted by “Friends of History” to hear a presentation by Dr. Patrick Kelly. As you will see below, we will continue to provide similar opportunities for our community of historians and historians-in-training to thrive in one another’s company.

This issue features a recent alumna Alisa Hartsell who is currently pursuing her PhD in Geography at Texas State. You will also find information about the spring course schedule, a new initiative on travel support, the comprehensive exam, and graduate student conferences. Enjoy.

Hope you are having a great semester!

Wing Chung Ng, GAR

Graduate courses in the Spring 2018:

5093 Designing a History Course/Hardgrove/M 6pm *downtown
5153 Civil war & Reconstruction/Clinton/R 6pm
6173 Latinas/os in the U.S./Valerio-Jimenez/T 1pm
6463 Topics in African History/Gonzales/W 6pm
6903 Research Seminar in history/Gray/M 6pm

In addition, I encourage you to explore avenues like internships, teaching practicum, UG courses for GR credits, and non-History graduate courses. Whether this is your first or third semester with us, this will be a good opportunity to visit with Dr. Ng to review your course of study and plan for 2018!
Special event!!!!

On Monday, October 23, a recent MA graduate Fiona Foster will be our special guest at the next “Snack & Chat.” She will talk about her time at UTSA and, more importantly, how she has transitioned to a history doctoral program at the University of Mississippi. Door will be open at 5:30pm in the History Seminar Room (MH 4.04.26). It will be fun to hear Fiona’s first person account of her time as a Roadrunner and now an ABD (all but dissertation) at Ole Miss.

Alisa Hartsell

In the Master’s program, I set a career goal to become a professor. I wrote and prepared an article for journal publication in Pro-seminar and Research Seminar. The publication of the article, “Memory and Community: Chinese Migrants and Refugees in San Antonio during the Exclusionary Period, 1875-1950,” was a great experience and great to include in my applications to other graduate programs.

UTSA’s Master’s program in History is excellent for preparing teachers and professors. I enjoyed my experience of teaching in a practicum. Between my Master’s program and entering my current PhD program, I taught for three years at Northeast Lakeview College and UTSA. After failing to make into a program the first year I applied, I spread out my search for programs and succeeded by making it into Texas State’s Geography PhD program. I am currently learning GIS and continuing to research Chinese migration over the US-Mexico border in a contemporary time frame from the 1980s to present. My current research focuses on the shift in sending communities of migrants from Guangdong Province to Fujian Province while looking at Chinese asylum in the United States.

If you are applying to doctoral programs, I recommend giving them a good idea of what you have researched and what you are interested in doing, but allowing for flexibility. Contact other students from the graduate schools you are interested in making sure to ask about their experiences and expectations. Make a connection to the Graduate program’s administrative assistant. The person in this position at Texas State is a second
mother to most of the graduate students. Also, I strongly recommend publishing an article from your seminar course or part of your thesis.

From my experience in graduate school, I advise sharing your work with your peers or finding other sources of feedback on your writing, presentations, and projects. My peers are my biggest source of encouragement as well as excellent for sharing ideas. Your peers are your future friends and colleagues no matter where life takes you.

(wcn: so many useful tips, although I wonder about our Roschelle Kelly’s reaction to being called “second mother” by graduate students! Thanks Alisa for sharing and our best wishes for the successful completion of your PhD…the piece has been slightly abridged for reason of space.)

There is money around here for our graduate students and please help us spend it!

Seriously, the department has a budget for graduate students to undertake research travels to archives and libraries (mostly around the U.S., but in a few instances, to travel outside this hemisphere!), and to present at academic conferences. Depending on the number of applicants, we can offer support ranging from a few hundred to well over a thousand dollars. Thanks to a new initiative by Dr. Gardner, we now also fund student up to $200 to ATTEND a conference (that’s extremely valuable exposure to the academe, hearing fellow graduate students all the way to established and senior scholars present their work). We are finalizing the application forms, which should be available in the department website before the end of the week. Stay tuned!

The Graduate School is funding up to $800 for a graduate student to present at academic conference once a year. To find out more information about the GSPD Travel Awards, visit http://graduateschool.utsa.edu/tuition-funding/graduate-student-professional-development-awards/.
Comprehensive Exams

Even as the results from this semester’s comprehensive exams are trickling in, we are making preparation for the next round in the spring. A few students will take part in the pilot 2-step format by doing an oral presentation based on their projects in Dr. Gray’s Proseminar as one of the fields of exam. Whether you are doing the 2-step or the conventional exam, Dr. Ng has sent out the form to students to fill in and return by November 1. If you haven’t decided to take the comps in the spring, contact Dr. Ng for advice.

Talking about conferences, here are two especially appealing to graduate students:

“Interrogating Boundaries: Mapping the Mental and Material in World History”- Northeastern University’s 10th Annual World History Graduate Conference

The Northeastern History Graduate Student Association invites proposal submissions for its 10th annual graduate student conference to be held on March 24-25, 2018 at Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts. The deadline for submissions to the conference is Friday December 15th 2017.

The 2018 conference title is “Interrogating Boundaries: Mapping the Mental and Material in World History”. The conference will address a wide variety of themes within world history and public history, looking specifically at the physical, social, mental and material boundaries that have been present through human history. We encourage papers that think broadly about the definition of boundaries and frontiers, and those that explore these issues within both local and global contexts. Submissions may engage with a variety of related themes including: Incarceration; Empire; Trade and Transport; Global Systems; Migration and Mobility; Class and Conflict; The Urban Space; Gender; Borders and Boundaries; Race; The Environment; Hegemony and Society; Theory and Practice, and many more.

We especially encourage the submission of papers on the history of incarceration in America and around the world. The conference will be running in conjunction with the upcoming installation on “States of Incarceration,” a project of the Humanities Action Lab. The exhibit, installed through the efforts of history graduate students, graduates of the public history program, faculty, and staff, will be on the Northeastern University campus from March 16th-May 20th, 2018. A conference on incarceration will also be
held on campus on March 23rd, 2018. We encourage attendees of our conference to attend that conference if possible, and also to visit the

**Format of Presentations:** Accepted presentations are typically divided into three or four-person panels. Each panelist should expect to present a paper for approximately fifteen to twenty minutes.

**To be considered, the following documents should be sent to the program committee at nugradconf@gmail.com by Friday December 15th 2017:**

Individual Panelists: 200-word abstract describing paper or work to be presented, brief curriculum vitae, and a list of audio/visual needs, if applicable

Panels: List of all panel members (3 per panel) with designated chairperson, if applicable;’ 200-word abstract that discusses the theme of the panel; 200-word abstract for each paper or work to be presented; brief curriculum vitae for each panelist and chairperson; list of audio/visual needs, if applicable

Accepted panelists will be required to submit their papers by **March 1st 2018.**

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**65th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS)**


The *Center for Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University* is pleased to host the 65th Annual Meeting of *SECOLAS* in Nashville, Tennessee from Thursday, March 8 to Sunday, March 11, 2018. SECOLAS invites faculty members, independent scholars, and students to submit panel and individual paper proposals for participation in the conference.

Graduate student presenters will be eligible to submit their paper for the *Edward H. Moseley Student Paper Award* for the best paper presented at the SECOLAS meeting.

To submit your abstract proposal, [click through to the online submission form.](#)

**SECOLAS 2018 Program Chair for** History and Social Sciences
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**Local Arrangements**
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