Hello History M.A. Students,

I hope you are enjoying your Fall semester! I am happy to share multiple student stories this month. Please read the insights and experiences of recent graduate, Sarah Ball, current Nau fellow Michael McDonald and current Nau teaching assistant Amber Walker. I find each story inspiring, and hope you do as well! Please also note the upcoming Phi Alpha Theta Meeting scheduled for TODAY, October 25th at 5:00.

As you get ready to register for Spring classes, please note the six HIS classes listed below. If you plan to apply to the Nau TA for 2017-2018, we recommend that you take HIS 5093. Finally, please note the new time listed for Dr. Guy’s course.

- Monday, HIS 5153 Civil War and Reconstruction 1850-1877, Kelly @ 6pm
- Tuesday, HIS 6443 Comparative Nationalism in Modern World, Guy @ 6pm
- Wednesday, HIS 6973 Mapping Early San Antonio History, Reynolds @ 1pm
- Wednesday, HIS 5093 Designing a History Course, Gardner @ 6pm
- Wednesday, HIS 6903 Research Seminar, Nolan-Ferrell @ 6pm
- Thursday, HIS 6463 Topics in African History. R. Gonzales @ 6pm

Additionally, several valuable student resources are available online.

- **UTSA Bluebook** ([https://bluebook.utsa.edu/](https://bluebook.utsa.edu/)) This resource includes course syllabi and additional information about courses offered at UTSA.

- **History MA handbook** ([available on](http://colfa.utsa.edu/history/masters)) This resource includes extensive information about our program including curriculum requirements and information about the comprehensive exam.

- **Internship Possibilities** ([http://colfa.utsa.edu/history/internships](http://colfa.utsa.edu/history/internships)) This resource lists many local organizations that offer great internship opportunities that can count toward your degree requirements.

If you would like to meet to discuss your Spring 2017 schedule or any other concerns, please email me at [Kirsten.gardner@utsa.edu](mailto:Kirsten.gardner@utsa.edu). Best, KG

---

**Comprehensive Exam Updates**

*Congratulations to Moriah Walter and Dylan Stephens who recently passed their Comprehensive Exams!*

**Planning to take Comps in Spring 2017?**

File your paperwork with the GAR by **Friday, October 28th**. Roschelle Kelly sent this form via email, but please contact her if you need it resent (Roschelle.Kelly@utsa.edu).

Review the section on comprehensive exams in the student handbook (p. 14): [http://colfa.utsa.edu/history/masters](http://colfa.utsa.edu/history/masters)

And remember, you **must** be a registered student at UTSA during the term you take comps. In case you are **not** planning to take any courses this fall, then you should register for the 1-credit comps course. If you are taking at least one class other than comps, then there is no need to register for the 1-credit comps course, since you will already be registered for your other course (s).
Alumni Spotlight: Sarah Ball

Sarah Ball shares her story since graduation:

I graduated from the UTSA History program in May of 2015, and have been teaching full time since. As a Nau Teaching Fellow in the grad program I had amazing faculty mentors, and gained valuable practical teaching experience. Because of this, I was able to get a full-time adjunct position at Northwest Vista College in the Fall semester following graduation. During that Fall semester, a full-time History faculty position became available, and I was lucky enough to get the job. In the Fall of 2016 I was one of four faculty recipients of the Excellence in Teaching award given by Northwest Vista College.

As a new full-time History faculty member I’ve been busy getting used to a heavier teaching load (which I love), getting to know my students, and getting involved with the campus through committee and student organization work. I serve as a scholarship judge for Alamo Colleges, and I am on a committee of faculty who work to better incorporate critical thinking into our curriculum. I am also a faculty advisor to our student History Club. These opportunities help me get to know our students and make a positive contribution to our academic culture.

In the past year, me and a few other UTSA grads started the new History Department Alumni organization called UTSA Friends of History. I have been busy with this new organization planning events to reconnect UTSA History alums with the department, and to find ways to support our UTSA History students through service and financial donations. It has been a very rewarding year as I have been able to put the outstanding training I received in the History program at UTSA into practice in my new career.

---Sarah Ball

Student Research Spotlight: Amber Walker

Amber Walker shares insight from her summer research trips:

I often imagined my initial trip to the continent of Africa to be just as life changing as my first time producing original research. Three years ago, when I decided my long-term plan to be a PhD in African History, I had no idea the opportunity would come so soon. The process of applying for research funding was quick. I attended a talk about Somali Bantu Women by Dr. Cymone Fourshey, an African Historian from Bucknell University, and was so interested in her research that I suggested going with her to Tanzania for my own research.

I submitted my research proposal immediately with a request to begin work on May 20. As a first-generation college student, I was terrified. This would not be my first time out of the country, but this trip was different. This time I would be working toward a future that statistics said were not possible. In just a few weeks, I would be leaving a country my ancestors were brought to by force and returning to my “motherland.” I left with a tri-fold mission. My first was obvious, to produce historical research on Somali Bantu Refugees in Tanzania, Maine, and Texas. My other missions remind
me of Double V, victory at home and abroad. For the sake of every member of the African diaspora who will never have the opportunity to return home, I would be the bridge of knowledge and experience. Lastly, I was hoping to learn a lot about myself, and learn I did.

The experience was beyond my searching imagination. Gathering sources from a Tanzanian archive, probing newspaper collections throughout the 20th Century, searching for rural villages to record oral interviews, all the while, knowing only a few sentences in Kiswahili. With all the strength of people who had come before, support from the Department of History and my mentor, I accomplished a major goal. I plan to return to Swahililand to further my research and look forward to sharing more stories with my Roadrunner familia.

---Amber Walker

**Funding for Research and/or Conference Presentations:**

We encourage our grad students to attend conferences, and when possible to present their work at research conferences. Not only does this foster professional development and networking, conference participation provides students with valuable feedback on their own work.

Graduate students interested in traveling to archives for research or presenting a paper at a conference are encouraged to submit a proposal for departmental funding. Applications are competitive and we encourage all to apply. To ensure the best application, make sure to have a clear statement of purpose and correctly complete the Research Scholarship Travel Application. The application is available by following the RSTA link:

[http://colfa.utsa.edu/history/masters](http://colfa.utsa.edu/history/masters)

Please check your emails for information that has been sent out from Roschelle Kelly. If you are not getting the information please contact her at Roschelle.Kelly@utsa.edu or (210)458-5716. The next award deadline in January 15, 2017.

---Amber Walker

**Student Conference Spotlight: Michael McDonald**

Michael McDonald shares his recent experience presenting at a regional History Conference:

Dr. Ng asked me to present a paper I had written at the Southwest Conference for Asian Studies at the University of Incarnate Word on October 15th. Our panel was schedule for one hour and 45 minutes, and when the third panelist didn’t show, Dr. Ng and I had the whole time period.

To be perfectly honest, I knew that the 8 people in the classroom had NOT come to listen to me and thought that when Dr. Ng finished his speaking part that there would be a mass exodus toward the door. To my utter surprise, that didn’t happen.

After Dr. Ng offered a comparative analysis between the Chinese diaspora of the 1800s and the diaspora from 2000 to today, I presented my paper. My talk focused on the national strategic policy of the U.S. toward China (it’s REALLY schizophrenic!). Then we fielded very engaged questions for over 50 minutes before he had to shut the conversation down so the next round of panel speakers could set up.

My talk was very well received and the questions directed to me were insightful and led to engaged discussions between the audience members, Dr. Ng, and me. Some questions seemed fairly pointed and questioned of my stance, but everyone respected my answers. All in all, other than the
drive to downtown UIW, it was a very positive experience for an early Saturday morning.

I also presented a paper at the COLFA Research Conference (from a World War II class with Dr. Kelly) that won 2nd place in the undergrad student paper category. If you would like the scripts (which I highly recommend doing... don’t ad lib it – we don’t “own” the historical material at this stage) and the power point presentations I used for either the COLFA or the SWCAS conference, please let me know. Happy to share.

---Michael McDonald

Faculty Spotlight

Congratulations to Dr. Rhonda M. Gonzales!

Dr. Gonzales is a recent recipient of a $200,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Grant. Gonzales will work with collaborators Cymone Fourshey (Bucknell University) and Christine Saidi (Kutztown University) to conduct research and collect data on gender history in central and east Africa.

Don’t miss an opportunity to work with Dr. Gonzales this Spring in her “Topics in African History” course (HIS 6463).

Read more about her recent award here:

http://www.utsa.edu/today/2016/08/endowmentgrant.html

Graduate School Updates and Events

Check out great opportunities to take lifelong learning beyond the classroom, enhancing your UTSA experience in all stages of your graduate career. By attending their free events, you will sharpen your skills in the areas of academic and professional/career development and you will take an active role in your success as a student and career professional.

http://graduateschool.utsa.edu/current-students/category/graduate-student-success/(cont.)

For a listing of current workshops offered:

http://graduateschool.utsa.edu/current-students/online-workshops/
Updates from your President, Mary Ledbetter-Gallagher:

PAT will be meeting again on October 26, 2016 in room 4.04.26 from 5:00 to 5:45. Come join us, we will be planning some social events we'd like to plan!

All those interested in attending a screening of Loving after its Nov 4th opening please send me an email at mary.ledbetter76@yahoo.com.

All those interested in purchasing t-shirt please contact me also. Same email. The more people who order the lower the price will be!!

Call for Papers for Upcoming Conferences

10th Annual African American Studies Spring Symposium

INTERSECTIONAL BLACK IDENTITIES

The University of Texas at San Antonio

Thursday, April 6, 2017

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Jericho Brown

Abstract Submission Deadline | October 31, 2016 @ 5:00PM EST

Each year the University of Texas at San Antonio hosts a daylong African American Studies Spring symposium. On this 10th anniversary, the symposium invites presentations from across the disciplines that examine the complexity of Intersectional Black Identities. The event offers a space to explore all that “intersectionality” has signified and all that it has become.

This stimulatin symposium will set the stage for collective exploration and celebration of Intersectional Black Identities across social and cultural realities. Topics will include a broad range of lived experiences, intellectual inquiries, and creative representations. The work of keynote speaker Jericho Brown, Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory University, provides a pathway for (re)considering the axes and edges of history, community, love, expression and more. This call welcomes papers and presentations covering Black identities marked by intersections with constructs such as the following:

- African Diaspora and Afro-Latinidad
- Who gets to be Black?
- Speculative Blackness
- Medicine, health and ability
- Style-shifting, code-switching and ebonics (e.g., Gullah, Creole)
- The body and sexualities
- Equity and access (e.g., history, race, language profiling, curriculum, health)
- Creative art and interpretation
- Activism, revolution and protest (e.g., #StayWoke, #BlackLivesMatter, #SayHerName)

We especially welcome the submission of proposals for organized panels, workshops, performances, and visual media. Submit abstracts of no more than 400 words, Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced. Clearly articulate your presentation type, focus, and connection to Intersectional Black Identities. Include presentation title, author's name, professional title, academic/work affiliation, cell phone number, postal address, and email address. Email abstracts and inquiries to utsaafamsymp@gmail.com.

Fashioning People: Memory, Identity, and Consumption

The Eighth Annual Graduate Conference Hosted by the Graduate History Society at the University of Rochester

Saturday, February 25, 2017

Call for Papers: The fashioning of memory, identity, and consumption is fundamental to how humans make sense of themselves, their place in the world, and their relationship to material things, both natural and artificial. These three themes provide the focus for our conference, and the following descriptions are not exhaustive but are suggested as possible topics:

- Memory
  - The construction of human narratives
The interaction between public and private commemoration

- **Identity**
  - The performance of the self
  - The formation of communities

- **Consumption**
  - The acquisition and use of material goods
  - The sensory perception and evaluation of culture

We invite both historical and interdisciplinary perspectives. Proposals for additional panels are welcome and may be crafted based upon the nature of the submissions.

**Guidelines:** Submissions should be directed to rochestergradconference@gmail.com. They must include your name, institutional affiliation, contact information, proposal title, proposal abstract (limit 250 words), either a short biography (limit 100 words) or single-page CV, and any necessary audio/visual or physical accommodations.

Any inquiries may be sent to rochestergradconference@gmail.com

**Deadline for Submission:** November 30, 2016

**A World of Change:**
**Exploring Revolutions Inspired by Those of 1917**
World History Association of Texas 2017 Conference
Co-Sponsored by St. Edward’s University, Austin, Texas
March 4, 2017

The interdisciplinary conference on A World of Change invites examinations of monumental changes ushered in by the revolutions of 1917: the Russian Revolution, the soldier’s mutinies, Einstein’s first publication, the release of the first jazz records, the British government’s endorsement of the Balfour Declaration.

The Conference Organizing Committee invites interested grades 4-12 teachers, college and university faculty, independent scholars, and graduate students to submit paper proposals on any subject, period or area of world history. Conference organizers welcome proposals that connect world history teaching and research: