



From Professor David Goss...



Greetings!

As director of public history, I'd like to bring you up-to-date on what's happening here on the public history front..

First and foremost, Gordon has officially approved a public history minor and concentration! This represents a major step forward for the history department, and indicates that Gordon College is committed to training undergraduate students to enter careers in the area of museum studies and public history.

Our new course *Case Studies in Museum Administration* has twenty students enrolled, two of whom are currently working as interns at Boston area museums. Luke Suttmeier is a curatorial assistant at the Salem Maritime National Historic Site, and Raffi Kiredjian has accepted an internship in the business office of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Students were addressed by Bruce Michaud, CEO and owner of the Salem Witch Museum, who shared his thoughts on marketing a public history site. The class also interviewed almost twenty career professionals concerning the business of operating museums, historic sites and public history attractions.

Two history majors have distinguished themselves this year in public history endeavors. Micah Grant is an archival intern at the home of General George Patton, cataloging collections of the general's family papers, correspondence and photographs. Jerry Logan, 2007 recipient of the Loring Fellowship, is investigating the New England textile industry's rise and decline in the 19th and 20th centuries.

I am pleased to announce that my new book, *The Salem Witchcraft Trials*, will be published next year. It is a reference text featuring an overview of the event and its context, as well as interpretive analysis and reproduced documents from the trials themselves.

It is an exciting time to be here!

Best wishes,

David Goss

FEATURING PUBLIC HISTORY



Photo by Jim McAllister

Pioneer Village in Salem, MA, where students serve as interns and employees, has a close relationship with Gordon College and the History Department.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

■ **New Public History Minor and Concentration:** We are delighted to announce that the new concentration and minor in Public History and Museum Studies has been approved! Students will be able to take courses in public history, historic interpretation, and management; pursue internships, and explore the diverse career options in the field. Please contact Professor David Goss for more information.

■ **New Classics Minor:** An exciting new option now available to history students is a minor in classics. This interdisciplinary program includes courses in Latin, ancient history, classical literature, and philosophy. The minor will provide excellent background for those preparing for graduate school in ancient or medieval history, archaeology, Classics, theology, church history and philosophy. Latin will be taught in the fall by History Adjunct Professor Ian Drummond. Please contact Professor Graeme Bird for more information.

■ **History-in-Orvieto:** In Spring 2008 the History Department will launch a track at Italy's Gordon-in-Orvieto program. Professors Tal and Agnes Howard will teach two courses: Women, Family and Religion in the Early Modern World, and Protestant and Catholic Memories of the Reformation. Professor Jennifer Hevelone-Harper will join them in May to teach a course on Christianity in Late Antique and Medieval Italy. Students may take 16 credits of history that semester, enough to even fulfill a history minor!



The view in Orvieto, Italy.

ALUMNI NEWS

■ **Laura Jakubowski Aponte '80** graduated from Perkins School of Theology with a M.T.S. in 2005. She currently lives in Lancaster, PA where her husband Edwin David Aponte '79 is VP for Academic Affairs and Dean of Lancaster Theological Seminary.

■ **Andrew Shriver '95** is serving in Afghanistan as chaplain in the 864th Combat Engineer Battalion. The battalion is building roads and runways.

■ **Matthew Oosting '05** is teaching history at North Reading High School in North Reading, MA. On May 14, 2006 Matt and Hillary welcomed daughter Evangeline Vera to the world. Congratulations to the Oosting family!

Alumni in Public History:

■ **Kristen Weiss '92** is the Site Manager of Cogswell's Grant, a historic house property in Essex, MA.

■ **Megan MacNeil '00** is the Registrar at The Stephen Phillips House, a small historic house museum in Salem, MA.

■ **Jeff Barraclough '03** is the Director of the Lawrence L. Lee Scouting Museum in Manchester, NH, where he maintains a large collection of Boy Scout memorabilia.

■ **Lauren (Moore) James '04** received a Museum Studies certificate from Tufts University and is currently the Membership Coordinator at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA.

■ **Bethany Antos '05** is the Assistant Archivist at the Rockefeller Archive Center in Sleepy Hollow, NY.



From left to right: Students explore treasures in Gordon's Vining Collection: Lauren Nash and Michael Whitnah examine papyrus from Egypt; Luke Suttmeier, Allison Kuhns, and Nash discover a 19th century Chinese tea set; Suttmeier looks at a mummy case from ancient Egypt.

A fond farewell to Dick Pierard

In May Professor Dick Pierard and his wife Charlene are moving to Hendersonville, NC. Professor Pierard will stay busy this summer, participating in the annual meeting of the Yale-Edinburgh Group on missionary and Christian history, and teaching a graduate level course on church history in Bangalore, India. They offer a hearty welcome to any history colleagues passing through the N. Carolina mountains, and we welcome them back to the North Shore anytime!



Setting Sail for the Mediterranean

This August Professors David Wick and David Sparks will head a team of students traveling for an international seminar to Greece, Turkey, and islands in the Aegean. Students will explore the classical, Biblical, and modern history of the area from an interdisciplinary approach including art, archaeology, religion, and culture.

Honors thesis students

Five senior history majors defended their honors theses on April 26th and May 3rd. The honors program is available to select students by invitation. Students pursue their own historical research for two semesters under the supervision of a faculty member, culminating in a written and oral defense of the honors thesis. This year's students and topics are:

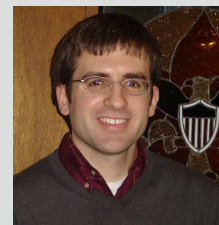
- **Emily Brunell:** *Community and Economy on the Maine Frontier*
- **David Jordan:** *The Meaning of AIDS*
- **Daniel Johnson:** *The Silk Routes: Connecting Two Empires*
- **Sabrina Klay:** *Was Alexander the Great Insecure?*
- **Edwin Bevens:** *Rethinking Calvin Coolidge and the Press*
- **Kirsten Hassler:** *The United States, the United Nations, and the 1947 Vote to Partition Palestine* (a joint Political Studies/History honors thesis)

Working in Public History

by **Jeff Barraclough '03**

Director of the Lee Scouting Museum in Manchester, NH

Since childhood I have wanted to work in the field of history, but I did not necessarily want to teach in a classroom. Working in a museum gives me the opportunity to teach history in a non-traditional setting using collections and exhibits as educational tools. Through Gordon College's history program, I received an education that trained me as both a historian and a museum professional. I gained experience in analyzing and interpreting history and learned effective museum policies and on-site training through internships at Salem 1630 Pioneer Village and the House of the Seven Gables. This combined education of history and museum studies gave me the training and experience necessary to begin my career in the museum field.



The Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA employs several Gordon grads.

Photo by Jim McAllister



The Stephen Phillips House by Megan MacNeil '00

Imagine if five generations of your family never threw away any of their personal belongings. Imagine the vast collection of books, papers, clothing, knickknacks and other miscellany that could fill about 12,000 square feet of space. When I first started working at the Phillips House, a small historic house museum in Salem, Massachusetts in January 2000, the first-ever inventory of the collection was underway. This process involved making a list of every item contained within the 3-story house and carriage house. Eighteen months, two hundred trunks, and 15,000 objects later the inventory was complete. The simple task of helping to create the inventory and discovering the treasures left behind by one family is what sparked my interest to learn more about the field of museum studies.

When I attended Gordon as a history major, no museum studies courses were offered, but the Tufts University Graduate and Professional Studies program offered a museum studies certificate that was the perfect opportunity to learn more about the practical aspects of working in a museum. The program offers classes in collections management, exhibition planning, museum history and theory, as well as collections care and preservation. I learned that museum work can involve jobs that are directly connected to the public or consist of tasks that are done completely behind the scenes. During my time at the Phillips House, I have done a little bit of both.

As a tour guide, I was responsible for taking visitors through the house and bringing the story of the Phillips Family and their domestic staff to life. Putting together the story involved primary research, using the photographs, letters, bills and receipts that the family left behind as well as researching secondary sources to give context to their story and fitting the family within the larger historical events of Salem and the United States.

As the registrar, I am responsible for maintaining the collections, keeping track of loans and insurance policies, opening and closing the house for the tourist season, and a wide variety of other tasks that range from the mundane (vacuuming and dusting) to the exotic (watching 16mm home movie film of the Phillips' 1931 trip from Capetown to Cairo). Who knew that I would learn to drive stick on a 1929 Model A Ford or become extremely interested in the life cycle and breeding habits of carpet beetles?

Even though the inventory is complete, work at the Phillips House is ongoing. Different types of collections are being organized, numbered and photographed. The women's costume collection has just recently been removed from steamer trunks and boxes and re-housed in acid free tissue and textile boxes. The collection contains garments that range from an elaborate beaded bodice and skirt from the 1880's to a silk drop front waist dress from the 1920's. The 16mm film collection has also been gathered, conserved and transferred to DVD, allowing access to family footage from the 1920's to the 1940's. The film footage brings the family to life in a way that a still photograph cannot. The personal and business papers of the early Phillips family (1770-1909), Anna Wheatland Phillips (1870-1938), and Stephen Phillips (1907-1971) have been gathered and organized so that they too, are accessible to staff and researchers.

Until May 2006, this work was slowly completed with a staff of 2 full-time and 2 part-time employees (and with the help of numerous interns). This past May, the Phillips House became the 36th property of Historic New England, a large historic organization that has 35 other historic sites in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. The additional staff will make the work of organizing and processing the

remainder of the Phillips House collection progress that much quicker (though interns are still welcome). Although much has changed since I first started at the Phillips House, I am still excited that my job is to preserve the past so that future generations can enjoy history brought to life by objects left behind.

Visit Historic New England's Phillips House on historic Chestnut Street and find out what life was like in the early 1900's. The kitchen, pantries, and laundry tell of the bustling activities of the household staff, while the grand public areas display handsome furnishings from five generations of the Phillips family. Opening June 1. Learn more at www.phillipsmuseum.org.

Historic New England is the public identity for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. They are the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive regional preservation organization in the country. Historic New England offers a unique opportunity to experience the lives and stories of New Englanders through their homes and possessions. Learn more at www.historicnewengland.org.



Alumni and Student News:

We would love to hear from you!
Please send contributions to:
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On a quest for knowledge?

Join us for...



History-in-Orvieto, Italy

Spring 2008



GORDON
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