



GORDON
COLLEGE

Department of History

Spring 2009



Lincoln Campaign Banner and Celebrations

by Alice Kahley '09

Friday, February 13, 2009, was a day all about history. Abraham Lincoln arrived at Old Town Hall in Salem, Massachusetts to celebrate his 200th birthday and members of Gordon College and the surrounding communities were invited to attend. Original Lincoln/Johnson campaign banners from 1864 were on display at the event.

These historic banners were recently discovered by David Goss, Assistant Professor of History, and Cliff Hersey, Dean of Global Education, at the Second Church of Dorchester in Boston. One banner reads, "Lincoln and Johnson;" another reads, "The Union: It must and shall be Preserved;" and the last banner says, "In God We Trust." Interestingly, in 1864 the phrase, "In God We Trust" was first put onto American currency.

During the afternoon people were free to wander in and out of Old Town Hall while President Lincoln mingled with people and posed for pictures. In the evening the real celebration began. Lincoln's birthday party was celebrated with period music, sung by the Second South Carolina String Band and period dancing, done by the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers. Abraham Lincoln arrived, escorted by soldiers from the Salem Light Infantry, and delivered his second inaugural speech. Overall it was a big success for Gordon and Salem.

Pictured above: Provost Mark Sargent presenting the campaign banners

Pictured above right: John Sarrouf as Abraham Lincoln

Pictured right: David Goss with his wife Becky '82 (history alumna) and daughter Bethany '12 in period costume.



An Interview with Dr. Dong Wang

Recently, Dr. Dong Wang, professor of history and executive director of the East-West Institute of International Studies, accepted a new appointment as professor of contemporary Chinese history and director of the Centre for East Asian Studies at the University of Turku in Finland after serving at Gordon College for seven years. Prior to her departure, she reflected on her tenure at Gordon.

I have enjoyed teaching and advising students at Gordon about the vast history of East Asia and have also enjoyed both the challenges and the joys that have accompanied my job. As I get ready to leave for Finland, I will remember and appreciate the fellowship I've had with the Gordon community and will miss living on the North Shore of Boston, an area with many connections to East Asia and the early history of the United States.

My advice for students interested in history is to continue to pursue your natural curiosity. And if you're planning on traveling to China, be sure to visit Tiananmen Square in Beijing, Shanghai—a major port city—and any other area of China that interests you.

by Emily Boyer '10



Pioneer Village: Salem in 1630 Re-opens

by David Goss '74

On Sunday, June 28, 2009, Pioneer Village: Salem in 1630—a reproduction of Salem as it appeared at the time of the settlement of Massachusetts Bay Colony—will open its gates to the general public for the first time in many years. This season the Village will for the first time be under the management of Gordon College's Institute for Public History directed by Kristina Wacome-Stevick and David Goss. Many staff, including most members of the cast of History Alive! will be Gordon students and alumni.



For history students concentrating in museum studies and public history, the chance to be part of the rebirth of one of America's earliest living history museums is a rare opportunity. Students in HIS391 "Case Studies in Museum Administration" have already developed short and long-range institutional goals for the site as well as strategies for achieving them, learning through experience how museums plan for the future.



For the 2009 summer season, not only will Pioneer Village be open for public visitation on a daily basis, but Salem's 1816 Old Town Hall will also be operated by the Institute for Public History five days a week for performances of "Cry Innocent," an original play by Professor Mark Stevick about the trial of Salem's first condemned witch, Bridget Bishop. At Pioneer Village, two performances of an original production, "Folkways" will take place daily from Friday through Tuesday. Starting in October, Pioneer Village will offer the public yet another original theatrical production, "Spiritways," drawn from colonial accounts of supernatural happenings in the Salem area.



Alumni Spotlight: Working in Korea

by Dawn Hersey '04

After graduating, I moved to Asia with very little notice—most people thought the act insane. But something was missing in my post-college, professional life. Was it excitement? A challenge? Further education? What I discovered was that living abroad outside of a formal educational program was exactly what I needed.

While in South Korea, I worked at a hakwon (after-school program) that taught SAT prep and other American AP/SATII subjects. After this, I started working at a Foreign Language High School where the students graduate conversant or fluent in at least 4 languages! I am finishing my masters now using history and theology to study how religion affected Korea's government. Having an outsider's perspective with local access has provided a fascinating insight into this system. Unlike America or Europe, it is obvious here that I'm a foreigner. There are different standards for foreigners and natives: half of the time it seems that people consider us immoral invaders (closing doors in our faces and pulling their children away) and the other half treat us as demigods to be emulated (chasing after us in subway stations and shoving their children towards us, telling them to speak in English). Married women will walk over and adjust a foreigner's clothes.



While I am now preparing for the next step in my life, I have gained a lot of unanticipated knowledge while living in South Korea. I can now often identify the region of Asia people come from based on their facial structure. I've learned Kimchi can become addictive. Korea has a mini Great Wall to keep out the Mongols, too. Broomsticks can work as plungers in train toilets. And, most of all, I've learned that the more I've lived abroad, the more I appreciate where I'm from—my heritage, my education, and my friends.



Awards

For the past two years, Associate Professor **Steve Alter** (pictured left) has held the Phillips Chair in history. The chair is funded by the Stephen Phillips Trust of Salem, Massachusetts, and it gives the holder financial support for scholarly research. Steve has applied this funding toward his work on American scholars' involvement with biblical archaeology in the 19th and early 20th centuries.



Ian Drummond (pictured right) received the Academic Service Award, granted for excellent teaching and service to the students. He was honored for his work teaching history, Latin and geography, as well as advising students with an added measure of enthusiasm, intellectual giftedness and collegiality.



Congratulations to **Larissa Boehmke** '09, who graduated *summa cum laude* as a history and Pike double major and who is the recipient of this year's Social Science Achievement Award, voted by faculty members from the social science division. Larissa studied ancient history and classical languages while at Gordon.

Department of History

Senior Theses

Saving History: Binding Honors Theses

Completing a history honors thesis is no easy task. It requires two full semesters of researching and writing on an original historical topic while working in conjunction with a history professor. The result is a 60-100 page thesis and a prepared defense of the topic before faculty.

To honor the students' work, the Gordon College history department has recently started a tradition of binding the honors theses into red hard-bound books that will be integrated into the general collection of Jenks Library. Jennifer Hevelone-Harper, associate professor and chair of the history department, says the new step is an important part of the department's latest developments, which also include a departmental newsletter and updated website.

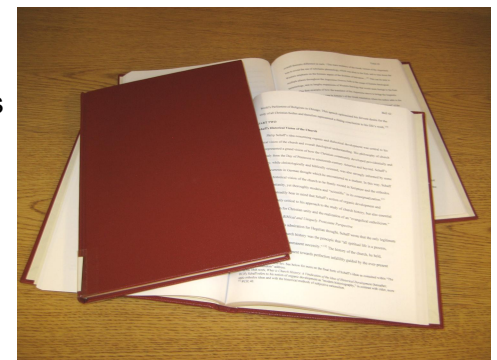
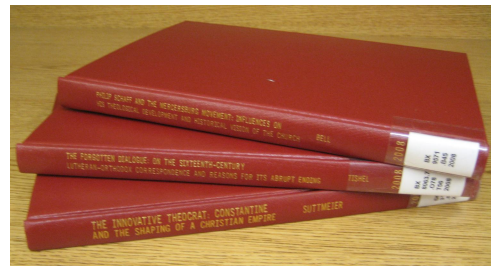
"Binding the theses is a way to showcase and highlight the efforts of the honors students and to broaden the audience beyond just the professors," said Hevelone-Harper. "Before this, only a handful of professors read these theses."

Two bound copies will be made of each thesis. Each student will receive a copy and the other will be placed in the library for use as a research tool for current and future students. Students considering completing an honors thesis can look at the ones already bound in the library to get an idea of what they require, but they will also be available for all students interested in researching particular topics.

The first theses bound were those of the graduating class of 2008. Topics included, "The Forgotten Dialogue: On the Sixteenth Century Lutheran-Orthodox Correspondence and Reasons for Its Abrupt Ending," by Michael Tishel; "Philip Schaff and the Mercersburg Movement: Influences on his Theological Development and Historical Vision of the Church," by Daniel Bell; and "The Innovative Theocrat: Constantine and the Shaping of a Christian Empire," by Luke Suttmeier. Hevelone-Harper hopes to work with students of past years to bind their theses for inclusion in Jenks Library as well.

Pictured at top right: Husband and wife Luke Suttmeier '08 and Allison Kuhns '09 both earned honors and will begin graduate work in the fall in archaeology at the University of Newcastle in the United Kingdom.

by Calen Rubin



This Year's Senior Theses

Three seniors successfully defended their theses on April 30 and May 7. Larissa Boehmke wrote "Medea and the Greek Stress Response;" Allison Kuhns wrote "Facing Giants: Celtic Leaders and their Followers in Times of Crisis;" and Kirsten Swanson wrote "Kings and Clergy: The Effect of Christianity on Anglo-Saxon Kingship." The history department plans to have the theses bound and added to the library collection, available this summer.