

HISTORY HOUSE HERALD

Message from the Chair

By Prof. Anthony Daly



In this issue of our newsletter we look back on some of the exciting programs and happenings in the last few months and look ahead to the fall. On behalf of the department and our two programs, we are looking forward to continuing the good work underway this semester and celebrating the end of this academic year and the joy of commencement.

Considering our academic offerings, in addition to regular course offerings, there are several special classes underway. In February, Professors Cupery and Pettey led the now-traditional MCLA contingent to the North American Model United Nations (NAMUN) at the University of Toronto. Department faculty are teaching travel courses to Cuba, Japan, and a tour of civil rights sites in the southern United States. These courses combine learning in the classroom with travel components over spring break that enrich students' understanding with once in a lifetime experiences.

Continuing our tradition of

providing insight and analysis on state, national, and international issues, our Public Policy Lecture Series will feature Clint Watts, former FBI agent, foreign policy and cyber security expert Wednesday, April 4 in the Church Street Center. A few weeks later, we will welcome Boston Globe columnist and reporter Kevin Cullen to provide a retrospective and prognosis for the peace agreement in Northern Ireland. As always, these events include dedicated time for students to meet our speakers and learn from their experiences, an example of the opportunities offered at a small liberal arts college.

As you work through the semester, don't hesitate to contact us to ask for advice or assistance about your coursework or your career plans after graduation. Send an email or look up our office hours on the department web pages (www.mcla.edu/hist or www.mcla.edu/pspp) and drop by 72 Porter Street. We are proud of



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PAGE 2: Our students – past and present – have been doing cool things and our department works to build a bridge between these two groups.



PAGE 3: The 2018 speaker lineup includes cybersecurity expert Clint Watts, *Boston Globe* columnist Kevin Cullen, and *The Atlantic* correspondent Ta-Nehisi Coates.



PAGE 5: Study abroad with MCLA! Professors Cupery, Huang, Janis, and Pettey just got back from 2018 travel courses while Professors Daly and Cupery are already working on 2019 trips to Mexico and Ireland.



Page 6: The MCLA Model UN Course had another successful trip to the North American Model United Nations Conference.



PAGE 7: In this faculty spotlight we bid one long-time professor good-bye, welcome another, and profile some ongoing research.

"Man is by nature a political animal." - Aristotle

your effort and accomplishments and look forward to helping you complete another successful year and joining in the celebration of students and families at our year-end banquet and then Commencement in May.

Student and Alumni Spotlight

Student Research

Our department works to help students with professional development through internships, independent studies and academic presentations. For example, Kaitlin Wright ('17) presented a paper at the annual COPLAC Undergraduate Research Conference at Mansfield University in Mansfield, Pa in October 2017. Wright's paper entitled "Too Little, Too Late: Is Political Representation Suffering Due to Suffrage Laws?" focused on the lack of women in elected office in the US. Her research suggests that women are elected at higher rates in states that passed women's suffrage laws prior to the 19th amendment in 1920. Put another way, women's numbers in office today are lacking in states where women received the right to vote with the passage of the 19th amendment. The paper topic was chosen while taking POSC 315: Women in US Politics.

See more student involvement in COPLAC on Page 9

Visit from Alum

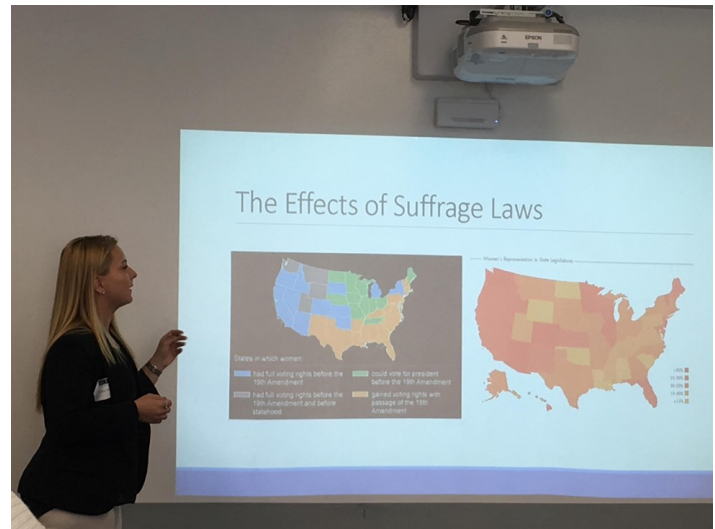
We also look to continue this investment beyond graduation and to nurture ties between our alumni and current students. One way we have done this by having a recent alumni return each spring to talk with the students in the in HIST 450/POSC 450 Career and ePortfolio Workshop. This visit, funded by the MCLA Hardman Special Initiative Fund, seeks to show students some of the options that may await them after graduation and allows them to ask questions and receive advice from someone who has 'made it'. This year's visiting alum was Catherine (Catt) Chaput. Catt graduated in 2013 with a major in Political Science and Public Policy. After working with several political campaigns and public advocacy campaigns, she is employed with the Department of Transportation in Boston, where she works in human resources. Catt was honest and funny in talking with students about the challenges of finding a career path that reflects your interests and passions and life in the "real world" after graduation.

Checking In with a Recent Alum

This section of the newsletter highlights the story of a recent graduates. For this issue we spoke with 2011 graduate Jason Mlodzianowski.

Could you tell us a little about your professional path since MCLA?

I was definitely one of those college seniors who looked like a deer in the headlights without a clear direction on my future. Upon Graduation from MCLA in 2008 I took



December 2017 political science and history graduate Kaitlin Wright presents her paper at MCLA's annual Undergraduate Research Conference in April of 2017.

a Job working for the Schenectady New York Sanitation Department repairing sewers in the summer months and driving snowplows in the winter months. It was hard work in hard conditions, I often felt like I was in a Dirty Jobs episode with Mike Rowe staring into my manhole cover. Yet it provided a steady income, strengthened my work ethic and gave me the opportunity to discover what my future career would be. In the fall of 2009, with my hard earned sanitation worker savings, I applied and was accepted into Springfield College's Athletic Administration Master's Program. Following graduation in 2011, I worked various internships and fulltime positions over the next 7 years in college athletics at institutions such as; The University of Connecticut, Eastern College Athletic Conference, University of Missouri, and most recently Carnegie Mellon University where I currently serve as Assistant Athletic Director overseeing Events, Facilities and Equipment.

What is your long term professional goal and how has it changed, if at all, since you started out at MCLA?

I aspire to be an Athletic Director at a Competitive Division III Institution, a goal I have had since I began studying in the field 9 years ago. It is also a profession I never gave much thought to during my time at MCLA. During college, I explored various professions including but not limited to; History teacher, Politician, Lawyer, and Business Tycoon. It wasn't until I truly weighed my interests and values that I was able to set a goal that I was passionate towards achieving.

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Great Guest Speakers at MCLA



Department students and faculty with author and CNN Chief Legal Correspondent Jeffrey Toobin before his Fall 2017 Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture.



Author and Cybersecurity expert, Clint Watts will give the Spring 2018 Public Policy Lecture.

During the 2018 calendar year we will continue to build on our tradition of bringing notable speaker with pressing topics to campus.

Our spring 2018 Public Policy Lecture will be given by author and cybersecurity expert **Clint Watts**. Watts has been at the forefront of investigations into Russian efforts to shape US public opinion, elections and, ultimately, the quality of our democracy through a covert propaganda campaign using the mass and, particularly, social media channels relied on by so many Americans for political information. He will examine why it took so long for our intelligence services to catch this, the implications for our democracy, and how we can prevent these types of attacks in the future. Clint Watts is a Robert Fox Fellow for the Foreign Policy Research Institute, where his research focuses on terrorism forecasting and appropriate counterterrorism responses. He also works as a consultant, designing and implementing customized training and research programs for military, intelligence and law enforcement organizations and assisting financial institutions in developing best practices in cybersecurity intelligence operations. Clint earlier served as a U.S. Army infantry officer and FBI Special Agent on a Joint Terrorism Task Force. He holds a B.S. from the United States Military Academy and an M.A. from Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

The department's Conflict Prevention and Resolution Speaker Series continues this semester with an address on April 17th by **Kevin Cullen**, a columnist and reporter with the Boston Globe. Cullen has covered

Northern Ireland for more than thirty years, and he will speak on the twentieth anniversary of the historic 1998 Good Friday Agreement that brought an end to "The Troubles." Between 1969 and 1998, approximately 3,000 people were killed in a struggle that centered on whether Northern Ireland should remain part of the United Kingdom. After twenty years, the peace has held, but is under strain. The shared government structure has broken down, and "Brexit" – the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union – threatens to harden the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland; that change would hurt trade and raise old, troubling, questions about a united Ireland. Kevin Cullen's recent reporting in Ireland will form the basis for his analysis of the prospects for the peace process and reconciliation.



The fall 2018 Public Policy lecture will take place on Thursday, November 8th with featured speaker **Tanehisi Coates**, a national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, where he writes about culture, politics, and social issues. Mr. Coates' book, *Between the World and Me*, will be the first year reading this year as well.

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Great Speakers at MCLA (Continued from page 3)

Coates gained national fame with the publication of his book, *Between the World and Me*, and his article on reparations for *The Atlantic Magazine* in 2014. He is the author of two other books, *The Beautiful Struggle*, a memoir of his growing up in Baltimore and his latest book; *We Were Eight Years in Power*, a compilation of a series of articles interviewing former president Barack Obama. He has worked as a senior editor for *The Atlantic* since 2012. His book *Between the World and Me* won the National Book Award in 2015, and he is a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. Since 2016, Coates has written Marvel's *The Black Panther* comic book



The story that Coates details in *Between the World and Me* is reminiscent of James Baldwin's classic letter to his nephew in *The Fire Next Time*. Toni Morrison said of the work, "I've been wondering who might fill the intellectual void that plagued me after James Baldwin died. Clearly, it is Ta-Nehisi Coates."

While Michelle Alexander, the author of *The New Jim Crow* writes, "whether you agree or disagree, one of the great joys of reading Ta-Nehisi Coates is being challenged in ways you didn't expect or imagine."

His appearance at MCLA highlights the College's first annual day of dialogue on race where the entire day will be given over to workshops and panel discussions before Mr. Coates' appearance in the evening. His book which covers the important themes of violence, youth, education, family and heritage relates an important message for this first year of dialogue at MCLA.

The Fall 2018 Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture will be given by best selling-author and The Atlantic national correspondent Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Student and Alumni Spotlight (continued from page 2)

Do you have a favorite memory or course from your time in the History and Political Science Department?

There are so many it is hard to choose! Professor Bence's Political Science 201 course was the first college class I walked into freshman year, it was also the most fun I've had in a classroom. Not only was Bob an engaging and passionate teacher, but the class took place during the 2004 presidential election which added a lot of fun to course content. I couldn't wait to get into my seat 10am Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays.

Are there particular skills, knowledge or experience that you gained as a part of the History and Political Science Department that have come in handy for you professionally? If so, how?

Critical thinking is one of the most useful skills I take with me to the work force and I really focused on developing it at MCLA. The ability to subjectively analyze an issue and express your judgement either verbal or written is an invaluable tool.

Do you have any advice for our current students? Is there something you wish you would have done differently in college or maybe an opportunity you regret not taking advantage of?

Set time to strategically think about your future. Ask yourself what steps can you take while in school to best prepare you for your career and set attainable goals that will help you get there. Read, Work side jobs, take internships and have informational meetings with professionals and alumni in your field. One of the biggest pieces of advice I can give is to avoid debt and take action to graduate with as little of it as possible. If you do graduate with debt, eliminate that student loans as quickly as possible.

Study Away with the Dept. of History and PSPP

The Department of History, Political Science and Public Policy is one of the most active on campus in offering faculty-led, short-term study away opportunities in the form of travel courses, which pair on-campus, semester long academic work with 10-12 days of travel to the destinations that students have been studying. Spring 2018 was no different with department faculty leading travel courses to Cuba and Japan and a Civil Rights Bus tour. Here is a bit about each adventure.

Japan: In spring break 2018, Professor Huang once again brought a group of MCLA students to Japan. The selected destinations include the world's largest metropolis Tokyo, the ancient capital Kyoto, the castle town Matsumoto, the gateway to Japanese Alps Nagoya, and the coastal city Kamakura, where traditions are juxtaposed with modernity.

The Civil Rights Bus Tour: This spring MCLA students traveled across the American South to learn about the Civil Rights movement and its legacy today. While this trip included visits to over six states and nine cities over an eight day period, the highlight of the trip was the chance to meet with veterans of the movement to talk about their own personal experiences. In Albany, Georgia we sang with Rutha Harris, a member of the Freedom Singers, and learned about the importance of music in mobilizing and inspiring African Americans. Joanne Bland took us on a walking tour of Selma, sharing with us how she was beaten as a young child while marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to demand voting rights for all Americans. Lisa McNair and Carolyn McKinstry discussed the impact of the Birmingham bombing that took the lives of four little African American girls and the importance of reconciliation and forgiveness while Rip Patton explained how college students were crucial to the success of the Freedom Rides. By meeting these remarkable individuals, we learned not just about the history of the Civil Rights movement but also the importance of continuing to push for equal rights for all Americans today.

Cuba: 11 MCLA students joined Professors Cupery and Bence for a trip to Cuba to study the island's political and socioeconomic systems firsthand and learn more about the country's vibrant culture. Half of the eleven day trip was spent in the capital, Havana, where the group toured the historic city, heard from local experts, artists, business owners, and doctors, and took in museums and live music. They also headed to Santa Clara to learn more about the enigmatic Che Guevara, pristine

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Tomorrow's Diplomats: Model UN 2018

Each February, our department sends a delegation to the North American Model United Nations Conference in Toronto as part of a 3-credit course which provides students foundational knowledge about the international system and works on their public speaking, research and writing skills. This year, our delegation included thirteen students, representing countries, such as Russia, Israel and Canada, and individuals in complex simulations of issues of great historic and current international importance. Over the three-and-a-half days in Toronto, students debated, forged alliances, drafted resolutions and had a blast, albeit in a high-pressure environment. They also were lucky to observe life in one of North America's most cosmopolitan cities. Here is what three of them have to say about their experience:

Meghan Cook (Political Science major, class of 2019)

At the North American Model United Nations I participated as the country of Ethiopia in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The purpose of the FAO is combat the worldwide issue of hunger and food supply. In committee we had two topics to address that affect food supply, desertification and biotechnology. As the representative of Ethiopia I had to champion the interests of my country and express the devastating effect desertification had on the country were 85% of the industry is agriculture, and voice support for further research in biotechnology. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at NAMUN. From getting out of my comfort zone in committee, to meeting students from different countries, to gaining more knowledge on the workings of the United Nations. I now feel better prepared to enter the professional world knowing I can handle pressure situations, network and negotiate with others, and am more confident personally and professionally!

Drew Weisse (History major and Political Science minor, class of 2018)

At NAMUN I was part of a crisis committee that simulated the Malaysian Emergency of 1948-1960. My role as Major General Roy Urquhart placed me in the Malaysian Executive Council, consisting of British military personnel and the landed, Malaysian Sultans. The Executive Council was tasked with defeating communist guerrillas in the jungles of Malaysia, and often that was the crucial common goal holding our cause together. In this fast-paced environment where circumstances were constantly in flux, I had to learn to adapt my goals while working closely with a group of people I had just met. Over the course of committee, I enjoyed being able to strategically test my public speaking and networking skills. In the future, this experience will help me collaborate with others to address complex problems.

Mike McAndrew (triple major in Political Science, History and Philosophy, class of 2018)

For my second time participating in NAMUN, I decided to push myself, take a risk and participate in the Ad Hoc Committee, in which participants were given no info about this "classified" committee until arriving at the conference. We ended up simulating the Japanese handling of the Mukden Incident - a pretext for the 1931 Japanese invasion of Chinese Manchuria - and I played the role of Seishiro Itagaki, an officer in the imperial army who was later executed for war crimes. Although Ad Hoc was unpredictable, having been at NAMUN the year before left me less nervous and allowed me to take a larger role in the simulation than I had the first time. This also gave me the ability to think tactically about the events that were unfolding in the room. Model U.N. is a great way to get a feel for real politics as it shows the applicability of the theories we learn in the classroom.

Study Away (continued from page 5)

colonial Trinidad and elegant Cienfuegos. The last stop was the Bay of Pigs, where a history lesson and museum visit were combined with a dip in the warm, waters of the Caribbean. Overall, students explored the complexity that is Cuba and, in doing so, learned about a way of life very different from that to which they are accustomed.

2019 offerings: Professor Daly will lead students in an exploration of the rich history and culture of **Ireland**. The course's academic meetings will be enhanced by a ten day trip over spring break, visiting historical sites, museums, vibrant cities, and the Irish countryside. The trip to Ireland will begin in Dublin, the capital of the Republic of Ireland, and will conclude in Belfast, the largest city in Northern Ireland. In the days in-between, we will visit the medieval city of Kilkenny, the breathtaking Antrim coast, and the beautiful valley of Glendalough. Professor Cuperly will introduce students to the well-preserved history, vibrant cultural diversity, music, food and beautiful ecosystems of southern **Mexico**. The 10-night visit to the country will begin in Mexico City, the political and cultural capital of the country, continue to the indigenous heartland, mountains and jungle of Chiapas State, and finish with the majestic Mayan ruins, colonial splendor and natural beauty of the Yucatan Peninsula.

Faculty Spotlight: Saying Goodbye



It is with regret that we note the retirement this year of Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed from her full-time professorship at MCLA. Dr. Sneed joined the History and Political Science Department in 1995, bringing a wealth of teaching, research and activist experiences from across the United States. Her impacts on students, college programs and the greater Berkshire County community were immediate and will be long lasting.

Professor Jones-Sneed's collaborative, administrative and organizational skills are widely recognized across campus. Whether chairing the History department, directing the Women's Study Program, editing the *Mind's Eye* or taking on numerous tasks and positions, Dr. Jones-Sneed always sought to strengthen campus-wide efforts in developing scholarship, diversity, and student opportunities. Probably no faculty member at MCLA is more widely recognized and respected by faculty and staff than Frances.

Dr. Jones-Sneed's commitment to service and education did not stop at the campus boundaries. She combined her scholarly work with a dedication to the greater Berkshire community, researching and promoting the Berkshire County African American heritage in

the local school curricula and the public at large. In 2006 she organized a conference at MCLA, "The Shaping Role of Place in African-American Biography," that drew educators and historians from across the country. Through her research and writing Dr. Jones-Sneed is a nationally recognized scholar who has made a significant contribution to the greater understanding and appreciation of African-American history.

While Professor Jones-Sneed's college and community legacies are well-known and highly lauded, they are matched by her classroom successes. Her students attest to her strong concern for their learning and promotion of their abilities to apply the discipline of history to understand the everyday lives of people. Whether conducting southern civil rights tours or teaching students how to do oral interviews Dr. Jones-Sneed brings history alive, linking the past to understanding the present.

Although Frances is retiring from full-time teaching she will not disappear from MCLA, the community or academia. As she always has, Dr. Jones-Sneed will balance her devotion to her amazing family with her constant commitment to education and service.

Faculty Spotlight (Part 2)

Research Spotlight: In addition to teaching courses, advising students, and serving on committees, department faculty also continue their work as scholars, researching topics of political and historical importance. The History House Herald is in the midst of a series profiling this research.

David Cupery, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Most of my research focuses on the international influence of the world's great powers, such as the U.S. and China. These countries and others pursue important economic and geopolitical goals throughout the world. Their ability to obtain desired outcomes depends on more than just the carrots and sticks they can brandish. It also depends on what Harvard political scientist Joseph Nye has deemed 'soft power': the capacity to get others to do what you want through the power of attraction.

My research has engaged this topic by studying public opinion and political rhetoric (what political elites say) toward the United States and China in Latin America. My earliest published work looked specifically at anti-Americanism and confronted the common assumption that the region was a bastion for deeply-held negative views of our country. However, the survey data reveals this assumption to be flawed: most Latin Americans hold favorable views of the U.S. My analysis explains this anomaly by demonstrating that these positive views are due to most Latin Americans viewing the U.S. primarily through an economic lens (our wealth, jobs, products, etc) rather than thinking first and foremost about our military might or foreign policy interventionism or alleged hypocrisy. My dissertation expanded this analysis to Latin American views of China and my most recent published paper examines the puzzling coexistence of the previously-mentioned positive views of the U.S. with frequent vocal criticisms of 'El Norte' from Latin American leaders. Most recently, I have built a massive dataset that brings together all the surveys where the people of one country have been asked about their views of another country. I have combined the results of these surveys with variables addressing various political, economic, geographic, historical, and cultural links between countries to try and determine the principal determinants of soft power across the globe.



Faculty Spotlight (Part 3)

In light of the retirement of Professor Frances Jones-Sneed, the department has hired a new full-time history faculty member. We are excited to announce that Amanda Kleintop will be joining us this summer. Amanda is currently wrapping up her doctoral studies at Northwestern University and is also a doctoral fellow at the American Bar Foundation. She specializes in nineteenth-century American history with a minor field in historical methodologies. Her research interests include the U.S. South, Civil War, slavery, and emancipation in the Atlantic World. Her dissertation, "The Balance of Freedom: Abolishing Property Rights in Slaves," examines white southerners' demands for federal reimbursement for their freed slaves and relief from debts for the value of slaves between 1864 and the 1870s. It explores the political consequences of their attempts to profit from what they believed was their right to own property in humans by claiming compensation for their freed slaves from the federal government and relief from their debts for the value of slaves. Before attending Northwestern, Amanda worked in digital history with the Digital Scholarship Lab and public history with Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission. She holds a B.A. in history and leadership studies from the University of Richmond (2011).



Other Department News

COPLAC Digital Course

In the fall, Anthony Corbett and Shane Voci completed a COPLAC (Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges) digital course in “Conflicts in America: Case Studies in Peace-Making,” taught remotely by professors at Georgia College in Milledgeville, Ga., and the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha, Okla. The course, which met remotely using an online classroom technology, provided students with an opportunity to research a case study of conflict resolution in their communities and then build a web site to present their findings and analysis. Anthony and Shane chose Shays’ Rebellion, the 1780s uprising around Springfield, and its aftermath. To explore their work, go to <http://conflict.coplacdigital.org/mcla/>.

Reformers, Rebels, and Revolutionaries

In fall 2018, the department will offer the second in a series of new 200 level HIST courses: HIST 220 Reformers, Rebels, and Revolutionaries in East Asia. Using a “lives and times” approach, this course will introduce to students some men and women whose lives reflect major social, cultural, political and economic developments in the modern history of East Asia (China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam). These individuals were uniquely positioned to influence history when their society experienced profound transition and transformation through imperialism, industrialization, wars, and social conflicts.

Annual Department Banquet

On the evening of Tuesday, April 24th, we will hold our annual department banquet to celebrate our seniors, including those who completed their degrees in December and those who will graduate in May. On that night we will also formally induct our 2018 class into Phi Alpha Theta, the national History honor society, and Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for Political Science. Seniors, please mark the date in your calendars to be a part of the banquet. If you are a junior or senior and would like to find out more about Phi Alpha Theta or Pi Sigma Alpha, please visit our department web sites.

Fall 2018 Coures Offerings

In addition to survey courses and methods courses, the department plans to offer these upper level courses...

HIST 305 Britain from 1688

HIST 320 The Civil War and Reconstruction

HIST 320 Slavery and Emancipation in the Atlantic World

HIST 320 US from Cold War to Reagan

HIST 401 Gilded Age Gotham

HIST 403 Asia and the West

HIST 450 Career and ePortfolio workshop (POSC cross-list)

POSC 300 Politics and the News Media

POSC 315 Campaigns and Elections

POSC 333 The Politics of War and Conflict

POSC 401 Global Development

CCAP 300 Conversations on Race

POSC 450 Career and ePortfolio workshop (HIST cross-list)