A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Over the last few years, the Shippensburg University History and Philosophy Department has been exploring new ways for students to experience the richness of history. This fall, the department piloted a new program called “Dining Through the Times.”

“Dining Through the Times” is a unique partnership between the History/Philosophy Department and Chartwells (our campus dining service). The brainchild of Dr. David Godshalk in coordination with the Dining Services Director, Nick Iula, “Dining Through the Times” invites students to eat foods in the Reisner Dining Hall that correspond to topics being covered in our general education history courses.

Last semester began with a Paleolithic dinner—featuring a whole wild boar—followed by foods of the Middle East, and then tastes of the European Renaissance. Students were clearly excited by the opportunity to sample historical foods, and the dinners sparked conversations that continued long after the meals had ended.

Not only did the program help students to experience history with their senses, but it also reflected the real potential of a residential university like Shippensburg to transform the entire campus into a space where learning continues beyond the classroom. The program highlighted the power of food as a tool for making history relevant and accessible.

This fun, educational, and delicious program will continue in the coming year, and I am happy to extend an invitation to all our current students, friends, and alumni to join us for the next installment coming on Tuesday, February 2. Author, chef, and scholar Michael Twitty will be coming to campus to discuss the African roots of American foodways. From 4-6:30 pm, Reisner Dining Hall will feature African-influenced foods that Michael Twitty will help to prepare (the cost is $10 at the door, or free for students with meal plans).

Then, at 7:30 pm in Memorial Auditorium, Michael Twitty will be giving a free public talk entitled, “The African Roots of American Food.” It should be a wonderful evening of delicious food and fascinating history.

I hope you can join us!

Dr. Steven Burg, Chair of the History and Philosophy Department
THE DIGGIN’ HISTORY SERIES

The Diggin’ History! Series during the fall 2015 semester included four lectures that discussed a vast array of topics and ideas such as women’s gender roles, textiles and clothing, social development, collective memory, and historic preservation and its importance to the roles of historians. Featuring distinguished academic scholars and public historians, the Diggin’ History! Series this semester connected students, faculty, and alumni through the topics that were relatable and interesting.

The first installment of Diggin’ History! this fall featured Mary D. Doering, MA, who has specialized in costume history for over forty years. With experience in teaching courses such as costume history at the Smithsonian Masters Program, as well as lecturing at multiple professional conferences and museums, Doering is considered an expert in the field of textile and costume history. During her lecture “Clothing and Textiles in the 18th Century,” Doering brought in her town textiles including multiple items such as shoes, dresses, shirts, and accessories and explained their role in every day life. Using mostly women’s clothing as well as in more formal settings, Doering also explored the realm of social development and textile history.

In the second installment of the series, Dr. Jo Barraclough Paoletti’s lecture “Revolution will be litigated: Short Skirts, Long Hair, and the Birth of the Culture Wars” discussed topics such as women’s history, cultural identity, and material culture expressed through clothing and style. Dr. Paoletti is a Professor within the American Studies department at the University of Maryland with degrees in apparel and design and textiles from Syracuse University and the University of Rhode Island, where she concentrated in consumer culture and gender identity.
QUILTS IN CONTEXT

The third lecture in the Diggin’ History! Series was by A. Newbold “Newbie” Richardson, who presented “Quilts in Context: Women’s History, Craft, and Material Culture in America.” Discussing issues still relatable to today, Newbie explained how American quilt heritage was influenced by other fields and cultures of each time period.

Richardson, a highly notable material culture historian and textile conservator, enhanced her lecture by including her own ceramics, textiles, furniture and fine arts and explaining how they all related to the historical design of quilts in America.

SPRING 2016 SCHEDULE

The Diggin’ History! Series will continue into the Spring semester as well, so mark your calendars! Up next in the series is Dr. Kate Brown and her talk on February 25 at 7:30 pm in Old Main Chapel entitled, "Plutopia: Making Nuclear Bombs and Social Utopias: The First American and Soviet Plutonium Factories.”

Our own Dr. Gretchen Pierce will present “The Alcohol Industry, Identity Formation, and the Temperance Movement in Mexico, 1910-1940” which draws from her new book recently published by The University of Arizona Press. The last installment of this year’s series will feature a Shippensburg History Department undergraduate student, Brandon Moist, who will be discussing research based on his summer spent abroad in Jordan on April 21st, 2016.

For more information on the Diggin’ History! Series, and to view video streaming records of these lectures, check out this website:

www.ship.edu/History/News

And the department Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SUhistoryandphilosophy
THROWBACK THURSDAY AND THE LIBRARY BLOG

Every Thursday, Applied History graduate student Sheila Joy contributes to the Lehman Library Blog with a “Throwback Thursday” (TBT) feature where she “showcases a particular item or collection in the Shippensburg University Archives and Special Collections. Joy added, “I try to make each post relevant to our readers by choosing a theme or topic that correlates with current events or a historical date.”

Sheila explained that some of these events have included Halloween, Homecoming, March Madness, fall fashion, Women’s History Month, and African American History Month. “I also try to make local connections to national trends to show that Shippensburg’s history is just as important as more well known places and events,” she concluded.

Inheriting this project from archivist and librarian Christy Fic, another proud graduate of the Applied History M.A. program, Joy thought it would be a great way to engage library blog readers with not only the archives on campus but Shippensburg’s local history as well.

INSIDE THE LIBRARY BLOG AND THROWBACK THURSDAY POSTS

Q: What has been the most fun aspect of starting these new projects? What have you learned from doing them?

A: “The most rewarding aspect of TBT is the positive feedback I receive from our readers. I’ve learned to present history in a more engaging manner that is interesting to the public. This is an essential skill to have while pursuing a career in public history.”

Q: What has been your favorite blog post so far and why?

A: “It’s a tie between Ship’s car culture/parking regulations over time and when students on campus began to dress more casually. I didn’t realize how interesting it would be to explore student transportation and actually made some interesting findings. To make this relevant to our readers, it was posted on October 1, the 75th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. As for students dressing more casually, I found out that Ship began to dress casual later than the rest of the nation. Jeans didn’t become the norm at Ship until the mid 1970’s. I loved this topic so much I am researching it further for my History and Care of Costume and Textiles in a Museum Environment class with Dr. Bohleke.”
“It was a very valuable experience to see how big of a corporation the museum really was and to expand my appreciation for it.”

As a secondary education major, Zach noted that “this internship really reinforced that I wanted to work with kids because many of the tours I guided were with school groups.”

By doing his internship at the Little League Museum, Zach was better able to understand how museums work on the corporate and business side, alongside other historical aspects and content of the museum. As the programming intern, he was responsible for creating new and innovative activities for kids to do when they came in for visits.

Zach’s greatest programming achievement was, “being able to create a scavenger hunt for the kids as they went through the museum. Whoever was able to win the scavenger hunt then received a free pass for the museum on their next trip.”

Zach stated, “I enjoy all aspects of history, but if I had to pick one post colonial American history would be my favorite. After graduating with my BSED, I would like to teach history in a high school.”
THE STEWART HALL PROJECT

Shown here with Pennsylvania Historical Association President Dr. Michael Birkner, undergraduates Taylor Mason and Devon Newcomer were awarded second place in the student poster session at the PHA’s 2015 annual meeting in October. Along with other students in the History/Philosophy Department, the pair conducted oral histories with Shippensburg alumni focusing on their remembrances of historic Stewart Hall as part of “Inside These Walls: The Stewart Hall History Project.” Mason, a junior, is in the B.A. with Public History concentration and is also minoring in Communications/Journalism. Newcomer is a History B.A. who is also involved in ROTC and will graduate this spring as a second lieutenant. The two were part of a team overseen by Dr. Steven Burg that also included Jennifer Ott, Troy Ehrensberger, and David Beecher, graduate students in the M.A. in Applied History program. Under Burg’s guidance, the research group interviewed, transcribed, and edited more than twenty interviews on the history of Stewart Hall, which slated for a major renovation and adaptive reuse. Conducting interviews by phone and in person, the team was able to better understand the importance of Stewart Hall and its place on Shippensburg’s campus. The oral histories have since been transformed into a book and will soon be published by the Shippensburg University Center for Applied History.

INSIDE THESE WALLS

Q: What was the hardest aspect of conducting this project? What was the most rewarding?
Devon: “Finding the time to conduct the interviews in person was very challenging with my schedule. Time management and balancing my schedule became something I had to learn how to do efficiently. The most rewarding aspect was making alumni connections. It was nice getting to meet them on a more personal level even if it was over the phone.”

Q: What did you learn by doing this research project?
Taylor: “I was impressed to learn by doing these interviews that the university was never segregated when many at this time were.”

Q: What are your plans after college?
Taylor: “I plan to go to graduate school and then work for a museum or a historical society.”
Devon: “I plan to go on active duty in the army as a second lieutenant.”
Sophomore Emily Bach is a Public History major who decided to do her internship at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. When asked what her main role was at her internship, Emily explained, “we had to rehouse the entire collection. The building that the society was originally in was basically falling apart, so we had to carefully package everything up, label it, and move it to the new location.” Emily noted, “there were over twelve thousand pieces that the collection housed that all needed to be entirely moved. There was water and drywall that was dangerous for clothing so we also had to be mindful of that.”

Emily stated that during her time at her internship she “housed and removed over four hundred pieces and also learned how to keep the clothes safe from and store them in climate controlled rooms.”

Emily explained, “It will definitely take multiple years for them to rehouse the entire collection.”
Emily explained that during the moving process she was able to choose boxes that were of interest to her. These boxes were then carted to the workroom, unpacked, and given a condition report and an identification number for the garment describing the textile. “Often we would draw pictures of what the garment looked like and the condition it was in. We would also construct custom made hangers so the garment would fit properly and hang well. If it did not meet the conditions to be hung up, then we would label it to be put on a specific rack.”

Emily gained much of her experience volunteering at the Fashion Archives including learning how to operate software such as PastPerfect and the proper way to describe most textiles. Due to her success last semester, she was invited to return as an intern at the Maryland Historical Society in the Summer of 2016.

Q: What would you like to learn more about if you had the chance?
A: “I would really like to learn more from other museums, maybe medium sized museums. I also would really like to learn about the conservation of clothing.”

Q: Which artifact ended up being your favorite at your internship?
A: “Within each decade of clothing at the historical society I had my favorite item. For example, during the 1830’s my favorite piece had these ridiculous sleeve plumpers that made the sleeves really huge.”

In this finished exhibit, a plaid dress and a red child’s dress are featured. This is the display Emily worked on to finish and display.

Featured above is a Civil War dress Emily fitted on a mannequin for display.
THE ALUMNI MENTORING NETWORK

Chad Cumrine graduated from the History/Philosophy department in 2012. His official job title is Budget Technician at C&O Canal National Historical Park where most of his duties are administrative, including tracking expenditures, providing staff with budget updates, and paying utilities and other bills. Invited to speak at an Alumni Mentoring session, Chad shared with students his career experiences thus far and how his history degree has enhanced his career options.

“*I was happy to discuss my professional experiences since graduating from Shippensburg, and how my time in college helped me prepare.*”- Chad Cumrine

Q: What advantages did having a history degree help you gain in the work place?

A: “My undergraduate research and courses I took at Shippensburg were instrumental in leading to my first internship with the Student Conservation Association. This internship gave me the opportunity to be involved in some historic preservation projects, which required the application of many skills I learned in college. More broadly speaking, skills that every history major practices like public speaking, writing, and research are used pretty much no matter what you do professionally.”

Q: What are your future plans?

A: “I plan to continue my career with the National Park Service, and become more involved with the community through volunteering.”

Q: Please explain a few things you discussed at the alumni mentoring session you gave at Ship.

A: “In the past few years, I have worked several different jobs, from internships in my field to temporary data entry positions. I wanted to explain how my history degree enabled my skills and explain that within these various positions to the group. I wanted to emphasize what I have learned and benefitted from each experience, regardless of whether or not I realized it at the time. It was great to speak with undergraduates and graduate students who are thinking ahead.”

Chad biking along the Great Allegheny Passage.
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

- Check out the Diggin’ History! Series schedule in the spring for speakers like Dr. Kate Brown and our own professor, Dr. Gretchen Pierce
- Volunteer to be an Alumni Mentor by sending an email to Dr. Allen Dieterich-Ward at ajdieterichward@ship.edu
- Current students: send papers you are proud of into the Department for Student Research Awards for a chance to win!
- Donate to the department Student Research and Service-Learning Fund or the department Scholarship Fund online at the Shippensburg University Foundation at http://www.sufoundation.org.