
Augustana College

2012

History Professors' Activities

12/2012 Dr. Lendol Calder has taken the lead in trying to better equip history majors with the tools to become better educators. Many history students become teachers and the American Historical Association hopes to prepare them for that possibility. Dr. Calder has instituted a program at Augustana that requires prospective history professors to prepare a 50-minute colloquium on their teaching philosophy along with the other materials needed to apply at the college. On a national level, the AHA is assembling a committee of experts to look at what methods work best for teaching history to undergraduates. Dr. Calder has been named to this advisory committee because of his previous work in the field. At a recent AHA conference, Dr. Calder was a featured speaker on the topic, sparking laughs by dividing the audience by what title they would put on their taxes: historian or educator. The divide on the issue nicely illustrates the bridge that Dr. Calder is helping to build between the two titles.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/01/07/aha-session-focuses-role-teaching-discipline>

11/2012 Dr. Lendol Calder has accepted an invitation to advise the graduate history program at the University of California, Berkeley as they redesign their Ph.D. program so that it will train historians to be effective teachers of history. The new program, funded by the Teagle Foundation, will be the first of its kind in the country and a model for other graduate programs to follow.

08/2012 Dr. Hui Zhao joins the History department as the Asian Studies professor replacing Dr. Van Symons, who retired this past spring. Hui received her Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2012, and received a Certificate of Distinction in Teaching from Harvard University in 2008 and 2009. Her area of study is Constitutional history with a particular emphasis on East Asia reception of the concept from the West in the late 19th and early 20th century. She is interested in questions about the purposes of modern constitution with which early East Asian constitutionalists incorporated their indigenous modern state-building. Her research interests include: constitutionalism, legal history, comparative thoughts, East Asian history, Chinese philosophy, and Western political philosophy.

06/2012 Dr. Jane Simonsen was on Talk of Iowa last June in conjunction with a talk she gave at the German-American Heritage Center (it's about drinking and prostitution!). To listen to this very interesting conversation click here: <http://news.iowapublicradio.org/post/suds-brewing-history-quad-cities> Dr. Simonsen begins at just about the 15 minute mark.

06/2012 Dr. David Ellis will be conducting research in Germany as he broadens and deepens his study on "The Protestant 'Awakening' and Cultural Warfare in Prussia, 1816-1856". Dr. Ellis will

spend four weeks in Berlin working in the archives at Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz deepening his analysis of the Innere Mission and social question in Prussia. He will also consider the relevance of the "Awakening" to Prussia's response to the Crimean War. He plans to incorporate these additional elements with previous work and publish his analysis as a book.

2012-13 Dr. Lendol Calder will be on partial research leave to work on a history "untextbook" for use in introductory US history courses. "Uncovering the American Past" will offer an alternative to traditional textbooks good for revealing the essential cognitive moves of historical thinking that are most useful and necessary for citizens in everyday life. Dr. Calder will also be representing the Augustana History Department in an exciting venture sponsored by the American Historical Association (AHA) and the Lumina Foundation. Working with a select group of sixty historians and representatives from the worlds of business, government, and the professions, the AHA hopes to build consensus for what undergraduate history majors should be able to know, do, and value when they graduate from college. Called "The Tuning Project," history is the first discipline selected by Lumina for this national initiative to improve undergraduate teaching and learning.

05/2012 Brian Leech will be a Teaching Fellow in the History Department for the 2012-2013 academic year. Brian has been a part-time Assistant Professor on campus and is finishing his Ph.D. in history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this year. His teaching and research interests focus on the environmental and social history of the American West. He is currently working on a history of open-pit copper mining in Montana.

05/2012 Dr. Molly Todd has accepted the University of Washington's fellowship offer. Next year, she will be the Mellon-Sawyer Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Jackson School of International Studies. Her focus for the year will be making progress on her second book project on forced displacement in Cold War Central America. In addition, she will be involved in the University's Sawyer Seminar, "B/ordering Violence: Boundaries, Indigeneity and Gender in the Americas." She will work closely with other scholars whose research "considers the complexities of external national borders as well as the multiple internal borders that characterize the politics of belonging for diasporic and Indigenous communities in the Americas." Spring quarter, she will be teaching a graduate seminar related to her research.

05/2012 Dr. Todd Cleveland was recently awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and will be spending the 2012-2013 academic year in Ghana, Africa. He will be continuing his research on African diamond mineworkers and will also be teaching graduate seminars at the University of Ghana in Accra (Legon). Dr. Cleveland will also look forward to the arrival in January of approximately two dozen Augustana students who will be participating in the West Africa study abroad in Ghana.

04/2012 Dr. Jane Simonsen speaks out in the Quad City Times in the article "Let Issues Draw Women Voters," posted Tuesday, April 17, 2012. The article begins with...I'm disappointed that both politicians and the media trivialize the devaluation of household labor by framing it as a "mommy war" and a "spat" rather than a critical economic issue. Some news reports characterized the comments by Ann Romney and Hilary Rosen as a catfight, and both Mitt Romney and Barack Obama attempted to distance themselves from the problem. Both Romney and Rosen are making

important points, yet the media and candidates deflect a real economic problem and pit women against each other. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

04/2012 Dr. Tom Mayer has been wandering around Indiana and Central New York spreading the gospel of Galileo. Mostly he lectured on "Trying Galileo," a general overview of his trial (surprisingly enough) at Notre Dame, Indiana University and Hartwick and LeMoyne Colleges, in an effort to seek ecumenical balance; Hartwick's Lutheran and LeMoyne Jesuit. For variety, he gave a different talk at Cornell University, about Galileo's telescopic demonstrations in Rome in 1611 and their implications for an alternative organization of 17th-century science.

While at Indiana, he inspected two more copies of Galileo's Sunspot Letters (1613), the book that got him in trouble. One of these was owned by a wealthy lawyer whose brother and son held important positions in the papal hierarchy, his son becoming a cardinal. This copy is particularly interesting since somebody-maybe that owner-made a few notes of how Galileo's observations agreed with scripture. That they didn't was the charge that eventually led to Galileo's condemnation. Those notes provide evidence that the Roman hierarchy was not a monolith and that Galileo wasn't wasting his time trying to cultivate support in some sections of it. [Click here to read more about Dr. Mayer's research.](#)

04/2012 Dr. Jane Simonsen will be presenting a paper on Davenport native Susan Glaspell's 1921 play *The Inheritors* (which is set at a liberal arts college on a hill overlooking the Mississippi in Illinois....) at the Mid-America American Studies Association conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma April 2-3.

03/2012 Dr. Molly Todd gets a shout-out in an article on the history methods course in the March Journal of American History, for an assignment from her 200 Gateway course. Everyone teaching 200 will want to read this article: "Historiographic Mapping: Toward a Signature Pedagogy for the Methods Course," by Laura Westhoff.

03/2012 Dr. Jane Simonsen was the keynote speaker for the March 28 Women's History Month program put on by the Army Sustainment Command at the Rock Island Arsenal and was also part of a series of guest lectures on women and work during the March celebration of Women's History Month at Black Hawk College in Moline.

01/2012 Dr. Todd Cleveland spent time on the York University campus in Toronto, Canada. He spoke to the student body on the topic of "Athletic goals, Life Goals: African Soccer Players Labor Strategies and Migration Within the Portuguese Colonial Empire, 1945-1975", [click here to read more](#), and "Diamonds in the rough: Corporate Paternalism and African Professionalism on the Mines of Colonial Angola, 1917-1975" [click here to read more](#).