History Today / A New Insurgency
Well-behaved students seldom make history . . .

By Howard Brick, Professor

And according to many observers of American life after WWII, that was precisely the problem with the “silent generation” of the 1950s. In June 1962, however, a small group of U-M students made history by breaking the silence: They convened a lakeside meeting of a small national organization, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and helped draft a declaration of principles, The Port Huron Statement, that became the best-known expression of radical left-wing dissent in the unexpectedly turbulent Sixties.

To mark the 50th anniversary of that Michigan meeting, the University hosted a major retrospective conference, “A New Insurgency: The Port Huron Statement in Its Time and Ours,” October 31-November 2, 2012, organized largely by faculty and graduate students in the Department of History. Featuring a dozen veterans of the Port Huron SDS convention and approximately forty scholars from around the U.S. and Europe, “A New Insurgency” attracted overflow crowds to reflect on the experience of social-justice movements then and now.

Similar 50-year commemorations took place elsewhere in the country, but no other compared with the size and scope of the U-M event. While Ann Arbor can plausibly be called the birthplace of SDS, dissent did not originate here but drew inspiration from the civil rights, peace, and anticolonial movements stirring throughout the country and around the world from the late 1950s onward. It grew as U.S. military intervention in Vietnam—and protests against it—escalated in 1965. In that year too, Michigan played a significant part: the first campus antiwar “teach-in” took place at U-M in March 1965, and the first large antiwar rally in Washington, D.C. on April 17, 1965, featured a stirring address by U-M graduate student Paul Potter (1939–1984), who was then SDS president.

Coinciding with the “New Insurgency” conference, the University’s Labadie Collection in Hatcher Library received a donation of Potter’s personal papers from his widow Leni Wildflower, who also spoke at the conference on a panel of early women leaders of SDS. She was joined by renowned activists Casey Hayden, Maria Varela, Sharon Jeffrey Lehrer, Barbara Haber, and Dorothy Burlage, as well as Martha P. Noonan, another U-M student of the early 1960s who helped link SDS with the path-breaking civil rights group of the South, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

On other panels, historians, social scientists, and literary scholars discussed the wide range of social movements in the time of Port Huron, including campaigns against the nuclear arms race, anticolonial revolutions abroad, the beginnings of Black Power agitation in Detroit and Chicano activism in New Mexico, as well as comparable New Left movements in Germany, Britain, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Historian Ruth Rosen, one of the conference keynote speakers, described the roots of recent feminism in the protest movements of the 1960s. The primary drafter of The Port Huron Statement (and former Michigan Daily editor), activist Tom Hayden told a spirited audience of 500 how The Port Huron Statement came to be and how its principles of “participatory democracy” continue to inspire social movements today.

Planning for the 50th anniversary of The Port Huron Statement coincided with the rise of new protest movements to expand democratic practices around the world, from the overthrow of dictatorships in Tunisia and Egypt in 2011 to the “Occupy” movement in the U.S. and abroad that same year. Street demonstrations of June 2013 in Istanbul and Frankfurt against autocratic government policies and economic austerity resumed that current of dissent. Numerous speakers at the “New Insurgency” conference compared the current demands for active citizen participation in public decision-making with Port Huron principles. The result was a conference that faculty, students, and visitors called the most engaging academic event in recent memory. Organizers will keep the conference website (www.lsa.umich.edu/phs) as an archive and will publish a book of conference papers entitled A New Insurgency with U-M’s new Maize Books series in 2014.
Dear Friends,

As I compose this final message of my term as chair, I look back upon five momentous years of accomplishment. In that time we made sixteen new appointments, while another six faculty moved new fractions into History from elsewhere. We also brought each of our promotions successfully to completion — eight tenure cases to the rank of associate professor, nine cases of promotion to full. These enhancements further confirm our standing as a globally pre-eminent history department.

Our faculty work to a remarkable level of scholarly excellence, receiving large numbers of awards, prizes, fellowships, and other distinctions.

Of course, precisely this excellence leaves us always vulnerable to raiding by other leading institutions, and here, with the support of the College, we secured ten major renotions while losing only three colleagues to elsewhere, each of them for compelling family and personal reasons. On the student front, we successfully rethought our teaching mission with a bold series of changes to the curriculum and advising, making our undergraduate program into a beacon of creative innovation. Planned during 2010–11, these changes are now fully in place, and in recognition we received Awards of Excellence from both the LSA Student Government and the LSA Dean’s Office. These wonderful boosts to the morale and distinction of our Department are all the more impressive coming after the financial shocks of 2009, which left so many other colleges and universities reeling. In our case, thanks to an extraordinarily supportive administration and our own collective resources and esprit, we emerged from those tribulations stronger than ever.

This edition of the newsletter looks at the broad contemporary resonance of History at Michigan, from a stunning retrospective on the Port Huron Statement of 1962 to the opening of new undergraduate career prospects and an exciting World History curriculum development project for high schools statewide.

I am delighted to be handing my successor Kathleen Canning such a strong, healthy, and exciting operation!

With warmest regards,

Geoff Eley

From
the New
Chair

I am delighted to write to you as one of my first official acts as the new chair of the History Department. As I step into this position, the Department has much to celebrate and a number of challenging tasks ahead. Following on the heels of the highly successful reform of our undergraduate program, during the coming academic year we will launch a review and reform of our graduate curriculum and training. As one of the largest History Departments in the country, these reforms prepare us well to address the many challenges that face the Humanities and Social Sciences today.

My predecessor, Geoff Eley, has steered our Department with magnificent wisdom, wit, insight, and creativity these last five years, overseeing a period of significant faculty expansion and guiding us through the lively debates and discussions that accompanied our reforms. The accomplishments of his term will accompany and inspire us for years to come. I am enormously grateful to him for his generosity and guidance as I begin my term as chair and I join my colleagues in wishing Geoff a wonderful period of respite, research, and writing as he embarks upon a much-deserved scholarly leave. I look forward to working with all of the members of our community: faculty and staff, graduate and undergraduate students, fellows and visiting scholars, as well as to meeting and hearing from our alumni and donors.

Best wishes,

Kathleen M. Canning

Letter from the Chair

Our donors continue to help the Michigan History Department remain one of the top ten programs in the country. Thank you!

We welcome your ongoing or new support of these important funds:

• History Strategic Fund for initiating new programs
• Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Fund for programming and fellowships for students and faculty
• History Graduate Fellowship supports outstanding graduate research

You can give online at www.lsa.umich.edu/alumni/giveonline. Click on Program Support and select History from the “Select areas to support” link.

If you have any questions about giving, please phone (888) 518-7888.
Small World

By Victor Lieberman, Professor

As an Italian historian once quipped, ultimately all history is contemporary. So long as Western countries dominated the world, historians sought to root that superiority in peculiarly Western cultural advantages of long standing. But now that we have entered an era of rising regional equivalence, scholars have begun searching for early signs of comparability between Europe and non-Western regions. The obvious virtue of this shift is that it sensitizes us to hitherto ignored parallels and possibilities. Yet this same enthusiasm for equivalence can lead historians to exaggerate the role of conjuncture and accident, and to minimize institutional differences. In my view, some early revisionist efforts foundered because they insisted on finding in Asia political and economic institutions that in fact were narrowly European.

My two-volume study Strange Parallels: Southeast Asia in Global Context, c. 800–1830 (Cambridge University Press, 2003, 2009) looks to more neutral, less institutionally dependent measures of East-West comparability by focusing on broad patterns of political and cultural integration. I use Southeast Asia’s marginality (both geographic and historiographic) to develop a view of Eurasia as a coherent yet internally variegated universe, whose several regions exhibited comparable developmental trajectories over a thousand years. These parallels—none of which has before attracted attention—involves four central claims.

First, I argue that between c. 800 and 1830 Southeast Asia, Europe, Japan, China, and India all exhibited sustained, mutually reinforcing trends toward territorial consolidation, administrative centralization, and cultural homogenization. In every case—if to widely varying degrees—socially and geographically isolated entities yielded to larger, more closely knit systems that were also more internally specialized. Symptom and cause of integration, political breakdowns grew shorter and less disruptive. At the same time, periods of construction and collapse in widely separated sectors of Eurasia became ever more closely coordinated. I do not claim that the resultant forms and concentrations of power were necessarily very similar. I do claim, however, that within each realm, judged by local standards, political and cultural integration in 1830 exceeded that in 1600, which exceeded that in 1400, and so forth. And in every region integration accelerated markedly after 1600.

Second, amidst critical differences in scale and efficiency, the dynamics of integration in far-flung regions were broadly similar. Together with firearms, economic and demographic growth privileged political cores, while commercial intensification fostered efficient taxation and literacy, along with religious, ethnic, and linguistic standardization. As political centers grew more competent and competitive, they in turn boosted economic growth and cultural circulation through both self-conscious and unintended interventions.

Third, the growing synchronization between distant realms reflected a shifting variety of forces. Arguably the most critical coordinating mechanisms were hemispheric climate shifts, pan-Eurasian disease regimens (including the Black Death and the transformation of smallpox from an almost universally fatal epidemic to a less lethal disease of childhood), sustained increases in maritime trade, the post–1500 diffusion of European firearms, and major increases in world bullion supplies after 1450.

Fourth, depending on the criteria we choose, Eurasian regions can be organized into any number of distinct configurations. If we focus on military power and industrial potential, the classic Europe-Asia divide remains valid. But if we consider patterns of state and culture formation between c. 800 and 1400, the West-East distinction blurs. For example, in terms of developmental chronology and their relation to earlier empires, among the realms under review, Vietnam and France were most similar. The use of ethnicity as a badge of political allegiance was far more salient in Burma, France, and Russia than in Japan. Elites in Russia and Vietnam looked to foreign models more readily than did their contemporaries in Indic Southeast Asia. The Eurasian rimlands, including Western Europe and Southeast Asia, shared a pattern of indigenous-led state formation distinct from regions like China and India which were subject to Inner Asian conquest. And so on. In short, as categories of analysis, Europe and Asia may be less useful than Eurasia conceived as an interactive zone of idiosyncratic formations.

Hopefully, then, these volumes will encourage a new view of pre-modern Eurasia. Yet, somewhat ironically given its synthetic vision, I believe that this approach also can enrich local studies by helping to tease out overarching factors from variables that were indeed unique to particular societies.
By Hitomi Tonomura, Director

From the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, we send you our greetings and appreciation for your continuing support. After the past year’s memorable events, we held an April finalé to honor LSA Dean Terry McDonald, whose inspiration made the Institute a reality in 2006, and Professor Geoff Eley, the Department chair and an unfailing advocate of the Institute. Their talks painted a vivid picture of academia’s changing institutional landscape since the 1980s, reminding us of the exciting trajectories that laid the groundwork for the EIHS mission.

As we leave behind “Taking Place: History and Spatial Imaginations,” and look forward to engaging our new theme, “Materials of History,” we reflect on how our programs can succeed with only one staff person—the talented and energetic Greg Parker. The key lies in the enthusiastic participation of Department faculty and graduate students, who nominate themes and speakers, run workshops, and offer other valuable ideas, not to mention their precious time. In fact, our graduate students suggested ideas that became the previous and upcoming themes.

Some graduate students, as EIHS liaisons, play a more formal role than others. Since 2007, Peter Lawless, Lenny Urena, Kimberly Powers, Davide Orsini, Ananda Burra, and Joseph Ho have filled this position, with Joshua Hubbard joining us for 2013–14. One may wonder what would prompt students to assume this time-consuming responsibility on top of their already full academic load. We learned from Ananda Burra and Joseph Ho that the privileges far outweigh the burden. How so?

Ananda is a joint degree student in Law and History. He explores the history of transnational anticolonial protest and public international law in the last days of the League of Nations. Joseph, a cultural historian, examines the meaning of photographs and films produced by the 20th-century American missionaries in China. The liaison office space has served both of them well. Ananda’s desk there became a veritable fortress walled by books. As Ananda read for his preliminary examinations, he also blocked off time for EIHS tasks. For Joseph, the liaison work was a welcome break from being a hermit in the shell of his exam preparation. A professional photographer, Joseph’s camera also captured nearly all of the event photos posted on the Institute’s website.

Ananda fondly remembers the staff’s offering of brownies, a nice accompaniment to the in-house espresso that kept him going. Joseph’s unforgettable moment happened at the first fall lecture, on a hot autumn day in 2012. Always helpful, Joseph was pouring popcorn into individual paper bags for distribution. Unexpectedly, Mr. Kenneth Eisenberg made one of his rare appearances, and complimented Joseph: “Nice popcorn; this is delicious.” Joseph then remembered his own attire: cut-off shorts and a T-shirt. Alas, while dressed for the weather, he missed the chance to impress our benefactor in a more scholarly fashion.

Ananda and Joseph are two very different historians, reflective of the diverse interests and specialties of the department. Ananda spent the summer clerking in a Washington, DC law firm while pursuing his research interest. Joseph left for California to complete his dissertation research. Both will take part in EIHS workshops this coming fall and winter, each with a visitor they had nominated (Professors Karen Merrill and Elizabeth Edwards).

Like the other liaisons, Ananda and Joseph have played a vital role in the Institute. Though their roles are formal, they are also typical of their peers, who contribute greatly to shaping the intellectual life at EIHS. With their help, we can promote a vibrant communal space where all types of historians, of various regions and time periods, can come together for what they like to do best: think critically, explore ideas, and ponder new possibilities.

To see next year’s schedule of events, visit our website: www.lsa.umich.edu/EIHS.
No Future? Not True! Go Just About Anywhere with a History Degree

By Anne Berg, Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies

When I cautiously voiced my plans to study history, my high school teachers looked at me in mortified disbelief and wished me “best of luck” in the unemployment lines. That was Germany in 1994. But history’s bad reputation stretches across oceans and continents and remains stubbornly resilient even in the face of overwhelming evidence of history’s marketability. Anxious parents now seek my advice regarding the practicality of their son’s or daughter’s skill set. Students, too, worry about their prospects for employment. Even so, every year many brave students not only confess their interest in history but take heart and declare a history major. This boldness is only a first rebuttal to the nagging question that most all our students face: “History? What are you going to do with THAT?”

On November 30, 2012, the department and the Eisenberg Institute invited five former History students to describe their career trajectories on the first annual History Career Day. Our guests—literary agent Joshua Bilmes; managing editor for National Geographic Travel Books Karen Carmichael; a committed public school teacher, Angelica Leveroni; reporter for the Wall Street Journal Kate Linebaugh; and an analyst for Wooster Capital, Jacob Strumwasser—provided a few answers and inspired current students to think more creatively about their own career paths. Over the course of the discussions it became apparent that the ability to take on an unpaid internship has become an important predictor of success. Sooo…

New Internships Program Goes LIVE!
Michigan History students have a wide range of skills and are analytical, creative, and innovative. Yet more and more employers expect college graduates to enter the job market with a degree and work experience. Internships, most of which remain unpaid, are the recurrent answer to this expectation. Our fall workshop and Madeleine Schwartz’s article, “Opportunity Costs: The True Price of Internships,” in the Winter 2013 issue of Dissent: A Quarterly of Politics and Culture, inspired a program to help our majors and challenge the assumed “educational value” of free work. This spring saw the birth of the No Free Mopping (NFM) Internships program.

To give our students a leg up and draw attention to trends that perpetuate and exacerbate social inequalities, the Undergraduate Committee developed a program that offers merit-based financial support to history majors who have accepted an unpaid internship of any kind. It is funded in part by a generous gift from the estate of Patrick White. We are extremely proud to have awarded stipends to Brighid Klick, Eleanor Davis, Joseph Duncker, and Conor Lane, four outstanding students who are completing unpaid internships this summer. Readers can follow the success of our student interns and the future development of this exciting and hopefully expanding initiative at http://nfminternships.com/.

Beyond the Classroom
Our students demonstrate every day that history matters beyond final papers, grades, and class projects. Each year two undergraduates serve as representatives to the Undergraduate Committee, and this past year Billie Fierros and Atlee Silk did a superb job bringing a much-needed student perspective to curricular and policy discussions. The most vibrant example of undergraduate culture is the History Club, which organizes bi-weekly meetings and a number of semi-formal sessions with faculty on topics of student interest. The club has revived the tradition of Holiday Nights at Greenfield Village in December, took a tour of the University of Michigan Art Museum, and ventured on an end-of-year field trip to the first United States’ Holocaust Museum in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

History wins LSA Student Government Departmental Award of Excellence for 2012-2013!!
2013 Departmental Award for Contributions to the Undergraduate Initiative given to History by LSA Dean’s Office
Class Act
Walk Like a Historian

By Terre Fisher, Communications

So, how can a required course that sounds like a form of bootcamp turn out to be fun and valuable? This was the challenge our faculty took on when, as part of the curriculum redesign, they created a class for underclassmen (and women) that teaches skills and presents problems that define the work of the historian.

History 202 (“Doing History”) gives new majors a chance to work with faculty and launches them toward their senior colloquium by example and through extended conversations via blog and written assignments. Students hone their analytical reading skills and learn how to approach primary and secondary sources, and search and navigate digital archives. Each section spends two to three weeks at the end of the term working on a research paper, paying careful attention to a set of primary documents and secondary sources. Beyond the classroom, in probably the most popular part of the course, they visit libraries such as the Bentley and the Clements, and museums like the Kelsey and the Arab-American National Museum in Dearborn. These visits expose them to original primary sources and allow them to observe and talk about the ways history is documented and presented.

In addition to bringing history majors into close contact with professors who can recommend them for the honors program or make internship recommendations, Doing History helps create a community of interest, a community of young historians. As Ian Baker (’15), a student from last year, observed enthusiastically, “The skills apply to any other class in history—learning how to read beyond the surface and write. Great class!”

Preparing Future Teachers of World History

By Terre Fisher, Communications

The U-M Department of History and School of Education recently received one of five “Our Shared Past” grants from the British Council, the Carnegie Corporation, and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) to develop, disseminate, and assess World History curricula that can be used in K-12 as well as high school and college environments. Bob Bain (School of Ed, History) and Hussein Fancy (History) are directing the project.

World History is the fastest growing subject in secondary school social studies curriculum in the United States. The Michigan project emphasizes the value of shifting scales and of moving between details and structures, not just putting histories in wider context, but comparing those contexts. Spanning vast temporal and spatial distances presents many difficulties for educators at all levels and so this project will train teachers and future university faculty to deal with these challenges. It is also an excellent opportunity for collaboration between History and Ed School graduate students.

The Michigan project has selected graduate students to work with faculty mentors and the project’s directors to develop curricular units on genocide, food, slavery, and paper. After being presented at a workshop for secondary teachers, these units will be run and further assessed at Ann Arbor and Detroit area high schools. The units will involve presentations using the new Prezi software. The designers and presenters will visit classrooms and follow up with teachers and the units will eventually be available on a website.
History Mourns the Passing of Rhoads Murphey, Robert Berkhofer, Jr., and Albert Feuerwerker

The Department received sad news that three well-loved emeritus professors died in the past year. Rhoads Murphey published extensively on China, India, and Asia, and served in many capacities at U-M and in the Asian Studies field. Americanist Robert Berkhofer’s critical insights contributed much to the theory of history as a reflexive postmodern practice. Albert Feuerwerker, an economic historian of China, was key to the establishment of the U-M Center for Chinese Studies where he served as director. He also chaired the Department in the 1980s. To read full remembrances by their History colleagues, please go to www.lsa.umich.edu/History/news.

Alumni News


Joan Mickelson Gaughan (PhD 1978) tells us that Oxford University Press in New Delhi is publishing “The Incumberances: British Women in India, 1615–1856” based on her dissertation. It is due out this September.

Tracy Gierada (BA-Honors 2006) was named Executive Director and Curator of the North Berrien Historical Museum in Coloma, MI in September 2012.


Ian McNeely (PhD 1998) is now associate dean for undergraduate education in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oregon.


Michael Murchison (BA 1994) is currently on his second deployment to Helmand Province, Afghanistan with the United States Marine Corps. We wish Michael a safe return and re-entry!

Donn Neal (PhD 1973) is president of the Friends of the Fort Pitt Museum and serves (as volunteer) as of the Fort Pitt Museum and serves (as volunteer) as a safe return and re-entry!


The Cercle France-Amériques awarded him its “prix litteraire” for Versailles, cote jardins.


Rose Mary Sheldon (PhD 1987) has a new book, Ambush: Surprise Attack in Ancient Greek Warfare, out from Frontline Books, London, in which she takes a fresh look at the tactics of the ancient Greeks.


Tony Sullivan (PhD 1976) writes that his book on 20th-century liberal Iraqi statesman Tawfiq al-Suwaydi has been accepted for publication by Lynne Rienner and will appear in mid-2013. He is also Senior Associate for the Middle East with TerraBuilt, which is constructing many thousands of private homes and office towers across the Arab region.

Kenneth Swepe (PhD 2001) accepted a position as Professor of History and Fellow of the Center for the Study of War & Society at the University of Southern Mississippi. He is also book review editor for the Journal of Chinese Military History.

Paul W. Weber (BA 1966) wrote in to tell us about his nearly completed manuscript, “Con-Weber’s Brighton: Portrait of Church, Community and Nation, 1832–1942,” about his family history and the story of the Brighton, Michigan area.

In Memoriam

Stephen Hum (PhD Candidate 1995) passed away on March 6, 2013, at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Born in Ottawa, Canada, Stephen was an Assistant Dean of Arts & Sciences at Brandeis University. He leaves behind his wife Lisa (Bernstein) and daughters Julia and Eleni Hum of Watertown, Mass., as well as many friends and colleagues who will remember him for his keen intelligence, tremendous wit, and kind, compassionate nature.

Faculty Honors

Paulina Alberto won the 2012 Roberto Reis Book Award, Brazilian Studies Association for her Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals in Twentieth-Century Brazil, and the 2012 Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award for Outstanding Teaching of Undergraduates, LSA.

John Carson will be a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin.

Deborah Dash Moore has received a Jewish Cultural Achievement award from the Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Deirdre de la Cruz and Kit French will be faculty fellows at the U-M Institute for the Humanities.

Gabrielle Hecht has won the AHA’s Martin A. Klein Prize for African History for her new book Being Nuclear: Africans and the Global Uranium Trade (MIT).

Brandi Hughes will be a fellow at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton.

Mary Kelley is the 2013-2014 Mellon Distinguished Scholar at the American Antiquarian Society.

Jonathan Marwil’s lecture on 9/11 was recorded for CSPAN and broadcast on Dec 1, 2012. (http://www.cspan.org/Events/Lectures-in-History/Remembering-the-Victims-of-9-11/1073435863)

Tiya Miles has been awarded a Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship.

Farina Mir has received a 2013 Excellence in Education Award from LSA.

Derek Peterson will be a visiting fellow at Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute.

Brian Porter-Szucs has won the Kulczycki Book Prize for Polish Studies for his 2011 book Faith and Fatherland: Catholicism, Modernity, and Poland (OUP).

For their new book Freedom Papers: An Atlantic Odyssey in the Age of Emancipation (Harvard), Rebecca Scott and Jean Hebrard have received the AHA’s 2012 Albert Beveridge Book Award, the AHA’s James A. Rawley Prize in Atlantic History, and the Gilbert Chinard Prize from the Society for French Historical Studies and the Institut Français d’Amérique.

Scott Spector will hold a Fulbright-IFK visiting fellowship in Vienna.

Ron Suny will be a fellow at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies in Washington, DC and at the American Academy in Berlin.

Hussein Fancy, Martha Jones, Ellen Muehlberger and Christian de Pee each won a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies.
It's getting to be that time of year – football Saturdays, brilliant skies and friendly, crowded Ann Arbor streets. Photo courtesy of Joseph Ho.