

HISTORY HOUSE HERALD

Message from the Chair

By Prof. Anthony Daly



Welcome back and I hope the spring semester is off to a good start for you. 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.

In addition to regular course offerings, there are several special classes underway. In February, Professors Cupery and Pettey will continue the annual tradition of an MCLA delegation traveling to participate in the North American Model United Nations (NAMUN) at the University of Toronto. Department faculty are also teaching travel courses to Ireland and Mexico; 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 bringing thoughtful and respected public figures to provide insight and analysis, Sarah Smarsh will visit campus in April. She is an author and journalist who focuses on socioeconomic class and rural America

and recently published *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*. These events are opportunities for everyone on our campus and in the wider community to learn and enjoy, but perhaps most importantly our students have the chance to meet newsmakers with national profiles.

Under the leadership of Professors Janis and Kleintop, our Public History minor is growing again. In April we will launch the newly revamped "Historic North Adams," a cloud-based website and mobile app that showcase stories and tours from North Adams; the digital content for Historic North Adams emerged from student work in courses over the past year. Also in the works are several new public history courses that will offer students innovative ways to investigate and collaborate in exploring the ways that we remember the past --more information to come in the next few months.

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

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PAGE 2: Our students have been busy with internships, independent studies and more. In this section we profile some notable experiences.



PAGE 3: After the fall 2018 lecture by Ta-Nehisi Coates, our 2019 lineup includes best-selling author Sarah Smarsh and Congressman Richard Neal.



Page 64 Check out our most recent alumni spotlight, where we talk to recent grad Kaitlin Wright about her experiences on Beacon Hill and beyond.



PAGE 6 Study abroad with MCLA! We hear from a student who recently returned from a semester in Barcelona and profile the department's upcoming travel courses



PAGE 7: In this faculty spotlight we profile the research of our newest faculty member.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." - George Santayana

(www.mcla.edu/hist or www.mcla.edu/pspp) and drop by 72 Porter Street. You can also find the Dept. of History, Political Science and Public Policy on Facebook. We are proud of 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 Spotlight

Student Research

Our department works to help students with professional development through internships, independent studies and academic presentations. For example, Professor Daly has been working with Madeleine McKeon '19 on a Commonwealth Honors Thesis--a year-long independent research project. Madeleine is researching the twelfth-century conflict between England's King Henry II and Thomas Becket. Immortalized in plays and movies, the death of Becket at the hands of the king's knights allows for multiple angles of interpretation, and Madeleine is drawing on the rich supply of secondary sources as well as primary sources such as contemporary chronicles and Becket's letters to craft "The Archbishop and the King: Church and State in Twelfth-Century England."

Focused in four areas--Church vs. State, Lord vs. Vassal, Commoner vs. Royalty, and Friend vs. Friend--this project involves an immense amount of reading, research, and thinking. Currently shifting from the research to writing phases, Madeleine will complete the thesis in April and present her work at the MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference, the Massachusetts statewide Undergraduate Research Conference in Amherst, and the Alpha Chi National Convention in Cleveland before the public presentation and defense of the thesis in early May. Congratulations to Madeleine for taking on this challenge!

Other department students completing spring 2019 independent studies include Bryan Vega and Corey Powers. After interning last summer with a not-for-profit immigration law firm, Bryan is working with Professor Pettey as he studies the politics and policies of the US immigration system. Corey received a 2018 MCLA Undergraduate Research Institute grant to complete research and training with Professor Cupery. He is continuing this project--on the impact of the Trump Presidency on US-Latin American Relations--as an independent study and was accepted to present his research at the New England Political Science Association Conference.

Internships

During the Fall 2018 semester, History major Zoe Elwell '19 spent a semester in the nation's capital with MCLA partner institution The Washington Center (TWC). TWC places students in an internship in their area of interest and a class of their choice and offers plenty of professionalization opportunities, including workshops and high profile speakers. Zoe's internship



History major Zoe Elwell attends a protest while living in D.C. and interning through The Washington Center

was with Voices for a Second Chance, a criminal justice advocacy organization. She writes, "My semester away in Washington DC was undoubtedly the best decision I have made in my college career. The Washington Center is a phenomenal institution that gave me real-world professional experiences that I couldn't get in my hometown or on campus. TWC housed us in beautiful apartments right on Capitol Hill, only a short walk from the national mall. During my time there I got to experience all the wonders DC has to offer such as visiting all the Smithsonians, all of our nation's federal institutions and my personal favorite, the chance to participate in a large-scale protest. Although my internship had some leadership and organizational issues, this was honestly a blessing in disguise as it taught me to take initiative, be my biggest advocate and adjust to challenges. TWC played a crucial role in my professional development and career readiness. It also made me more confident in what I *don't* want in career along with what I *do* want. Before starting my senior year, I was very unsettled about the notion of graduating and starting my journey in a professional atmosphere. After leaving DC, I came home with a reassurance regarding my career path and confidence in my own personal abilities. For anyone who is looking for a place to test the waters of possible professional opportunities, The Washington Center is a great fit."

Student Spotlight continued on page 5

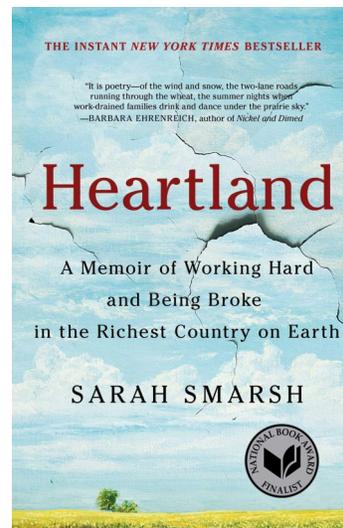
Great Guest Speakers at MCLA



Emeritus Professor of History Frances Jones-Sneed interviews best-selling author and journalist Ta-Nehisi Coates during his Fall 2018 Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture.

During the Spring 2019 semester year we will continue to build on our tradition of bringing notable speakers with pressing topics to campus. A successful 2018 culminated on November 8th when author, journalist and comic book writer **Ta-Nehisi Coates** gave the fall installment of our biannual Public Policy Lecture. Coates addressed a full house in the Campus Center gymnasium, talking about his development as a writer and his views about race and its intersections with politics and education in the United States. Coates' visit capped off our first annual, campus-wide Day of Dialogue, which featured a variety of workshops and panels addressing themes of diversity, equity, inclusion and identity. One of Coates' books—*Between the World and Me*—had been required reading for all MCLA first-year students and several of these students were given the chance to ask the speaker questions. A highlight of the night for our department was that our very own Emeritus Professor of History, Frances Jones-Sneed interviewed Coates as part of the lecture.

The Spring 2019 Public Policy Lecture will take place at 7pm on Thursday, April 4th in the Church Street Center. Our speaker is **Sarah Smarsh**, an author, educator, speaker, and journalist who focuses on socioeconomic class and rural America. Her book *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* examines historic economic inequality and tells the story of her upbringing among the working poor on a Kansas farm. The book became an instant *New York Times* bestseller and was a finalist for the 2018 National Book Award. Smarsh's reporting



Journalist, author and scholar Sarah Smarsh will give the Spring 2019 Public Policy Lecture on poverty and inequality.

and commentary have been published by *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, and many other publications. A recent Joan Shorenstein Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a former professor of non-fiction writing, Smarsh is a frequent speaker and media commentator on economic inequality.



Finally, given our department's interest in politics, we are excited that this year's Commencement speaker will be Richard E. Neal, who represents the First Congressional District of Massachusetts in the United States Congress and chairs the House Ways and Means Committee. Chairman Neal will receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree. Born in Worcester and raised and educated in Springfield, Neal first was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1988. He is the ranking member of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee and an at-large whip for the House Democrats. He is a co-chairman of the New England Congressional Caucus, where he advocates for the unique regional interests of the six New England States. A long-time guest lecturer at UMASS-Amherst, Neal started his political career as the Mayor of the City of Springfield from 1984 to 1988.

Alumni Spotlight

This Alumni Spotlight is on Kaitlin Wright. Kaitlin graduated in December, 2017 with a double major in—what else? - History and Political Science. She took a break from her busy schedule on Beacon Hill to answer a few questions.

Could you tell us a little about your professional path since MCLA? Where are you currently working/studying, and have you completed any additional education after graduating from MCLA?

Immediately after graduating in December of 2017, I began working in the Massachusetts State Legislature as a legislative aide to Representative Will Crocker. In addition to working in Representative Crocker's legislative office, I also spent a great deal of time volunteering on his re-election campaign this past fall. I spent every weekend this fall down the Cape (in his district, Barnstable and Yarmouth) knocking on doors, making targeted voter calls, marching in parades, participating in stand outs, putting out lawn signs, and other GOTV efforts. I am also simultaneously pursuing a Masters in Applied Politics at Suffolk University. I am enrolled in the part time program and expect to graduate in May of 2020.

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

Thinking about this now, I laugh because when I first started at MCLA and throughout my time at MCLA, I was certain that someday I would run for office and eventually become the president of the United States (see my graduation cap for proof haha). After spending a year plus in politics though, I am not sure that I want to run for any type of office. Working on a campaign first hand has really opened my eyes to all that a candidate endures. I would love to be a legislator and advocate for my community, but I am not sure at this point that I want to be a candidate. I think for now, my long-term goal, is to work my way up in the legislature. I love the job that I have now and would like to stick with it. But, I can't live off of an aide's salary my whole life so I think that I would like to move up the ladder, maybe be someone's chief of staff, work on a committee or be a legislative liaison for one of the executive agencies.

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

Ohh, way too many to count! I absolutely loved my time at MCLA. But perhaps one of my fondest memories with the Department was participating in the Model UN class and trip. The class teaches you great public speaking skills and how to effectively form an intelligent, fact-based argument. The trip itself was a blast. I had never been to Toronto before, so it was wonderful to experience a new place, meet new people as there are students from schools all over the world at the conference, and just spend time with your friends and professors. I think my favorite memory of the trip is probably all of us in the van just jamming out and dancing to YMCA with Professor Pettey as we were driving to Toronto. It was such a fun time!

On another note, a course that has proved to be incredibly helpful and valuable is the career and e-portfolio course. As someone that looks over resumes for interns often in my job, I cannot begin to tell you how many people have no idea how to write a resume. This course will not only teach you how to perfect a resume but will teach you how to perfect cover letters and interviews, as well. This class is worth its weight in gold. Learning these basic job interview skills will 100 percent set you apart from others. I can't tell you how often I see people in my job that have no idea how to write a cover letter or a resume and those that do, automatically get high priority for the internship position. So, pay attention in this class. It will be worth it in the end!



Kaitlin Wright '17 campaigning for her boss – State Rep. Will Crocker – alongside Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker.

Alumni Spotlight continued on Page 5

Student Spotlight (continued from page 2)

Senior Political Science major Corey Powers spent the summer of 2018 interning with U.S. Richard Blumenthal in his Hartford, Connecticut offices. He gradually gained more responsibility as the summer progressed, starting by handling constituent phone calls and eventually meeting with interest groups – such as veterans and medical advocacy organizations – and attending community events and rallies where he was able to meet both Senator Blumenthal and then Governor Daniel Malloy. By the end of the internship period Corey “begin to feel like an important part of the office and was able to make some great connections.”

Corey described two his coolest experiences as an intern. “I went to an associate’s degree commencement ceremony at the Cheshire State Correctional Facility where a staffer presented 12 graduates with certificates on behalf of the Senator. It was very surreal and moving hearing some of the inmates’ stories. I also attended a naturalization ceremony with the Senator and one of his staffers where 35 people became citizens. It was very cool to see this happen, and my Senator, being the son of an immigrant, is very passionate about this type of event.”



Corey Powers '19 with US Senator
Richard Blumenthal

Alumni Spotlight (continued from page 4)

If you had an internship during your time at MCLA, could you describe it and any way it has helped you?

I had three internships at MCLA. For my History major, I interned at the Custom House Maritime Museum in Newburyport, MA. For my Political Science major, I interned at the Massachusetts State House in Boston, MA for House Ways and Means Chairman Brian Dempsey and for Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr. It was through my hard work in the State House office that I was recommended for the job that I have now, and I truly believe that the recommendations from both a past Ways and Means chair and the current Senate Minority Leader played a huge role. Overall, I would say that from all three internships I learned how to converse in a business-like manner. I learned basic etiquette of professional work, such as how to deal with customers/constituents, and I learned how to analyze legislation, among other things. All of which I still do in my current job.

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?

Definitely. The research skills that I learned from both the History and Political Science programs have helped tremendously. I remember hating looking at professor’s syllabi and seeing that we would have to write a 25-page paper at the end of the semester, but I am sooo glad now that I had to do that. It has helped me with research in my job and it has helped me in grad school. Honestly, MCLA, and more specifically the professors in the History and Political Science department truly prepared me for both life post-grad in a work environment and in a higher-education environment. The research, analysis, and citations skills that I gained at MCLA have proved invaluable while pursuing my Master’s at Suffolk and has honestly put me ahead of many of my classmates who did not learn these skills at their undergrad.

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?

Take advantage of everything MCLA has to offer. Get involved. When I was at MCLA, I had two majors, played a sport, I was involved in 5 organizations and clubs, and I had a part time job. Yeah, I was definitely busy. Every day I had something different going on, but I am so glad that I got involved. In fact, I wish I had gotten involved sooner. I did not join clubs until my sophomore year. Through the clubs and organizations that I was a part of, I made a great group of friends, had a lot of fun, and even learned organizational, planning, and financial skills. So, get involved! And I might be a little biased but I would definitely encourage you to join Political Science Club, Debate Club, History Society, and College Republicans.

Study Away with the Dept. of History and PSPP



Students visit the coast of County Antrim on Ireland's west coast during Professor Daly's 2016 Ireland Travel Course



Political Science major Victoria Muñoz '19 during her semester in Barcelona

The Dept. 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 2019 is no different with trips to Ireland and Mexico.

The arrival of Spring Break in March has a special appeal for students in Professor Daly's **Ireland Travel Course** as they look forward to a nine day trip to the Emerald Isle. The three-credit course has been meeting since the beginning of classes in January, and students are learning about Irish history, culture, and politics in preparation of making the most of their time in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The interdisciplinary class is specifically designed to maximize the learning and enjoyment of students as they visit the cities of Belfast, Dublin, and Kilkenny, as well as the Irish coast and countryside. Highlights of the visit will include the Book of Kells, Kilkenny Castle, Kilmainham Jail, and the Giant's Causeway.

Thirteen students will join Professors Cupery and Huang for ten nights in **Mexico**. The students first gain foundational knowledge about Mexican history, politics, economics, art, literature and culture during eight weeks in the classroom. The travel begins in Mexico City, the country's political and cultural heart, before heading to Oaxaca to experience the region's rich indigenous and culinary traditions and picturesque colonial center. The last stop is the Yucatan State, for visits to colonial Merida, Chichen Itza, cenotes, and the Celestun Biosphere.

Some of our students choose to take a 'deeper dive', by spending a full semester abroad at a partner institution. This was the choice of Victoria Muñoz, who studied in **Barcelona** during the Fall 2018 semester. She writes: "Studying abroad was one of the most impactful experiences of my undergraduate career; it helped me grow personally and academically. I grew up going to Spain every summer but I hadn't spent much time in Barcelona. Before arriving in Barcelona, I was intrigued by the political culture of Catalonia but I did not know much about it. However, experiencing it first hand was surreal. On a weekly basis I would walk to the metro and main streets would be shut down due to protesting. On most Saturday mornings, I could hear independence activists chanting from my balcony in the Gothic Quarter. In November the university was shut down for two days due to student protesting. Yellow ribbons (a symbol of Catalan independence) were on backpacks, coat lapels, and spray-painted on buildings. It was fascinating to observe this activism and talk to my Catalan peers about their perspectives. I also spoke to family, friends, and my host family from other regions of Spain with drastically different perspectives on Catalan independence. My experiences in Barcelona helped me grow tremendously."

Faculty Spotlight



Assistant Professor of History Amanda Kleintop joined the department in September after finishing her Ph.D. in History at Northwestern University. She has hit the ground running, taking a leadership role in last fall's North Adams History Harvest and in improving our minor in public history. Here, she tells us about her research.

"My research tells a new story of emancipation in the US by exploring the political consequences of white southerners' attempts to profit from what they believed was their right to own property in humans during and after the US Civil War. In the antebellum South, white southerners could buy and sell slaves on credit, which rapidly expanded the plantation economy. At the same time, they watched as northern states and countries throughout the Atlantic World abolished slavery while respecting slaveowners' property rights in slaves throughout the first half of the nineteenth century. Despite Confederate defeat and immediate emancipation, they claimed compensation for their freed slaves from the federal government from 1864-1866. Those who owed outstanding debts for the value of slaves also sought relief from those debts from 1863-1871.

White southerners' claims forced the federal government to continue the process of emancipation well after the Civil War was over. Their opponents passed the fourth section of the 14th Amendment,

nullified all claims for compensation. And the Supreme Court ruled that those who owed debts for the value of slaves had to pay them in 1871. Though ultimately unsuccessful, white southerners' claims reveal that the systems that commodified black people did not end with the Emancipation Proclamation or the Thirteenth Amendment.

I am currently expanding my research beyond the former Confederate South with an article on the failure of compensated emancipation in Kentucky, a slave state that remained in the Union during the Civil War. The article will add to a long debate about why Kentucky adopted a pro-Confederate stance after the war ended, arguing that many white Kentuckians opposed federal authority during Reconstruction because Congress promised former slaveowners payment that they never received. If any student is interested in participating in this research or research on emancipation during the Civil War, please reach out to me at [amanda.kleintop@mcla.edu!](mailto:amanda.kleintop@mcla.edu)"

Other Department News

Annual Department Banquet

On the evening of Thursday, May 2nd, 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 2019 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.

Our department is proud to announce the launch of *Historic North Adams*, a website and mobile app that allows for users to take historical walking tours and explore North Adams' history with their fingertips. With this app, you can explore interesting people, places and events in North Adams' history, and take historical walking tours of the city. This project includes a list of interpretive stories, with each point on the interactive GPS-enabled map including historical information about the location, along with historic images from archival collections and historical publications. Many stories also include short documentary videos or audio clips based on expert research or oral history interviews.



HISTORIC NORTH ADAMS

Historic North Adams is a collaborate initiative of the MCLA Department of History and Political Science, North Adams Historical Society, and North Adams Public Library, and is curated by the MCLA Department of History. Funding for this project was generously provided through a grant from Mass Humanities. All of the content currently featured on app has been researched and curated by MCLA Students. For the past two years, students in HIST 290 Historical Methods and Theory have been developing historical walking tours of North Adams. Dr. Katherine Carroll's ARTH 311 Art & Collective Identity developed a walking tour centered around the history of MCLA. Tours currently on the app included walking tours of Eagle Street, Hillside Cemetery, Roadside North Adams, and Sprague Electric.

We hope that you will take the chance to explore *Historic North Adams* and we look forward to continuing to share North Adams' exciting history and connecting residents and visitors to learn more about the Berkshires.

Fall 2019 Course Offerings

HIST 103 Pre-Modern World Civilization	POSC 201 US Government and Public Policy
HIST 104 Modern World Civilization	POSC 202 Comparative Government and Public Policy
HIST 113 US History before 1877	POSC 210 Political Science Research Methods
HIST 114 US History after 1877	POSC 315 State and Local Politics
HIST 220 Reformers, Rebels, & Revolutionaries in E Asia	POSC 315 Modern Middle East (cross-list with HIST)
HIST 290 Historical Methods and Theory	POSC 315 Sub-Saharan Africa Politics (cross-list with HIST)
HIST 305 Europe in the Twentieth Century	POSC 340 Inequality & Social Policy (cross-list with SOWK)
HIST 320 Civil War and Reconstruction	POSC 401 US Foreign Policy
HIST 320 Women in US History	POSC 450 Career and ePortfolio workshop (cross-list with HIST)
HIST 340 Modern Middle East (cross-list with POSC)	CCAP 300 Conversations on Race
HIST 350 Sub-Saharan Africa Politics (cross-list with POSC)	
HIST 401 History of American Radicalism	
HIST 403 US and China seminar	
HIST 450 Career and ePortfolio workshop (cross-list with POSC)	

Summer 2019 Course Offerings

HIST 113 US History before 1877
HIST 114 US History after 1877
HIST 320 American Immigration and Ethnicity