

HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Park University

www.park.edu/deptofhistory

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Black History Month Lectures

The Spencer Cave Black History Month Lecture Series is pleased to celebrate its fifth annual presentation of outstanding historians and authors.



Dr. Dylan Penningroth (Ph.D., John Hopkins) works on African American history, with special interests in the history of slavery and emancipation, property and family, and African Studies. *The Claims of Kinfolk: African-*

American Property and Community in the Nineteenth-Century South was published by the University of North Carolina Press in fall 2003. The work won the 2004 Avery O. Craven Award from the Organization of American His-



torians.

Ms. Adrienne Dale Davis (J.D., Yale Law School) University of North Carolina Law

and contract doctrine with race, gender, and sexuality in the nineteenth century. She is the recipient of a grant from the Ford Foundation to research meanings and representations of black women and labor. Professor Davis is on the editorial board of the *Law and History Review*.

- **February 8: Dr. Penningroth**—“Comparative Perspectives on the Black Family.”
- **February 13: Ms. Davis**—“Reparations.”

The lectures will be held at the **McCoy Meetin’ House** at the Parkville Campus at **7 p.m.** The lectures are **free and open to the public**.

Please visit the web page at www.park.edu/deptofhistory.

Finkelman to Address Audiences

Mr. Paul Finkelman, Chapman Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Tulsa College of Law Finkelman is a leading United States constitutional and legal historian, specializing in race and the law. He has written 24 books and 63 law review publications. He currently serves as Series Editor, *Law, Politics, & Society in the Midwest* for Ohio University Press. He has been a recipient of three National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Fellowships; research grants from the American Philosophical Society, Indiana Historical

Research Fellowships; research grants from the American Philosophical Society, Indiana Historical Society, and New York African-American Institute.

- **Feb. 21:** Dinner with Park University Faculty
- **Feb. 22:** Lunch with area law school students
- **Feb. 22:** Dinner with local bar associations.
- **Feb. 22: Public Lecture.** McCoy Meetin’ House, 7 p.m.



Inside this issue:

Historic Preservation Major	2
Women’s History Month Lecture Series	2
World War I Film Series	3
History Alumni Opinions are Surveyed	3
Westcott Presents Conference Papers	3
Short Notes	4

Dates of Interest

- **Jan 4-6:** Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention—Philadelphia.
- **Jan 5-8:** American Historical Association Annual Meeting—Philadelphia.
- **Jan 16:** Martin Luther King Holiday—No Day-time classes.
- **Feb 20:** President’s Day—No Daytime Classes
- **Mar 2-4:** Missouri Valley History Conference—Omaha.
- **Mar 4-12:** Spring Break

Historic Preservation Major

"I want to design my own degree" sophomore **Brett Ferguson** mentioned on his first visit to Park University. Completing his first year of general education courses, Ferguson and his advisor, Dr. Timothy Westcott, worked over the summer to design one of Park University's unique opportunities: a Personal Major.

The Personal Major Program "is an individualized curriculum in which objectives and content have been chosen by the student." Ferguson's ma-

with minors in graphic and web design.

Ferguson states that he selected Park University because of "small class sizes, a great history program and high standards for its students." He further commented that the best attribute of the history program is "the wealth of knowledge and opportunities the professors have for the students."

The Personal Major Program is providing opportunities for Ferguson to focus his attention on completing his undergradu-

ate education. His future endeavors are to design web pages for the Smithsonian or Library of Congress, based on his historical preservation and graphic design backgrounds.

His favorite period of history is ancient, based on the rise of new civilizations and the challenges to religion and science. He is currently reading *The Ice Master* by Jennifer Niven.

Ferguson is considering a summer internship with the Truman Library in Independence.



Women's History Month Events

The fourth annual Dr. Jessie Bell Woodside Holt Women's History Month Lecture Series is scheduled for **March 17 and 18, 2006**.

History: French Religious Controversy and the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

Dr. Candace Falk, Univer-

sity of California-Berkeley. She is currently editing the Goldman's papers.



Ms. Heather Huyck, National Park Service. She is the former director of the Jamestown 400th project. Huyck is currently Regional Chief Historian of the Northeast region. She will be a co-speaker on **March 18**. Her presentation will be "Historians Outside the Classroom: Careers in Public History." Huyck is a visiting lecturer at the College of William and Mary.



Dr. Elizabeth Perry, St. Louis University. She will be the featured banquet speaker on **March 17**. Her presentation will be "The Challenge of Feminist Biography." Perry has written four books: *America: Pathways to the Present*; *Belle Moskowitz: Feminine Politics and the Exercise of Power in the Age of Alfred E. Smith*; *Women in Action: Rebels and Reformers, 1920-1980*; and *From Theology to*



History: French Religious Controversy and the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Falk has written one book



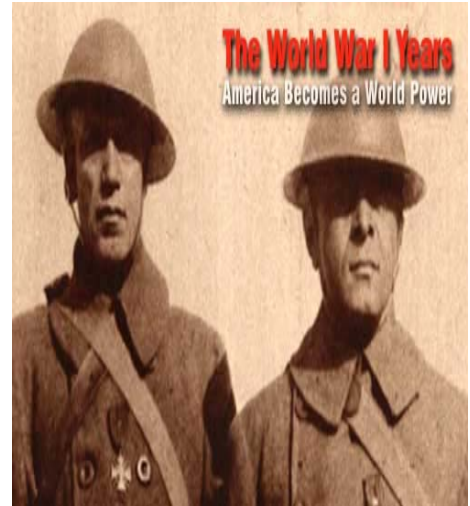
World War I Film Series

The Kansas City Public Library, Liberty Memorial and Park University are pleased to announce their co-hosting of "The World War I Years: America Becomes a World Power." The six-part series is a film and discussion project from the National Video Resources, National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

- *Modern War* (April 9)
- *The American People in Wartime* (April 23)
- *Peace Making* (April 30)
- *After the War—The Turbulent Years* (May 7)

The film and discussion begin at **2 p.m.** each Sunday and will be held at the **Nichols Auditorium at the Liberty Memorial**, 100 W. 26th St. Kansas City. **The series is free and open to the public.**

The moderator for the series is Dr. Timothy Westcott, assistant professor of history and member of the Board of Trustees, Liberty Memorial Association. President Byers-Pevitts serves on the Board of Governors, Liberty Memorial Association.



The six series include:

- *The Road to War* (March 26)
- *Over There* (April 2)

History Alumni Opinions are Surveyed

The History program, during the fall semester, surveyed 161 history alumni across the United States. The survey involved history majors graduating from 1957 to 2005. The survey was initiated to assist the program to review curriculum, research and writing skills, quality, lifelong learning, strengths, and weaknesses.

The top three program strengths were: history courses aided in understanding changes in U.S. society and the world generally; history courses provided methods and knowledge for accessing information needed as a citizen; and satisfaction with the quality of history instruction.

The top two program weak-

nesses were: limited course offerings and limited number of faculty members.

A general comment that summarized the survey was "Look's like you are on the right track!" Eighty percent of history alumni surveyed want to continue receiving information on history events.

Dr. Miriani and Dr. Westcott express deepest gratitude for all the history alumni that completed the survey. Comments and recommendations have been reviewed and shared within the College for Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Please see page four for percentage breakdown for survey results.

Westcott Presents Conference Papers

Dr. Timothy Westcott, assistant professor of history, recently presented two papers at regional history conferences.

Westcott presented a paper titled "Kansas Territorial Jihadists: The Moneka Women's Rights Movement of the 1850's" at the **Mid-America History Conference** held at the University of Kansas, Law-

rence on September 23, 2005. The paper focused on an antebellum women's rights movement in the Kansas Territory. During the height of bloodshed, turmoil, and writing of four constitutions in the late 1850s, the proponents of women's rights and others sought a means to advance the cause of women's suffrage and educational benefits.

The second presentation was at the **Northern Great Plains History Conference** in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on October 1, 2005. Westcott's paper was titled "Literature + History: The Verifiable Facts of 'Bleeding Kansas' History Concerning Jane Smiley's *The All-True Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton*."



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Calendar of Lecture Series Events

For further information regarding these lecture series presentations, please contact Dr. Timothy Westcott at (816)-584-6364 or tim.westcott@park.edu.

- **Feb. 8: Dr. Dylan Penningroth**, Northwestern University, Spencer Cave Black History Month Lecture Series “Comparative Perspectives on the Black Family,” 7 p.m., McCoy Meetin’ House, Parkville. **Lecture is free and open to the public.**
- **Feb. 13: Dr. Adrienne Davis**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Spencer Cave Black History Month Lecture Series “Reparations,” 7 p.m., McCoy Meetin’ House, Parkville. **Lecture is free and open to the public.**
- **Feb. 22: Mr. Paul Finkelman**, Chapman Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Tulsa College of Law, Spencer Cave Black History Month Lecture Series “Thomas Jefferson, the American Founders, & the Problem of Slavery in a ‘Free Republic,’” 7 p.m., McCoy Meetin’ House, Parkville. **Lecture is free and open to the public.**
- **Mar. 17: Dr. Elizabeth Perry**, St. Louis University, “The Challenge of Feminist Biography.” Perry will be the featured banquet speaker. The banquet will commence at 7 p.m. Reservations are necessary. Please contact Dr. Timothy Westcott at tim.westcott@park.edu or (816)-584-6364.
- **Mar. 18: Dr. Candace Falk**, University of California-Berkeley, “Nearer My Subject to Thee: Reflections of a Biographer, Historian, and Documentary Editor and **Ms. Heather Huyck**, National Park Service, “Historians Outside the Classroom: Careers in Public History.” The lectures commence at 9:00 a.m. **Lectures are free and open to the public.** Please contact Dr. Timothy Westcott at tim.westcott@park.edu or (816)-584-6364.

Short Notes

History Alumni Survey Percentage Breakdowns:

- I was satisfied with the content and organization of my degree program at graduation: **62% (SA); 31% (A)**
- My history coursework provided a logical, complete, and appropriate course of instruction: **62% (SA); 24% (A)**
- I was satisfied with the quality of my history instruction: **70% (SA); 20% (A)**
- History study at Park University improved my writing skills: **65% (SA); 28% (A)**
- History study at Park University improved my analytical skills: **69% (SA); 17% (A)**
- History study at Park University improved my research skills: **69% (SA); 31% (A)**
- I have continued to learn about history on my own since graduation from Park University: **67% (SA); 20% (A)**
- My history courses have given me methods and knowledge for finding and accessing information needed as a citizen: **63% (SA); 27% (A)**
- My history courses aid me in understanding the changes in U.S. society and the world generally: **70% (SA); 23% (A)**
- The history courses intellectually challenged me: **70% (SA); 23% (A)**

Graduation Year:

1969:	1
1976:	1
1990:	1
1995:	1
1996:	3
1998:	1
2000:	1
2001:	4
2002:	2
2003:	8
2004:	3
2005:	3

SA=Strongly Agree
A=Agree

Dr. Miriani and I express our deepest gratitude for everyone that completed the alumni survey. Your comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated and will benefit the history program, current, and future students.

