

History Department News

Fall 2009

Welcome back History majors! The Department is glad to have Dr. Wes Dick back from his sabbatical during which he researched Albion as an American town during World War II. Dr. Marie Baxter has joined us again as a visiting assistant professor in European history. Her office is in Robinson 214.

Geoffrey Cocks is on sabbatical for 2009-10. He is writing a book entitled *Sick in the Night: Illness in Nazi Germany*. Based on research over the past twenty-five years, this book shows the ways in which the modern secular body, mind, and self intersected with the racial biology of the Nazi regime. This research thus situates the Third Reich as more continuous than discontinuous with the development of a modern post-liberal society in Germany during the twentieth century.

Our summer travels and research included:

Deborah Kanter travelled in Italy. In Sicily, she explored Greek ruins, medieval churches, city markets and bakeries in this one-time outpost of the Spanish empire. Among her new Italian words: medusa (jellyfish). Kanter participated in *Camino a Emaús: The Word of God and Latino Catholics*, a conference at the University of Notre Dame. Closer to home, she joined the *Journey to Freedom Underground Railroad Tour* in Ypsilanti.

Marcy Sacks balanced her summer between developing teaching and research skills. Early in the summer, she led a team from Albion at the National Institute on Learning Communities at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. In August, she participated in an advanced Oral History Institute at the University of California at Berkeley where she honed her skills in conducting interviews and collecting personal narratives of memories of boxer Joe Louis. Sacks subsequently attended a workshop with Columbia University's oral history program.

Yi-Li Wu travelled to Shanghai in June to give a paper at an international conference on gender studies co-sponsored by the University of Michigan and Fudan University. She was inspired by the great variety of topics that Chinese gender scholars, women's rights activists, and government officials are working on, ranging from therapeutic art programs for Chinese female prisoners to the self-perceptions of male sex workers. (She was also very happy that she did not get caught up in the Chinese government's H1N1 quarantine the way that one of her co-panelists did!) A translation of Wu's article on false pregnancies will soon be republished in China as part of a sourcebook on women's and gender history, and she is looking forward to continued exchanges with colleagues abroad.

For assistance in the History Department, please contact

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Prof. Deborah Kanter, Chair. Robinson 212/phone 629-0399 office hours: M 3:30-4:45, Th 9:30-11, F 1-2, or by appointment