1960 Fund Continues to Grow

The history department’s gift fund to support students and faculty in activities not funded by the university has grown since its inception in 2011. The fund was named the 1960 Fund in honor of the department’s designation as a separate academic department in 1960. This semester money donated to the fund was used to host a fall faculty reception.

In November it will support students attending the fall Webb Society workshop in Victoria, Texas, and stipend grants to newly-enrolled graduate students for spring 2014.

Please help support these activities and more by considering a donation to this fund. The easiest way to contribute is through payroll deduction for as little as $10 a month or a direct gift to the department. Please contact Dr. Mary Scheer, chair, at 409-880-8518 or mary.scheer@lamar.edu

— Mary Scheer

*I want YOU to support History students and faculty.*

History Student of the Month

The History Department has created a new program named “History Student of the Month” to recognize history majors illustrating academic excellence, stellar classroom participation, and enthusiastic service in club and department activities. Winners for this semester include: Emily Kosh (September), Tyler Quibodeaux (October), Benjamin Bonsall (November), and Zachary Defrancis (December).

Congratulations to these fine students!

Both faculty and students can nominate undergraduate history majors. For more information about the award, contact Dr. Sato at ysato@lamar.edu
Honors Students Honor Local History

Ken Poston’s 1361 Honors class (American history) attended the Sesquicentennial observance of the Battle of Sabine Pass, which occurred on September 8, 1863.

The historic battle site, which was largely destroyed by Hurricanes Rita and Ike, has been completely restored thanks to local efforts and the Texas Historical Commission. More than 300 re-enactors participated in the 150th anniversary celebration.

Students Earn Scholarships

The Department of History is pleased to announce that the following students have received the scholarships indicated below. They will hold these awards until graduation as long as they maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

Robyn Summers (Beaumont), Charlsie Berly Memorial Scholarship; Viana Hammon (Port Arthur), Daughters of the Republic of Texas Scholarship; Glen Brown (Beaumont), Dr. Samuel Evans Memorial Scholarship; Benjamin Bonsall, (Beaumont), Dr. Ronald and Eleanor Fritze Scholarship; Morgan G. Jiminez, (Vidor), Dr. Walter A. Sutton Memorial Scholarship; Emily Kosh (Vidor), Virginia D. Weir/Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarship; Tyler Linder (Nederland), Dr. Ralph A. Wooster Scholarship; Valerie Domingue (Lumberton), Dr. Howell H. Gwin, Jr. Scholarship (Graduate); Collin Rohrbaugh (Groves), Peter B. Wells Scholarship (Graduate); Sabrina Odom (Port Neches) Dr. Preston Williams – Dr. Ralph A. Wooster Scholarship (Graduate). Congratulations to these fine students!

Webb Society News

The Webb Society began the semester running with new members, new officers, but the same enthusiasm for Texas history.

Members recently attended the Jane Long Festival on Bolivar Peninsula. The festival honors its namesake. The “Mother of Texas.”

The Webb Society Chili Supper will be held on February 6, 2014. The evening’s guest speaker will be Hester Green Wooten, who will discuss her research on polio in southeast Texas. Come satisfy your craving for spicy chili and intellectual stimulation!
Faculty News

The staff of IIH would like to recognize the fine work of the faculty and part-time instructors in the department.

Jeff Forret published an article "Before Angola: Enslaved Prisoners in the Louisiana State Penitentiary," *Louisiana History* 54 (Spring 2013): 133-171. He is currently on developmental leave pursuing a new project on slaves with disabilities. Dr. Forret gave a presentation based on his latest research at the Academic Enhancement Workshop series in November: "Deaf & Dumb, Blind, Insane, or Idiotic": A Disability History of Southern Slavery, 1850-1860."

Tim Knight, part-time instructor in the department, published *Poor Hobo*, a biography of local music icon Harry Choates.


Associate Professor Dr. Mark A. Mengerink participated in the inaugural Cardinal Conversations, an initiative of Nancy and President Kenneth Evans, in October. The goal of the new lecture series is to bring together two professors with overlapping research interests from different departments to foster an interdisciplinary intellectual dialogue. Dr. Mengerink spoke about the rise of fascism in Europe in the 1920s and 1930s to provide historical context for Dr. Amy Smith’s (Department of English and Modern Languages) exploration of Virginia Woolf’s use of myth in her feminist and anti-fascist novels of the interwar period.


Pet Corner

Hi, everyone! I’m Flowerpot, the most handsome kitty supervisor ever. I decided that Christina Wilbur, who teaches part-time in the department, needed to be graced with my glorious presence. I moved in after Hurricane Rita. You see, I was hiding in her flowerpot after that nasty storm. Now, here I am supervising the grading of piles of exams. Humans, exams, and books...who could ask for more?

Flowerpot takes grading very seriously...

(Pictures courtesy of Christina Wilbur)
Edited, compiled, and written by Dr. Mark A. Mengerink, who could not accomplish any of this without assistance from Patty Renfro, the department’s administrative assistant, and colleagues who submitted materials for inclusion in this edition of “History’s Happenings.”

Have History Department related news to include in the next issue? Praise or complaints? Contact Dr. Mengerink:

mark.mengerink@lamar.edu