

FALL 2018

# SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



## History Department NEWSLETTER

### REFLECTIONS

Christine M. Petto, Chairperson

We began the semester with a 'facelift' to the department office, moving some unused furniture out and opening the space to make it more inviting for students to enter. In fact, when we are here the door is always open, so come on by for a visit. Our office wall is full of photos of students (and faculty) at various historical archives or sites and free books.



We welcomed several adjuncts to our professorial corps this semester: David Canton (from CT College); Robert Forbes (Director of Special Projects at the Ethnic Heritage Center); Salman Hamid (Social Studies at Hamden High School);

Virginia Metaxas (who in retirement returns to teach courses for us), Lisa Nakamura (BOR Part-time Instructor Award winner); Matthew Rhoades (who teaches for us when he is able as he pursues his doctorate in library science); and Connor Williams (doctoral student at Yale University completing his dissertation).



## INTRODUCING CARMEN COURY

Before the start of the Fall 2018 semester, the department gained Latin Americanist Carmen Coury. Dr. Coury's first book, *The Saints of Progress: A History of Coffee, Migration, and Costa Rican National Identity*, forthcoming (January 2019) with the University of Alabama Press, employs over a hundred oral histories and thousands of archival sources gathered over the course of fifteen months in both Costa Rica and the United States. This work narrates the development of the Tarrazú Valley, a historically remote—though internationally celebrated—coffee-growing region from the early-nineteenth century through to 2015.

Her next research project interrogates Costa Rica's whiteness mythology through a close reading of nationalist literature and textbooks. Secondly it will explore its limits and consequences of this mythos through the experiences of Costa Ricans who are of African and Indigenous descent.



In Spring 2019, Carmen will teach HIS 480, Seminar in Oral History: Uncovering the Voices of New Haven's Immigrant Past.

## VISITING WITH DAN LAURIA

September 7th, 2018

On September 8th Dan Lauria, SCSU, HIS '70, arrived for a performance of the play, *The Guys*, with Wendie Malick. The day prior to the show, Dan was able to meet with students in History and in Theater. Thank you, Dan!





# INTRODUCING JACQUELINE ISABELLA

September 17th, 2018

Jacqueline Isabella, our new secretary, started just in time for our first Welcome Back Pizza Party on September 17th. We miss Mary Koch and wish her well in retirement in South Carolina, and we are very fortunate to continue our run with great secretaries. Jackie will likely be in contact with many of you if she hasn't already. She is a force of nature with the ability to get things done, and her friendly demeanor has already made her a hit with the students. We know the office is always in good hands as many of us come and go with our teaching, meetings, and research/conference trips. Jackie keeps the ship afloat.



## HISTORY CLUB



Early in the semester, Jason Smith, the faculty advisor to the History Club, brought students on a tour of the New Haven Green. As our digital guru, he continues to develop the Digital New Haven course (HIS 259). For more information, check out <http://cityofelms.blogspot.com>. The October tour of the Grove Street Cemetery was rained out, but club members, no doubt, have plans for the spring.





## LUNCH WITH ALUMNI

October 19, 2018

Our first opportunity to meet with alums came on October 19th, the Friday before Homecoming Weekend and we reunited with Matt Bonito, Sean Cleary, Kelly Falvey, Kevin Grant, Tony Maltese, Paul Parker, and Anson Smith. The alumni regaled us with their stories of their years at Southern and beyond. Thank you to all who were able to attend. We will be hosting a similar event in Spring 2019, and hope to see more alumni there!



## DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN

November 3, 2018



In early November, I had the privilege to accompany several undergraduate and graduate students to meet with presidential historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin before she gave her presentation on her new book, *Leadership in Turbulent Times*. Dr. Goodwin so graciously shared her time with us. We laughed at her humorous stories and were in awe of her command of history. What an extraordinary opportunity!



## PHI ALPHA THETA INDUCTION

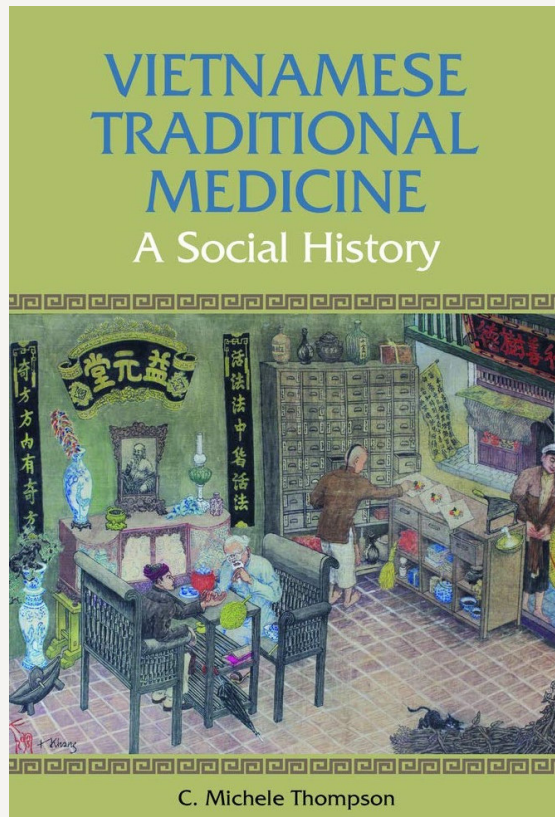
November 7, 2018

Shortly thereafter, the department gathered for the Phi Alpha Theta induction ceremony. Darcy Kern, the faculty advisor for this society, has developed it into a real celebration. She was joined this year by Carmen Coury and Steve Amerman. We have ditched the box of joe and munchkins in favor of real event food. To all the inductees and their families in attendance, congratulations!



## CONGRATULATING MICHELE C. THOMPSON

As we were getting ready to publish this newsletter, we received great news. Michele C. Thompson, our Southeast Asia specialist, won the 2019 Faculty Scholar Award for her monograph, *Vietnamese Traditional Medicine: A Social History* (2015). We will celebrate her award at the Faculty Award Ceremony in April.





## END OF SEMESTER EVENTS

As the semester began to wind down, Salman Hamid, our instructor for our social studies methods course, continued his practice of inviting a panel of current teachers to talk to the students getting ready to student teach in the spring semester. We were able to make that into a pizza party as Salman was able to visit with colleagues and have them share their career wisdom with our aspiring teachers.

We finished up the semester with another Pizza Party to say good luck to the students on their finals and wish them a restful winter break.

See you all in the spring, or rather January which is distinctly not the spring!

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

- Jeanette Allen completed her graduate studies special project "Domestic Problem Solving during WWII: How the United States, Great Britain, and Japan responded on the home front."
- Anthony Violano completed his comprehensive exams.
- Robert H. Kirkpatrick III completed his thesis "An Inclusive History of Education in Early Nineteenth-Century Senegambia."
- Emily Gebhardt completed her thesis "England's Hermaphrodite King: Alchemy, Biblical Precedent, and Genealogy in the First Reign of Edward IV." She is now pursuing an advanced degree at Columbia University in Medieval Studies.
- Dan Fischer is pursuing an advanced degree at Notre Dame in History.
- Stuart McCunn earned his Ph.D. in Classics from the University of Nottingham.
- Students in Tom Radice's INQ 101 class (pictured below) created posters showcasing the completion of their research projects.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Spring 2019 - Lunch with Alumni**

**March 2, 2019 - CT History Day**

**March 22, 2019 - CSU History Conference**

**April 13, 2019 - Undergraduate Student Research & Creativity Conference**

**May 13, 2019 - Graduate Student Research & Creative Activity Conference**