

Fall 2019

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



History Department NEWSLETTER

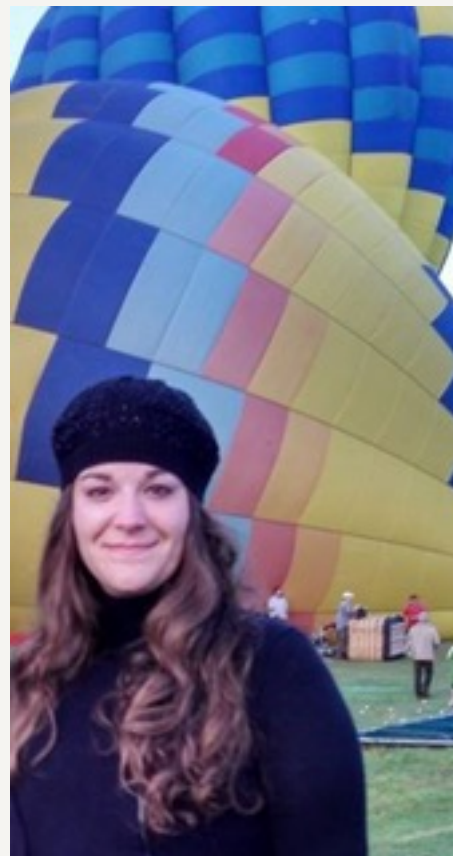
REFLECTIONS

August seems so very long ago now and lots has happened, but let me start at the beginning. Over the summer, Jackie and I (mostly Jackie and many thanks to Ben) worked on the 'facelift' to the seminar room. We opened up the space as much as we could by eliminating some very ugly metal bookshelves, we dusted (cough & sneeze here!), rearranged & recycled some journals, hung pictures of our students 'doing' history, put in some mood lighting and a plant, and now weekly, we display Denoyer-Geppert wall maps once used in Southern history classrooms. Now, in addition to being a department meeting room and classroom, this room serves our students as a place to gather for history club or Phi Alpha Theta meetings, to study alone or in groups, and to celebrate departmental events.



Introducing Sarah Roe

Over the Summer, we welcomed Assistant Professor Sarah Roe to the department. Dr. Roe helps to broaden our area in history of science with her research in philosophy and history of medicine, philosophy and history of biology, and science and values. She is the Director of the Research Center on Values in Emerging Science and Technology here at Southern. Sarah is also an award-winning teacher having won the J. Philip Smith Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2017, and we are very fortunate to have her join our department. Her research is outstanding too! Much of her current research, in some way, emphasizes or focuses on minority populations and at-risk populations. For example, her current book project, *The History of Female Medicine and the Rise of Technology*, explores the complex relation between (1) how we view women as a society, their role in medicine, and the acceptability of medical practices regarding women, and (2) how society's interest in advanced technology promoted a less personalized form of medical practice. The purpose of the book is to gain a clearer picture of how societal values regarding medical technologies have come to shape the importance of women and their health within our contemporary society.



Mandatory Meeting

September 4, 2019

In our continued effort to create a community within the department and in lieu of our 'welcome pizza' in the seminar room, we held our first mandatory meeting for majors on September 4th in the Adanti Student Center Theater. Of course, there was pizza! It was well attended and allowed new and current students to be introduced not only to the department faculty but also to exciting opportunities in the department such as internships, student-faculty research awards, and our five-year BS/MA accelerated program.

Digital New Haven

Following on the heels of the mandatory pizza, Jason Smith led the students from his class, HIS 259: Digital New Haven, on what is becoming a customary tour of New Haven. With a focus on the history of education in New Haven, Jason started the tour at Southern's Founders' Gate. [I like this picture] From the top of West Rock, the students had quite a view and then they headed down to the Green, before swinging past the Howe Street site of the original New Haven State Normal School campus, since reclaimed by urban redevelopment.

This semester, with the support of the Dean's Office, the Digital New Haven Project launched a speaker series with its inaugural speaker, Mandi Jackson, PhD, American Studies from Yale and Executive Director of Music Haven. The class culminated in early December with her talk, "Master Plans Interrupted: Public Hearings, Community Voices, and Street-Level Struggles in the Model City" drawn from her powerful and troubling book called *Model City Blues: Urban Space and Organized Resistance in New Haven* about race and urban redevelopment in the city. We look forward to the growth of this speaker series and the continued development of the course blog, <https://cityofelms.blogspot.com/p/timelines.html>



Almost a year to the date that Jackie started as secretary to the department, she and her husband, Ben, welcomed their son, Basil Keith Isabella, into the world. We have missed Jackie very much over the course of the semester, but those of us checking in on baby Basil know she is doing some very, very important work and keeping quite busy.

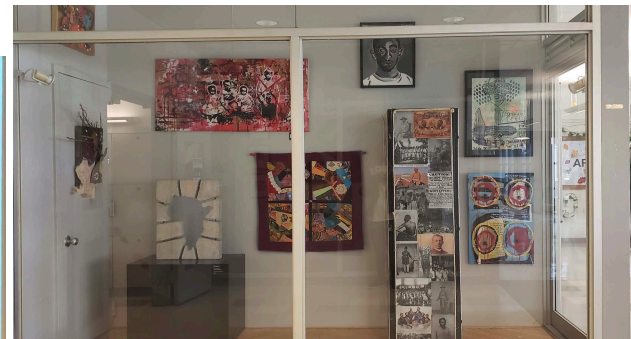
We pause here to thank Karyn Watts, the secretary to the Political Science department, and one of their excellent students, Téa Carter, for helping us keep the office door open this fall semester and the department chair relatively sane.



1619: A Week of Commemoration

October 21 - 26, 2019

After months of tireless work, Siobhan Carter-David along with Jason Smith, Kyle Augustine (BS HIS '19, Graduate Intern & Advocate for University Access Programs), and several other faculty and staff, launched a week of activities to draw attention to this singularly significant commemoration event. The Organizing Committee reminded that “the purpose of the commemorative events . . . is to honor the strength, perseverance, ingenuity, and national and global contributions of the descendants of enslaved Africans in the United States over the last four hundred years. . . . We believe that Southern Connecticut State University, as the premiere public urban university in New Haven, rich with its own history seeped in African American life, is the perfect place to host these events. Southern’s own mission of ‘academic excellence, access, social justice, and service for the public good’ is demonstrated in every aspect of our plans for the commemoration.”



In the spring 2019 newsletter we introduced you to Kelly Falvey, our certification coordinator who continues to bring great energy and wisdom to the department. Her mentorship of our student teacher candidates is most appreciated. Here is what her HIS 490: Social Science class was up to this semester. Early in the semester, Steve Armstrong, the State Social Studies consultant, facilitated a discussion on difficult political conversations in the classroom. The cohort also attended the CT Council for the Social Studies annual educators conference, "Creating Citizens" and represented SCSU with pride. They worked with Pat Howley, Counselor and Personal Development facilitator, and Melissa Thom, an extraordinary Library Media Specialist from West Hartford Public Schools, on understanding personality types to increase their understanding of themselves, their learners, and colleagues. The class collaborated with Liz Krebs, Education Manager, of CT Women's Hall of Fame (on SCSU's campus) by examining their inquiry curricula.



A few weeks later the students presented on technology integration in the classroom. Topics ranged from using Nearpod in the classroom to Teaching History and Spatial Awareness with Augmented Reality. The semester wrapped up with last year's BS HIS graduates returning for a Thanksgiving potluck to give feedback to the candidates on their units designed for the statewide elective on African-American, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies.

Enrique's Journey and America's Immigration Dilemma

November 13, 2019



As a member of the Latin American & Caribbean Studies Program Committee, Carmen Coury was instrumental in bringing Sonia Nazario, a two-time Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and New York Times best-selling author of *Enrique's Journey* (2006), to Southern for a presentation as part of Social Justice month. On November 13th Nazario addressed the Southern Community and several area high school students regarding her journalistic work, the story of Enrique, and the continued immigration dilemma and its history.

The evening before two students from Carmen's course, HIS 309: Issues in Global History, Christian Cavanagh and Jordan Levin, presented Sonia Nazario with the handmade artist book created by students in four different courses (Education, History, and Social Work) and in appreciation for her humanitarian efforts and continued journalistic work.

Phi Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony and Speaker Series

November 20, 2019



Steve Amerman and Carmen Coury have taken over the faculty advisor duties from Darcy Kern. On November 20th, they and Leah Sause (BA '21), the current president of Phi Alpha Theta, welcomed the family and friends of the fifteen inductees to the history honor society, and we all joined in congratulating them on their academic accomplishments.

Over the past few years, we have been developing the social and academic presence of our honor society. While it is important that family and friends celebrate the accomplishments of our inductees, we also wanted our students to witness the possible career paths they might take.

With the support of the Dean's Office, we launched the Phi Alpha Theta Speaker Series. Our inaugural speaker, Donald Yacovone (BS '74) graduated from Southern with departmental honors in history and a minor in Political Science. After completing his master's degree at Trinity College in Hartford, he earned his Ph.D. in American Intellectual and Public History from the Claremont Graduate School in 1984. He is an Associate at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University and a recipient of the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal, the highest honor awarded by Harvard in the field of African and African American studies. He also received the NAACP Image award in 2014 along with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., for *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* (Smiley Books). He has numerous publications to his credit and agreed to present on one of his current projects, *Teaching White Supremacy: The Battle Over Race in American History Textbooks*. All in attendance agreed, it was not only a powerful presentation for the budding historians and their families in the audience but also another timely topic for Southern's Social Justice month.

End of Semester Events

December 5, 2019

The C-wing of Engleman Hall was the scene of our first poster presentations from Tom Radice's class, HIS 200: Historical Methods. To add to the celebratory atmosphere, we combined our end of the semester pizza party with the event. Unbeknownst to us, Darcy Kern's class, HIS 222: Medieval Europe, also had presentations of a sort, as her students showed off their handmade medieval manuscripts. The history department, then, is a-buzz with creative activity from medieval manuscript-making, to handmade artist books, to poster presentations, and digital blogs.



- **Lauren Sepulveda** (BS '10), a social studies teacher at the Clinton Avenue School, New Haven is the recipient of the 2019-20 National Milken Educator Award of \$25,000 for excellence in teaching.
- **Jordan Weymer** (BA '06) is the principal of the Donald McKay K-8 School in East Boston, which, one year ago, won the Thomas W. Payzant School on the Move Prize of \$100,000 (November 2018), and has further developed its partnership with Boston University-Wheelock, a model worth emulating.
- **Daisha Brabham** (BS '17), who is at Royal Holloway University of London on a Fulbright (see our Spring 2019 Newsletter), has been awarded \$10,000 for the Barzun Prize for Youth Engagement.
- **Donald Dostie** (BA '18) published in the Connecticut History Review an article "Bearing Bad News: Mistaken Memory, Legend, and Interpretation of the Public Sign Post in Waterbury, Connecticut," based on the research he accomplished in his undergraduate coursework.
- **Shane Emery** (BA '13, MS '19) has completed his special project, "Genocide Studies Curriculum."
- **Jessica Hoffer** (BS '16, MA '19) has completed her special project, "The Cold War and its Impact on America, Europe, and the non-Western World."
- **Jerry Gagliardi** (BS '19) just became a full time middle school Social Studies teacher with the East Haven school district.
- **Emma Norden** (BA '20) has taken full advantage of the internship opportunities through the history department working on the mayoral papers in the Buley Library, the New Haven Museum, and the Knights of Columbus Museum. She works part-time at the New Haven Museum as a result of her internship experience.

In Memoriam

Just as the fall semester was beginning, we were saddened to hear of the death of Edward Cocchiola. 'Coach', a graduate of Southern, served as a Student Teacher Supervisor for so many history students, many of whom have gone on to careers in secondary education here in Connecticut, the surrounding New England states, and across the country. His 'down-to-earth' wisdom and genuine concern for our students will be greatly missed.



In late October, we said goodbye far too soon to Sean Gallo, who had recently transferred to Southern from Naugatuck Community College. Those of us who met him at Orientation found his enthusiasm and excitement to start this new chapter of his education quite inspiring.



Upcoming Events

Spring Semester Begins - January 21, 2020
 Cover Letter Camp - February 24, 2020
 BS Alumni Panel - February 24, 2020

Alumni Event - TBD

Speaker Series with Ryan Dostie - March 25, 2020
 CSU History Conference - March 27, 2020
 CT History Day - March 28, 2020