

Spring 2019

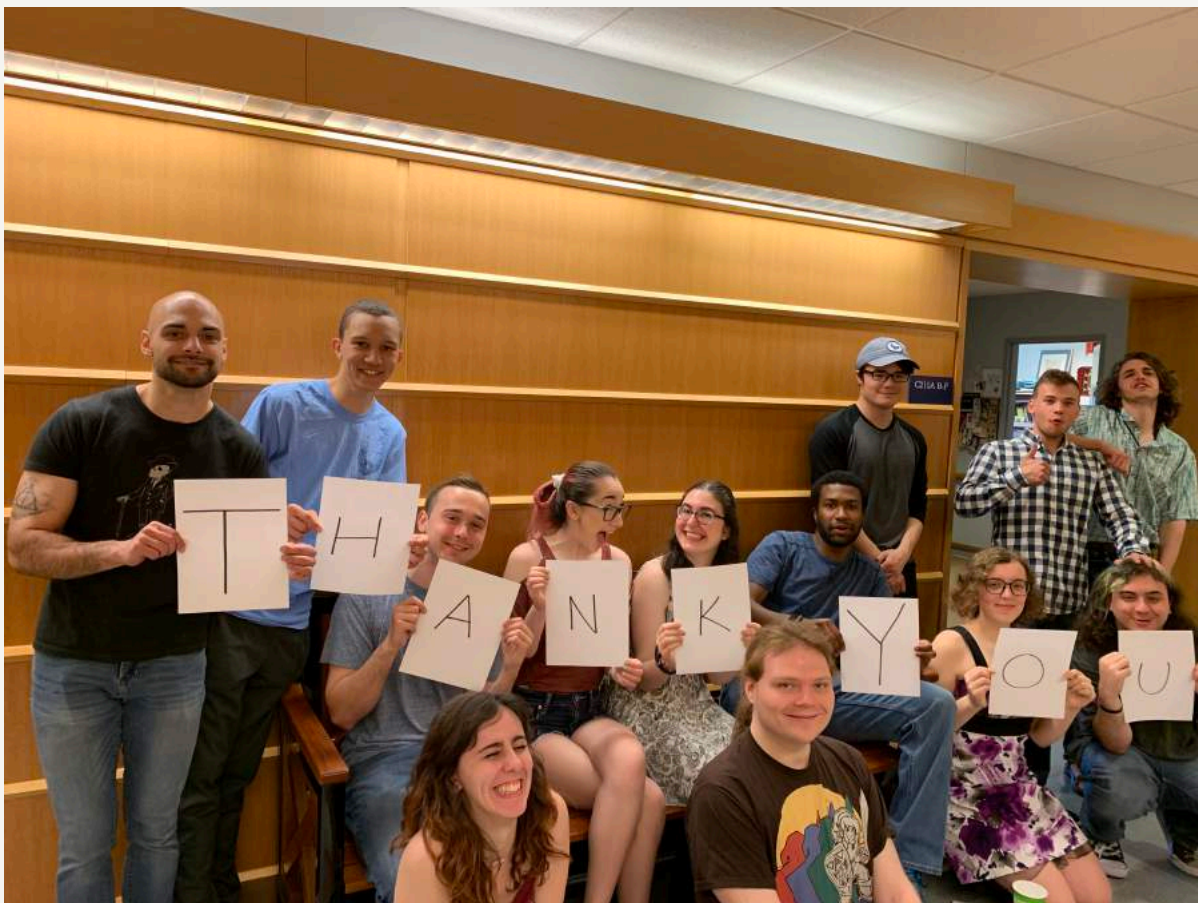
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



History Department NEWSLETTER

REFLECTIONS

Despite the rather rainy and cool April, or because of it, we are ready for summer! Before we go, though, let's look back at the spring semester. In keeping with our opening theme of interior design, we redirected our efforts from the main office to the hallway. Thanks to a suggestion by Jason Smith we inquired about purchasing benches for the C-wing. We started counting our pennies only to find that the University kindly paid for these benches that just arrived last week. The much anticipated benches have already become a popular place for students to rest and recharge.



INTRODUCING KELLY FALVEY

In January we welcomed Kelly Falvey who will become our social studies certification coordinator. This is a homecoming of sorts as Kelly completed her bachelor of science in history with us in 2004. Although she is currently part-time with us, she has already made quite an impact on our teacher candidates, the department, and the School of Education. Already an ambassador for Southern, Kelly continues to serve “in a role supporting dual-enrolled high school students, especially first-generation and underrepresented college students.” She has arrived (back) at Southern at just the right time to emphasize that “educators need the tools to be inclusive of all school community voices and should perceive teaching as a form of social justice.” She returns with a wealth of information, experience, and connections to her professional network in the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies. Her seemingly boundless energy, good humor, and professional advice is most welcomed.



CSU History Conference

March 22, 2019

No sooner did the spring semester begin than we started planning the 5th annual CSU Making History Conference hosted by Southern in late March. We were well represented with panels by Carmen Coury from her Oral History course in which her students learned about interviewing techniques, explored New Haven immigration, and not only utilized the archival resources of the Ethnic Heritage Center but also contributed their interviews to its collection. Similarly, Siobhan Carter-David had her students from the Senior Seminar course present their research in two separate panels, both of which elicited thought-provoking conversations between the students and the attending audience. Jason Smith gathered several of his students from last year's Digital New Haven course to revisit their research and present it to a new audience. He also joined our undergraduate double major, Ryan Plourde (HIS & SED), and our graduate student, Michael Brown, in presenting their individual research projects at the conference. Many thanks to Dean Bruce Kalk and Provost Robert Prezant for their support of this conference. We look forward to traveling to Central next year as they play host to this on-going opportunity to share historical research.



CT History Day

March 24, 2019



In late March, despite being snowed out weeks earlier, we welcomed about 200 middle school and high school students to Southern as we hosted the New Haven Regional Connecticut History Day Contest. Rebecca Taber-Conover, Head of Public Programs and Connecticut History Day, and Khalil Quotap, Director of Education and Engagement at the New Haven Museum, with a small but effective army of organizers made the campus ready for those students presenting documentaries, webpage projects, papers, and exhibits. The department acquitted itself quite well as it was “all hands on deck” for the snow date event. Many of our students who came to volunteer were drafted as judges. Many thanks to Polly Beals, Siobhan Carter-David and Ato David, Carmen Coury and Edward Coury, Marie McDaniel, Steve Amerman, Kelly Falvey, and students, John Saska, Megan Baker, Isabella Manzo, Ben Johnson, Ed Cordero, Derek, Pearson, Joshua Follo, Susan Koral, Esosa Enagbare, and returning alums Sarah Gardocki and Allison Norrie. We applaud all the student participants and their friends and families that came to support them at such an important celebration of Connecticut history.

Author Reception

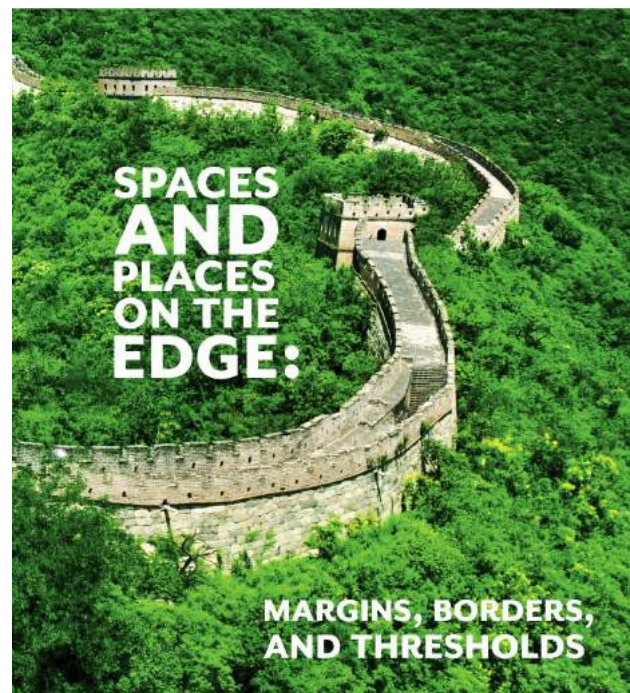
April 5, 2019

Buley Library, under its new director, Clara Ogbaa, hosted an author reception for recently published books by Southern faculty. The department was well represented with books from junior professors such as Carmen Coury and Jason W. Smith to professors emeriti, Harvey Feinberg, Alan Friedlander and Richard Gerber. Michele Thompson, Troy Paddock, and Steve Judd were in attendance.

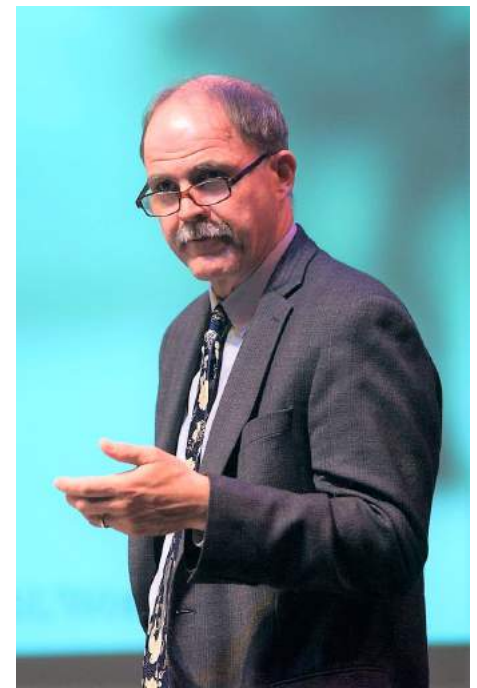


IASESP Conference

April 24-26, 2019



The department continues to strengthen its ties with Liverpool John Moores University as it played host to the 15th annual IASESP conference organized by the association's president, Troy Paddock. Next year's conference will be held at Quinnipiac University in late April.



Lunch with Alumni

April 24-26, 2019

Our plan for last semester and for those that follow is to welcome our students back to campus with a pizza celebration and to bid them farewell at the end of the semester with more pizza, but this spring we broadened our palate. We ended the semester with an event, Lunch with Alumni, which brought together Southern students and history alumni. The alums included recent graduates, Amanda Damon and Sarah Gardocki, as well as those alums graduating in the 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s including Tula Lacy, Carl Klorman, Anthony Ruggiero, Donald Yacovone, and Shante Hanks. Our alums graciously shared not only their memories of their time in the department but more importantly their path beyond Southern, the lessons they took with them, and those they learned along the way. Among the most powerful threads of conversation addressed and praised the increasing diversity of the campus and its social justice mission but also the importance of a liberal arts education in developing the skills of a learned citizen of the world. We anticipate hosting more of these occasions as we seek to connect our current students with the wisdom of those that have traveled a similar path.



Whiffle Ball Game

May 9, 2019



The History vs. Political Science Whiffle Ball Classic was well attended. Students and faculty alike put their game faces on for this action packed showdown.

Congratulations to the History Department for the win!

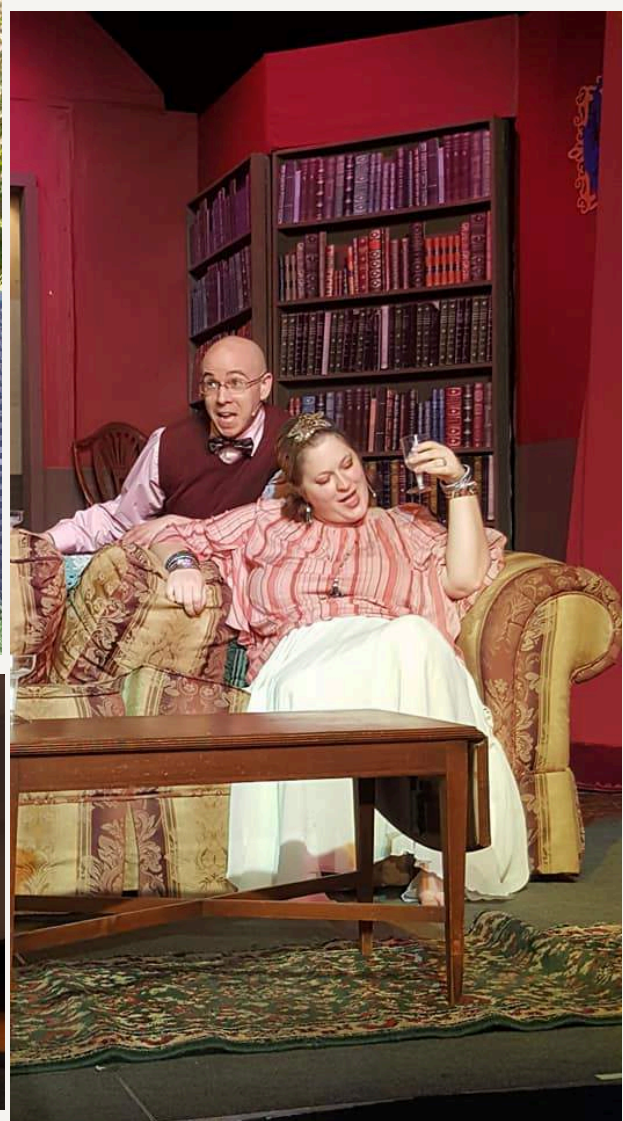
Student & Alumni Spotlight

- **Kyle Augustine** (BS '19), pictured below, was voted Heritage Ball King at the Heritage Ball on March 7, 2019. He will be working on campus this summer, and will pursue Graduate Studies here at Southern.
- **Megan Baker** (BA '19), the former president of Phi Alpha Theta, gave the address at the Honors Convocation in early May and walked away with several honors including Outstanding Achievement in History as well as several awards in her second major, political science. She will begin her graduate program here at Southern in political science in the fall.
- **Kevin Blakeley** (MA '18) completed his thesis, "Benedict Arnold and the Semantics of His Treason."
- **Matthew Bonito** (MA '18) completed his thesis, "Sons of Abraham: A History of the Republican Party, Richard Nixon's Southern Strategy, and the Formation of Twenty-First-Century Conservatism."
- **Daisha Brabham** (BS '17), pictured below, is off to Royal Holloway University of London on a Fulbright and will take a leave of absence from her teaching position at Engineering - Science University Magnet School in New Haven.
- **Michael Brown** (MA '21) recently presented his work at Southern's Graduate Student Research & Creative Activity Conference and has just been awarded a Graduate Assistantship for Research with Michele Thompson for next year.
- **Ryan Cafaro** (BA '19) earned top honors with the Excellence in History Award for his 4.0 grade point average.
- **Donald Dostie** (BA '18) will enter the PhD program at Temple University in Philadelphia in Fall 2019.
- **Peter Downhour** (BS '05) from Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, is President of the Amity Education Association (AEA).
- **Martin Kozon** (BA '12) is pursuing his doctoral degree in Modern European History at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and concentrating on twentieth-century Poland during the interwar period (1919-1939).
- **Hannah McNeil** (BS '16) from Griswold High School was awarded "Rookie of the Year" for 2018.
- **Ryan Plourde** (BS HIS/SED '19) was awarded the Robert Phipps, Sr. Award for his senior seminar paper.
- **Christina Smith** (BS '19) was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in history for her 3.93 grade point average.
- **Frank Tupka** (BS '11) from Foran High School in Milford will head to Salt Lake City Utah this summer to score AP exams.



Faculty Achievements

- **Siobhan Carter-David** was recently asked to join the Hamden Arts Commission and continues to host a digital pictorial exhibition-column, *Southern Styles: Dress, Beauty, and Adornment* at SCSU. She has been co-organizer of both the "1619 Lecture Series" and the upcoming conference commemoration of the 440th anniversary in October.
- **Darcy Kern** was the Southern Campus recipient for the BOR Research Award and was feted in mid-April at the Celebration of Excellence at which we also celebrated **Michele Thompson's** Faculty Scholar Award reported in the Fall Newsletter.
- **Tom Radice** has been moonlighting at the Spring Glen Church Theatre Arts Ministry. He recently played Roger Hopewell, the eccentric composer in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Don't worry, he is keeping his day job as our fearless historian of East Asia.
- **Troy Rondinone** has become a blogger! In advance of his new book, *Nightmare Factories: The Asylum in the American Imagination*, Troy blogs at Psychology Today in a blog entitled, *The Asylum: The American mental Institution, a history through pop culture*, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/the-asylum>. He joins **Jason Smith** who continues to develop the blog from his Digital New Haven Project course, *City of Elms*.



Upcoming Events

- Fall Semester Begins - August 26, 2019
- 1619 Lecture Series - October 2019
- Guest Speaker Sonia Nazario - November 2019
- Phi Alpha Theta Induction - November 2019
- Lunch with Alumni - Fall 2019