

Message from the Department Chair



As the snow flies outside my Old Main office window, I hope this newsletter finds you somewhere warm and relaxing. Here at Cortland, the faculty has been busy finishing their teaching for the semester, preparing to travel to conferences and archives, and

looking forward to a little time to decompress. As a department, we have accomplished a great deal over the past couple of years. Most importantly we have hired excellent new faculty who have brought their expertise to our classrooms and their energy to our department. We have restructured the major and now require all history majors to take a course on public history and to engage in three credit hours of experiential learning. One of those hours is often spent participating in a course we have run for four fall semesters, the Raquette Lake experience. A group of faculty and students bus up to Camp Huntington for a history- and fun-filled weekend, thinking about the history of the camp, history as a major and future career paths of historians. Other experiential learning opportunities we offer are internships and independent research with members of the faculty. History departments across the country are worrying about the fate of the history major and the future of their programs. With an increased emphasis on historical thinking skills and future careers paths, our department has seen a rebound in the number of history majors in the last year and are currently in the process of hiring a new member of our social studies faculty.

Along with curricular innovation, we have engaged in outreach across the campus. Last spring we held a roundtable on Confederate monuments and this fall we organized a standing-room-only event on the history of anti-Semitism and racism in Sperry Center's largest auditorium. We also co-sponsored a visit to campus by the late Roger Sipher's son, John Sipher, who is a retired CIA agent. John is often seen in CNN commenting on Russia's spy work, and he shared his experiences working in that capacity for the United States, stationed in Moscow.

Finally, the department has been busy celebrating Cortland's 150th anniversary. Drs. Kevin Sheets and Randi Storch co-authored with Amy Henderson-Harr an illustrated history of the College's past 30 years. You can get your copy from the College bookstore. We also encourage you to visit the new

digital timeline created by History Department students working with me over two semesters. Finally, Dr. Evan Faulkenbury has led a class of students in an Oral History project, further documenting the history of the College. We encourage you to listen to the interviews and read the transcripts at <http://sites.cortland.edu/cph/>.

We would love to hear from you and know how your history major shaped your career path. We also maintain a U.S. and world map with stickers for each of our alumni in the teaching profession. Let us know where you are and what you are doing: history.department@cortland.edu.

Professor Randi Storch

Meet our New Faculty Member

The department is delighted to welcome Dr. Celeste McNamara as an Assistant Professor of History. Dr.



McNamara earned her Ph.D. from Northwestern University in Chicago. Before joining our faculty, she taught at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA and more recently at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom. Her specialty is religious culture in early modern Italian history.

Her first book under contract with the Catholic University of America Press examines strategies that post-Tridentine reforming bishops used. Her case study is Cardinal Gregorio Barbarigo, the Cardinal-Bishop of Padua from 1664-1697. The book looks at how the Cardinal drew upon a variety of sources to create a toolkit that was used to address some of the common problems that he encountered in his diocese of Padua. In the book, she argues that in order to truly understand the reforms of the Catholic church, we must broaden our scope of inquiry beyond the Tridentine Decrees and cease using them as a central feature of our analysis. This is because the decrees only gave the bishops a general goal, it is the bishops' own experiences and connections that gave them a functional method for reforming their dioceses.

Dr. McNamara is excited to be in Cortland. She finds her students intellectually engaged and the faculty collegial. Dr. McNamara enjoys teaching a broad range of students and classes. In her free time, she goes hiking with her dog, a cocker spaniel and poodle mix.

Raquette Lake Experience

Tiana Johnson



In early September, students and faculty from the department took its annual trip to Raquette Lake. Located in the Adirondack mountains, students stayed at Camp Huntington and discovered the rich history of these great camps. We learned about the lives of those who passed through these camps and the importance of wilderness preservation. Working in groups, we used the camp as an archive for historical research. Each group was responsible for finding a historical artifact, investigate its history and make a presentation on it.

We also did fun activities such as kayaking, canoeing, hiking the surrounding trails, and singing around the campfire. The most rewarding thing for me was the team building exercises such as the challenge course and wall climbing. These exercises enabled us to build strong relationships between faculty and students. Being submerged in this natural, historic environment, we could see and feel the history in the buildings and artifacts.

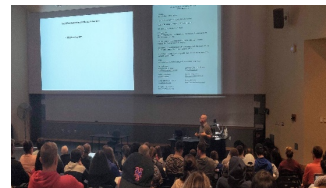
This trip serves as a reminder to us as to why history matters. We got to practice and further develop the art of historical thinking and persuasive writing. The faculty exposed us to the different paths a degree in history may take us. We formed friends and created memories during this weekend. It is a trip we will all never forget.



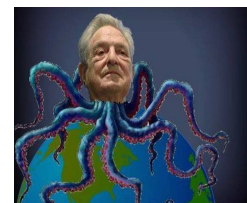
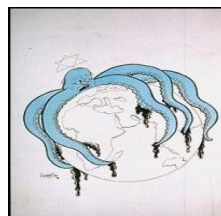
Dialogue on Anti-semitism

Jennifer Mitchell

In the wake of the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, on Nov. 5, the department hosted a public dialogue on anti-semitism and racism. The department moved the event to a larger room in the Sperry Center because of the big turn out. The lead discussant was professor Scott Moranda. In his presentation, Moranda noted that Roseanne Barr, a public figure wrote on Twitter several months ago that George Soros was a Nazi who had turned on his fellow Jews for the sake of survival. The truth is that Soros was a fourteen-year-old boy who had survived the Holocaust. The right-wing attacks Soros because he is a philanthropist who donates large sums of money to liberal or progressive causes. It is interesting that with a simple Google search of “Jewish propaganda Holocaust” not only does photos of Nazi propaganda show up, but pictures of George Soros also show up.



In his presentation, Dr. Moranda showed some photos of Nazi propaganda before World War II and some images used by right-wing groups today. Two examples are below.



On the left is a picture of Nazi propaganda taken before World War II, with the purpose of displaying how Jews were evil and were spreading their tentacles with the intention of taking over the world. The photo on the right is of George Soros, which is quite similar to the Nazi propaganda. Soros is shown spreading his tentacles, or influence, around the world. Dr. Moranda pointed out that it is clear that George Soros is a target because he is Jewish. As anti-semitism continues to rise in America one may wonder what actions will be taken against those responsible for these hateful acts. Other discussants were Professors Randi Storch and Gigi Peterson.

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Laura Gathagan, Associate Professor of History. Her research interests are Medieval gender, Anglo-Norman political history, and Queenship. She is the editor of the Haskins Society Journal.

Holly Pianosi

This past year, Dr. Laura Gathagan, an associate professor in the department coedited a book, *A Companion to the Abbey of Le Bec in the Central Middle Ages (11th-13th Centuries)*. Following the publication, she presented the book at a workshop at the Abbey of Our Lady of Bec in Normandy, France. This Abbey has been around since the 11th century, and it survived the French Revolution, the two World Wars, and it even stabled the horses of the French Crown in the chapel at one point. While at the workshop, she got to meet the Abbot and the brothers of the monastery.



Dr. Gathagan from second left.

Also while she was in France, she gave a talk at the University of Caen, where Matilda, the woman she studies, founded her very own monastery. She founded two monasteries that were right across from each other because she married someone that she wasn't supposed to. They were said to have been too closely related, but they did anyway, and the Pope let it slide, but they had to found two monasteries. Founding the monasteries was simple for them to do because they were already planning on doing it anyway. One of the monasteries was for men, and the other was for women.



Overall, she had a wonderful time in France, and the Abbot even snuck her book down to his room and placed it on his chair, which was a sweet gesture. She is also planning on

returning next summer to look at some recently discovered manuscripts about Matilda.

Faculty Awards

Two members of the department received the Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Outreach Award.



Professors Randi Storch and Kevin Sheets receiving awards from Dean Bruce Mattingly

Dr. Scott Moranda receives the Excellence in Internationalizing the Curriculum award from Dean Bruce Mattingly.



Dr. Bekeh Ukelina receives the New York African(a) Studies Association Book Award for his book, *The Second Colonial Occupation: Development Planning, Agriculture, and the Legacies of British Rule in Nigeria*. Pictured with him is professor Seth Asumah, Chair of the Africana Studies Department, SUNY Cortland.

Department's secretary, Corrina Harvey receives the Service Award. Pictured with him is professor Ghirish Bhat.



Faculty News

Professors Randi Storch and Kevin Sheets received their 5th National Endowment for the Humanities Grant to run “Forever Wild”, a Landmarks in American History and Culture grant for 72 K-12 teachers next July. They also finished writing the college’s history. The book is now out (and ready for purchase!) and is entitled: “Our Common Ground: An Illustrated History of SUNY Cortland, 1990-2017.”

Dr. Kevin Sheets was promoted to full professor in September. He was also elected to the Organization of American Historians’s Committee on Teaching. His two-volume collection titled “Sources for America’s History” was published by Bedford/St. Martin’s Press.

Evan Faulkenbury continues to teach public history and United States history courses, as well as to help undergraduates find public history internship opportunities. He published “‘Monroe is Hell’: Voter Purges, Registration Drives, and the Civil Rights Movement in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana” in the journal *Louisiana History*. He also presented his scholarship at the Oral History Association annual meeting in Montreal. Lastly, through a collaboration with Auut Studio, he launched a digital mapping project called *Mapping the Voter Education Project* as part of his upcoming book. You can visit the map here: <http://mappingthevep.evanfaulkenbury.com/>

This past summer, Dr. Scott Moranda taught an online course with a component that featured a five-day trip to Raquette Lake in the Adirondacks. In Dr. Moranda’s course he focused on tourism and environmentalism. While in the Adirondacks Dr. Moranda’s class worked together with an economics class taught by Dr. Benjamin Wilson on something known as the Common Problem Pedagogy.

History majors Kaycie Haller and Deirdre Hallinan presented with professors Randi Storch and Kevin Sheets on the timeline and the College history book to a receptive audience at an early morning College Roundtable in Park Center.

This fall, at Williams College, Professor Randi Storch delivered a keynote address to a room of historians, including Cortland alum Daniel Smith, at a conference that marked the 100-year anniversary of the American Communist party.

This October, Dr. Bekeh Ukelina presented his digital project, African Digital Development Archive at a conference, Archives in the Age of the Digital Humanities at Evora, Portugal. His article, “Africa for Africans: Black Nationalism and the UNIA’s *mssion civilisatrice* in Africa” was published by the *Calabar Journal of Politics and Administration*.

Alumni Spotlight



Christopher Carey (B.A. in history, 2018)

"When I first became a college student in 2014 I had no idea what I wanted to do. I first planned on just getting my liberal arts A.A. and figuring out the rest later. When I finally decided to continue my education as a history major, I had no idea what I would do with it, but I was determined to find something. While at Cortland I discovered an interest in public history and rediscovered my love of the National Park Service, realizing that I could combine the two and have a career with the NPS as a park ranger at a historic site. Now I am a graduate student at the Cooperstown Graduate Program pursuing my masters degree in museum studies as one of my first steps in becoming an NPS historical interpreter."

To see other profiles of our alumni, visit:

cortland.edu/departments/history/alumni-profiles

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