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Welcome!

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual newsletter. As an interdisciplinary department, we offer three majors that can be tailored to fit student interests, and several exciting minors. We value internships at all levels and encourage students to make them a part of their educational experience. Students have the opportunity to work directly with faculty members on topics ranging from urban coyotes to the Butte Copper mines. The department hosts both history and philosophy honor societies, as well as a philosophy ethics debate team. At all levels of the curriculum, the department provides students with the tools to think rigorously, to research and thereby generate knowledge empirically, and to articulate their thoughts coherently.

Please feel free to drop by Wilson Hall 2-155 to see what new and exciting things the History, Philosophy & Religious Studies Department is doing. If you have questions, give us a call at 406-994-4395 or email us at history@montana.edu.



Montana State University Campus Panorama 1910 (photo from "In the People's Interest")

38th Annual Hausser Lecture

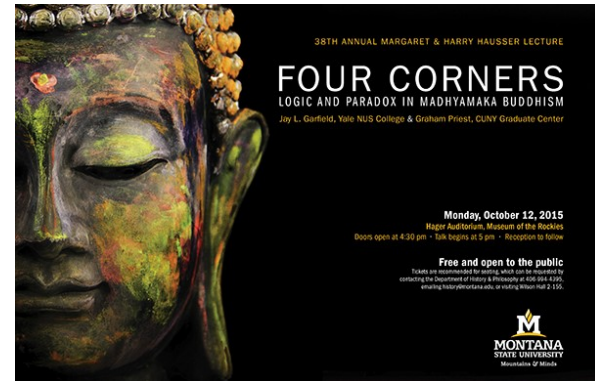
Four Corners: Logic and Paradox in Madhyamaka Buddhism

The 2015 Hausser Lecture was a big hit, with a standing-room only crowd at the Museum of the Rockies' Hager Auditorium. The lecture, presented by philosophy powerhouses, Jay Garfield and Graham Priest, centered around both the logic and the paradoxes found in Madhyamaka Buddhism, urging the audience to think as Buddhist logicians by suggesting the possibility that a statement may be both true and false or neither true nor false. This topic was of particular interest to our students enrolled in our philosophy Logic course, as well as our religious studies Buddhist Traditions course. The event was well attended by students and community members alike, and it was wonderful to have an event that connected the community and students together.

This event was sponsored by the Margaret and Harry Hausser Fund for Excellence and Mrs. Margaret Hausser, the generous donor behind the event, was in attendance. We are, as ever, grateful to her and her family for sustaining the lecture series, established to express the power of the humanities to illuminate lives.

H&P's International Influence:

Recent MSU Graduates Aid History Faculty Member with El Salvador Research



Mrs. Hausser with presenters Jay Garfield and Graham Priest

By Molly Todd

If you fall in love with a certain subject or research, find a way to apply it outside the classroom - that's truly the next step in our education.

- MSU Graduate Katie Chambers, Spring 2015

In early November, I made a brief research trip to El Salvador. There were several overlapping objectives for this trip, all of them related to my work as a teacher, mentor, and researcher. I participated in an International Observer Delegation for an historic "Community Consultation" in Arcatao, a rural village in northern Chalatenango province that is the heart of my research (and where I lived while doing dissertation research). My role with the delegation was two-fold. On one level, I was "just a participant." On another level, I was gathering material for my second book project on U.S.-El Salvador solidarity, and specifically the Sister Cities network. The book examines the roots of USESSC in the Salvadoran and U.S. Lefts, and traces the movement's evolution over time. One of the chapters addresses the use of "delegations" as an organizing strategy, comparing delegations that occurred during El Salvador's civil war and early post-war period (1980-1996) to delegations of the current "neoliberal era." The information I collected during the delegation (through participant-observation, interviews with other participants and coordinators, and the collection of documentation) will help me round out my understanding of this strategy that has long been critical to USESSC's solidarity work.

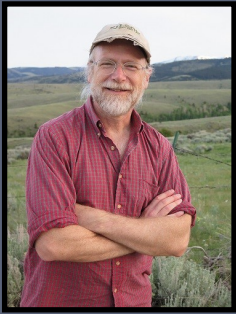
Perhaps the most exciting part of this brief trip was the fact that I was able to spend time with recent MSU graduates Jewel Christiansen, Katie Chambers, and Jacey Anderson. Jewel served as an observer for the Community Consultation. Jacey and Katie currently live in Arcatao; they are working with the town's Historic Memory Committee and they played an important coordination role for the delegation's time in Arcatao. Being "in the field" with three of my former students -- all of whom were there of their own accord and not as part of a faculty-led experience abroad -- was incredibly inspiring to me as a teacher and mentor



Molly Todd and her students in El Salvador

New Faculty

Mark Fiege



After completing a successful search, the Department has hired Mark Fiege as the Wallace Stegner Chair in Western Studies. Previously, Mark was the Visiting Wallace Stegner Chair, and in

March of 2015 gave a lecture on conservation.

Mark and his wife Janet Ore spent the last 22 years at Colorado State University and we are pleased that both are joining us at Montana State. Mark's research interests include the American West and National Parks & Protected Areas. You can contact Mark at mark.fiege@montana.edu.

Amanda Hendrix-Komoto



Coming to us from the University of Michigan, Amanda joined the Department in Fall of 2015. Her research interests include the American West, comparative colonialism and

women's studies.

This fall Amanda will be leading a special topics course on public history and its connection to war and religion. You can contact Amanda at amanda.hendriskomoto@montana.edu. We're glad Amanda found a home at Montana State!

**Welcome,
Mark and Amanda!**

Student Groups ³

Ethicats

This year Montana State University once again sent a team to compete in the 2015 Northwest Regional Ethics Bowl, a national ethics debate competition. Students work in teams of five on a series of real-life ethical dilemmas on a wide range of topics in environmental ethics, medical ethics, business ethics, and human rights issues. This year's cases included debates over the Indian Child Welfare Act, discrimination against same-sex couples, rights and responsibilities of police officers, mandatory vaccination policies, a controversial Mohammed cartoon contest, and the protection of endangered species. Our team competed against teams representing colleges and universities in Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and British Columbia. Our Montana State Ethicats finished tenth in our region, earning praise from judges as well as other teams both for their sophisticated arguments and their outstanding collegiality.

Team Members:

- ◇ Charles Bernstein
- ◇ Dylan Hills
- ◇ James Nausadis
- ◇ Emily Reddish
- ◇ Michael Ruiz

The students would like to thank all of those who supported the team and made this trip possible, particularly Dean Rae, the College of Letters & Science, and Susan Cohen and the Department of History, Philosophy, & Religious

Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Alpha Theta kicked things off this year with a great hike at Sypes Canyon the weekend before classes started. Other events, including monthly meetings, were held throughout the semester, culminating with our first annual Trivia Night Fundraiser. Working together, the officers wrote questions, gathered prizes and donations, and then ran the event on Thursday November 5th, 2015 at the Montana Movement Arts Center. Funds were raised to help defray the costs of travel when PAT members went to the Northwest Regional Conference in the spring. The Phi Alpha Theta officer teams hopes to bring back this event and many others next year!



Students participated in a trivia night

This year's officer team is:

- ◇ President Kirsten Bjerke,
- ◇ Vice President Maurisa Bell,
- ◇ Secretary Morgan Griffin,
- ◇ Treasurer Patrick Collier
- ◇ Historian Kyle Friedman.



Constitution Day panelists, Alyssa Price, Charlie Bernstein and Lena Wooldridge

Constitution Day

Every year on September 17, the United States participates in a little known holiday that celebrates the Founding Fathers and the document they drafted to guide a new nation. To celebrate Constitution Day 2015, the Political Science Department and the History and Philosophy Department put together a five-member panel of students who discussed arguments on the pros and cons of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United Decision. This decision struck down restrictions on independent political spending by corporations and unions and has led to the argument that corporations can now be counted as people.

Two students from the History and Philosophy Department, Alyssa Price and Charlie Bernstein, as well as Political Science student, Lena Wooldridge, shared their thoughts. More than 60 students attended the Constitution Day event, all of whom were invited to continue the lively discussion of the decision on social media. The History and Philosophy Department is proud of our students and their willingness to share their knowledge with their fellow peers.

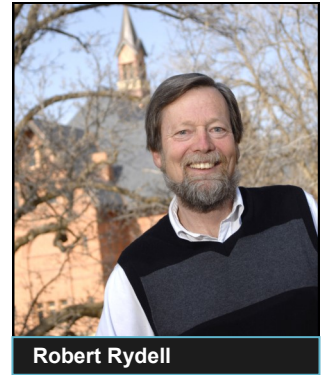
Did you Know?

- Jeannette Rankin of Missoula, MT was the first woman elected to the US Congress.
- A group of magpies is called a parliament
- The fastest completion time recorded on the Bridger Ridge Run (19.65 miles from Sacajawea Peak to the start of the "M" Trail) is 3 hours and 24 seconds.

Exciting News!

Dr. Robert Rydell worked with College of Letters and Sciences Dean Nicol Rae to secure a collaborative agreement between the College of Letters and Sciences and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West to secure internships for students and to coordinate mutual interests in the study of the American West. This agreement is the direct result of the 2014 Michael P. Malone Conference that was dedicated to the examination of the Wild West in transnational contexts.

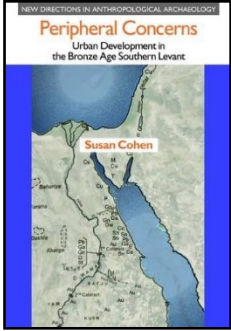
The History, Philosophy & Religious Studies Departments encourages all interested students to undertake an internship, as they provide students with an opportunity to enact the knowledge learned in the classroom in a real-world setting.



Robert Rydell

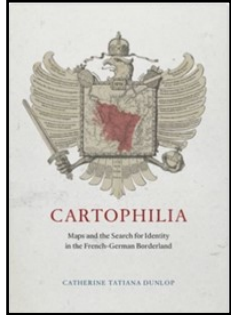
In the 2016 academic year, over 10 of our students received college credit for internships completed in and around Bozeman. Along with encouraging and creating more internships for students, Dr. Rydell has also agreed to compile an update of Montana State University's centennial history, focusing on the last 25 years of MSU's history. This book, a follow-up to "In The People's Interest" which was written by History faculty members Rydell, Jeffrey Safford and Pierce Mullen in 1993, is scheduled for publication in 2018, just in time for MSU's Quasiquicentennial Celebration.





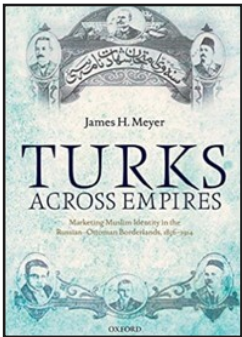
Susan Cohen - *Peripheral Concerns*

Peripheral Concerns examines the influence of the "core" region of the ancient Egypt on urban development in the southern Levant in the Early and Middle Bronze Ages, with emphasis on the relative stability and sustainability of urban culture in each era, and the significance of the rural periphery for this phenomenon.



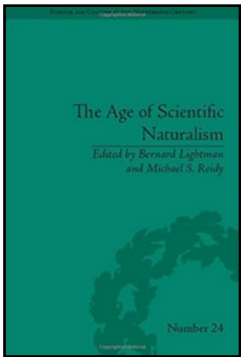
Catherine Dunlop - *Cartophilia*

Turning to a previously undiscovered archive of popular maps, *Cartophilia* reveals Alsace-Lorraine's lively world of citizen mapmakers that included linguists, ethnographers, schoolteachers, hikers, and priests. Together, this fresh group of mapmakers invented new genres of maps that framed French and German territory in original ways through experimental surveying techniques, orientations, scales, colors, and iconography.



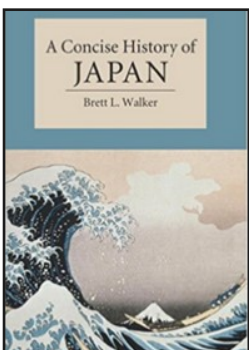
Jim Meyer - *Turks Across Empires*

Turks Across Empires tells the story of the pan-Turkists, Muslim activists from Russia who gained international notoriety during the Young Turk era of Ottoman history. This volume traces the lives and undertakings of the pan-Turkists in the Russian and Ottoman empires, examining the ways in which these individuals formed a part of some of the most important developments to take place in the late imperial era.



Michael Reidy - *The Age of Scientific Naturalism*

John Tyndall was one of the most influential scientists of the nineteenth century. His correspondents read like a 'who's who' of international science and include: Charles Babbage, Louis Pasteur and Bertrand Russell. Published serially with two volumes per year, this scholarly edition will ultimately present over 7,000 of his letters.



Brett Walker - *A Concise History of Japan*

In this engaging new history, Brett L. Walker tackles key themes regarding Japan's relationships with its minorities, state and economic development, and the uses of science and medicine. The book begins by tracing the country's early history through archaeological remains, before proceeding to explore life in the imperial court, the rise of the samurai, civil conflict, encounters with Europe, and the advent of modernity and empire.

Animal Minds in Yellowstone

By Amy Fontaine

It was September 12, 2015. We were standing with a gaggle of other on-lookers in a parking lot near the Forces of the Northern Range trailhead in Yellowstone National Park. The people nearby us had set up spotting scopes on stands and were peering through them eagerly. The two professionals in this crowd, Doug McLaughlin and Rick McIntyre, allowed Jackson Engle, sophomore Organismal Biology major at MSU, and I to look through their scopes. We watched with bated breath; I was so excited that I nearly squealed and bounced on the balls of my feet. About three miles in the distance, on the Blacktail Deer Plateau, lay a few tiny forms, black and gray specks against the dry yellow grass in the early morning light: pups of the Prospect Peak Pack. Wolves.

Seeing my first wild Yellowstone wolves was, of course, a great thrill. I had worked with wolves in captivity before that day, but never in the wild. But as an avid wolf-lover and, as of this past May, a graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Biology, one of my lifelong dreams has been to one day conduct research on wild wolves. And now, here I am, working my dream job as field crew leader for a professor here at MSU, Dr. Sara Waller of the History & Philosophy Department. In collaboration with the Cooperative Predator Vocalization Consortium, an international group of researchers studying vocal communication in a variety of species, Dr. Waller investigates questions in animal communication, cognition, and behavior, spearheading research projects involving coyotes, wolves, feral cats, and even dolphins. She enlists MSU students as vital members of the research team, giving them excellent field experience and a one-of-a-kind opportunity to contribute to cutting-edge research.

"My time spent silently sitting out in the midst of the night waiting for coyote howls, crashing through the white crested waves of Southern California tracking dolphins, and racing around Yellowstone National Park chasing after wolf packs has been some of the most enjoyable research experience I could have ever imagined,"

said Jon Murtaugh, senior Philosophy/Physics double major and long-time contributor to the project.

The project is an interdisciplinary effort; the student crew is composed of philosophers, political scientists, biologists, physicists, and more. Though they all approach the study from different perspectives, they all share a love of nature, a fascination with animals, and a burning curiosity about the world around them. "My favorite part of the project is definitely getting the chance to interact with so many like-minded people, in such an amazing environment as Yellowstone National Park," said Jackson Engle, who joined the project this semester.

One of the most interesting aspects of the project is the philosophical foundation underlying the research we conduct. Along with more specific research questions which vary from study to study and species to species, we always have a broader, ultimate goal of trying to understand why the animals we study do what they do, a question that becomes more complicated than it first appears as one contemplates the inner world or Umwelt of other animals, and what they may think or say. What passes through a coyote's mind when it howls? What information might the howl contain? Do other animals have language in the same sense that we do, or a similar sense, with syntax and grammar and so forth? Such questions are very intriguing, and the world is still a long way from answering them with satisfaction. But it's fun to do our part.



Jackson Engle and Amy Fontaine completing research in Yellowstone National Park

2016 MICHAEL P. MALONE CONFERENCE: WILD ANIMALS IN THE WILD WEST

Save the Date!

Wednesday, October 12 through Saturday, October 15 philosophy professors from around the world will be gathering in Bozeman to discuss animal minds and consciousness. Five keynote lectures, an undergraduate poster session, graduate student speed talks and a trip to Yellowstone are just a few things on the agenda! Email history@montana.edu for more information.

MSU graduate earns prestigious postdoctoral environmental fellowship at Harvard

By Michael Becker for MSU News Service (abridged)

A Montana State University graduate in history has earned a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship to research environmental topics at the Harvard University Center for the Environment.

Daniel Zizzamia, who earned his doctorate in history from MSU's College of Letters and Science in May 2015, will be one of just a half-dozen scholars to join Harvard's Environmental Fellows Program this fall. And one of the program's few historians.

The two-year program invites recent doctoral graduates to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to use Harvard's resources to take on complex environmental issues.

"It's an amazing opportunity, and I'm really excited about it," said Zizzamia. Zizzamia studies environmental history, specifically that of the American West and how coal and fossil deposits have driven the civilization and identities of people west of the Mississippi.

"Dan cares about changing the world through his work," wrote Reidy who co-chaired Zizzamia's dissertation committee. "He writes that way, participates in seminars that way, teaches courses that way, worries about the future that way."

"To have someone from a relatively young Ph.D. program at MSU win a fellowship like this says volumes about MSU's program and the students coming here to study with the faculty," said Department Chair Susan Cohen.



Dan Zizzamia—Photo by Sepp Jannotta
Congratulations, Dan!



MSU graduate students at faculty at the WEST Network in

Student Conference Participation

The MSU History Graduate Program had a substantial showing at the annual American Society of Environmental Historian (ASEH) conference, with a dozen MSU graduate students and faculty members in attendance. Students attended sessions, presented papers, went on fieldtrips, and enjoyed Seattle. Conference panels were dedicated to Asia, Latin America, North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and focused on how environmental threats transcend national borders. The ASEH conference provided MSU historians the opportunity to meet with their peers from around the nation and the world, and to discuss the challenges of reaching new audiences, affecting policy, and researching issues of global environmental importance.

In May, the University of Arizona hosted the WEST Network, which included environmental history PhD students and faculty from University of Colorado-Boulder, Colorado State University, University of Arizona, and MSU. This conference rotates its locale each year and this summer was located at the Arizona Southwestern Research Station of the American Natural History Museum. Over 30 attendees enjoyed the scenic conference location in the Chiricahua Mountains, known for great biodiversity, and presented on all stages of their research through informal sessions designed to promote feedback. MSU had nine students and faculty members attend and present.

The Department is grateful to Kathy Malone and the estate of Alexander Saxton for their support of graduate students in both History and American Studies

Meet the Office Staff!

Susan Cohen—Department Chair



After receiving her PhD in 2000, and a year of postdoctoral work in Jerusalem, Dr. Susan Cohen joined the department at MSU in fall 2001, and became Department Chair in December 2015. Dr. Cohen has worked for over thirty years as a field archaeologist in the Middle East; and her research focuses on urban development and international contacts in the Bronze Age of the ancient Near Eastern world.

Kori Robbins—Student Services Coordinator



Growing up a Griz fan in the small community of Anaconda, Kori shocked her family by coming to Montana State, and earning her bachelor's in history.

Kori grew up with a fishing pole in one hand and a book in the other. She is a volunteer at the Museum of the Rockies' Living History Farm, and spends her summers dressing in 1890s clothes, and entertaining tourists. Reading is her escape, and you can

often find her at the library or local bookstores, finding a new adventure.

Katie Yaw—Business Operations Manager



Katie moved to Bozeman with her husband and basset hound in 2012. She earned her bachelor's at the University of Pittsburgh in English writing and history and is currently working towards her master's degree in public administration.

Katie is originally from Pittsburgh and still bleeds black and gold. She greatly enjoys all the outdoor activities that Bozeman offers, especially the hiking. Since moving to Montana, she's taken up tumbling down ski slopes and wearing flannel-lined everything.

Contact Us!

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Congratulations to our recent PhD and MA Graduates!

PhDs in American Studies:

- Emerson Bull Chief
- Gerald Van Slyke
- Lisa Zeillinger

PhDs in History:

- Robin Hardy
- Natalie Scheidler

Masters in History:

- Kerri Clement
- Patrick Collier
- Mary MacLean
- Saasha Rife
- Tim Turnquist