

IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Fall/Winter 2009/10 – Volume XXIV, No. 1

From the Director



Dear Friends: If you've visited the IHRC lately, you've probably noticed the bustle of high energy that characterizes Andersen Library during the fall semester.

Since mid-summer, we've introduced a score of researchers to our collections and heard what they are finding in our archives. We've listened to graduate students and faculty report on new research related to race, ethnicity and migration. A dozen undergraduate and graduate student workers and research assistants currently help IHRC staff on special projects you'll find described throughout this newsletter. With undergraduate classes regularly visiting the IHRC, and with special exhibits commemorating the 40th Anniversaries of African-American and American Indian Studies just outside our door, the current bustle strikes me as the most intense I've experienced since arriving here in 2005.

And we don't expect that the onset of cool weather will cool things down at the IHRC!

We've just joined supporters at the 32nd Annual Meeting and Dinner with Friends of the IHRC.

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Fesler-Lampert Chair Supports Research on Immigrant and Refugee Youth and "Social Networking"

With assistance from graduate students **Andy Wilhide** and **Justin Schell**, the Fesler-Lampert Chair in Public Humanities (held this year by **Donna Gabaccia** in addition to the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair) has begun research on how immigrant and refugee youth in Minnesota use social networking sites such as YouTube and Face-

book to document their own lives. The project with Wilhide (History) and Schell (Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society) is called "Minnesota 2.0: Digital Media and Story-Telling by Immigrant Youth." Four undergraduate students with close ties to the Hmong, Somali and Mexican-American community are sharing their stories and surveying existing social networking sites. They've also examined the kinds of stories told by earlier immigrants and refugees, which are held as part of IHRC research collections. In the winter semester, the research will design a webpage that documents the new stories they are uncovering. The undergraduates on the research team are **Salma Hussein**, **Mustafa Jumale**, **Suk Her** (all from the Twin Cities) and **Yuridia Ramirez** (from Reedsburg, WI). For a fuller description of the project see <http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/collaboration/pdf/ImmigrantandRefugeeYouth3.pdf>



(L-R) **Mustafa Jumale**, **Andy Wilhide**, **Justin Schell**, **Yuridia Ramirez**, **Salma Hussein** & **Suk Her**

Global REM Seminars

The IHRC partnered with the Institute for Global Studies to present Global Race, Ethnicity, Migration seminars this semester. Fall speakers included **Jeffrey Pilcher**, University of Minnesota; **Prof. dr. M.H.G. van Kempen**, University of Amsterdam; **Donna Gabaccia**, University of Minnesota; and **Trent Alexander**, Minnesota Population Center. **Johanna Leinonen**, Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of Minnesota will be speaking on December 3rd at noon in 308 Elmer L. Andersen Library. For additional information visit our website at www.ihrc.umn.edu.



L-R **Michiel van Kempen**, **Donna Gabaccia**, **Klaas van der Sanden**, & **Jenneke Oosterhoff**

Grant-in-Aid Awards

Sixteen scholars have been awarded 2009-2010 grants in aid to support travel to and research in the historical collections of the Immigration History Research Center. Award recipients include doctoral candidates, independent scholars, creative artists, and heritage preservation personnel, with topics ranging from gender violence and refugee policies to Greek identity in the American Midwest. Grants in aid are made possible through gifts to the IHRC's ethnic studies and other funds.

Visiting Scholars

Aleksandra Loewenau of Oxford Brookes University presented her research into the plight of 1,700 Polish Catholic priest inmates of the Dachau concentration camp and revealed a new and difficult perspective on the collaboration of medical professionals in the persecution of clergy in the Nazi era. (Co-sponsors: Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; Program in the History of Medicine and Program in Human Rights and Health)

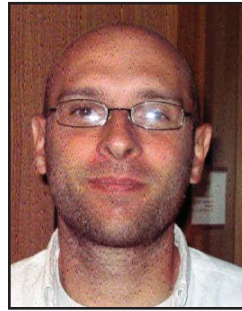


Kathryn Wegner analyzed the dynamic and expanding nature of the cultural meaning of citizenship between 1910 and 1940 for immigrant communities as education and citizenship converged.

Ms. Wegner is a student at the University of Illinois-Chicago. (Co-sponsor: Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University Libraries)

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David Palter of University of California, Santa Cruz, explored the evolution of racial thinking in arguments over the education of Chinese and Japanese children in San Francisco from the late 19th century to 1924. His work focused on finding the voices of early San Francisco working-class Chinese and Italian immigrants. (Co-sponsor: Asian American Studies)



Stacy Fahrenthold of Northeastern University studied the role of associations and ethnic press in linking immigrant communities and the formation of an Arab-American public sphere in the mid-twentieth century, focusing on how this contributed to national identity at home and in the Diaspora. (Co-sponsor: Mediterranean Studies)



Another fall visitor was **Matjaz Klemencic** who studied the problem of self-identification for the Slovenes of Pueblo, CO, and collaborated on completing his book, *Jim Pugel and*

Other Slovenian Pioneers of Pueblo, Colorado. He also was preparing chapters for a 2010 and 2011 publication of *Immigrants in America*, edited by **Elliot Barkan**.

IHRC News is published fall/winter and spring/summer (print and online). It is sent to supporters of the IHRC, including selected and prospective members of Friends of IHRC, donors, University of Minnesota colleagues, and exchange publications. Please notify the IHRC if you wish to receive the online version only.

Research by Undergraduates

Two of the many undergraduate students who can be seen regularly around the IHRC this semester are **Chelsey Kueffer** and **Michelle Hersch**, who are earning academic credit in History and a small stipend by



Chelsey Kueffer

assisting **Donna Gabaccia** on her research project "Imagining Nations of Immigrants." **Chelsey Kueffer**, a communication major from Sussex, WI, is analyzing three big-city newspapers edited by African-American editors for African-American readers in twentieth century Atlanta, New York and Los Angeles. Chelsey has discovered that African Americans rarely wrote about the U.S. as a "nation of immigrants." Now she wants to see how African-American press discussions of immigration differed from those



Michelle Hersch

in other presses. **Michelle Hersch**, from New Berlin, WI, a junior majoring in journalism (history minor) and interested in how foreign-born legislators (who numbered among some of the earliest users of the phrase "nation of immigrants") thought about the immigration restriction proposals of their time. Her research, which focuses on four immigrant Congressmen from the Upper Midwest, has required her to survey the *Congressional Record*, newspaper articles and to consult unpublished letters in the Minnesota Historical Society.

Collections Note

Halyna Myroniuk, Sr. Assistant

Curator, attended the 26th Conference on Ukrainian Subjects at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, June 24-27, where she shared a power point presentation on the pilot project entitled “Ukrainian American Health, Mortality and Demography Project.” She also staffed the IHRC table at the Ukrainian Heritage Festival in North East Minneapolis, Sept. 20; and participated in the Hist 3959 “How to do History” course at Andersen Library along with curators from the Archives and Special Collections units on Oct. 12. She researched, selected, and provided historical background on the 1932-1933 famine in Ukraine.



Gabaccia continued from page 1

In the weeks ahead, we’re looking forward to a workshop on the digitization of the so-called “America letters,” written by immigrants and a number of special events of interest to Romanian, Hungarian, Somali, Hmong and Mexican-American communities.

Be sure to keep a close eye on our webpage (<http://ihrc.umn.edu>) because more is currently being planned. Mark your calendar for a day long “teach-in” on February 1 that will explore immigrant and refugee’s ties to their homeland, and ponder when such connections become politicized. Throughout the year we’ll be exploring immigrant stories, the politics of citizenship, migration from the Austro-Hungarian Empire...and much, much more.

You are always welcome to visit us at the IHRC and to join the intellectual adventure!

All the best,

—**Donna Gabaccia**

From the Program Director

The IHRC staff joins me in thanking our long-time supporters and IHRC’s development associate **Eva Widder**

for helping us to affirm that the director of the IHRC holds the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History Research. The College of Liberal Arts has committed additional efforts to fully endowing the Chair, ensuring that immigration studies remain a prominent part of the curriculum at the University of Minnesota.



IHRC outreach continues to grow — to university classes visiting the archives and through public history in our many activities. IHRC staff are frequent guest speakers at ethnic, genealogy and local history events.

Collections staff continue to work with donors on carefully scheduling acquisitions for existing collections, and we are learning more flexible ways of documenting and preserving immigrant experience materials. We are making progress in processing archival and print materials, and new finding aids on the IHRC website will make it easier for researchers and potential donors to appreciate the depth of our collections.

After the success of “Association Archives” in spring 2009, IHRC has begun planning a more intense two-day Society of American Archivists’ workshop titled “Understanding Archives.” Stay tuned for information — and be sure to check the IHRC webpage (or new Facebook page) for the latest news!

—**Haven Hawley**

Staff Update

Recent University of Minnesota graduates **Addie Mroska (l)** and **Ann Brigl (r)**

contributed during summer 2009 to the IHRC as a collections intern and public services student assistant, respectively.



Dan Grussing is a junior majoring in English and working in the IHRC as Assistant Data Manager. **Sadie Doggett**



(L-R) **Dan Grussing & Sadie Doggett**

started at the IHRC as Assistant Billing Coordinator in September and is a sophomore going into biomedical engineering.

Giving to the IHRC

It’s been a busy fall at the IHRC. I’ve enjoyed meeting some of you at the screening of “Sempre, Rudi” and the Friends of the IHRC Annual Meeting. It is inspiring to see how passionate you are about preserving immigrant history and sharing it with others. I look forward to seeing you soon!

—**Eva Widder**



Photo by E. Ayoubzadeh

We need your help in reaching our \$1 million goal for the Vecoli Chair. Contact **Eva Widder**, External Relations, College of Liberal Arts, at 612-626-5146 or ewidder@umn.edu for more information. Thank you for your support.

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IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

The IHRC promotes interdisciplinary research on international migration, develops archives documenting immigrant and refugee life, especially in the United States, and makes specialized scholarship available to students, teachers, and the public. The IHRC acts in partnership with various ethnic communities, historical agencies, research specialists, educators, and many others. Its work supports the tripartite mission—teaching, research, and service—of its parent institution, the University of Minnesota. IHRC is a unit of College of Liberal Arts.

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IHRC Awards First Latvian-American, Arab-American Graduate Fellowships

The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) at the University of Minnesota has for the first time awarded the prestigious Francis Maria Graduate Fellowship in Arab American Studies and the American Latvian Association (ALA) Graduate Fellowship in Latvian American Studies.

Ilze Garoza, a master's student in comparative and international development education, was awarded the ALA Fellowship for 2009/2010. Garoza's research looks at how Latvian immigrants have both successfully integrated themselves in the United States and also managed to maintain their national identity for over 50 years.

Charlotte Albrecht, a Ph.D. candidate in feminist studies, was awarded the Francis Maria Fellowship for summer 2010. Her research focuses on Arab migration history in the United States and how class, gender, sexual and religious norms have affected processes of racial formation for Arab migrants.