

IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Spring/Summer 2011 – Volume XXV, No. 2

From the Director

Before I came to the IHRC in 2005 I had worked in an archives environment only as a researcher; my perceptions were those of a researcher who



Donna Gabaccia

appreciated efficient service and a quiet reading room with convenient hours. When I first arrived in Andersen Library, home of the IHRC and many special collections of the University of Minnesota Libraries, I had a hard time adjusting to a university space which seemed to have so few students moving through it.

Over the last three years, as the IHRC has increased digitizing segments of its own collections and begun creating new digital collections that will document today's immigrants and refugees, especially here in Minnesota, the number of undergraduate and graduate students working on IHRC projects has quadrupled. And what a change! Walk into the IHRC most any day and you're bound to find a student busily involved in some IHRC project or another.

This semester alone, bi-lingual **Keit Osadchuk** assisted Archivist **Daniel Necas** and me in processing, selecting, translating and transcribing a Russian-language series of letters for the Digitizing Immigrant Letters Project. As student curator, undergraduate **Kao Choua Vue** worked with **Haven Hawley**, filmmaker **Michael Joyce** and IHRC Latvian Graduate Fellowship holder **Ilze Garoza**, in developing our successful exhibit on immigrant letter-writing "A Heart Connects Us."

Continued on page 3, Gabaccia

IHRC APPRECIATION EVENT

A foot of snow and blustery weather did not stop IHRC supporters from gathering on Monday, Feb. 21, to celebrate a year of progress and innovative activities. The IHRC's exhibition "A Heart Connects Us" and an array of foods kept attendees talking before and after the awards ceremony.

Continued on page 3, Event



(L-R) Michael Joyce, Ilze Garoza, Mustafa Jumale, Evelyn Davidheiser, Donna Gabaccia (director), Dan Kunitz and Dave Klaassen (Keystone Award winner) were recognized during the ceremony.

Support for Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair

The Immigration History Research Center gratefully acknowledges gifts from **Kaz Takahashi**, in memory of **A. William Hogle**, and **Virginia Puzak**, in memory of **Carl Ross**, to the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History during 2010. With support from the Vecoli Chair Fund, promising graduate students have worked closely with the IHRC Director on innovative immigration projects.

As Vecoli Chair, **Prof. Donna R. Gabaccia** has initiated the Digitizing Immigrant Letters Project and the Sheeko Project, guiding graduate students in research, teaching and public engagement. Under her direction, the Vecoli Chair Fund has provided archival training programs for community members and students. IHRC students currently are processing the A. William Hogle Papers and the Carl Ross Papers.

The Takahashi gift of \$10,000 honors the work of A. William Hogle (1926-2008) in mentoring a generation of graduate students in Finnish American and multi-ethnic immigration history, in addition to his role as scholarly leader of the field of Finnish American studies. The donation to the Vecoli Chair Fund matches an equal amount provided in 2009 to support processing of Finnish-American historical collections, including the A. William Hogle Papers.

The Puzak gift of \$25,000 remembers the legacy of Carl Ross (1913-2004), radical activist and independent scholar of the labor movement and Finns in America. Mr. Ross was an author and consultant to the Minnesota Finnish-American Family History Research Project, archived at the IHRC. "He played a critical role in bridging the chasm between the 'Red Finns' and the 'Church Finns,'" wrote former IHRC Director Vecoli in 2004.

Global Race, Ethnicity & Migration

Global REM seminars continue to build with interdisciplinary involvement.



Justin Schell, Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society, kicked off our spring semester speakers on February 1 with “Poetry and Funky Rap in Ghana: A Fieldwork Report.”

Liz Zanoni, Ph.D. candidate in History, presented “Managing Transnational Trade from the Diasporas: Italian People and Products in the U.S. and Argentina During the Age of Mass Migration, 1880-1940” on February 17.



Annemarie Steidl, University of Vienna, & **James Oberly**, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, presented “Understanding the TransAtlantic Migration Experience: Austria and Hungary” on March 3. **Wladimir Fischer**, the third member of the group, is currently at the University of Vienna. (co-sponsored by IHRC, IGS, Minnesota Population Center and Center for Austrian Studies)

“Hemispheric Asian/American History” was presented by **Erika Lee**, Professor of History, on March 7.

On April 4, **Saje Mathieu**, Professor of History, delivered “Race on the Line: Black Soldiers and the Great War in France.”



Michele DeGregorio returned to the IHRC this spring as a Fullbright Re-

Saje Mathieu



Michele DeGregorio

searcher in Residence. He presented “From Urban Warfare in Trieste to Street Fights in New York: The Arditti Rossi and the Transnationalization of the Antifascist Movement in the USA (1921-1927)” on April 28.



(L to R) Donna Gabaccia with Richard Black, and Cawo Abdi

Richard Black, Professor of Human Geography, Head of School of Global Studies, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex, spoke on “Migration Futures in a Warmer World” on April 14. (co-sponsored by IHRC, IGS, Geography, Sociology, Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC))

Fellowships for 2011-2012

Arta Ankrava

American Latvian Association Fellowship in Latvian American Studies

Charlotte Karem Albrecht

Francis Maria Graduate Fellowship in Arab American Studies

Andrew Hoyt

UNICO National Graduate Fellowship in Italian American Studies

Silvana Hackett

Maurice A. Roberts Fellowship for the History of Immigration Law & Policy

Awards for Excellence

Congratulations to **Keit Osadchuk** and **Mia Overly**. Each received an Outstanding Student Employee Award presented by the Office for Student Affairs on April 27.



(L to R) Presenters Mustafa Jumale, Mia Overly, Saida Hassan, Mohamed Dirie, Fartun Abdi, Erika Busse (organizer), Keit Osadchuk & John Ziegler

Visiting Scholars

The IHRC was privileged to host **Peeter Valjas** and **Gerli Raadik** for the month of March 2011. The two visiting scholars from the National Archives of Estonia worked with the Estonian Archives in the U.S., Inc collections. **Haven Hawley**, **Daniel Necas**, **Cindy Herring** and **Kalju Kubits** made sure that they got to experience a little of Minnesota with visits to sites in the Twin Cities area.

Growth in the John and Nancy Lambros Greek American Studies Fund supported the first IHRC Post Doctoral Grant-in-Aid Award, given to **Yannis Papadopoulos** from Panteion University in Athens, Greece.

Continued on page 3, Scholars



(L to R) Yannis Papadopoulos receiving book from John & Nancy Lambros

Research-in-Progress

Talks

Charlotte Karem Albrecht

Ph.D. candidate in Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, presented “Peddling Encounters: Syrian Migrants and the Intimacies of Race in Early Arab American History” on March 21.



Undergraduate Research at IHRC

The IHRC showcased the research work of undergraduate students in a panel presentation held April 26. Erika Busse organized the event and graduate student commentators included **Virgil Slade**, **Arta Ankrava** and **Ilze Garoza**.

Visit ihrc.umn.edu for additional details

Staff Updates

Erika Busse worked in the IHRC as a research assistant and received her Ph.D. in sociology. **Liz Zanoni** and **Johanna Leinonen**, regulars at the IHRC for many years, received their Ph.D.s, in history. **Kao Choua Vue**, **Muna Mohammed** and **Mia Overly** received their bachelor degrees this spring. Congratulations!



Photo by Miguel Wong

(L to R) Erika Busse, Liz Zanoni, & Johanna Leinonen at commencement

Gabaccia, continued from page 1

The “Sheeko” team—graduate students **Andy Wilhide** and **Virgil Slave** and undergraduates **Mustafa Jumale**, **Fartun Abdi**, **Mohamed Dirie** and **Saida Hassan**—has now worked for two semesters to create a digital video archive of young Somali Minnesotans telling their stories. (Sheeko means “story” in Somali.) Soon you’ll be able to view these stories online. We were thrilled when Mustafa then was awarded the **Josie R. Johnson** Human Rights and Social Justice Award for his work on this and many other projects.

This year again we were able to highlight the work of our undergraduate students in an event organized by IHRC Graduate Research Assistant **Erika Busse**. Besides the Sheeko project, visitors heard research reports by **Mia Overly** on her American Studies senior project (focused on Finnish Americans) and **John Ziegler**, who has been analyzing the changing and surprisingly complex historical meaning of the familiar term “refugee.”

The IHRC is still happily located in Andersen Library, but this is not a space where someone says “shhhh!!!” Stop by and see how students become involved in research by creating the collections that researchers will use long into the future!

Sincerely,

—**Donna Gabaccia, Director**



Event, continued from page 1

The first special recognition given to an institution was awarded to the Estonian Archives in the U.S., Inc. located in Lakewood, New Jersey. Volunteers of the organization are pictured at left with their plaque.

A Heart Connects Us:

Immigrant Letters and Experiences of Migration Exhibition was open from February 14 to April 8, 2011 and presented letters in Croatian, Finnish, Hmong, Italian, Latvian and Ukrainian. The letters date from 1899-1990. The immigrant letters in this exhibit are part of the Digitizing Immigrant Letters Project created by the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History at the Immigration History Research Center. The letters have been digitized, transcribed and translated so people can see, study and understand the conversations between immigrants in the United States and their loved ones. A pilot project is available online: <http://ihrc.umn.edu/research/dil/index.html>.



Scholars, continued from page 2

In addition to Dr. Papadopoulos, the following researchers were awarded Grants-In-Aid and conducted research at the IHRC in 2010-2011:

Dr. Rachel A. Batch

Widener University

Dezeree Hodish

Ph.D. candidate, University of Kansas

Shira Klein

Ph.D. candidate, NYU

Adam Krowka

Independent scholar, Estonia

Louie Milojevic

Ph.D. Candidate, American University

Dr. Sylvia P. Onusic,

Independent scholar, U.S.

Grants In Aid support travel by external scholars to use the IHRC’s historical collections. The 2011-2012 Grant In Aid deadline is June 1, 2011.

IHRC Staff

Donna Gabaccia, Director

Ilze Garoza, Haven Hawley, Cindy Herring, Ihar Labacevich, Daniel Necas, Jeff Nelson, Sara Wakefield

Student Assistants: Erika Busse, Sadie Doggett, Mary George, Adam Grant, Dan Grussing, Muna Mohamed, Keit Osadchuk, Mia Overly, Justin Schell, Kao Choua Vue, Andy Wilhide

Giving to the IHRC

In late December, Congress passed a bill extending Charitable IRA Roll-over benefits through the end of 2011. Under the legislation, you can make charitable gifts now using funds from your individual retirement accounts (IRAs) without undesirable tax effects. If you are age 70 1/2 years or older and own an IRA, the new rules allow you to transfer up to \$100,000 directly to charity this year. Charitable transfers are excluded from gross income, and distributions made under this law also satisfy the donor’s minimum required distribution. Through December 31, 2011, IRA gifts are a simple way to give and avoid tax complications. If you are interested in learning more about IRA gifts, call **Eva Widder** at 612-626-5146.

Contact **Eva Widder**, External Relations, College of Liberal Arts, at ewidder@umn.edu or 612-626-5146 to arrange a bequest or pledge. Thank you for your support.

University of Minnesota
Immigration History Research Center
311 Andersen Library
222—21st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0439

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 90155

IHRC News —Spring/Summer 2011

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 scholarships 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 the College of Liberal Arts.

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. (ihrc@umn.edu)

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover™



The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.
Printed on recycled paper.
Contains a minimum of 10% postconsumer waste.



Immigrant Theme in *Street Scene*

A rich collage of universal dramas and dreams, Elmer Rice's *Street Scene*, Pulitzer prize winner produced by Girl Friday Productions and directed by **Craig Johnson**, will be open July 7–30 at the Minneapolis Theater Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave in Minneapolis. For tickets to the performances call 612-729-1071. Following the July 17th matinee of *Street Scene*, the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center will lead a free panel discussion entitled: "Our Migration Stories: Historical and Contemporary."

Participants will include **Haven Hawley**, IHRC program director, and **Christine "Kit" Gordon**, dramaturg for Girl Friday Productions. The discussion is open to the public.

IHRC Services Showcased

The redesign of the IHRC patron services processes was featured at the UMN 2011 Quality Fair and Forum on Feb. 3. **Cindy Herring** and **Sara Wakefield** presented a poster session on how staff respond to thousands of e-mails, phone calls and patron visits each year. Herring and Wakefield supervise undergraduate student workers at the IHRC's front desk: this year's team includes **Sadie Doggett, Dan Grussing, Muna Mohammed, Mia Overly** and **Kao Choua Vue**.



Kathy McKee (R) from Minnesota Population Center visits with **Sara Wakefield (L)** and **Cindy Herring (center)** at IHRC booth

Selection Guidelines For Potential Donors of Archival Materials

The Immigration History Research Center is an interdisciplinary center that promotes research on international migration, with an emphasis on immigrant and refugee life in the United States. That mission relates closely to what we select for the IHRC's historical collections.



Haven Hawley

The archival and print collections of the IHRC are vast and focus chiefly on two streams of immigration. The first is that of chiefly European mass migration in the latter 19th century and the early 20th century, generally described as people migrating from the areas bounded by Finland, Italy and lands formerly known as greater Syria. A second area of strength for the IHRC is the theme of 20th-century refugees, including post-World War II displaced persons, southeast Asian and African refugees, and others considered involuntary migrants.

The IHRC collects limited materials documenting other types of U.S. immigration. The Center provides limited documentation for many groups, particularly those which eventually came to Minnesota or the Midwest, of special interest to University of Minnesota researchers. These materials generate useful comparisons in the field of migration studies. The IHRC does not comprehensively collect materials outside of its two main clusters of documentation.

In making acquisition decisions, we carefully balance many factors, especially our ability to ensure resources to preserve and make accessible for future generations a remarkable and distinct group of documents for understanding immigrant experiences.

The IHRC collaborates with ethnic community efforts to preserve cultural materials. The IHRC also cooperates with Minnesota, U.S. and

homeland repositories to ensure the greatest possible access to heritage materials created by immigrants.

What Are Archival Materials?

Archival materials are unique, original and unpublished documents created by a person or organization. These documents are evidence from the hand of a person or the operations of an organization. Good examples include letters, diaries, photo albums, minute books, original documents or correspondence.

Books, journals and newspapers are rarely themselves archival. Exceptions to this include a newspaper published by an organization that keeps an entire run of that newspaper for staff reference, or an author's book that he or she has added corrections to over time. These types of print can shed light on an owner's thought process.

Current books, newspapers, journals, etc., sent to IHRC at the time of publication are not considered archival because they are not the unique working copies of that organization. As always, we welcome informational mailings about events of importance to immigrant communities. However, we do not have the resources to store current publications until they become historical. Donors should keep their own working set of publications and schedule transfer in bulk when those materials are no longer part of an organization's operations.

To discuss acquisitions, please contact me at ehh@umn.edu. Although we have fewer staff than in the past due to budget cutbacks, we will do our best to schedule an evaluation of materials offered to us that fit the above priorities.

We appreciate your financial support of and good will toward the University of Minnesota, home of the Immigration History Research Center.

Sincerely,

—*Haven Hawley,*
Program Director

IHRC Acquisition Priorities

- Archival materials of first-generation immigrants 1880-1930 and first-generation refugees in the 20th century that fit within the two main collecting areas of the Center.

- Compact, information rich, and predominantly manuscript collections; non-print collections sent as a whole or as final gifts of an estate to IHRC; and materials for which all rights are fully transferred to IHRC.

IHRC has begun scheduling 2011 acquisitions for...

- Archival materials that complete a collection (estate gifts or final donations by donor)

- Publications produced as a result of IHRC collections research (books, articles citing IHRC collections)

IHRC staff will to the best of our ability consider ...

- Materials from family members after the death of a relative or community member, demise of immigrant organization or environmental emergency

- Archival (not print) supplements to collections that are scheduled

- Archival materials that sustain and expand University of Minnesota research projects

- Important individual books from lists of publications prepared by donors

- Supplements to existing collections of materials more than 10 years old (these must be scheduled, even with an existing donation agreement)

IHRC is NOT accepting ...

- Book collections or other publications provided as a group. We have an enormous backlog of print materials, and we must first select and identify duplicates before we can accept more.

- Non-archival materials. Our highest priority is preserving space for unique items that otherwise will not be saved.

Immigration History Research Center
Collection Donation Survey

Your Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date for filling out this form: _____ Are you the donor? Circle one: Yes No
(If no, please provide donor's name, your relationship to donor and relevant contact information)

Are these materials related to an existing collection at IHRC? Circle one: Yes No
If yes, how are they related? Are you arranging a donation to complete the collection or to add to it?

Where are these materials stored? Do you have concerns about their condition or environment?

What is your target date for donating these materials? If you have a special reason for urgent donation, please let the Program Director know. We will keep that information confidential.

What immigrant group's experience do these relate to? What time period? What language(s)?

Archival Materials are unique, unpublished products of a person's life or an organization's own records, such as diaries, photos, letters, manuscripts, or minutes taken by an organization's secretary. Published Materials are books, newspapers, souvenir booklets, jubilee albums, etc. Please provide information about Archival and Published items separately in the spaces below, on the back of this sheet or on attached pages.

Archival Materials:

How many boxes of unpublished and/or manuscript material do you have, and what size of boxes are they in? For instance, "3 photocopy paper boxes" or "a 3-drawer, legal-size filing cabinet".

Please describe the unpublished and/or manuscript items that you wish to donate, who created them (and where), and how they came into your possession.

Are you authorized to give IHRC intellectual rights over these items upon donation? Circle one: Yes No

Published Materials:

Please estimate the number of books, newspapers, or other print that you would like to donate. What are the topics of these books? Did you write any of them yourself?

Can you provide a list for IHRC staff to review? Circle one: Yes No

Please e-mail this information to ehh@umn.edu or mail to Haven Hawley, IHRC Program Director, 311 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 – 21st Ave. St., Minneapolis, MN 55455.