

From the Director



Dear Friends of the IHRC:

What an extraordinary winter we have had here at the IHRC! Despite one of the coldest winters in recent years, we have enjoyed a constant round of visits from researchers, friends, students, and faculty. Our monthly Global REM seminar sparked a mini-series of special events related to Italian life in Canada, reminding us of Rudi Vecoli's earlier collaborations with Bob Harney at the University of Toronto, and calling attention to how the Professorship Fund allows the IHRC Director to nurture the professional development of new generations of scholars. When they visit the IHRC to take advantage of our unique archives, the IHRC has the opportunity to introduce their work and ideas to ethnic and refugee communities and to students and faculty here at the University of Minnesota.

Three international post-doctoral scholars warmed up our social and intellectual lives during the long winter behind us, and we've had a steady stream of graduate student and student workers both involved in classes (such as my graduate seminar "Comparing Global Migrations") and in processing IHRC collections. In April, an international conference called "Membership, Belonging and Mobility in Global History" resulted in new friendships and exciting talks about migration in world history.

Continued on page 6, Gabaccia

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Keystone award recipients pose with IHRC directors. Lower (L-R): Donna Gabaccia, Celeste Raspanti; 2nd row: Kalju Kubits, Haven Hawley, Walter Anastas

Congratulations to **Walter Anastas, Kalju Kubits and Celeste Raspanti**, recipients of an IHRC Keystone award and recognized at an evening reception held February 29, 2008, in the Andersen Library. Keystone awards recognize long-term volunteer contributions and leadership that have helped define the IHRC. Congratulations also to **Tessie Bourdamis, John Lambros, Mary Ann Novak, Steve Potach, Judy Rosenblatt and Richard Stachow** who received special Certificates of Appreciation recognizing their efforts on behalf of the IHRC. See more photos on page 6.

Special event
honors recipients
of IHRC
recognition
awards



Richard Stachow videotaped all of the Global REM seminars for fall 2007 and spring 2008. See them at <http://www.globalrem.umn.edu/>

GLOBAL REM Conference, April 2008:

"Belonging, Membership and Mobility in Global History"

Scholars from around the world converged on Minneapolis April 17-19 to discuss what citizenship, membership and belonging meant in past times. The conference opened with a lecture by sociologist **Rogers Brubaker** from UCLA about how integration and assimilation occur in the modern world of nation states as people move across borders, and borders move across people, during periods of empire building.

Sponsored by IHRC and the Institute for Global studies, subsequent panels examined rules for membership and belonging in pre-state societies in Asia, Africa, and North and South America, in city states in the Mediterranean and China Seas, and in the empires of western and eastern Asia, the Mediterranean, Europe and South America. Scholars also discussed how indigenous peoples in today's mobile world understand and define membership.

Guests included **Mou Chou Poo** from Taiwan, **Nathalie Rothman** from Canada, **Ibrahima Thiaw** from Senegal, **Jan and Leo Lucassen, Gijs Kessler**, and **Ulbe Bosma** from the Netherlands, **Nancy Green** and **Christel Muller** from Paris, and **David Feldman** from the U.K. A publication is planned.

Using the Collections



Peter Kivisto, Augustana College, researches the topic "Finnish-American reaction to the 'Karelian Fever' of the 1930s."

.....

Krystyna Banka, Visiting Research Archivist at The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA), New York City writes: "I am a Visiting Research Archivist from Poland at the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America. I received a five month grant from the Kosciuszko Foundation to conduct research on Herbert Hoover's Relief Operations in Poland during and after the First and Second World Wars. I hope to learn more about the role of Polish Americans in those operations. My research interests focus on financial and humanitarian aid for Poles struggling with economic difficulties of the post war-period. I want to examine the level of involvement of the contemporary Polish American community in charitable work for Poland."

.....

Anna Fin, Jagiellonian University, is researching the topic "Ukrainians and Poles In America's Pluralistic Society" and submits the following article:

International migrations create and result in a variety of ethnic relations and situations. Research on these topics is already extensive and rich, but some problems are less analyzed and need more research attention. One of those important and partially neglected problems is relations between immigrant-based groups in American society. The major subject and research problems which I consider are Polish-Ukrainian interethnic relations within American society. My initial hypothesis, which I test in my research, is that social processes which take place as part of Polish-Ukrainian relations in American society could be explained as a reflection of both group's European experience.

The process of Polish and Ukrainian migration to the United States which started in nineteenth century, from the very beginning had a chain character. Immigrants from both groups often had settled close to each other, creating mixed neighborhoods. Relations between these two ethnic groups have been colored largely by perceptions and experiences brought from Europe (for example cultural closeness and a long tradition of relationship on the Polish-Ukrainian borderland and conflicts). Historical events in Europe of the inter-war period, as well as during WWII and immediately after it, made waves of political (Polish and Ukrainian) emigration, and these groups brought to the United States deep divisions between them. That means that in the case of Polish-Ukrainian relations in America, we can observe a great variety of contacts and relations, and they are more determined by European heritage than the situation in American society. For this reason I have decided to use as a major term, "displaced borderland." This concept is broad enough to include all important social problems and relations which I'm going to analyze in my research. Using the example of interethnic relationship between Polish and Ukrainian emigrants in the United States I describe a less analyzed and partially neglected problem: that of relations between immigrant groups in a multicultural society. It's important because the research so far has concentrated mostly on the social and economic situation of ethnic communities, on ethnic mobilization or relations with American society as a whole. Less often interethnic relations in pluralistic societies

continued on page 5, Anna Fin



(L-R): Anna Fin (Jagiellonian University), Sr. Assistant Curator Halyna Myroniuk (IHRC), Krystyna Banka (Research Archivist from Poland)



Above: Arnold Alanen, University of Wisconsin at Madison, researches "Finns in Minnesota and North America"

New tools to access Estonian American collections at IHRC

The IHRC has recently installed a major update to its Estonian American Collection. During 2003–2005, the IHRC received over 1,100 linear feet of archival materials from the Estonian Archives in the U.S.A. (Lakewood, N.J.). In 2005, basic records for about 250 individual collections of personal papers and organizational records were created during the accessioning process and included in the IHRC's on-line directory of finding aids. In spring 2008, another phase of the project was completed by uploading about 350 records representing the remaining archival collections. More archival processing work remains to be done in developing full and searchable finding aids for the collection.

The IHRC's partnership with the Estonian Archives in the U.S. allowed the transfer of this distinguished group of diverse historical materials to the University of Minnesota, where it is the largest collection of Estonian diaspora materials outside of Estonia. Staff of the IHRC, the Estonian Archives in the U.S., and the National Archives of Estonia are working together to establish a long-term partnership to ensure the systematic processing of the collections, which are primarily in Estonian. Graduate funding supporting study in the collections is available through the Must Graduate Fellowship. Further processing will increase access to the materials and support significant research projects. A carefully designed processing project including digitization of selected items will aim to provide greater access to the materials, and the IHRC is working with the Estonian Archives in the U.S. to obtain the rights for digitization of collections of interest.

—Daniel Necas



Sonia Cancian (left) exchanges ideas with Cawo Abdi, assistant professor in the Sociology Department.

Global REM Seminars

The Institute for Global Studies partnered with the IHRC to present Global Race, Ethnicity, Migration seminars on Wednesday afternoons every other week throughout the semester. Spring speakers included: **Bernard Maegi, Donna Gabaccia, Erica Busse, Susan Craddock, Unur Tsedev, Michelle Wright, Eithne Luibhéid, Sonia Cancian, and Eileen Sivert.** To learn more about the topics and abstracts see <http://igs.cla.umn.edu/research/globalREM.html>. All of the seminars were videotaped. Fall 2007 seminars are available as raw footage on the Web at <http://www.globalrem.umn.edu/>.



Seminar presenter Unur Tsedev, Humphrey fellow from Mongolia, at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

Gender Ratios and Global Migration Symposium

Do men and women migrate in different ways? Scholars in many disciplines once observed men far outnumbering women among long-distance movers, but U.S. government statisticians recently pointed toward a “remarkable shift” in gender ratios being studied. Integrated datasets from the Minnesota Population Center (which holds more than a billion detailed person records from 30 countries between 1850 and 2000) will be analyzed by the study group and presented at the symposium to be held at the University of Minnesota, June 11-12, 2008. Read more at <http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/scholarly/pdf/0806GenderRatiosConf.pdf>.

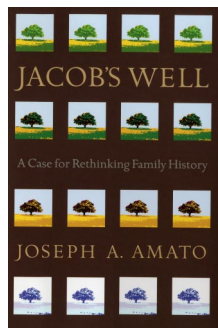
Video Must-see



Documentary filmmaker Randy Croce (Labor Education Service, UM) with Donna Gabaccia and Sarah Buckley following the University premiere of “If Stone Could Speak.” FFI: ihrc.umn.edu/events/pdf/2008StoneSpeak.pdf.

MN-IR (Minnesota Iron Range)

In a new project underway this year at the IHRC, graduate research assistant **David LaVigne** has been conducting several oral history interviews with faculty involved in the creation of the IHRC and the Immigrant Archives that grew out of the Iron Range Research Project of the early 1960s. Notable interviews have included Rudi Vecoli, Hy Berman, and Clarke Chambers. Undergraduate research assistant Ross Hernandez reports that filming the interviews on the Iron Range Project gave him “a unique opportunity to preserve stories that not only are pertinent to Minnesota history” but that also show “how the IHRC came to be a world class center for all immigration research.” In the months ahead, the team will complete a round of interviews with some of the researchers whose “Iron Range Project” became the foundation for the IHRC.



Hold the date for a book talk by author Joseph Amato: Sept 23, 2008 7:00 p.m.

A memory page is being added to the IHRC’s Web site for remembrance messages to Rudi’s family and friends .

In Memoriam

Rudolph J. Vecoli, long-time director and beloved colleague, died on June 17 at the age

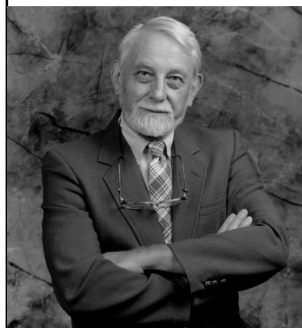


Photo by Tom Foley

of 81. Rudi was director of the IHRC from 1967 until his retirement in 2005. Born to Italian immigrant parents in Connecticut Rudi

received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1963 and came to Minnesota after teaching at Rutgers University and the University of Illinois. His provocative article, “Contadini in Chicago: A Critique of the Uprooted” set the agenda for two decades of new social histories of immigration and ethnicity among Europeans migrating to the U.S. between 1880 and 1930. Beginning with materials collected as part of the Iron Range Project in the early 1960s, Rudi expanded the research collections now housed at the IHRC, focusing on migrants from southern and eastern Europe. From its early focus on turn-of-the-century immigrants, the IHRC continued to expand under his directorship to include significant collections on post-war Displaced Persons and refugee relocation from Asia and Africa. Rudi is mourned by many in the historical profession and in the many ethnic communities he engaged in the course of his research, writing, and lecturing. A celebration of Rudi’s life and work will be held July 9, 2008, 6-8 p.m. in the atrium of Andersen Library.

From the Program Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of the IHRC,

The IHRC is committed to preserving materials that document immigrant experiences and to making them available to the public. In 2008, our staff will be continuing to assess our collections and process materials as we place a temporary hold on acquisitions. By focusing on processing alongside increased public access as we work on collections at hand, we are fulfilling our commitment to preserve the past while making room for materials yet to come.

During 2008-2009, our outreach programs will provide archival training and education, as well as other community resources. We hope to hear from you, our supporters, about community needs and concerns. I encourage IHRC supporters to talk with me about donations that will need to be delayed or how the IHRC can support you in learning to assess your own community's needs. Although our ability to acquire materials is likely to be quite limited for some time after January 2009, our goal is to create space so that we can continue adding to our collection, and I have no doubt that we will be able to do so. In the meantime, the IHRC staff and I will provide advice on steps so that we can support each other in preserving materials.



(L-R): Joseph Agresti (National President, UNICO National), Matteo Pretelli (visiting Fulbright International Scholar), Kathy Labriola Gruett (President, UNICO Twin Cities Chapter), Haven Hawley (Program Director, IHRC).



(L-R): Visvaris Giga (Director, Office of Sports Affairs, American Latvian Association), Haven Hawley (IHRC), Sarma Liepins (Director, Office of Cultural Affairs, American Latvian Association), and Janis Robins (leader in Twin Cities Latvian American organizations)

In May, we began holding public informational meetings, and these meetings will continue throughout next year, both at the IHRC and at ethnic organization meetings in the Twin Cities and, I hope, throughout Minnesota. We will hold informational meetings to discuss in depth the importance of generating support for preserving ethnic and immigration materials. Through these meetings and other conversations, we at the IHRC will learn more about the types of educational programs and resources that will best serve our community. We are beginning to plan support and outreach programs starting in fall 2008, and we will use public feedback to tailor training, resources, and archival contacts to the IHRC community's needs.

In the coming year, I look forward to hearing from all parts of the diverse IHRC community and gaining advice – and support – in preserving, making access to, and interpreting the ethnic and migration-related materials that have for so long been at the heart of the IHRC. A number of volunteer opportunities will be advertised on the IHRC website (www.ihrc.umn.edu), and I hope that you will take the time to connect with us electronically as well as through this newsletter.

Together, we will work toward preserving valuable historical materials that document immigration. Please contact me as you become aware of your community's needs and find information to share with the IHRC about potential archival outreach opportunities.

Sincerely,

Haven Hawley

Program Director, IHRC

ehh@umn.edu * 612-625-0553 (direct line)

612-625-4800 (IHRC office) * 612-626-0018 (fax)



Johan Gidlöf (left) and Mats Hayen (far right), both from Stockholm City Archives, join Mats Berggren from the National Archives of Sweden to meet IHRC staff while visiting the Twin Cities.

Twin Cities Public TV will broadcast the hour-long documentary film "If Stone Could Speak" at 3 p.m. on August 31st on Channel 2 and at 7 p.m. on Labor Day, Monday, September 1st on Channel 17.

Using the Collections continued from page 2

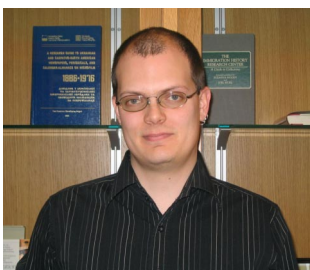
Our last newsletter highlighted the work of Anna Mazurkiewicz, a visiting historian from the University of Gdansk, whose research trip was made possible through funding from the Kosciuszko Foundation. Joining Dr. Mazurkiewicz this semester as an international visiting scholar is **Matteo Pretelli** (PhD in history at the University of Trieste in Trieste, Italy) who was awarded a Fulbright International Scholarship to study Italian immigration into the United States. His research concerns Italian Americans and the Italian language. Dr. Pretelli (pictured below at right) is using the IHRC's Italian newspaper collection to examine Italian immigrants in the United States and their communities, most notably the Order of Sons of Italy in America and the National Italian American Foundation. Dr. Pretelli has enjoyed his stay at the IHRC saying, "As an Italian I had a completely different experience while doing research." In Italy archival collections are often closed to researchers, while at the IHRC he enjoys the freedom to research in a centralized location on the University. Dr. Pretelli considers the IHRC "more of a cultural



center than an archive" because of its centrality and its easy connection to University faculty. After his research is complete, Dr. Pretelli plans to continue his work at the University of Melbourne, Australia, as he studies Italian immigrants to Australia as well as lectures in Italian language courses at the university.

Sonia Cancian (at far left) arrived at the IHRC in January 2008 from Montreal, Canada, where she recently completed a dissertation at Concordia

University's Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture. The dissertation was titled "Transatlantic Correspondents: Kinship, Gender and Emotions in Postwar Migration Experiences between Italy and Canada, 1946-1971." Dr. Cancian holds a two-year postdoctoral fellowship from Canada's Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Here at the IHRC, she has presented her research about "Letters and the Migration Experience of Kin and Lovers in Postwar Italy and Canada" to the Global REM seminar. Dr. Cancian is also assisting Director Gabaccia in a large, multi-disciplinary graduate seminar titled "Comparing Global Migrations." Each week she meets with half the students in the class to discuss readings on migration written by scholars in cultural studies, history, geography, sociology, anthropology, American Studies and Global Studies. Dr. Cancian is extending her doctoral research on letters through the exploration of oral histories and ethnography with letter writers and their families.



In March 2008 **Kenyon Zimmer** (at left) presented his work at the IHRC with support from IHRC's Italian American Studies Grants-in-Aid Program. Zimmer is a PhD candidate at the University of Pittsburgh. At the IHRC, Zimmer used the Italian immigrant archives in the writing of his dissertation on Italian-American anarchism from the 1880s through the 1930s. He hopes to find political connections among different ethnic communities of immigrants through leftist movements, particularly anarchism. Zimmer's research at the IHRC

focuses on first generation Italian-American immigrants and studies why particular groups of immigrants were drawn to anarchism. These groups settled on the East coast and rejected American assimilation as well as the Italian state. Zimmer investigates this notion of "I senzapatRIA," or those without a homeland, in his dissertation in order to understand the prolific nature of anarchism in Italian immigrant communities. At one point the anarchist newsletters that he is studying reached a circulation of 25,000 copies with a readership probably double or triple that number. Zimmer hopes to discern a cause for such a significant trend in American history.



Patricia and Stephen Sebesta meet with IHRC Program Director Haven Hawley (center) while researching World War I Czech Legionnaires in the Krizek journals.

Anna Fin continued from page 2

were discussed from the viewpoint of interaction between ethnic groups in diaspora situation, especially with a European background. (In Polish scholarly literature only in the research on Polish-Jews and Polish-German relations has the European background been taken into consideration more broadly). What especially interests me are the sphere of cooperation, conflicts and mutual perceptions.

The methodological approach which I used includes: firstly content analysis of the ethnic press (I analyzed "Nowy Dziennik"; Ukrainian Weekly; Ukrainian Quarterly and some numbers of Svoboda and "Dziennik Zwiazkowy") and secondly individual in-depth interviews with ethnic leaders and ordinary members of Polish and Ukrainian ethnic groups in the United States. I conducted 50 interviews, with 6 interviews from mixed marriages. My research uses statistical materials, archival materials, literature on historical and contemporary Polish and Ukrainian migration and on relations in multicultural society.

The final results of my research will be presented in my dissertation, titled "Ukrainian and Polish diaspora in the USA: The study of mutual relations in pluralistic society." ("Ukraińska i polska diaspora w USA. Studium wzajemnych relacji w społeczeństwie pluralistycznym")

Anna Fin – sociologist, PhD candidate at the Jagiellonian University in Poland; Scholar of the Kosciuszko Foundation and Schevchenko Scientific Society; Visiting Scholar at Columbia University.

IHRC Staff & Students

Halyna Myroniuk, Sr. Assistant Curator, participated in the Hist3959 “How To Do History” course at the Andersen Library along with curators from the ASC units on February 2, 2008. She researched, selected, and provided historical background on the Famine in Ukraine, 1932-1933 as one of the topics to be used in two student group sessions of this course. She also staffed the IHRC booth at Coffman Union at the International Women’s Day conference, April 15, 2008.

Collections student assistant **Dane Swanson** joined the IHRC in March 2008. He processes new materials and is working on the substantial book collection of the IHRC’s former director, Rudolph J. Vecoli. Dane is currently in his 3rd year in the College of Liberal Arts program and pursuing a major in Geography, with a minor in Urban Studies. He transferred from the University of Minnesota–Duluth campus after completing his first 2 ½ years of college coursework in the UMD Geography department. While at UMD he worked as a student reference librarian. Dane is originally from St. Paul.

This semester **Ross Hernandez**, a second-year student majoring in English, replaced **Dan Ott** as the undergraduate coordinator for the weekly IHRC column “Perspectives on Contemporary Immigration.” Each week Ross surveys the news stories of the week and works with faculty and student authors who offer commentary on breaking stories.

Working on the weekly “Perspectives” column also gave Ross the chance to learn and think about current immigration debates. Ross worked with authors who are faculty and students associated with the IHRC: **Donna Gabaccia, Lisong Liu, Joel Wurl, Matteo Pretelli, Anna Mazurkiewicz, Dan Detzner, Rachel Ida Buff, Katherine Fennelly and Andy Urban**. They wrote on immigration topics ranging from the upcoming presidential elections, Chinese language instruction, Vietnamese immigrants in Poland, St. Patrick’s Day celebrations, and family issues. Besides working on the “Contemporary Perspec-

tives on Immigration” feature on the IHRC website, Ross is assisting with the MN-IR project (see article on page 3).

If you haven’t read the Perspectives column, check it out: <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/ihrc/immigration/>

Gabaccia continued from page 1

I will have a sabbatical in 2008-2009 and be a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York City. Our faculty and student supporters will continue activities throughout the year.

In the months ahead we’ll welcome Karni Scholarship recipient Tuomas Savonen to the Upper Midwest and complete a round of interviews with some of the researchers whose “Iron Range Project” became the foundation for the IHRC. Twenty-four graduate students from Europe, the U.S. and Canada will participate in a Transatlantic Summer Institute on Immigrants in Europe and North America. Another group of graduate students is planning a website of resource materials on Global REM.

Three new faculty members with interests in immigration will join the University of Minnesota faculty next year. Next year’s activities will include an exhibit on photography by Somali and immigrant youth, a commemoration of 150 years of Minnesota’s immigrants, old and new; and a conference on “Xenophobia and Racism in Europe and America.”

We hope you can join us for one or more of our community and scholarly events in the upcoming months!

Sincere best wishes,
Donna Gabaccia



Above: At the recognition reception on Feb. 29, 2008, Daniel Necas visits with Lionel Davis.

Congratulations!

Four receive IHRC grants-in-aid for ‘08-09

Congratulations to the following scholars selected to each receive a \$250 grant-in-aid award to assist with travel to Minneapolis for research in the IHRC’s collections: Karla Altau, Joao Fabio Bertonha, Carl Rahkonen, and Adam Seipp. These grants-in-aid are made possible through gifts to the IHRC’s ethnic studies funds. The next round of competition will be spring 2009.

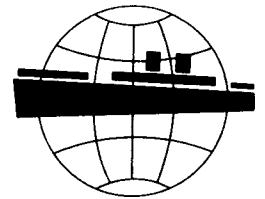
Savonen receives Karni Scholarship for ‘08-09

The winner of the 2008 Michael Karni Scholarship is Tuomas Savonen. Savonen is a journalist at the Finnish News Agency STT in Helsinki and is now completing a Ph.D. in History at the University of Helsinki. Savonen is studying Gus Hall, the long-time general secretary of the American Communist Party, and his political thought. He plans to write a biography of Hall, who was the son of Finnish immigrants. While visiting the IHRC, Savonen will be examining our rich collections on Finnish community and political life on the Minnesota Iron Range. He will be reading Finnish language newspapers and exploring a variety of papers related to Finnish-American politics, cooperatives, and family history. During his visit to Minnesota, Savonen intends to visit the birthplace of Hall and seeks to interview current Iron Range residents who may have memories of Hall.

Below: Friends of IHRC board members Andrea Neumann and Celeste Raspanti enjoy a snack while Edit Horvath and Don Pafko visit in the background.



Friends of the Immigration History Research Center NEWSLETTER



Friends of IHRC Select Three 2008 History Day Winners

The 2008 winners of the Friends of the IHRC Immigration History topic awards for History Day are **Clara Linehan** of Chisago Lakes Middle School; **Luke Stone** and **Heather Stone** of Cyber Village Academy; and **Abby Norling Ruggles, Collin Knopp Schwyn** and **Nico Dregni** of Seward Montessori School.

Friends of the IHRC awards were given to History Day performances, posters, documentaries, or other presentations that highlighted the history of migration, especially with a focus on US immigration, while addressing the year's theme of "Conflict and Compromise."

"Wave Your Red Kerchief Goodbye: The Conflicts and Compromises of American Communists" by Clara Linehan received the top prize from the Friends of the IHRC for its creativity and wide-ranging use of archival resources, including those at the IHRC. Her solo performance combined song and narrative, with facsimiles of archival materials as props to convey an immigrant's experience to the audience.

Luke Stone and Heather Stone received second prize for their group poster presentation "Welcome to the Big House: The Compromise of German-American Rights During World War II." Their oral presentation accompanying the poster brought attention to questions of citizenship, American identity, and the forced movement of a small number of Germans back to Germany during wartime in the United States.

Third prize was awarded to Abby Norling Ruggles, Collin Knopp Schwyn and Nico Dregni for their multimedia presentation "Let It Be: Urban Renewal on Milwaukee Avenue," studying public policy and community development in an area known for its immigrant history.

Judges Jeannette Pafko, co-president of the Friends of the IHRC, and Haven Hawley, IHRC program director, selected winning presentations to receive \$50 awards.

Minnesota Immigrant Groups To Discuss Common Experiences, Unique Identities

A Minnesota Sesquicentennial event will bring together people from Hmong, Finnish, Latino, Somali, Greek and other communities to talk about their immigration experiences and to initiate conversations about immigration, one of the more compelling and controversial topics in the United States today.



A panel discussion titled "They Also Chose Minnesota" on Nov. 8, 2008, will bring together members of older and newer immigrant groups to compare and contrast the experiences of migration communities. Proposed participants include Hmong, Somali, and Hispanic immigrants, as well as former residents of New Orleans as panelists, with representatives from Italian, Greek, Ukrainian, Finnish, and other groups supporting the program.

"The circumstances in which each community 'chose' Minnesota have varied, and acknowledging similarities and differences among migration communities is an important step in fostering respectful dialog about immigration," according to Celeste Raspanti, coordinator of the event. Raspanti is a long-time educator and member of the board of directors of the Friends of the Immigration History Research Center, sponsor of the event. "They Also Chose Minnesota" is supported by a grant from the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission.

Many immigrants chose Minnesota to escape war, to find economic security, or to join other family members, an immigrant community, or a religious community. But the circumstances that push people from one country and pull them to another have varied for each community, according to Raspanti. "Recent natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina have highlighted the continuing migration of Americans within their own country," she added.

"The panel will help to create an ongoing conversation about the historical importance of migration throughout American history, and especially in Minnesota," Raspanti said. The November 8 event is free and open to the public, with location and time to be announced soon.

The event will be documented. An edited video and discussion guide will be available after the event via the Internet as a community educational resource. "They Also Chose Minnesota" is co-sponsored by the Immigration History Research Center, a unit of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota. For more information about the program, please call 612-625-4800 or visit www.ihrc.umn.edu.



At left: Playwright and historian Celeste Raspanti presents poetry from the IHRC collections at the University Libraries' First Fridays Series on April 4, in Elmer L. Andersen Library.

IHRC News —Spring Summer 2008

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About this newsletter. This *News* is sent to selected and prospective members of the Friends of IHRC, donors, University of Minnesota colleagues, and exchange publications. The IHRC publishes two printed *News* issues a year, fall/winter and spring/summer. These issues are also posted online. **Please notify the IHRC if you no longer wish to receive a paper newsletter.**

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.

Donna R. Gabaccia..... Director
Haven Hawley.....Program Director

Office Phone: 612-625-4800 Office Fax: 612-626-0018
E-mail: ihrc@umn.edu Web: <http://www.ihrc.umn.edu>

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Special Giving Opportunity

This year fundraising for the IHRC’s Professorship Fund is our highest priority. This fund supports the director and allows the IHRC to maintain and increase its independence in creating programs, conferences, and research initiatives that make us a vibrant research community that attracts rising and established scholars. Its purposes also includes allowing the IHRC to invite scholars and special speakers, and to attract and provide research assistantships for grad students with language and other skills.

Many of the major scholars in the fields of migration and ethnic history today were mentored by Professor Emeritus Rudi Vecoli or have participated in the IHRC community during their graduate study or early academic careers. Through Rudi and Donna’s efforts the IHRC has been established not only as a place that has the richest collection of migration-related archival documents in the United States, but also as a dynamic community raising new questions and providing programs that allow researchers to present, discuss, and dispute their work. Programs are a vital part of connecting scholars to the collections. When these scholars write up their research or present it at other places, you can hear that connectedness — an openness to the lives of the people they are studying, and a sense that they didn’t just read records but learned to imagine how people lived and what that means today.

Thank you for your support.

To endow a professorship requires a minimum of \$1 million, and we need your help in reaching this goal. Call Diane R. Walters, External Relations, College of Liberal Arts, 612-625-4324 or walte041@umn.edu for more information and help in making a gift to the IHRC’s Professorship Fund.