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Fall Gala Thanks Donors and Celebrates Completion of NEH Challenge Grant

On September 20, 2006, with the assistance from the External Relations Office of the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), the IHRC hosted a festive gathering to celebrate the conclusion of the recent endowment campaign. Dean of CLA Steven Rosenstone greeted guests, thanked donors for their continuing support of the IHRC, and reminded everyone of the great progress made since “the days of Berry Street.” Director Donna Gabaccia congratulated all who had worked on the fundraising campaign and spoke about the fellowships, programs, and collections support that 1.5 million dollars can supply. She pointed to the future of interdisciplinary scholarly collaborations and the new challenge of digitizing archival collections so they will be available to even greater numbers of users via the world-wide web.



Photo credit: Tessie Bourdakis

Supporters recognized for contributions to IHRC's campaign.

From the Director

Music, Migrants and More at the IHRC

Dear Friends of the IHRC:

This was a year of tumultuous change at the IHRC. A growing circle of affiliated faculty and students made Andersen Library buzz with activity. Sadder has been the departure of several long-time co-workers. And the challenge of budgeting persists as the university changes its own fiscal environment.

This year, the IHRC continues its lecture series “It’s History: Immigration since 1965.” It sponsors a new faculty and student seminar (“Disciplinary Work in An Interdisciplinary Field: Migration Studies). The IHRC is also hosting workshops for scholarly visitors to the Twin Cities during the annual meetings of the Social Science History Association and the Organization of American Historians.

We’re especially proud to invite you to attend an exhibit—featuring photographs and music of the newest immigrant Lutherans of the Twin cities—mounted in Andersen Library through December 20 by Wing Young Huie and Allison Adrian with support from the IHRC and many other units at the University.

We invite you to check out our new and revised Web site! The IHRC has a new look and a new brochure. Watch for more information about classes, collections, and community events in the year ahead!



Exhibit: “A Mighty Fortress” Far From Lake Wobegon: 21st Century Lutherans at the Confluence of Religion and Ethnicity

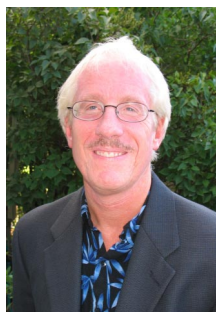
With state support for the University continuing to decline, the IHRC will remain dependent on community supporters for many of its activities. Notably the professorship named after former Director Vecoli still remains short of its goal.

I look forward to welcoming you at one of our events, hearing your comments about our Web site, or learning about your suggestions for new initiatives and activities.

With all best wishes,
Donna R. Gabaccia, Director

Fall brings changes and transitions!

As summer changes to fall so is the IHRC undergoing a change! We bid farewell to our dear colleague and curatorial leader, Joel Wurl. We are sad with his departure but wish him well as he embarks on a new career with the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C. Over these past 21 years Joel has contributed immensely to the development of the archival collections, provided strong leadership, built strong ties with the scholarly and ethnic communities, and much more!



During this transitional period and the search for Joel's replacement we will be hiring a library assistant. This person will assist the staff with curatorial and office support duties.

We also bid farewell to our three summer interns, Baiba Zukauska, Tanja Aho, and Johanna Leinonen (a PhD candidate at the U and funded by the Finlandia Foundation). We enjoyed learning about their work and also about their respective countries, Latvia, Germany, and Finland.

Two out of three of our students hired last year, Pat Weygand and Kimberly Reinke, have returned for the second academic year to continue their work assisting the curatorial staff at the IHRC. Welcome also to freshman Jenna Brennan who replaces Allie LaMotte.

The IHRC continues to receive donated materials for the collections. Many are supplements to existing collections such as OSIA, Dominic Massaro, Ukrainian National Women's League of the U.S.A., Alex Konowal, and others.

As we continue with our work the IHRC curatorial staff will be looking towards more changes and challenges ahead.

—Halyna Myroniuk and Daniel Necas

The IHRC is an interdisciplinary research center within the College of Liberal Arts and the University of Minnesota. It also operates one of the largest and most important research collections on American immigrant and refugee life to be found anywhere in the world. Many people ask us about the relationship of the research done in the IHRC collections and IHRC's mission as a research center. Are the two related?

Every archive or research collection has a special focus; even with unlimited space available (something no library possesses), few research collections aspire to acquire every document, photograph, oral history or newspaper relevant to its mission. Over the years, the IHRC has developed especially strong collections on immigrants who arrived in the U.S. between 1880 and 1930 and on refugees who came to the United States after World War II. Over two hundred researchers use these special collections every year; many more ask for reference assistance on specialized research projects. Those who visit for more than a week at a time are often asked to lead a seminar ("Research in Progress") on the research they do at the IHRC.

As an interdisciplinary research center in CLA, however, the IHRC can and does support an even wider research agenda. In IHRC workshops, lectures and conferences, faculty and students from history, the social sciences, and the professional schools may discuss today's immigrants or compare them to yesterday's immigrants; they analyze immigration in other parts of the world or they debate the forms that cultural diversity takes in nations of immigrants such as France, Australia and Canada, as well as the United States. Media workers, members of ethnic communities and public school teachers all look to the IHRC and to its faculty affiliates for the help they can offer in translating highly specialized research on such topics for the students and citizens who seek to make sense of immigration as a long-term major theme in American history and life.

Faculty Affiliates of the IHRC

Like all interdisciplinary research centers of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, the IHRC depends on the involvement of a core group of faculty who share its interests in migration. Some, but by no means all of them, are historians; some, but by no means all of them, do some of their own research in the IHRC collections. This year's faculty affiliates include scholars in the Humphrey Institute for Public Policy, the Institute for Global Studies, and the Center for German and European Studies, as well from the departments of Geography, History, Sociology, English, and American Studies. Their research projects focus on Minnesota's newest immigrants, comparisons of restrictive immigration policies in the U.S. and other countries in the American hemisphere, the history of the U.S. as a nation of immigrants, Chicano Prison Literature, and studies of the identities of white Americans and of Black Europeans. (For more detail see our Web site: <http://ihrc.umn.edu/scholarly/affiliated.html>).

In the past three years, the University of Minnesota has hired almost a dozen new faculty members with interests in immigration, international migration and cultural and religious diversity around the world. The IHRC seeks to become a center for the rich set of new and exciting ideas these faculty and their students bring to campus.

Sylvie Thao, student intern

Sylvie Thao grew up in Fresno, California. Although she originally considered majoring in marketing, she became a public relations and history major while at the

UM. Sylvie joined the IHRC in January 2006 when she enrolled in a public history internship



class taught by PhD candidate Andy Urban (IHRC Faculty and Student Advisory Council). Sylvie helped the IHRC develop a new faculty- and student-authored Web column called "Contemporary Perspectives on Immigration." (<http://ihrc.umn.edu>) Each week, Sylvie surveys recent reports on immigration in newspapers and in the online press; she creates topical clusters of press reports for comment by University specialists on immigration. The IHRC has benefited from Sylvie's enthusiasm and media skills and hopes to continue to work with student interns like her in years ahead.

We are pleased to also introduce **Lisong Liu** (graduate research assistant) and **Meghan DeLisi** (sophomore student office assistant) who are helping Donna Gabaccia and Cindy Herring respectively.

Judy Rosenblatt, long-time IHRC editor and community liaison, left the



IHRC in August. Twenty years of dedication! Judy joined the IHRC on Berry Street as a Community Program Assistant with editorial expertise. She edited IHRC publications, did public relations

and outreach, coordinated meetings and conferences, and was the liaison with the Friends of the IHRC. Judy's editorial accomplishments are still evident in the recent guides for records of Order Sons of Italy in America, National Italian American Foundation and the Ukrainian & Carpatho-Rusyn newspapers and periodicals in microform. Judy edited the IHRC NEWS both in its print and online versions. Judy loved the "social" side of the IHRC, coordinating various holiday, birthday and potluck parties. Many of the photographs you've seen on the IHRC Web site (visiting scholars, summer interns, IHRC and Friends events) were Judy's work. The IHRC staff appreciates all Judy did for the IHRC over the years. We are saddened at her departure and wish her success in her pursuit of new opportunities!

Researchers & Interns

Jessica Wattman is completing her PhD in political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. Her focus is on ethnic violence and identity. She spent two weeks at the IHRC researching the self-identification of three immigrant communities: Croatians, Serbians, and Albanians. Using 20th century periodicals, Jessica explored the questions of why certain immigrant groups sometimes support extreme positions and violence and what parts of their history and culture they choose to highlight. Jessica is interested in why some immigrant groups feel so connected to their home country, sometimes even supporting radicalism and ethnic violence, even as first or second generations who have established American lives.

Keren Braverman-Bujanover, a graduate student at Tel Aviv University in Israel, was hosted by the IHRC two months while she collected information to aid in completing her masters thesis in Middle Eastern history. Keren's research focuses on the self-identification of the writers, as American immigrants, of *Kawkab Amirka*, the first Arabic language newspaper in the United States. *Kawkab Amirka* (meaning The Star of America) was created in 1892.



Danielle Battisti, PhD candidate at the University of Buffalo in New York, spent two months at the IHRC focusing on Italian American immigration, political issues, redefinitions of ethnicity, and ties to transnationalism focusing on the years 1945-1965. The records



of the American Committee for Italian Immigration and the Order Sons of Italy of America, and Italian American newspaper collections were used heavily in her research.



Interns Baiba Zukauskas (left) and Tanja Aho

Baiba Zukauskas, a graduate student at the Latvian Academy of Culture in Riga where she also received her Bachelors of Arts in the humanities, returned to the IHRC in late summer to complete her project involving interviewing Latvians who live in Minnesota, particularly those who experienced displaced persons camps. She was assisted by **Anna Hobbs**, an IHRC volunteer from the Latvian community. Upon Baiba's return to Latvia she plans to transcribe the interviews in Latvian and English. During her stay, she also worked on the papers of Karlis Kaufmanis and the records of the Joint Baltic American National Committee. Baiba was supported by gifts to the IHRC's Latvian History Research fund.

Tanja Aho interned at the IHRC for ten weeks in the summer from July to September. She is an undergraduate student at the University of Greifswald in Germany, majoring in Finnish and English. While she was here, Tanja was involved with three main projects: processing the Terttu Katka collection, translating texts from the *Amerikan Albumi* publication (1904) and scanning photos from the FinnFest records. She translated poems, stories, and photo captions. In addition, she researched, wrote biographies and did a variety of work with photos. Because of the inaccessibility of materials in Germany, Tanja said, "I would love to come back to the IHRC." Tanja was supported by gifts to IHRC's Timo Riippa Fund for Finnish American Studies.

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Friends of the IHRC



Photo credit: Tessie Bourdamis

Several Friends board members (L-R seated): Andrea Neumann, Celeste Raspanti, Kathy Labriola Gruett, (standing): Biruta Spruds, Edit Horvath, Tessie Bourdamis, Jeanette Pafko, Judy Rosenblatt, Don Pafko.

Friends Annual Meeting held October 21, 2006

The Friends of the IHRC held the organization's 29th Annual Meeting, with a potluck luncheon, a review of the year's activities and other business items, on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006, at Andersen Library. The event was an opportunity for the guests to meet and hear plans for the IHRC's future from director Donna Gabaccia.

New: *A Sociological Survey of the Finnish Settlement of New York Mills, Minnesota and Its Adjacent Territory, Revised* (by Ralph Henry Smith, compiled by Darrel G. Nicholson). Read review in *New World Finn*, April-June 2006. Profits from the sale of the book will go to the Timo Riippa Fund in Finnish American Studies at the IHRC. Cost: \$20.00. Order from Snellington Press, PO Box 6553, Minneapolis MN 55406. Include also \$2.07 for postage.

Immigration History Research Center

The IHRC enriches society by preserving and promoting understanding of the history of the American immigrant experience. In doing so, it acts in partnership with various ethnic communities, historical agencies, research specialists, educators, and many others. It develops and maintains a library and archival collection, provides research assistance, produces publications, and sponsors academic and public programs. Its work supports the tripartite mission—teaching, research, and service—of its parent institution, the University of Minnesota.

Donna R. Gabaccia..... Director

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Visit the IHRC Web site <<http://ihrc.umn.edu/>> for news of upcoming events, access to collections, and new sections of interest to friends, researchers, faculty, students, and media.

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

Use the enclosed envelope for donations to IHRC. Be sure to indicate endowment campaign or general fund on the memo line of your check. See new information about joining the Friends.
Thank you for your support.

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