A key skill for budding historians is the ability to use archival material effectively. To develop their archival skills, Honours students enrolled in the subject ‘History for Historians’, prepared a student exhibition from the University of Melbourne Archives with the help of the subject coordinator, Professor Antonia Finnane and the library’s archivist, Katie Wood.

Honours students Georgie Garvey-Hawke and Julian Polain chose to examine the archive of the labour activist, Zelda D’Aprano. Thrilled to discover much more than documents, they created projects based on feminist tea-towels and a 1963 workbook from Heidelberg Technical School. Georgie’s textile riffs on the feminist tea-towels have now been added to the archive.

When the students learned Ms D’Alprano would attend the exhibition, they were excited and a little nervous.

Historians studying a living subject have a particular responsibility to treat their subject with care and respect, and they hoped Ms D’Aprano would enjoy their representation of her life.

They needn’t have worried. The exhibition was a great success and the students’ subject delighted by the interest in her work.

As Julian says, the students had learned a great deal from the exercise but especially that ‘there’s no substitute for diving into the archive’.
A Message from Professor Kate Darian-Smith
Head of the History Program

Welcome to our second Alumni Newsletter. It is a pleasure to update History graduates on the latest developments in the History Program. It has been a busy year with the extension of our overseas intensive in Nanjing, new premises for our Venice intensive, conferences in Italy and India, and the appointment of Professor Joy Damousi to a prestigious Laureate Fellowship.

We have new staff in History and in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions located within the History Program. We also bring you news of the achievements of some of our History graduates who have completed their Honours year or have pursued their passion for History in a postgraduate Masters or PhD degree. These profiles of our alumni demonstrate how the study of History provides training in high level strategic, analytical and communication skills and builds a foundation for a diverse range of careers.

Through the year, the History program offers many events that are open to the public and many opportunities for you to be involved. For current events, see http://shaps.unimelb.edu.au/events. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Kathleen Fitzpatrick Lecture 2015

Professor Guoqi Xu delivered this year’s Kathleen Fitzpatrick Lecture on 28 July 2015, on the topic ‘The First World War and China’s Great Awakening’. The lecture examined the fate of 140,000 Chinese workers who volunteered and travelled to France during WWI, as well as the consequences of China’s treatment at the postwar peace conference.

Professor Xu is based at the University of Hong Kong, but spends part of the year teaching and researching in the History program at Melbourne, under the Asia Scholar’s Scheme. His fascinating lecture was followed by a reception for alumni and friends.

Clockwise from top left: Professor Guoqi Xu; Heather Dalton and Bronwyn Hickman (alumna 1988); John Lack and Sue Lack; Patricia Grimshaw
Taking History to the World

Delhi Workshop

In December 2014, History’s Professor Andrew May co-organised a workshop – Colonial Northeast India: Local Histories, Regional Cultures, Global Connections – at the Indian International Centre in Delhi. Twenty presenters explored the links between the local, regional and global in Northeast India through a diverse range of topics, including colonial governance, the construction of identities, commerce and communication, and writing history ‘against the grain’.

A collaborative initiative between the Universities of Delhi, Melbourne and Toronto, the workshop received financial support from the University of Melbourne’s International Research & Research Training Fund.

Historians Gather in Italy

In September 2014, Catherine Kovesi convened an international conference in Florence on the subject Luxury and the Ethics of Greed in the Early Modern World. This conference was one of the events of the Leverhulme Trust funded Luxury Network with research partners from Warwick University, The Victoria and Albert Museum, The University of Bologna, the University of Stockholm, and the University of Melbourne. The conference was held over two days at the Harvard Centre for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti, and the European University Institute. A range of distinguished international scholars presented their research, the papers of which will be published in an edited volume. The conference also saw the launch of a new journal Luxury, dedicated to the topic.

The Centre for the History of Emotions (CHE) sponsored an international symposium, Feelings Matter: Exploring the Cultural Dynamics of Emotion in Early Modern Europe In March 2015. CHE’s Giovanni Tarantino co-convened the event, which was hosted by the Istituto Storico Italiano per l’Età Moderna e Contemporanea in Rome. Four leading scholars – Charles Zika (CHE), Paola von Wyss-Giacosa, Ulrika Rublack, and Yasmin Haskell – presented their research, emphasising the benefits of historic inquiry into the emotions, as well as the associated problems. Forty scholars from Italy, Australia, Germany, UK, France, Switzerland, and Brazil attended the event.
Nanjing Intensive: New Overseas Opportunity for Students

For the first time in December 2014, the discipline of History offered students the opportunity to study intensively in Nanjing. Led by Professor Antonia Finnane, the intensive ‘Town and Country in China and the West’ offers twenty-five students from the University of Melbourne the opportunity to study the history of Chinese urbanisation from a comparative perspective on the site of one of China’s oldest and most important cities.

Venice Intensive: New Location for 2015

Together with the discipline of Italian, History has been offering students an overseas intensive subject in Venice since 2007. 2015 will see the intensive move to an exciting new home in the city: the Palazzo Contarini Polignac, one of Venice’s most beautiful historic palazzi on the Grand Canal. Located in the heart of Venice, the Palazzo Contarini Polignac has a series of apartments to the rear, with stunning accommodation for the thirty-one students joining this year’s intensive. We will be using the magnificent piano nobile, or noble floor for lectures and seminars. Students will also have full access to the new Rosand Library of the Save Venice Foundation, which is located on the third floor of the palazzo.

Arts in Florence: New Overseas Subject

2015 sees the launch of a new Faculty of Arts multidisciplinary subject, ‘Arts in Florence’, available at the First Year level. An interdisciplinary venture with the disciplines of Italian, Art History, as well as History, this summer intensive subject will be taught from the International Studies Institute based at the Palazzo Rucellai in Florence (pictured right), with whom the University has established a partnership.

The class of 2014 included five speakers of Chinese, of whom two were citizens of China, providing good local expertise for their classmates. Classroom activities each morning were followed by site visits in the afternoon, with day trips taking students to the countryside and nearby towns. The final three days of the class take place in Shanghai, historically a less famous city but of course the site of the most dramatic urban developments over the past century.

The Nanjing intensive is one strand of a three-strand program of collaboration between SHAPS and the Department of History at Nanjing University. The other strands are a lecture program offered at Nanjing University by SHAPS staff from History, History and Philosophy of Science, and Classics and Archeology, and research engagement through the involvement of historians from Nanjing University in workshops at Melbourne University.
New History Staff

The Gerry Higgins Professor of Irish Studies

Professor Gillian Russell joined the School as Gerry Higgins Professor of Irish Studies in mid-2014. Her research focuses on the cultural history of eighteenth and nineteenth century Ireland and Britain, with particular emphasis on sociability, theatre, print culture, and war studies. She is author of *The Theatres of War: Performance, Politics and Society, 1793-1815* (Oxford), and numerous other publications. She teaches courses on modern and contemporary Irish history and the history of the book and is currently preparing activities to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising in 2016.

Dr. Lisa Beaven, an art historian who has published widely on aspects of patronage and collecting in seventeenth-century Italy, has joined the Centre for the History of Emotions. Her current research interests include devotional images and sensory and emotional responses to them in early modern Rome, landscape painting and the environmental history of the Roman Campagna in the early modern period, and antiquarianism and the history of collecting in Europe. Her book, *An Ardent Patron: Cardinal Camillo Massimo and his artistic and antiquarian circle: Claude Lorrain, Nicolas Poussin and Diego Velazquez*, was published in 2010. With Professor Angela Ndalianis, she holds an ARC discovery grant entitled ‘Experiencing space: sensory encounters from Baroque Rome to neo-baroque Las Vegas’.

Dr. Volker Prott has joined the School of Historical & Philosophical Studies as a Lecturer of Modern European History (Melbourne Early Career Academic Fellowship). He received his PhD from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, in 2013. Before joining the University of Melbourne, Volker was a post-doctoral research and teaching fellow at the University of Tuebingen, Germany. His primary fields of study are Franco-German history, the First World War and the Interwar Period, as well as Cold War history. Currently, Volker is working on a project that addresses foreign interventions during the Cold War. The project investigates the Congo Crisis in the 1960s and the Indo-Pakistani conflict between 1948 and 1972.

Dr. Angela Hesson has recently been appointed by the Centre for the History of Emotions to curate an upcoming exhibition on the subject of art and emotion in European society in the period 1400–1800. The exhibition is a collaboration with the National Gallery of Victoria, and will focus on the complex emotion of love and the ways in which it has intersected and combined with other emotions to create social and aesthetic scripts that shape changing collective behaviours. Prior to her appointment at CHE, Angela was employed as a lecturer in Art History and Literature at the University of Melbourne and at La Trobe University.
Congratulations to Joy Damousi

In a significant achievement, Professor Joy Damousi has been awarded a prestigious ARC Kathleen Fitzpatrick Laureate Fellowship, as Chief Investigator on the project ‘Child Refugees and Australian Internationalism from 1920 to the present’.

Professor Damousi and her team, including historians Dr. Mary Tomsic and Dr. Jordy Silverstein, will explore the changing nature of Australian internationalism during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries through a study of a history of child refugees and campaigns undertaken on behalf of child refugees conducted by relief agencies and humanitarian organisations.

Public Lectures

Australia in the World is a series of public lectures, seminars and master classes presented by the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies. It offers international and transnational perspectives on Australian history, featuring a range of speakers from around Australia and across the world. Three major events remain in the series for 2015:

22 September 2015
Seminar: ‘Illusions of Independence. American Labor’s Search for Legitimacy in International Context: the British or Australasian Path?’ with Professor Leon Fink (University of Illinois at Chicago and Editor, Labor: Studies in Working Class History of the Americas), South Lecture Theatre, Old Arts, 6.30pm.

5 November 2015
Seminar: ‘International Environmental History’ with Professor Tom Griffith (ANU) Professor Libby Robin, (ANU) and Dr. Ruth Morgan (Monash University), South Lecture Theatre, Old Arts, 6.30pm.

10–11 December 2015
Conference: ‘League of Nations: Histories, Legacies Impact’. Convened by Professor Joy Damousi (University of Melbourne) and Dr. Patricia O’Brien (ANU), Gryphon Gallery, 1888 Building.

The Greg Denning Memorial Lecture is an annual lecture series that commemorates the innovative historian Greg Denning (1931–2008). Appointed Professor in 1971, Denning was the inaugural Max Crawford Chair of History from 1974 until his retirement in 1990. He was the author of many books, including Islands and Beaches: Discourse on a Silent Land, Marquesas 1774–1880 (1980); Mr. Bligh’s Bad Language: Power, Passion and Theatre on the Bounty (1992), and Performances (1996).

This year the lecture, entitled ‘Talking to the Dead’, will be delivered by Professor Ron Adams of Victoria University, 6.30pm on Wednesday 7th October 2015 at the Ian Potter Museum of Art.
Milestones for History Graduates

Finola Finn, PhD Candidate

Finola Finn (BA Honours, 2012) is undertaking a PhD at Durham University in the UK, having won a Durham Doctoral Scholarship. She is looking at the interwoven nature of melancholy and religious despair in conversion experiences of mid-seventeenth-century England. Finola won the Jessie Mary Vasey Prize for Best Women’s History Essay and the Laurie R. Gardiner Prize for Best Early Modern British History for her Honours thesis, ‘The Case of Joan Drake: Conversion, Despair, and Patriarchal Control in Early Modern England’, which was completed under the supervision of Dr. Catherine Kovesi. Last year, with the help of Associate Professor Ara Keys, Finola published her first peer-reviewed article, ‘America’s Reception of “The Cress Theory of Color-Confrontation”’, in a special issue of the Australasian Journal of American Studies.

Nigel Dick, PhD Completion

Now 87 years old, with over 60 years working in media, Nigel Dick found it difficult to retire. He turned to academia and wrote and researched a doctoral thesis, ‘Media Mavericks - the history of free-to-air television’, under the supervision of Associate Professor Fay Anderson. This is one of the few major studies of Australian television. It looks at the major players, the political negotiations, early licensing in the smaller capital city markets and regional areas.

Dick argues the domestic satellite handed de facto control of television to the Sydney and Melbourne stations and that there has never been a cohesive broadcasting policy. As a consequence of digitisation, Australian markets, like those overseas, have all experienced the introduction of many free-to-air television licences increasing costs, but not revenue. Throughout the world available advertising revenue is shared by too many outlets for the available advertising dollars. Importantly however, the excess of stations and paucity of revenue provides an opportunity to sell Australian programs to the overseas channels, also deprived of programs. This potential seems to have escaped notice.

Shari Blanck, Partnership Support Officer

Shari Blanck recently celebrated the successful completion of her Masters thesis entitled ‘How to be a Good Wife in the Renaissance: A Man’s Perspective’, supervised by Dr. Catherine Kovesi. Shari has segued seamlessly into her next role as the Partnership Support Officer for the Brotherhood of St Laurence. In this role she supports the partnership between the University and the Brotherhood located in the School of Social and Political Science under the overall direction of Professor Shelley Mallett.
Dr. Rebe Taylor awarded the inaugural Coral Thomas Fellowship

A former Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) holder and a Fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, Dr. Rebe Taylor has been awarded the inaugural Coral Thomas Fellowship for her project ‘The Wedge Collection: moments of encounter on the Tasmanian and Victorian frontiers’.

The Coral Thomas Fellowship, inaugurated in 2014 in honour of Coral Kirkwood Thomas née Patrick (1920-1996), is the most significant Fellowship offered by the State Library of New South Wales. The Fellowship encourages deep and focused research into Australian culture, history and society, drawing on Australian and international research collections.

Dr. Taylor’s project will tell the story of the Wedge Collection for the first time. The Saffron Walden Museum in northern Essex houses one of most significant collections of south-eastern Aboriginal wooden artefacts dating from Australia’s early colonial period. Surveyor John Helder Wedge collected the artefacts at the close of the Tasmanian Black War and in the first year of Victorian settlement in 1835. The artefacts provide a tangible entrance to a wide and complex history.

In Other News

Dr. Leo Martin, a PhD graduate, has been appointed as the Manager of the Heritage Council Secretariat. Leo’s thesis on ‘Change and exchange: the Castlemaine Market Square: 1852–2002’ was supervised by Professor Andy May. Leo has a background in law and urban planning as well as History, and has overseen the operations of the Heritage Council since January 2011.

Dr. Kelly Jean Butler completed her BA (Hons) in History and English at the University of Melbourne in 2006. She undertook postgraduate study at The Australian Centre, University of Melbourne (supervised by Professor Kate Darian-Smith and Dr. Sara Wills), and was awarded her PhD in 2010. Her thesis was published as Witnessing Australian Stories: History, Testimony and Memory in Contemporary Culture (Transaction Press 2013). Since 2012 she has worked as a research and policy adviser in the public sector, including for the Department of Premier and Cabinet. She is currently a Senior Research Officer at the Parliament of Victoria, where she has worked on inquiries into Aboriginal heritage, tourism, local economic development, and the disability sector.

Dr. Samuel Koehne, one of our Honorary Fellows, who completed his PhD under the supervision of Dr. Steve Welch in 2010, recently received a prestigious invitation to a Research Workshop at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The only Australian out of nine invitees, Sam’s invitation came as a result of his work into Nazism and religion. His new conceptual approach to this topic, which he has called ‘ethnotheism’, was recently published in the German Studies Review (2014, vol. 37.3).

Dr. Alyssa Trometter who completed her PhD in 2014 is now working as a Partnerships Manager at the Clinton Global Initiatives University Team in New York on an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship. Alyssa’s thesis, on the topic 'The “fire in the belly”: Aboriginal black power and the rise of the Australian Black Panther Party, 1967-1972’ was supervised by Associate Professor Sean Scalmer.
The Gilbert Postdoctoral Career Development Fellowships 2015

The Gilbert Bequest and the History Program are proud to announce a new model for providing career development for recently finished PhD students. Valued at approximately $10,000 the new Gilbert Postdoctoral Recipients will also receive mentoring from senior history colleagues on career planning. Career Development Fellowships will provide five recently completed PhD History students with a stipend of around $2000 each to prepare their thesis research for publication.

Human Rights Symposium

In November 2014, History funded a symposium, convened by Associate Professor Barbara Keys, on ‘The Olympic Games and Human Rights’. The symposium explored the origins and development of the increasingly fraught relationship between the world’s greatest sporting competition and the global human rights movement.

A panel of experts explored why it is that in the last decade, the two global human rights powerhouses, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have devoted so many of their resources to Olympic campaigns, how the International Olympic Committee has reacted, and what we might expect to see in the future. An edited collection based on the symposium entitled The Morality of Global Sport: From Peace to Human Rights is in preparation. It will be published by University of Pennsylvania Press in 2017.

Visitors from Germany

In late July the School hosted two visitors from the Institute for Social Movements, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany. Professor Stefan Berger and Dr Christian Wicke held a masterclass for some twenty Melbourne postgraduates on comparative and transnational history. They also participated in a symposium on the history of the ‘transnational activist’ since the nineteenth century.

Professor Berger has published more than 150 works on comparative history, labour history, nationalism, and historiography. He edits a journal dedicated to the history of social movements, Moving the Social, co-edited with Melbourne staff member, Sean Scalmer. It is hoped that the Melbourne visit consolidates research and teaching ties with the Institute for Social Movements, and strengthens the discipline’s expertise in the historical study of social movements.

The Next Generation of Historians

Getting to know the next cohort of history-loving VCE students and their teachers is important for the History Program. This year that process got off to a great start over the weekend of 4–5 July 2016 when the program held its annual VCE Winter School. Around 100 VCE students attended almost 1000 individual sessions.

Presentations by the Head of History Kate Darian-Smith, Tom Rogers, Mary Tomsic, Jordy Silverstein, and Sean Scalmer showcased Australian History for the first time. Peter McPhee, Simon Creak, Gabriela Welch, and Trevor Burnard presented on Revolutions, and there were also sessions by experienced teachers and examiners. The weekend was a great success and we look forward to meeting many of these students again in our lectures over the coming years.
Undergraduate Prizes 2014

The Donald Mackay History Prize (History)
Sinead Manning.

Exhibition for 1st Year History
Jemima Hoffman and Jeremy Teow.

R. G. Wilson Scholarships (3rd Year)
Mhairi Gador-Whyte.

The Rosemary Merlo Prize (1st Year)
Jemima Hoffman.

The Rosemary Merlo Prize (2nd Year)
Daniel Lopez.

Dr. Rodney Lloyd Benjamin History Prize
Volkhard Wehner.

Gyles Turner Prize
Ariel Skippen.

The Marion Boothby Exhibition
Joseph Moore

The Donald Mackay History Prize (British History)
Duncan Caillard.

Bowen Prize
Alexander Thom.

Felix Raab Prize
Timothy Krulic.

The Mary O’Donoghue Prize
Ellen Mclinden.

Jessie Mary Vasey Prize for Best Women's History Essay (3rd Year)
Augustus Viola.

Fourth Year Prizes 2014

The Dwight Prize (History) and the Margaret Kiddle Prize for Best Honours Thesis in History
Nicholas Jensen for his thesis entitled 'Mires of the Somme: Command and Morale in the I Anzac Corps, November 1916'.

Brian Fitzpatrick Prize for Best Honours Thesis in Australian History

Jessie Mary Vasey Prize for Best Women’s History Essay (4th year)
Pey Lin Loh.

Postgraduate Prizes 2014-2015

The Dennis-Wettenhall Prize for the best postgraduate thesis in Australian history
Thomas Rogers, for his PhD thesis on 'The Civilisation of Port Phillip'.

The 2014 School of Historical and Philosophical Studies Annual Essay Prize
Joel Barnes.

The 2014 Ian Robertson Travel Prize
Joel Barnes and Shan Windscript.

The 2014 Rodney Lloyd Benjamin History Prize
Volkhard Wehner.

The 2015 Lloyd Robson Memorial Award
Gretel Evans, Henry Reese, Jason Shea, Laura Jocic, and Natasha Szuhan.
Recent Publications

Friends of History were delighted to help celebrate a great achievement by students and colleagues of Professor Charles Zika – a festschrift in his honour, A World Enchanted: Magic and the Margins, is published as the second volume in the Melbourne Historical Journal Research Series.

This festschrift, the second in his honour published this year, recognises a long career of inspirational research and supervision by Charles. It has been edited by two of Charles’ students, Michael Pickering and Julie Davies (left), and was launched by long-time colleague Chips Sowerwine.

Other publications from the History Program this year include Professor Stuart Macintyre’s Australia’s Boldest Experiment: War and Reconstruction in the 1940s (NewSouth, 2015) and Anxious Histories: Narrating the Holocaust in Jewish Communities at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century (Berghahn Books, 2015) by Dr. Jordy Silverstein.

Above: Bronwyn Reddan, May Lyon and Charlotte Millar

Left: Dr. Andrea Rizzi and Dr. Jenny Spinks (alumna, and now at the University of Manchester). Jenny is one of the co-editors of the other festschrift, due for publication in late August.
Alumni News

Our Annual Event

On 14 April 2015, History was delighted to host the first gathering of History alumni for many years. Held at University House, the event was well attended, and those present were entertained by Stuart Macintyre and Michael Cathcart’s reflections on the then Department of History, as well as by new staff member Julie Fedor’s outline of her research interests, and the report by current postgraduate, Bronwyn Reddan on her own research and postgraduate activities more generally. This gathering will be an annual event on the History alumni calendar.

Below, l to r: Erica Mehtrens; Jason Talladoros and Jill Barnard; James Hooper and Lucy Horan.
Bottom: Michael Cathcart.

Above: Professor Stuart Macintyre with Professor Marilyn Lake.

Visit our new Facebook page ‘Friends of History at Melbourne’.
Message us with all your recent news for inclusion in our next Alumni newsletter.