The Past, Present

FOR THE FUTURE:
- The Templars: 700 Years of History and Myth will take place October 11th, 2007.
- David Obermiller will speak on October 18th. In November Dr. Edmonds will have a panel that concentrates on faculty who have a positive impact on the community. The guest speaker will be Carolyn Kusenberg.
- Black History Month, February 2008. Keep an eye on the website for a calendar of events.

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The Recent Past

Members of our department joined Dr. Blumberg at the Gala this June to celebrate her accomplishments, bottom row, L-R, Dr. Elizabeth Jones of Sociology, Dr. Blumberg and her husband, Dean Laura Tuennerman-Kaplan, Mrs. Wood. Top row, L-R, Ms. Speer (second from left), Mrs. Yamba (6th from the left), Mrs. Marak, Dr. Marak, Dr. Yamba and Dr. Wood.

We are hoping to increase our ranks by two this year. Currently, searches are running for a U.S. History to 1877 faculty member, and a U.S. History to 1877/Secondary Education faculty member. More details can be obtained from the Cal U website.

This June, Dr. Melanie J. Blumberg received The Gala Award for Service.

Dr. Kelton Edmonds held a Sports Roundtable on September 25th, entitled Animals, Sports & American Society: Acceptable Competition or Unjustifiable Cruelty? More than two hundred students came to listen to the panelists discuss this controversial issue. Please check out the article on page 3 to find out more about his plans for future roundtables.

Political Science major Lance McFadden has been awarded the Coleman Patrick Scholarship. This is the second time his essay has won the prize.

We are proud to announce that Dr. Derrick McKisick finished his Ph.D last May.

Professor Tim Konhaus is no longer with us...he has accepted a job at Tidewater in Virginia. We wish him all the luck in the world, and miss him very much.

Dr. Melanie J. Blumberg will be taking seven students to the American Association of Political Consultants, Academic Outreach Conference on October 12th. This will provide a forum for people to discuss professional consulting and public affairs.

Dr. Andrae Marak is now a father. His first daughter, Flannery, came into this world in early September.

Cindy Speer, departmental secretary, saw the publication of two short stories through Drollerie Press in July, and this month will see her first book, a fantasy novel called Blue Moon, come out from Zumaya.

History major Sean Lamb has started a Civil War reenactment group, The Bully Boys. Based out of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, they specialize in portraying the 46th Pa. Volunteer Company C. More information is available at http://thebullyboys.org/.

The Office of Women’s Studies has moved. Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux is the new director, and her office is in the Department of Justice, Law and Society. The Women’s Studies Kick Off was a success, and she has many plans to expand this important program.

Political Science Major Brandi Kennedy was recently interviewed by the Tribune Review. Brandi is our Harrisburg Internship student this semester.
The Order of the Knighthood of the Temple, commonly known as the Knights Templar, was an international medieval organization initially commissioned to defend pilgrims on the route from Jaffa to Jerusalem in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Among their many accomplishments, they are credited with developing the world’s first sophisticated banking system. However, because the Templars answered only to the Pope, and did not submit to the jurisdiction of kings, the order was ultimately viewed as a threat to the surrounding monarchies. Thus, with the hopes of disbanding the order, King Philip II of France ordered the arrest of the members of the Knights Templar in his kingdom on Friday, October 13, 1307.

Charged with such offenses as spitting on and desecrating the cross, idol adoration, and the denial of Christ, a sensational trial soon ensued. Members of the Templars were tortured until they confessed to these alleged offenses, and were commonly burnt to death by members of the French government. Although these actions resulted in the eventual dissolution of the Knights Templar by Pope Clement V, mystery and myth have continued to surround this order for centuries.

To commemorate the 700th anniversary of the arrest of the Templars, California University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council will be sponsoring the highly anticipated Remembering The Templars: 700 Years of History and Myth on October 11, 2007 on the California University campus. This day long event will feature a multitude of speaking events with renowned experts on various topics such as the history, arrest, trial, and dissolution of the Templars. Chief Cal U organizers for the event include Dr. Paul Crawford, Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Political Science, and Dr. Laura Tuennerman-Kaplan, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. According to Dr. Crawford, recent best sellers, such as The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown, and Holy Blood, Holy Grail by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln, have renewed public interest in the subject of the Templars.

Remembering The Templars
By Christi Gross

Organizations Give Students an Edge
By Lance McFadden
marketing, and other tools that are necessary to run a successful campaign.

CCC has many activities planned for the school year. Beginning this month, the club will host a series of issue expos on a variety of subjects. The first expo, on October 25, is focused on environmental issues and disaster preparedness. The two speakers at the event are Cal professors Dr. Jamie Mitchem and Dr. Swardeep Gill of the Earth Science Department.

Cal Campaign Consultants is one of the most unique organizations at Cal. It is the only club of its kind in the country, in the sense that students help student candidates campaign for a student government office. It meets once a month in the Departmental offices.

Allowing students to explore their political side, there are also the College Democrat and College Republican organizations. Although both organizations disagree on the methods that should be used to run the country, both agree that voting is an important aspect of politics. Because of this, the two organizations have put their differences aside and work together to increase voter awareness and voter registration. By bringing in speakers and politicians to speak at Cal about current events in the political world, more attention will be drawn to politics and voter awareness. They will work closely with the American Democracy Project and Rock the Vote to increase student registration.

For those who excel in history or political science, Phi Alpha Theta and Pi Sigma Alpha may be an ideal organization to join. Phi Alpha Theta is the National History Honors Society. When accepted as a member of this organization, the student is acknowledged as being gifted in the field of history. To become a member of Phi Alpha Theta a student must have completed four history courses with a GPA of 3.0, and maintain an overall GPA of 3.1. Pi Sigma Alpha is the National Political Science Honors Society. Students with a B average in at least ten credits of political science classes, including at least one upper-division course, and maintaining an overall GPA of at least 3.0, can become lifetime members of this prestigious organization.

The clubs and organizations fore mentioned are all products of the hard work and dedication of members of the History and Political Science Department and our majors. The purpose of organizing all of these clubs is to raise awareness in their respective areas. For more information on any of the clubs, contact the History and Political Science Department.

**Black History Programming: Not just for February**

_by Christi Gross_

On Tuesday, September 25, 2007, California University of PA’s Sports History Classes and History Club sponsored a Sports History Roundtable entitled “Animals and Sport.” This event focused on discussing whether such activities as horse racing, hunting, greyhound racing, and bull-fighting, are considered to be acceptable competition or barbarism. The encore to the roundtable included an opportunity for students to examine and contextualize the recent dog fighting charges brought against NFL quarterback Michael Vick. Contributors to the panel included History Professor Dr. Derrick McKisiek and students Timothy Williams, Natalie Morrow, Mark Minnicks, Eric Selva, Charles Fritch, and Nick DeWitt. Moderator for the event was Sports History Professor, Dr. Kelton Edmonds, who maintains that this roundtable was a success with excellent audience participation by the 200 students in attendance.

Dr. Edmonds also states that this roundtable is the first in a series of monthly events that will lead up to Black History Month in February. According to Dr. Edmonds, who also serves as chair of the Black History Month Programming Committee, “The Committee will not confine itself to solely issues of African Americans. Moreover, they would like to encompass all components of the African Diaspora, as well as other issues of diversity.” Consequently, upcoming events will be “...held to offer Cal U and surrounding communities meaningful venues to learn and engage about historic and prevalent issues that impact us all.”

On Thursday, October 18, 2007, the History Club and the Black History Month Programming Committee will be sponsoring the event “War, Propaganda, Collective Memory, Oteriting, Self” by Dr. David Obermiller, Asian History Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Superior. Dr. Obermiller’s featured speaking presentation will be held at 12:30 pm in the Duda Hall Auditorium, and will be followed by an additional facilitation of discussion at 6:00pm in Duda Hall Classroom 210. Dr. Obermiller’s presentation will focus on US involvement in 20th century wars, particularly during World War II and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

Plans for a panel discussion for the month of November are also in progress. This event will be entitled “Professors who Bridge the Chasm between Campus and Community.” Featured panelists will include California University faculty members Dr. Joseph Zisk (Secondary Education), Dr. Taunya Tinsley (Counselor Education), and Dr. Gwendolyn Perry-Burney (Social Work). Special guest for this panel is Carolyn Kusenberger from the University of Memphis.
The schedule of events for the day is as follows: At 12:30 pm, Professor Bouchard will present on medieval Catholic religious orders followed by an additional discussion on medieval chivalry at 2:00pm. At 3:30, Professor Burgtorf will speak on the general history of the Templars during the years of 1120-1307. At 7:30 pm, Professor Barber’s address will focus on the arrest, trial, and suppression of the Templars, as well as the subsequent myths that have developed. All speaking events will be held in the Performance Center in the Elmo Natali Student Center and will be followed by question and answer sessions. Book signing opportunities will also be available outside of the Performance Center at 4:30pm and following Professor Barber’s presentation. In addition, between 1:00pm and 5:00pm, there will be ongoing displays of Friesian horses and Sword Fighting tactics in several locations on campus. The display of the Friesian horses, which are the nearest modern equivalent to medieval warhorses, will be located in the Second Street parking lot by Duda Hall. The historically accurate sword fighting demonstrations, by John Lennox and Chris Franklin of Wayne State University, will be held in the parking lot in front of the Elmo Natali Student Center. All events are free and open to the public.

Overall, Remembering the Templars: 700 Years of History and Myth, will present a variety of fascinating events for anyone interested in learning more about this legendary order. Moreover, debunking these common myths and misconceptions is particularly important because according to Dr. Crawford: “Dan Brown does not understand Templar history, Malcolm Barber does.”

The Department of History and Political Science’s newsletter is published twice a year. It is intended to highlight happenings in the department and in the lives of our Emeriti and Alumni. Any content for future editions may be submitted to speer@cup.edu. You can also use that email if you want to be removed from the list, or know someone who would like to be added. For the latest information, remember to keep an eye on HTTP://WWW.CUP.EDU/LIBERALARTS/HISTORY/index.jsp.