Greetings! Fellow graduate students!

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of our History MA program. I want to join Dr. Kirsten Gardner, Chair of the History Department, in welcoming you and I hope the fall semester has started off well.

Let me use this opportunity to introduce our department’s excellent staff. From left to right in the picture: Carrie Klein, Tara Thompson and Judy Quirox. Tara joined the department at the beginning of summer, she is responsible for graduate student affairs, and so you will get to know her very well.

This newsletter comes out about 3 times a semester and is typically filled with important reminders, event announcements, and news of our students – that’s you! This first issue is particularly full of useful information and on the top of that, two students have written about their internships earlier this year. You will find their experiences inspiring.

My office hours are listed as Monday 3-4pm and Tuesday 5-6pm, but I am available to meet on other days as well. I encourage you to get in touch if you have any question about your study. Hope to see all of you in the coming days and weeks.

Best wishes for a most rewarding semester!

Dr. Wing Chung Ng
Graduate Advisor of Record
A special welcome to the following new students this fall: Keyara Austin, Kent Berkey, Jason Boan, Charles Brewton, Antonio Canales, Elizabeth Reichman, Lorenzo Ventura, and Savannah Weeks. Together with Sierra Ramirez, Ken Williams and Angelica Garcia (who were admitted earlier this year), they attended an orientation a week ago to learn more about the program.
*A picture of this wonderful group will come next time!

Department Speaker’s Series
In conjunction with the annual meeting of the Western Historical Association in town this October, the History Department will feature several prominent scholars to speak on our campus. Note the following tentative schedule:
  - Benjamin Johnson, Wednesday, Oct. 17
  - Vicki Ruiz, Thursday, Oct. 18
  - Karl Jacoby, Monday Oct. 22

Comprehensive Exams
For students who have signed up to take the comprehensive exams this semester the date is set for Friday, October 5, 8:45am – 1pm, at the Library’s Computer Classroom (JPL 3.02.32). Tara will send out an email reminder in another week or so.
Work closely with your professors as you get ready…Happy Studying!!!

For students planning to take the comps next spring, the history faculty has proposed some clusters of topics that reflect our program of study. Students taking comps in the spring may also consider the option of using their proseminar/seminar project to declare “Historical Research and Writing” as a field and complete this part of the exam through an oral presentation. The sign-up forms will be up in the department graduate program website soon. Contact Dr. Ng for more information.

DEADLINE
Students planning to graduate in this December need to apply for graduation on ASAP by September 15, which is fast approaching at the end of this week!!! Otherwise, you will not graduate even after you complete the degree requirements.
Many of our students recognize the benefits of undertaking **internships** as part of their education. In the MA program, you can take up to six hours of internship as electives. Check out some of the organizations on the department website [http://history.utsa.edu/internships](http://history.utsa.edu/internships).

Two current students share their recent experiences with us here. Thanks Gabrielle and Justine!

![Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio](image)

**Gabrielle Zepeda**

This past spring semester I had the privilege and honor of working with the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. During this internship I worked closely with the Education Director, Juana Custard, where I focused on how the institution uses education to inform and reach out to the San Antonio community. The main project that I assisted with was the Holocaust Study Seminar. This program selected local students to participate in weekly educational studies about the Holocaust for a period of 12 weeks. The students then flew to Europe, where they were able to physically see and be in the spaces that they learned about. Working on and with the Holocaust Study Seminar program showed me that museums have additional roles and impacts with the public. Not only is it a space that visitors go to visit and inform themselves through the information on panels and artifacts, but museums also have the role of creating curriculum that gives students the tools to be impactful members of society. Programs like this allow for growth of the students, which in turn affects what kind of impact they may have on their community moving forward. By the end of the program, the students had a further understanding of this historical time period, and became advocates for the community to make sure that no one ever forgets what occurred, and ensure that these atrocities never happen again.
Justine D’Ooge

I spent this summer interning at the University of New Orleans’ Midlo Center for New Orleans studies. I primarily provided research assistance for the center’s Humanities Action Lab project and TriPod, a podcast series marking 2018 by exploring unique stories from New Orleans’ 300 years of history. Because of my research at UTSA on the offshore oil industry and the role of waterways as causal agents, I came to the internship with a variety of recommendations and ideas for the HAL project.

Each year, HAL chooses a social issue to highlight using a multifaceted approach, including a college-level course and traveling exhibit. This year, HAL is focusing on environmental justice and the Midlo Center will be examining the Louisiana region known as “Cancer Alley” through the framework of “Resistance along the River.” This concept spotlights Diamond, Louisiana as both the starting point of the largest slave uprising in United States history, and the site of a 20th century grassroots movement which successfully lobbied nearby chemical plants for land buyouts. This framework will allow students to draw connections between the 1811 revolt along River Road, often referred to as the “German Coast Uprising,” and the rise of the Chemical Corridor along the banks of the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

This internship has been an incredible learning experience and has not only expanded my knowledge of Louisiana, but has also helped me develop skills in curriculum design, research, editing, and collaboration. Luckily, I can continue my work at the Midlo Center since I have been hired on part-time for the fall.
Funding for research and conference travel

The Department provides financial support for graduate students to present papers, attend conferences, and undertake research travel (to use libraries and archives, and to conduct fieldwork). The application is simple - see the forms online at http://history.utsa.edu/masters. Contact Tara or Dr. Ng for more information.

Research Assistantship

The Department is looking to fill another RA position this semester. RAs offer assistance to professors on their projects; they work up to 10 hours a week (hourly rate of $12). Aside from honing your research skills, the experience is an excellent item for the resume. See Tara if you are interested.

Academic Conferences

Three upcoming conferences are particularly suitable venues for our students to present their work. Check them out. Their call for papers are sent out together with the newsletter.

“The Power of Borders: Historical Perspectives on Unity and Division in Global Borderlands" - 1st Biennial Symposium of Texas A&M University-San Antonio's Global Borders & Borderlands History Program; April 19-20, 2019, San Antonio, Texas

“Global Civil Rights” - World History Association of Texas - Call for Participants for the 2019 Dallas/North Texas Conference; February 23, 2019, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, Texas

The 22nd Annual Eugene Scassa Mock OAS Program Academic Conference on International Relations and Latin America would like to extend a final call for abstracts to undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty who are interested in presenting papers at this year's conference, which will be held at Texas State University in San Marcos on November 2nd and 3rd. http://esmoas.org/academic-conference.html
**Book Talk**

San Antonio Public Library will host book talks by Dr. Gabriela González on her *Redeeming La Raza*. The events are free and open to the public with the first one hosted by the Landa Branch this coming Sunday, September 16, at 3pm. See the flier attached for details.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

The San Antonio Founder’s Day is part of the Tri-centennial celebration of our city this year. The day of fun-filled events and activities is scheduled for Saturday, Oct 20, and the organizers are looking for volunteers to help with the programs. If you are interested, please contact Katy Otten at 210 633 2036. They will greatly appreciate it.

The College of Education and Human Development invites history graduate students to volunteer as tutor to work with some UG students having problems passing their TExES history test. For those interested, please contact Dr. Belinda Bustos Flores, Associate Dean of Professional Preparation, Assessment & Accreditation at belinda.flores@utsa.edu.