

Newsletter

of the History of Science Society

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Convincing Students... of What? Teaching STS in a Changing World

Keynote address delivered by Pamela Mack, STS, Clemson University, at the Southern History of Science and Technology Conference at Auburn University, 15-16 April 2016.

[The following text has been edited for the Newsletter.]

When I started teaching in the early 1980s, what I most hoped to convince students of was to question the authority of science. Today, in lower-level courses, I worry that doing so may encourage their rejection of science, and I don't want to give ammunition to my undergraduates who don't believe in global warming or evolution. I don't *think* I have become more conservative as I get older, but I do believe that the views of the average undergraduate have changed, as has the culture in which they live. I want to reflect on how my teaching has changed over time to give you some ways of thinking about how we respond to such change.

I want to say first that my focus here will not be on what undergraduates remember. Professors do keep adjusting to what cultural symbols freshmen no longer remember, such as 9/11, and I particularly struggle to explain to students the way we saw the world during the Cold War. But my concern is deeper than that; it is about what assumptions undergraduates start with and how we get them to think about and then question those assumptions. Doing so isn't easy; in fact, it feels to me like students are *increasingly* unwilling to question what they consider to be common sense. That may not be

true; it may be only an illusion because what seems like common sense to them has become increasingly at odds with the world of my youth. In any case, the assumptions that students come into the classroom with are different from what they were 30 years ago, and what I want to talk about is how that has changed my teaching.

I'm talking here about content and goals more than about methods and technology. I have been, and continue to be, an early adopter of new classroom technology, but I don't see that as keeping up with the students—I see it as something I do to keep from getting bored. I'm *not* convinced that new technology is crucial to reaching today's students because I believe it is very important for students to be exposed to different teaching methods. To those of you who will be starting out on a teaching career, find what works for you to keep from getting bored.

The central question that I want to emphasize today operates on a deeper level: what larger good do we believe we are doing in the world by our teaching? I came of age in the 1970s, so I mostly use political terms to describe this greater good, though I have been known

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to describe it as doing God's work. You may have different ideas and use different words, but I hope that we all have similar thoughts about how our work helps make the world a better place, even if those thoughts change over time. For me, at least, a big part of that betterment is convincing my students to think more carefully about science and the world around them.

Let me tell you a story of how I understood that goal when I started teaching. When I was an undergraduate in the mid-1970s, I was particularly impressed by a local controversy about building a laboratory to do recombinant DNA research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In July 1976, the summer before my senior year, the Cambridge City Council issued a moratorium on some kinds of recombinant DNA research. This was in the early days of learning to modify the genetic code. Researchers were just beginning to figure out how to insert genes into bacteria, and some of the research had been done using common bacteria and genes that might cause tumors.¹ Some people feared that scientists might create a new disease. My boyfriend was studying astronomy, and some of the astronomers said "we have to go to distant mountaintops to do our research, why can't the geneticists at least go to a lab in a more rural area, not in the middle of the city?" The City of Cambridge decided to

resolve the question by appointing a committee comprised of residents who would educate themselves on the science and make a decision.² All these years later I can still remember hearing two members of the committee speak about the experience: a nun and a Tufts professor of urban studies. The committee also included a physician, an engineer, a nurse, and two former city councilors.³ The Cambridge Experimentation Review board adopted a jury model and held 75 hours of hearings, listening to testimony from scientists and concerned citizens before coming to a decision to allow recombinant DNA research within the city limits of Cambridge but require some extra safety precautions.⁴

Those local events made a huge impression on me and became a model for my belief in the importance of citizen participation in decision-

² http://emerald.tufts.edu/~skrimsky/PDF/Bull_Atom_Sci1978.PDF

³ <http://www.thecrimson.com/article/1976/8/10/sullivan-names-nine-residents-to-sit/>

⁴ https://books.google.com/books?id=_Q8zLgMuK40C&pg=PA41&lpg=PA41&dq=Cambridge+Experimentation+Review+board&source=bl&ots=dOzQ_wXREs&sig=fugBlkktgzfEKnhchiwdZDZoRnI&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjw3MKrulinMAhXFPiYKHdOTAK8Q6AEISzAJ#v=onepage&q=Cambridge%20Experimentation%20Review%20board&f=false. Their final report is available at: <http://emerald.tufts.edu/~skrimsky/PDF/CERB%20Report%201977.PDF>. One member, Sheldon Krinsky, wrote a book as a result of the experience: *Genetic Alchemy: The Social History of the Recombinant DNA Controversy* (MIT Press 1982).

¹ <http://gizmodo.com/harvards-frankenstein-the-70s-controversy-over-mixin-1693900253>

Executive Office

History of Science Society

440 Geddes Hall
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556
Phone: 574-631-1194; Fax: 574-631-1533
E-mail: info@hssonline.org
Web site: <http://www.hssonline.org/>

Subscription Inquiries

University of Chicago Press
Phone: 877-705-1878; Fax 877-705-1879
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The *Newsletter* is edited and published in the Executive Office. The format and editorial policies are determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Society Editor. All advertising copy must be submitted in electronic form. Advertisements are accepted on a space-available basis only, and the Society reserves the right not to print a submission. The rates are as follows: Full page (10 x 7"), \$625; Horizontal or Vertical Half page (5 x 7"), \$375; Quarter page (5 x 3.5"), \$225. The deadline for insertion orders is six weeks prior to the month of publication and should be sent to info@hssonline.org. Please send photographs in a jpeg format, with a maximum size of 1024 pixels and file size of 1 MB to maintain quality during sizing and printing. The deadline for news, announcements, and job/fellowship/prize listings is firm: four weeks prior to the month of publication. Long items (feature stories) should be submitted eight weeks prior to the month of publication. Please send all material to the attention of the Executive Office: info@hssonline.org.

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Teaching STS in a Changing World, *cont.*

making for science and technology. I had grown up in a Massachusetts town that at the time still made decisions by direct town meeting, and observing these town meetings as a high school student gave me some awareness of the games played with public opinion but also made democracy very real to me. The anti-nuclear power movement was another model for citizen participation, showing in a particularly clear way that policy decisions about science and technology were too important to be left to the experts, because the experts' careers depended on believing that nuclear power was safe. I went off to graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania with a strong belief that research in the history of technology would help advance the cause of citizen participation in science and technology policy. Graduate school didn't take away my political understanding and its larger purpose in my work, though I spoke of it more indirectly back then. I think graduate students today face a different set of patterns, but I hope that all students think about some such deeper motivation.

Since I left graduate school, much of my teaching has involved courses that students take to meet a general education requirement. My goal clearly hasn't been to prepare students to be historians of science and technology. I don't remember my understanding of general education when I started, but I would say now that the purpose of

general education, at least in the courses I teach, is to prepare students to become good citizens.

What do students need to become citizens with useful opinions about policy questions relating to science and technology? They need some scientific literacy, some knowledge to allow them to feel they have a rough grasp of the technical issues. But more important, they need to understand that we have *choices* about what kind of world we want to live in, that the direction of technological change is not inevitable. Citizenship in a democracy is about understanding that we collectively are the ones who get to make the choices. History provides rich examples of the impact of technology on society and of how social choices, just as much as technical choices, shape science and technology. There are great stories to tell of technologies that became dominant or failed for reasons that blatantly had more to do with the preferences of society or the obsessions of business leaders than technological superiority or even good business strategy.

Let me give an example. I particularly enjoy teaching about Henry Ford and the assembly line because it is such a rich example of different factors at play. In a freshman-level course I talk about some very basic principles of how capitalism works—how much reward goes to the people who put in the capital for a project, how much reward goes to the people who put in the

labor, and how much goes to consumers in the form of lower prices. The assembly line is in part an example of an increase in efficiency so great that the owners and investors could get rich, the workers could get paid twice the going rate, and the price to consumers could go dramatically down, all at the same time. But the story of the Model T is also a story of Ford's vision of a car for everyman (if not every woman) and of his old resentment of the Dodge brothers that led him to minimize the dividends he paid. I want undergraduates to see that this is a human story and that technology can be shaped by different goals and also to understand basic economics, which can help them think more clearly about what is fair.

Some of the lessons that I use to convince undergraduates of what it takes to be a good citizen have gotten easier in the last 30 years. Many students have seen examples of family members who became educated patients or caregivers and knew more about some aspects of a disease than the doctors did. It seems more possible now to make the point that you don't have to be an expert to have a useful opinion. I get somewhat fewer students who feel strongly that all technological progress is good, and I have better examples now to challenge such views. Some will reject the idea that we should use genetic engineering to pick the traits of

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our children or use robots to care for old people. But I don't simply feel that my task has gotten easier; our common culture and the views of undergraduates have changed in more challenging ways as well.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to come back in a more public way to what originally motivated me to go into history of science and technology. Since 2004 Clemson has had a requirement that all students take a course dealing with Science and Technology in Society, and I have coordinated an STS program that offers some of the courses and headed the committee that approves any course that meets the requirement. As I think about citizenship, science, and technology today, the two changes that I notice most are that science has lost much of its cultural authority and that undergraduates no longer see technology as something large and distant and out of control.

What has changed my teaching most is how much of this cultural authority science has lost. Students repeat the idea that evolution is only a theory, but, more than that, they see examples of social construction of science as additional evidence for rejecting whatever science they don't like. Even though most of those who reject evolution accept the results of modern medicine, they still feel they can pick and choose what they want from science, to the frustration of

many scientists.⁵ When I started out as a scholar using a social construction approach, I did want to reduce the cultural authority of science. But not this way! I didn't imagine a challenge to the authority of science based on rejection of critical thinking and critical evaluation of information. I believed that the authority of science needed to make more room for cultural relativism, for the understanding that things look different when we see them from different perspectives. Instead, at least in the South, the authority of science has been challenged by those who believe that science threatens the certainties they see as essential. I would argue that the world is less fixed than what science tells us; the critique of science that has affected many of my undergraduates argues that the world is more fixed than science tells us.

The loss of authority of science has been good for my teaching because it has put me in a position of having to argue both sides much more than I used to. Those of you who are graduate students probably started out in a more balanced place than I did and know this already. This semester I am teaching a junior level history of science survey, but instead of trying to survey the whole history of science in one semester, I teach it as a case study course with four books. We read Principe's *The Scientific Revolution: A Very Short Introduction*

⁵ <http://www.culturalcognition.net/blog/2013/2/7/the-declining-authority-of-science-science-of-science-commun.html>.

and Larson's *Evolution*, both of which I highly recommend. And then we read Paul Farber's *Mixing Races: From Scientific Racism to Modern Evolutionary Ideas*. I chose the latter book because I wanted to contribute to the conversation about race at Clemson, where our iconic building is named after Pitchfork Ben Tillman, a 19th-century governor of South Carolina who embraced a virulent form of racism. It worked beautifully. The students aren't very comfortable with studying racism, but the book has interesting stories of college life and pertains so centrally to questions of the impact of society on science and the impact of science on society that they can't complain. However, I took a very different approach to the book than I would have 30 years ago. I certainly use the book as a set of examples about how bias creeps into science and how science is used to reinforce prejudice. But I also use it to point out that science is self-correcting. I hadn't planned to argue that what makes science work is falsifiability, but when a student who had studied some philosophy of science brought up the idea, I ran with it.

When I studied philosophy of science as a graduate student, I was taught that the idea that science is progressive *because* scientific ideas are falsifiable had been disproved. And yet I wanted to tell my students that science is self-

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correcting... eventually. I didn't want them to conclude that science should be rejected because it is full of bias; I wanted to give them a way of understanding how science works so that they would be able to argue with their friends. So I fell back on a strategy I used to use when I occasionally taught American Women's History. I came to understand there that my task was not to turn the students into feminists, because trying to do that would have turned them off, but to move them a little ways in the direction of more egalitarian ideas about men and women than wherever they started. So I'm satisfied with teaching my undergraduates—mostly non-history majors—that scientists are human but the social organization of science leads it towards self-correction.

The other change I want to talk about is more positive, but feels equally strange. I notice that undergraduates no longer feel that technology is out of control the way that we did in the 1970s. I half-seriously attribute this to the spread of the television remote control in the 1980s, when people started having frequent experience with technology as something you could control with your every whim. Perhaps, instead, it is because they are digital natives who have naturalized the technology with which they live. The downside is that this reduction in anxiety takes some of the energy out of the argument for citizen participation in decision-making for science and

technology. Students don't imagine technological progress as something whose direction they should think about because technology doesn't feel like a hostile force.

I have several times co-taught (with a robot engineer) a course on robots and society, and the students we get don't have many fears of robots. The problem is that they have certain beliefs about how humans will always be superior to robots, such as the belief that robots can only do what they are programmed to do. The robot engineer and I talk about how robots can be programmed to learn and then can base their behavior on what they have learned, but the students still tell us robots can't learn. Denial seems to be the danger today.

I am increasingly aware of how students don't think the world they grew up in is going to change, despite all evidence to the contrary. For example, in the fall of 2015 the majority of my freshman students told me that they believed we would never have driverless cars. Students are perhaps particularly resistant to thinking about change at present because they feel threatened by the cultural changes going on today. Most of my students are middle class and white, and come from a culture that perceives that its advantages are threatened. If you have had an unfair advantage and it is taken away, that tends to feel like discrimination. Therefore, the easiest way to resist making our society more fair is to say that

change is impossible. It is at least unimaginable for many students.

So it is a simple but powerful thing when we try to convince our students—from our perspective as historians—that the world changes. I asked my students in my environmental history course last week to talk to their grandparents about growing up in the South without air conditioning. I was struck by how many of the students said they set the thermostat for the same temperature year round; a very different experience of life than living in the South without air-conditioning and perhaps without central heating. One of the things I enjoy about getting older is having personal stories to tell about how the world has changed, though I don't think my students believe me when I talk about programming computers with punch cards in college. Or maybe they do—being older than the internet must seem unimaginably old.

I have argued that a reluctance to face change underlies both the declining authority of science and the reduced fear of technology that is out of control. Since history is the study of change over time, we are in a strong position to give our students opportunities to expand their thinking about what is possible. It seems like a simple thing, but I do believe that we historians contribute to making the world a better place.

Shrinking the Gender Gap at Science Meetings

Diversity by Design: Part Two

by *Regina McGee*

(Originally published in the December 2016 issue of MeetingsNet <http://www.meetingsnet.com>)

Science and technology meetings have long struggled with the gender gap: too many all-male panels and speakers. One association that is leading the way towards gender parity at its meetings is the American Society for Microbiology (ASM).

Just under half of ASM's members are women. Yet only about one-third of speakers and conveners—those responsible for selecting the speakers—were women at the 2011 and 2012 ASM annual meetings, a group of ASM program committee members reported. The association took the discrepancy seriously, made significant changes, and as a result, 49.6 percent of the presenters at the 2015 spring annual meeting were women.

“The biggest key is having women be part of the convening team. We end up with more women as speakers as a result, probably at least in part because women typically have a greater network of other women scientists,” notes Kirsten Olean, who joined ASM in October 2014 as director of meetings, overseeing the meetings as well as program education. The group's 2016 annual meeting in Boston

featured 250 education sessions and drew nearly 12,000 attendees.

“Gender balance among our speakers is really a trickle-down effect, so we have to start at the top and ensure that our program committee leadership is diverse. Then we look at the composition of the committee, and seek diversity there,” Olean explains. “At the start of the program committee meeting, we remind the members of the importance of including women conveners, and ask them to be vigilant about gender diversity among speakers as they are creating and approving sessions.”

The gender gap in speakers isn't unique to science, tech, and academic meetings, Olean notes, pointing to the popular Tumblr page **All Male Panels**, which calls out the ongoing underrepresentation of women at all kinds of conferences, summits, and gatherings. Indeed, **social media** has become the lightning rod for bringing social issues to the fore.

Moreover, with 25 percent of ASM's 50,000 members based outside of the U.S., securing excellent international speakers is another area of inclusion that the association focuses on, Olean says. “Global representation is important to us, so we ask the program

committee to be cognizant of all-U.S. speaker sessions and work to diversify them. The committee is very good at self-policing. Our leadership stays vigilant as well, and serves as a double-check that the committee is staying true to its goal of diversity.”

ASM is also making moves to engage students, post-docs, and scientists in the early stages of their careers by greatly increasing opportunities for this segment to present oral abstracts at the annual meeting.

“At the end of the day, the meeting is the message,” Olean says. “Our convention must reflect our membership.”



Plan Ahead Future HSS Meetings

Toronto, Ontario: 2017, 9-12 Nov.

Seattle: 2018, 1-4 Nov.
Joint meeting with PSA

**Utrecht, The Netherlands: 2019,
Early August!**

The HSS Atlanta Conference

The 2016 HSS meeting in Atlanta was a success, according to the 219 attendees who submitted post-meeting surveys. Each year, HSS asks for this feedback so that we can see what about our annual meetings works best and what we need to improve.

Total registration was about 620, a significant—but not unexpected—drop from our numbers in San Francisco (793). Of these 620 registrants, 424 were HSS members (68%) a number that is probably low since some HSS members registered with PSA or SLSA.

Just under 50% of the respondents gave Atlanta the highest marks (very satisfactory), with 75% of our responses rating the host city as very satisfactory or somewhat satisfactory. The hotel expenses for our 2016 meeting were significantly lower than last year's meeting in San Francisco, and several participants commented on the welcome attendance of scholars from the South, a region which historically sends few representatives to HSS conferences. The lower costs for dining (there was a large food court a block away from the hotel) and for rooms (\$89/night for grad student rooms) also benefitted graduate students and others. The Westin Peachtree Plaza earned satisfactory remarks, with 59% of respondents reporting that they felt very satisfied, though crowded elevators and a lack of food options in the hotel itself proved frustrating for attendees. Fully 61% of respondents were

very satisfied with the costs required at the Atlanta meeting. We often struggle to balance our participants' desire to meet in large, cosmopolitan cities with the more pressing problem of expense, especially as we strive to attract attendees who do not receive institutional support.

Ensuring a positive experience for all our participants is a major goal for the Society as we move forward, and we saw mixed progress this year. Despite efforts to verify that all venues would be accessible for those with mobility issues, some respondents reported problems accessing rooms. We take accessibility seriously and were pleased that Kate Jirik, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, once again provided us her assessment of the hotel's accessibility (the takeaway was that the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco, which is a historic hotel, and San Francisco in general, were much more accessible). Next year and in the future, we will take steps to make sure that both hotels and off-campus events are accessible for all of our participants, whatever their challenges.

We were pleased to see continued enthusiasm over our services for parents. For several years we have offered dependent care grants, a nursing room, and a quiet room. In Atlanta, for the first time in many years, we also provided on-site child care, made possible through the efforts of Jessica Pfeifer

of PSA and made more affordable by sharing costs among HSS, PSA and SLSA. Although relatively



Evelyynn Hammonds (Harvard University) delivers the 2016 Distinguished Lecture: "The Negro Scientist": W.E.B. DuBois and the Diversity Problem in Science and the History of Science." (Photo: Robb Cohen Photography and Video)

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Atlanta Conference, cont.

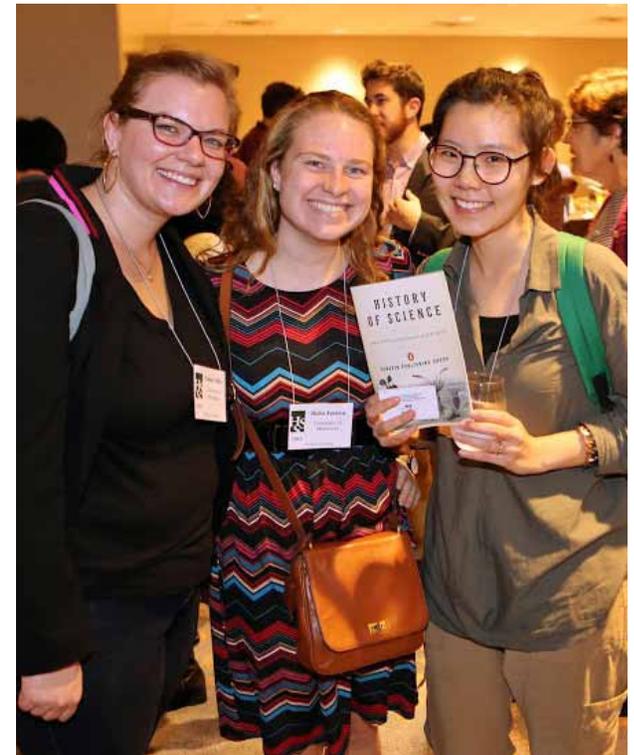
few participants reported taking advantage of these services, 27% responded that they anticipated needing child care in the future, and we received overwhelmingly positive feedback even from those who neither used the service nor anticipated using them in the future. We are especially glad to see that our participants feel strongly, as we do, that offering resources for parents and dependent care is vital to the health of the Society and the meeting.

We hosted the Atlanta meeting, jointly, with our long-time partners in the Philosophy of Science Association (PSA) and, for the first time, the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA). Many attendees took advantage of the opportunity for interdisciplinary conversation, with 15% of respondents reporting that they attended at least two PSA sessions and 7% attending two or more SLSA sessions. In all, 48% of respondents attended at least one session from SLSA or PSA.

One of the benefits of a joint meeting is the ability to share costs. So in addition to splitting the expense for the onsite child care, we were, for the first time, able to hire a professional photographer for our conference. You may have seen Rob Cohen and his crew busily snapping photos, and we will post many of their pictures on the HSS site. Having someone with a professional eye record our meeting will help us promote it for future events.

When we asked attendees to give us the main reasons why they come to annual meetings, fully 75% of respondents cited the program as a primary factor and each year we ask for feedback on the quality of sessions. One element of the program, which arose from the HSS's strategic plan and was started in 2015, is an increased number of roundtables. This has been a resounding success. Almost 90% of survey respondents were satisfied with the quality of presentations in these roundtables (up from 88% last year), and 79% were satisfied with how well the roundtable sessions facilitated dialogue, which was especially gratifying since we began the roundtables for that specific purpose. There was also broad support for the continued inclusion of a poster session at the conference, with 83% of respondents saying they would like to see a poster session at future meetings (please consider submitting a poster proposal when the 2017 CFP is issued later in January). Participants asked for more diversity in the program, and more pre-1800 sessions; the Society continues to welcome proposals along these lines. Each year we face inevitable conflicts between similar sessions, and despite a few complaints, respondents reported far fewer conflicts than in previous years. We will continue to work to reduce the number of concurrent sessions and carefully examine the program for potential conflicts.

When asked about obstacles to attending the conferences, cost remains by far the most significant barrier. Many survey respondents reported that expenses were still high this year, despite the comparatively low cost of the Atlanta meeting. 34% of respondents paid their



The joint opening reception gave attendees a chance to buy the latest history of science books and catch up with friends and colleagues. (Photo: Robb Cohen Photography and Video)

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Atlanta Conference, *cont.*

own way, and we are sensitive to the need for conference sites that cost less than those available in more expensive cities. While many attendees desire wifi, coffee, and locations in cities with a vibrant local culture, these amenities increase the cost of registration enormously. International attendees face special challenges on this front, and HSS is making efforts to be more true to its identity as an international society by organizing its first meeting outside North America in 2019. We recognize that this poses difficulties for our American attendees, which makes it all the more important for us to continue to work hard each year to negotiate with venues to keep costs down.

As part of its efforts to reduce the environmental impact of the meeting, we have encouraged attendees to make use of our meeting app, Guidebook, or a digital version of the program. While 47% of respondents favored limiting the number of printed programs for environmental reasons, 51% reported that they preferred using a paper program. By far, the most popular suggestion for improving our environmental friendliness was to eliminate bottled water from our meetings, with 67% of survey respondents in favor. We've been asking the hotels for a few years now not to distribute bottled water and that does have an effect. One of our goals for the meeting is to make it more sustainable, and we will be providing updates on those efforts.



A full house at the joint opening reception. (Photo: Robb Cohen Photography and Video)

Technology has played an increasingly large role in our meetings, and attendees reported more satisfaction with the use of technology than in recent years. Although 22% of respondents did not use a mobile device, most used a smartphone or tablet, and only 8%—far fewer than in previous years—found this distracting. HSS promoted the use of Twitter and other social media during the meeting this year, but adoption remains low, with only 27% of attendees saying that they Tweeted. This year, we asked

if attendees would be interested in resources on how to use social media effectively during the meeting, and 57% said they would not. Of those who did use it, however, 73% reported that it was helpful for networking, indicating that social media may have a role to play as the Society continues to explore ways to foster networking among graduate students, early careerists, and senior scholars.

Member News

Tara Abraham's (University of Guelph) new book, *Rebel Genius: Warren S. McCulloch's Transdisciplinary Life in Science*, was published by MIT Press in October 2016.

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Marco Beretta (University of Bologna) announces the arrival of his new edited collection—with co-editors **Maria Conforti** and Paolo Mazzarello: *Savant Relics: Brains and Remains of Scientists*. Science History Publications/USA, 978-88135-235-7.

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Andrew Butrica (Independent Scholar, Research Historian) is researching and writing a history of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), an international society of electrical engineers based in the United States. The book summarizes (and corrects) the histories of IEEE published for its 1984 centennial and carries the narrative up to the present. The project is supported by the Institute (as were the centennial volumes), and is being overseen by an ad hoc committee of long-time Institute members. The manuscript is scheduled to be completed toward the end of Summer 2017 and likely will appear in print toward the end of that year.

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Beginning in January 2017, **Maria Conforti** will be the new editor of *Nuncius: Journal of the*

Material and Visual History of Science along with a new editorial committee.

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Richard Carrier (Independent Scholar) published *Science Education in the Early Roman Empire* (Pitchstone 2016), to date the only published book bearing directly on the subject. It is available in print, digital, and audio.

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Andreas Daum (SUNY Buffalo) has been awarded a Baird Society Resident Scholarship for 2017 by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. He will be working on his monographic project, "Alexander von Humboldt and the Emergence of the Global World."

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Alice Dreger's (Independent Scholar) book, *Galileo's Middle Finger: Heretics, Activists, and One Scholar's Search for Justice* was named Best Book of 2015 by the Society of Midland Authors. In 2016, she was named Henry King Stanford Distinguished Professor by the University of Miami's Center for the Humanities and presented the Pauline Newman Distinguished Lecture in Science, Technology, and Society at Vassar College and the Korenman Lecture at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. This year she also delivered keynotes for Bessensap (the annual meeting of the Dutch National Research Council and the Dutch

Science Journalism Federation), the Canadian Bioethics Society, the Freedom for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) Student Network Conference, the Society for Sex Therapy and Research, the Reproductive Ethics conference at Albany Medical College, and for Intersex Awareness Day at Cal State Northridge.

In 2016, following her viral live-tweeting of her son's high school sex ed class, by request she composed and published a short book for parents, *The Talk—Helping Your Kids Navigate Sex in the Real World*, which will soon join *Galileo's Middle Finger* at audible.com.

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Krishna Dronamraju's new biography of Haldane is now published: *Popularizing Science: The Life and Work of JBS Haldane*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

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On December 1, 2016, Professor **Steffen Ducheyne** (Centre for Logic and Philosophy of Science at the Vrije Universiteit van Brussel) received the Frans Cauwelaert Prize in the domain of the humanities for his work "Aspects of the Development of Scientific Methods from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century." The Frans Cauwelaert Prize has been awarded by the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts since 1960. In his work, Ducheyne traces the fascinating history of our

Member News, cont.

scientific methods as they were developed by *inter alia*: Joan Baptista Van Helmont, Galileo Galilei, Robert Boyle, Robert Hooke, Isaac Newton, Willem J.'s Gravesande, Pieter van Musschenbroek, William Whewell and John S. Mill. In his work, Ducheyne shows that a universally applicable scientific method did not exist, but rather a concatenation of different problem-solving methods with their own strengths and limitations, which developed diachronically and synchronologically. His work testifies to the fruitful combination of the history and the philosophy of science.

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Melinda Gormley has accepted a position as Research Development Officer of the Francisco J. Ayala School of Biological Sciences at the University of California, Irvine.

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Samuel Greenblatt (Brown University) gave the Fourth Annual Donald F. Kent Memorial Lecture at the fall meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey in Princeton on 26 October 2016. The lecture was titled, "Clinical Neurology, Evolution, and Victorian Brain Science: An Introduction to John Hughlings Jackson."

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Matthew James is in the final stages of publishing his new book *Collecting Evolution:*

The Galapagos Expedition that Vindicated Darwin. The book will be published by Oxford University Press in April 2017.

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In October 2016, **Andrew J. Hogan's** (Creighton University) first book, *Life Histories of Genetic Disease: Patterns and Prevention in Postwar Medical Genetics*, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

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Gerald Holton (Harvard University) was recently elected to the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

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Layne Karafantis (Johns Hopkins University) received the **2017 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) History Manuscript Award** for her dissertation, "Under Control: Constructing the Nerve Centers of the Cold War." This award recognizes the best historical manuscript dealing with the science, technology, and/or impact of aeronautics and astronautics on society.

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Ann Hibner Koblitz's (Arizona State University) article, "Life in the Fast Lane: Arab Women in Science and Technology," appeared in the June 2016 issue of the *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society*. In May 2017, Koblitz will retire from

her position in the Women & Gender Studies Program at Arizona State University.

.....

More than twenty scholars from all over the world participated in the short workshop on *Writing the Transnational History of Science and Technology*, organized by **John Krige** (Georgia Tech) back-to-back with the annual HSS meeting in Atlanta. The pre-circulated papers were of a consistently high quality, and produced extensive discussion on the "how" and the "why" of a transnational approach. Participants went away "exhausted but happy" as one of them put it. Thanks to the active participation of Commissioning Editor Margy Avery, a selection of the material is being prepared for publication in 2017 by Amherst College Press.

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In the past year, **Pierre Laszlo** published multiple works, including:

- A monthly portrait of an alumnus(a) of the École polytechnique for the magazine, *La Jaune et la Rouge*.
- A book review published in *Isis*, 2016, 107 (4), 896-898.
- Contributed a chapter on "Nitrocellulose, Under Three Distinct Formulations: Celluloid, Viscose and Cellophane," to the edited volume *From Bench to Brand and Back: The Co-Shaping*

Member News, cont.

of *Materials and Chemists in the Twentieth Century* (Special Issue, Cahiers François Viète, Series III, no. 2, January 2017), edited by Pierre Teissier, C. Mody and Brigitte van Tiggelen.

- An article on “Tools of Chemistry: The Desreux-Bischoff Viscosimeter,” *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*, 2015, 40 (2), 95-102.
- A chapter on “Educating the Eye: A Personal Memoir,” in the collective book *Arte e Ciencia / Ciencia et Arte*, edited by Dr. Mendez Rojas, 2016, pp. 27-45.
- A chapter on the “Structure of the NMR Revolution,” in the edited volume *Transformation of Chemistry from the 1920s to the 1960s*, edited by Masanori Kaji, Yasi Furukawa, Hiroaki Tanaka, Yoshiyuki Kikuchi (Tokyo: Japanese Society for the History of Chemistry, Tokyo, 2016), pp. 113-121.

Laszlo also participated in the jury of the Franco-American Franklin-Lavoisier Prize, awarded in 2016 to Professor **Lawrence M. Principe** (Johns Hopkins University). In the spring, Laszlo gave a talk on the “Neurochemistry of cognitive loss in the elderly and self-estrangement in Samuel Beckett’s writings” at a conference on ageing brains and minds in Paris. He also spoke on Paul von Ragué Schleyer’s Princeton years at a memorial meeting in Erlangen, Germany in Schleyer’s honor, and participated in a

symposium on posthumous Nobel prizes during the national meeting of the American Chemical Society, held by the Division of the History of Chemistry, in which he presented the merits of Howard E. Simmons, Jr. This contribution became a chapter in a book edited by E. T. Strom, in the ACS Symposium series.

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Adrienne Mayor (Stanford University) published “Warrior Women: The Archaeology of Amazons,” a chapter in *Women in Antiquity*, ed. J. Turfa and S. Budin (Routledge, 2016); the Foreword for John Colarusso, *Nart Sagas from the Caucasus* (Princeton University Press, 2016); “Amazons in Iranian Culture and Persian Literature,” entry in *Encyclopaedia Iranica*; and “Mithridatic Wars, Historical Introduction,” in *Ancient Warfare* 10 (July-Aug 2016).

Her book *The Amazons: Lives and Legends of Warrior Women across the Ancient World* is being translated into Spanish, French, and Italian; her biography of Mithradates, *The Poison King*, is being translated into Spanish. She presented two lectures at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in October 2016 and is currently the consultant for the international TV series “Warrior Women,” for Urban Canyons/Smithsonian.

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Charles W. Misner (University of Maryland) participated in a University of Maryland (UMD) celebration of gravitational waves on 1 November 2016. The panel discussion, which emphasized the UMD contributions to the detection of gravitational waves and discovery of black hole mergers, is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuymKUusdxo>. Two of the founders of LIGO (Thorne and Weiss) spoke and included memories of early contributions by Joseph Weber and other UMD faculty and students, including Misner and his students.

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Catherine L. Newell (University of Miami) was awarded the David B. Larson Fellowship in Health and Spirituality at the Library of Congress. As a fellow, she will be researching and working at the John W. Kluge Center on the way in which individuals use science to justify a diet and/or lifestyle, and identify themselves not by a religious practice but by a science-based diet such as vegan, gluten-free, etc.

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Kathryn M. Olesko (Georgetown University) was elected Fellow of the American Physical Society “for foundational contributions to the history of physics pedagogy and prolific editorial work in service of the history of science.”

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Member News, cont.

David Orenstein (Toronto District School Board, retired) is in his fifth year of retirement and continues to pursue the history of Canadian Science locally, nationally and internationally. He is now the Treasurer of his Toronto neighborhood's Riverdale Historical Society where he has arranged the upcoming talk, "Toronto's Astronomical Heritage," by John Percy (University of Toronto). Through the University of Toronto College Alumni Association, Orenstein successfully nominated Clarence Chant (1865-1956) as a UC Alumnus of Influence. Chant was formally inducted at a banquet on Wednesday, 16 November 2016, and David Orenstein was Chant's stand-in as the inductees were piped into the baronial splendour of the Great Hall, Hart House. Orenstein was also a Canadian representative on the Programme Committee for the highly successful Three Societies Meeting (CSHPS – BSHS – HSS) in Edmonton, Alberta from 22-25 June 2016.

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Mike Osborne (Oregon State University) has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science "for distinguished contributions to the fields of the history of science and medicine with particular attention to the role of French colonialism and natural history."

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J. Brian Pitts' (University of Cambridge) recent paper shows the surprising relevance of particle physics to the history of General Relativity. It is titled "Einstein's Physical Strategy, Energy Conservation, Symmetries, and Stability: 'but Grossmann & I believed that the conservation laws were not satisfied,'" *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 54 (2016) pp. 52-72.

Another paper demonstrated the unexpected relevance of the history of general relativity to particle physics: "Einstein's Equations for Spin 2 Mass 0 from Noether's Converse Hilbertian Assertion," *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 56 (2016) pp. 60-69.

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Lawrence M. Principe (Johns Hopkins University) was awarded the Prix Franklin-Lavoisier, a prize for substantial contributions to the history of chemistry, given every two years by the Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie and the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The prize was conferred at a special ceremony in Paris on 9 November 2016.

.....

Gregory Radick (University of Leeds) has been awarded a two-year Major Research Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust. During the fellowship period he will be working on a book manuscript on the Mendelian turn in biology and its legacies.

Pedro Raposo (Adler Planetarium) served as a curator and content lead for a temporary exhibit held at the Adler Planetarium. It has been awarded First Prize in the Great Exhibitions competition of the British Society for the History of Science (BSHS). The online announcement on the BSHS website can be viewed at <http://www.bsbs.org.uk/winner-of-the-great-exhibitions-competition>.

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Neeraja Sankaran (Independent Scholar) published multiple articles this past year:

- Sankaran, Neeraja, and Ton van Helvoort. 2016. "Andrewes's Christmas Fairy Tale: Atypical Thinking about Cancer Aetiology in 1935." *Notes and Records of the Royal Society of London* 70 (2): 175–201.
- Sankaran, Neeraja. 2016. "Essay Review: Stage-Hands, Make-up Artists, and Other Backstage Characters in the Drama of Science." *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 38 (4): 19.
- Sankaran, Neeraja. 2016. "The RNA World at Thirty: A Look Back with Its Author." *Journal of Molecular Evolution*. [<http://rdcu.be/mNgq>].

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Carlos Eduardo Sierra C. (Universidad Nacional de Colombia) published multiple articles this past year including:

Member News, cont.

- “La dimensión ética de las armas deportivas,” in *Revista de Bioética Latinoamericana* (Universidad de los Andes, Venezuela) vol. 18, no. 1 (September 2016-February 2017).
- Articles on the history of astronomy in the following issues of the *Circular de la Red de Astronomía de Colombia*: nos. 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 855, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871 (all 2016).
- “Universidad como si importasen las leyes naturales: Implicaciones de la economía alternativa,” in *Red Universidad Nómada*, 17 August 2016.
- “Karl Raimund Popper y la ética,” in *Red Universidad Nómada*, 28 September 2016.
- “Cajal y el síndrome de visibilidad,” in: *Comarca* (Asociación Promoción Integral de Ayerbe y Comarca, APIAC, Spain), No. 90 (July-September 2016).
- A booklet, “La dimensión ética de la ciencia ficción y la mitopoeía,” in: *Ética: Boletín trimestral de Bioética: Universidad CES* (Colombia), Vol. 6, No. 3, July-September 2014.

He has also given the following talks at conferences:

- “**El placer de descubrir y la reificación inherente a los premios**,” at a meeting of the Sociedad Julio Garavito para el Estudio de la Astronomía (Medellín) on 22 October 2016.

- “**Fraudes cartográficos longevos: Una muestra sobresaliente de la mentira en el seno de la ciencia**,” Sociedad Julio Garavito para el Estudio de la Astronomía (Medellín) on 20 August 2016.

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Betty Smocovitis (University of Florida) has been named the Kosciuszko Foundation Visiting Professor at the University of Warsaw for the spring and summer 2017. She has been appointed in the Kolegium Artes Liberales, and will work with the director to design a curriculum in the history of science that will bridge the sciences and the humanities. The University of Warsaw is the largest university in Poland with a distinguished list of alumni and faculty, along with a highly ranked series of research programs.

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Kara W. Swanson is enjoying a post-tenure sabbatical year from her position as Professor of Law at Northeastern University and is in residence as a NEH Long-term Fellow at the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) in Boston, MA. Members should note that the MHS funds both short-term and long-term fellowships, and provides numerous opportunities for grad students, academics, and independent scholars to discuss and present work at evening seminar series. For more

information visit <http://www.masshist.org/research/community>.

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In July 2016, **Mary Terrall** (UCLA) was awarded the 2015 Thackray Medal from the Society for the History of Natural History for *Catching Nature in the Act: Réaumur and the Practice of Natural History in the Eighteenth Century* (University of Chicago Press, 2014).

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Last spring, **Jeremy Vetter** (University of Arizona) was promoted to Associate Professor of History. In late October 2016, his book *Field Life: Science in the American West during the Railroad Era* was published by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

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Matthew A. White graduated with his PhD in the History of Science from the University of Florida and joined the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum as the Director of Education.

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In Memoriam: Michele Aldrich
6 October 1942 – 23 November 2016

It is with sadness that we announce that Michele La Clergue Aldrich died on Wednesday, 23 November 2016 at Baystate Hospital, Massachusetts, after a short illness. We will publish a memorial piece in a future *Newsletter*.

In Memoriam: Alison Winter

Alison Winter

19 November 1965 — 22 June 2016

(Written by Robert J. Richards, Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Chicago)

Alison Winter, professor of history at the University of Chicago, died on June 22, 2016. Alison was my student, my colleague, and my friend. I first met her when she was an undergraduate at the University. She came to my office to inquire about joining the new undergraduate major that had recently been inaugurated in History, Philosophy, and Social Study of Science and Medicine. She said that her father, a mathematics professor at University of Michigan, wanted her to major in science. She wanted to major in English literature. She thought he would accept history of science as a compromise. That compromise would become a passion.

In class, Alison was a delight, though, I have to admit, a particular kind of delight. I remember



her distinctly in one of my classes, a course on the history of psychology, focusing on William James. The writing requirement consisted of four short papers. On each of the first two, Alison received an A and her friend, a psychology major, received a B. As she later told me, he asked her how she did it. She said something like, you have to focus your writing. She then bet him that she could analyze one page of James's *Principle of Psychology* and get an A. The papers were returned, and she got an A and he another B. She dared to tell me that story only after she had graduated. Then she retold it on several later occasions with great glee.

After graduation, Alison was determined to undertake further study in England; I suppose the pull of English literature was still quite strong. She moved there and took a job as a barmaid while writing fellowship applications. She was awarded a National Science Foundation fellowship, among several others, to attend Cambridge University in history of science.

The kind of approach to history of science that prevailed in the Cambridge department was not my cup of tea, a bit too sweet, I thought, with social constructivist approaches. Alison knew my feelings, and arranged for me to give a talk to the Cambridge group, who apparently had

been forewarned. The questions after my talk were politely hostile, but the real debate came in the King's College Pub after the lecture. During the interchange with faculty and students, Alison kept replenishing my beer. She would be objecting to something I said, and simultaneously filling my glass. I fear that toward the end, my arguments lacked a certain sharpness.

Alison got a plum of a first job at Cal Tech the year after she finished her Ph.D., and she received tenure there four very short years later with her first book, *Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain* (Chicago, 1998). When we had a job opening, we tried to recruit Alison and Adrian, and the Dean recognized that we could get two rising stars, and with some effort we were able to persuade both of them to join us, which they did in 2001. The next year, Alison won a Guggenheim Fellowship as a mark both of her scholarship and the promise of her proposal. The promise was realized in her second book, *Memory: Fragments of a Modern History* (Chicago, 2012), which won the University of Chicago Press's Laing Prize.

Alison and I began teaching together on a regular basis in the mid-2000s. It was a seminar for majors in our undergraduate program, a course called "My Favorite Readings in the History

In Memoriam, *cont.*

and Philosophy of Science.” Well, half were my favorites and the other half Alison’s—our lists did not overlap. We continued our wrangling in that class, with Alison goading me, and I usually taking the bait. You could never get angry at Alison, since she always smiled sweetly as she pushed in the blade a bit further. I think we supplied ample amusement for our students. Alison had many devoted students, both graduate and undergraduate, students who never doubted her concern for their welfare, which is why she would protect them against my epistemological onslaughts.

Alison was diagnosed with a glioblastoma just before Christmas 2015. We were scheduled in the winter term to teach together again. She insisted upon taking part, which she did from her hospital bed by Skype, for at least half the course, till it got to be too much.

Alison’s effort to continue teaching in the face of a devastating illness reveals a remarkable individual, a woman of courage and tenacity and love of her students and of our common pursuit. In the depths of her illness, her spirits, at least when friends were around, were remarkably high. She kept notes on her illness, and with the

help of a former undergraduate student in our program, she hoped to write an article about her ordeal, ever the scholar.

During her stays at home, in the hospital, and in the hospice, Alison received family members and colleagues from the university and the many friends from throughout the U.S. and abroad—a testament to the person she was. She leaves parents, stepparents, a brother, her devoted husband, Adrian, and four extraordinary children: David, Lizzie, Zoe, and Ben. If you should come to know the children, you would see Alison’s talents and her spirit yet alive.

HSS News

HSS Editor Search: Review of Preliminary Proposals Begins 1 March 2017

The Society’s Editor, H. Floris Cohen, will be finishing his term in June 2019. The next Editor is to be elected by the History of Science Society Council in June 2018, for a term from 1 July 2019 to 20 June 2024. (The year after the new Editor is elected is designed to allow for a smooth transition.)

In accordance with HSS procedures, the search for the new Editor will be undertaken by

the Committee on Publications (CoP). The Committee requests that expressions of interest in the position of Society Editor be sent to: Michael Gordin, Chair of the Committee on Publications (mgordin@princeton.edu); Bernie Lightman, Vice-President and Executive Committee Representative to the Committee on Publications (lightman@yorku.ca); or Jay Malone, HSS Executive Director (jay@hssonline.org). Information about the requirements of the position can be found below. We especially encourage any interested folks to contact Bernie Lightman, Jay Malone, or Floris Cohen (H.F.Cohen@uu.nl) to discuss particulars.

Since 2014, Floris Cohen and his team have maintained the highest standards for *Isis*, and the Descartes Centre at the University of Utrecht has provided a wonderful home for the editorial offices of the Society. We now once again seek someone with an excellent reputation as a research scholar in the history of science who is at an institution that can partner with the History of Science Society in supporting the Editorial Office. Potential applicants may consider whether a bid can be developed in collaboration with more than one home institution.

HSS News, cont.

Information for potential candidates to be Society Editor and Editor of *Isis*.

1. This position has a five-year renewable term.
2. The next Society Editor will be recommended by the HSS Committee on Publications, consisting of five members appointed by the Executive Committee serving staggered terms of five years, plus the Vice President, serving *ex officio*. Discussions with potential Editors and their institutions will take place throughout the fall of 2016 and winter of 2017. Preliminary written proposals for staffing and financing of the Editorial office should be submitted to the Committee on Publications by potential Editors and their associate editors and institutions by 1 March 2017. The Committee on Publications will review preliminary proposals in April 2017 and send out queries to potential candidates during April and May 2017. Revised and complete proposals need to be submitted by 1 October 2017. **The Committee on Publications will interview candidates during the 9-12 November 2017 HSS meeting in Toronto. A subcommittee of the Committee on Publications will make site visits to finalists' institutions in the winter/spring of 2017-2018.** The HSS Council will evaluate the recommendation and make its final decision in order to have the HSS Executive Committee announce the

selection of the new Society and *Isis* Editor in the July 2018 *HSS Newsletter*.

3. It is anticipated that *Isis* during the term of the next Editor will be published for the Society by the University of Chicago Press, to which the journal was moved in the spring of 1991. A Memorandum of Agreement covers the relations of the History of Science Society and the University of Chicago Press with regard to the publication of *Isis*. This contract will be subject to review during the term of the new Editor.
4. The Society Editor is an Officer of the History of Science Society, and, as such, serves as an *ex officio* non-voting member of the Executive Committee and of Council. As an Officer, the Society Editor is expected to attend Council meetings and Committee on Publications meetings held at the annual meeting and also Executive Committee meetings which, in recent years, have occurred twice a year, once before the annual meeting of the Society and a second time, approximately 6 months after the annual meeting. The Executive Committee also acts *ad interim* during the course of the year, proposes the budget, etc. The Society Editor serves as the Editor of *Isis* and also oversees *Osiris*, the annual bibliography, as well as any other publications produced by the Society.

5. As Editor of *Isis*, the Society Editor is expected to recommend *Isis* Advisory Editors to three-year terms (with possible renewal), the numbers and expertise of such editors to be determined by the Editor and ratified by CoP. There will be Advisory Editors in office who continue from Floris Cohen's term as Editor into the next term.
6. The History of Science Society expects to be able to support the editing of *Isis* by providing funding for the salaries of a Managing Editor, a Manuscript Editor, for office supplies, and for part of the course release for the Book Review Editor(s). The Editor's institution, in turn, is expected to support the *Isis* editorial office to a significant degree. Candidates will need to submit a tentative budget and can obtain the current budget from Jay Malone (jay@hssonline.org).

Congratulations to the New Doctors

During a history conference, I was sharing a room with a recent postdoc, and he confided in me his difficulty in renewing his membership in HSS given the sizable difference between what students pay and the regular member rate. This to me seemed an opportunity both to celebrate a significant achievement and to encourage scholars to maintain (or begin) their membership

HSS News, cont.

in the HSS. The Society thus created a free e-membership for those who received their PhD in the prior year and who are no longer eligible for student memberships. To claim your free membership, go to <https://subfill.uchicago.edu/JournalPUBS/HSSpromotion.aspx>. You will receive all of the regular benefits, including discounted meeting registration, and if you are already a member, your membership (electronic only) will be extended by one year at no cost.

—Jay Malone, HSS Executive Director

JSTOR for HSS Members

In its strategic plan, HSS identified professional development as one of our six goals. Specifically, the Society is focusing on supporting the “professional development of emerging history of science scholars in and outside the academy.” One of the ways in which the HSS can help our members advance their research and teaching is to facilitate access to the literature, and we are pleased to work with JSTOR to offer a 50% savings on a one year JPASS subscription for members. JPASS, available as monthly or yearly plans, allows you to read whatever journal article you like and enjoy up to 120 PDF downloads a year from the JSTOR archive, an archive with over 7 million articles from 2 thousand journals (including *Isis* and *Osiris*), representing some 50 academic disciplines. In addition to past issues of *Isis* and *Osiris*, members may find the following journals of particular interest:

- *The British Journal for the History of Science*
- *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*
- *Science Progress*
- *Science, Technology, & Human Values*

JSTOR adds new titles to JPASS every month so you’ll have a growing collection of the world’s leading scholarly journals only a click away.

HSS members save 50% on a yearly JPASS here: <http://jpass.jstor.org/?soc=HSS&mc=6kiy5hIv99>

New Reference Resource: IsisCB Cumulative

A new open access reference resource was released this month: **IsisCB Cumulative**, a digitized version of the *Isis Cumulative Bibliography of the History of Science*, spanning sixty years from 1913 to 1975. The full text is available as seven large HTML files corresponding to the seven volumes of the *Isis Cumulative Bibliography* covering that period.

- **IsisCB Cumulative** is a companion to **IsisCB Explore**, a research tool launched last year that includes data from the *Isis Bibliographies* from 1974 to the present.
- **IsisCB Cumulative** is the result of two years of effort that included scanning, transcribing, and encoding 5000 pages of text. The files contain nearly 154,000 citation records to works in the history of science, all of which are

classified by historians of science and subject bibliographers. These include citations to about 83,000 articles, 44,000 books, 20,000 reviews, and 6,000 chapters.

- The current release of these volumes as individual HTML files is meant to provide temporary access to the digitized data, which will eventually be added to the **IsisCB Explore**.

- **IsisCB Cumulative** and **IsisCB Explore** contain data accumulated and published annually and semi-annually in the journal *Isis* since its founding. Established by George Sarton, this bibliography has been continued by various scholars and librarians, including John Neu, Magda Whitrow, Joy Harvey, and, currently, Stephen Weldon.

- The online publication of **IsisCB Cumulative** was made possible by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the History of Science Society, the University of Oklahoma Libraries, and the University of Oklahoma History of Science Department. The digitization efforts were overseen by Stephen Weldon, Sylwester Ratowt, and Conal Tuohy. Tuohy ([see his website](http://hiswebsite.org)) parsed the transcribed text and created the HTML file (gitHub for the project). For more information about the *Isis* bibliographies see the project’s website: <http://isiscb.org/>. Individuals can also contact Stephen Weldon, editor of **IsisCB**, directly at spweldon@ou.edu.

History of Science Society 2016 Prize Winners

Go to <http://hssonline.org/members-news/history-of-science-society-2016-awards/> to see a full listing of the prizes and citations.

Derek Price/Rod Webster Prize: **Megan Raby**, University of Texas at Austin. The Derek Price/Rod Webster Prize is awarded for best article in *Isis*.



The Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize: **Jacob Darwin Hamblin**, Oregon State University. The Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize is awarded for best book for a general audience.



Reingold Prize: **Adam Richter**, University of Toronto. The Nathan Reingold Prize is awarded for best essay by a graduate student.



Suzanne J. Levinson Prize: **Nick Hopwood**, University of Cambridge. The Suzanne J. Levinson Prize is awarded for best book in the history of the life sciences and natural history.



Pfizer Prize: **Omar W. Nasim**, University of Regensburg. The Pfizer Award is for best scholarly book published in the past three years.



Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize: **Joan L. Richards**, Brown University. The Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize is awarded for excellence in education.



Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize: **Paola Bertucci**, Yale University. The Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize is awarded for best article on the role of women in science.



Sarton Medal: The History of Science Society has awarded the 2016 Sarton Medal for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement to **Katharine Park**, Harvard University, emerita.



News from the Profession

Ashgate Merged with Taylor and Francis Group

With nearly 50 years of publishing in the Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities, Ashgate complements Routledge's commitment to support academic research and scholarly publishing. Ashgate is a leading research publisher in Art History, Music, History, Social Work, Politics, Literary Studies, and many other disciplines. The Taylor and Francis Group is delighted to now offer these titles through their company.

Consortium for Hist of Sci, Tech & Med November 2016 News

Events

About 40 people joined us for the **sixth Annual Introductory Symposium** and nearly 400 people from around the world watched the live stream online. In addition to 21 scholars presenting their work, representatives from the Newberry Library in Chicago and the New York Academy of Medicine provided an overview of the research opportunities available at their institutions.

Working Groups

The Consortium launched new working groups this year and welcomed new conveners. Jamie Cohen-Cole of George Washington University and Greg Eghigian of Penn State have relaunched

the Working Group on the History of the Human Sciences. The group formerly known as the Early Sciences Working Group has split into two groups. One, the Working Group on the History of Ancient and Medieval Sciences is run by Darin Hayton of Haverford College and Nahyan Fancy of DePauw. The other, the Working Group on the History of Early Modern Science is run by Robert Westman of UCSD and Peter Dear of Cornell. The Science Beyond the West group has two new conveners, Ramah McKay of UPenn and Mary Brazelton of Cambridge University, who have joined Projit Mukharji of UPenn. Frederick Davis of Purdue University is beaming in from Hong Kong to join Jeremy Vetter of the University of Arizona to run the Earth and Environmental Sciences Working Group. More information on the 11 working groups and 24 co-conveners is **available on the working groups' webpage**.

This year, the Consortium opened two workshops to working group participation. The first was a symposium hosted at the University of Minnesota. Titled "Beyond the Scientific Revolution," this symposium will lead to a special issue of the *Journal of Early Modern History*. The working group used the Consortium's web-conferencing platform to join remote participants from across the country, doubling the symposium's attendance. The second symposium was hosted by the South Asia Center at UPenn

and was titled "New Approaches to STEM in South Asia." We look forward to offering more online workshops for working group participants.

Chemical Heritage Foundation

The Chemical Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce that the newly-processed Spinco Historical Collection is now open to researchers. Founded in 1946, Spinco is a noted American manufacturer of scientific and medical instruments. The firm is best known for making centrifuges, but its product line also featured a number of other innovative instruments, including electrophoresis systems, amino acid analyzers, and protein peptide sequencers. Materials preserved in the Spinco Historical Collection include printed materials, photographic materials, business records, and audio-visual materials.

The Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

The Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania, received a donation of one hundred and eight books on the subject of natural history and medicine, dating from the sixteenth to the

News from the Profession, cont.

twentieth centuries and including works by Dr. Martin Lister (1638?-1712), Royal Physician to Queen Anne. The Kislak Center received another gift of a collection of over one thousand works of science fiction from the 1940s to the 2000s. The center also acquired documents relating to editing the *Annales de Chimie*, of which Louis-Bernard Guyton de Morveau (1737-1816) was the lead editor, along with Lavoisier and others, from its inception in 1789.

The New York Academy of Medicine Library Acquisitions

The New York Academy of Medicine Library recently acquired the *Bodyscope* (1948), an unusual and entertaining addition to the library's collection of books with movable parts. The *Bodyscope* was prepared by Ralph H. Segal and Theodore I. Segal, with illustrations by William Brown McNett, the Director of Medical Arts at the Temple University School of Medicine. The library has also acquired Juan Bautista Juanini's (1636-1691) *Carta escrita al muy noble Aretino, el doctor Don Francisco Redi, medico archiatro de S.A. Serenissima el Gran Duque de Toscana*, a rare work on the nervous system published in 1689. Finally, the library recently completed the cataloging of 42 medical student notebook manuscripts kept by students studying at medical colleges in New York between 1827 and 1909.

Fellowship Opportunities at the German Historical Institute, Washington DC

Fellowship in the History of Knowledge

The German Historical Institute in Washington is now accepting applications for a 6- to 12-month Fellowship in The History of Knowledge. Potential projects could focus on (but are not limited to) the following areas: the dynamics of knowledge transfer, communication and dissemination (or restriction) of knowledge, the preservation, collection, and curation of knowledge, and the transformative nature of knowledge and its impact on societies. It is essential that the proposed research projects make use of historical methods and engage with the relevant historiography. The fellowship term begins September 1, 2018. The fellowship is open to both doctoral and postdoctoral scholars. The monthly stipend is € 2,000 for doctoral students and € 3,400 for postdoctoral scholars. In addition, fellowship recipients based in Europe will receive reimbursement for their round-trip airfare to the U.S. The next deadline for submission is **December 1, 2017**. For more information about applying and other GHI fellowships, please visit www.ghi-dc.org/fellowships.

Binational Research Tandem Program in the History of Knowledge and Knowledge Cultures

The GHI in cooperation with the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University is now offering German and North American scholars the opportunity to develop binational research tandems which link up two academics, one from Germany and one from North America, to work on projects on the history of knowledge, ideally ones which focus on the development of transatlantic perspectives on the issues they examine, and contain productive areas of overlap either in their topics or in their conceptual frameworks. The program is designed for postdoctoral, mid-career, and established historians from Germany and North America with stipends ranging from €3,400 - €4,500/month depending on seniority. Funding will be provided for a 12-month stay at the German Historical Institute Washington, DC. Starting in September 2018, the successful applicants will be in residence at the GHI and invited to participate in GHI activities and events. They will be expected to plan and convene a joint conference or workshop, which will be funded by the GHI, as well as to give a public lecture at Georgetown University. The next deadline for applications is **August 1, 2017**. For more information about applying and other GHI fellowships, please visit www.ghi-dc.org/fellowships.

News from the Profession, cont.

First Issue of Open Access Journal Now Available

BJHS Themes editor Jon Agar and guest editors Jahnavi Phalkey and Tong Lam are delighted to announce that the first issue of this exciting new open access journal, entitled *Science of Giants: China and India in the Twentieth Century*, is now available in its entirety.

Articles in the issue include:

- **Planning for science and technology in China and India**, *Jahnavi Phalkey, Zuoyue Wang*
- **How deep is love? The engagement with India in Joseph Needham's historiography of China**, *Leon Antonio Rocha*
- **Speculative Histories: Photo essay**, *Kavita Philip*

HPST&ST December Note

The December *HPS&ST Note* (the monthly newsletter of the Inter-divisional Teaching Commission of the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology) is available online at <http://www.idtc-iuhps.com/hpsst-note.html>. This issue's contents includes:

- IsisCB Cumulative 1913-1975
- British Museum Group Journal

- British Society for the History of Science Annual Conference 6-9 July 2017, University of York
- The 28th Baltic Conference on the History of Science, May 18-20, 2017, Tartu, Estonia
- World Humanities Conference, Liege, 6-12 August 2017
- International History, Philosophy, and Science Teaching Group (IHPST) Conference Proposals
- Opinion Page: Teach philosophy to heal our "post-truth" society, says the President of Ireland
- Editorial Assistance Required
- Recent HPS&ST Books and Research Articles
- Coming HPS&ST-Related Conferences

This *HPS&ST Monthly Note* is sent to about 7,300 individuals who directly or indirectly have an interest in the connections of history and philosophy of science with theoretical, curricular, and pedagogical issues in science teaching, and/or interests in the promotion of more engaging and effective teaching of the history and philosophy of science.

Contributions to the *Note* (publications, conferences etc.) are welcome and should be sent directly to the editor: Michael R. Matthews, UNSW, m.matthews@unsw.edu.au.

HSS Report on the 3S Meeting at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, 22-25 June 2016

The 3-Societies Meeting for 2016 was hosted by the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science under Lesley Cormack's leadership. Lesley is a Professor of History and also Dean of the Arts faculty at the University of Alberta, as well as (in June) President of the CSHPS, so she was an excellent choice for Conference Organizer. She did an exquisite job. The Chair of the Program Committee was Andrew Ede (U. Alberta) and society representatives on the Committee were Aileen Fyfe (BSHS) and Jole Shackelford (HSS). The conference was physically held on the University of Alberta North Campus, situated along the south bank of the meandering North Saskatchewan River, adjacent to the business district of the part of Edmonton that was once known as Varscona, an independent city. Varscona is a regenerating old Midwestern small-town downtown, teeming with young people at night, ethnic restaurants, good pubs, and a couple of classic small, mid-twentieth-century hotels and re-purposed car dealerships. It is quite delightful and within a 20-minute walk of the conference venue.

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The conference venue was not well located with respect to public transportation (for those who do not like a good hike), but then taxis are inexpensive by U.S. standards and the fares are regulated, so there is no funny business. The terrain is relatively flat and the weather was warm, so even the occasional light rain did not detract from a wonderful, midsummer meeting.

After accounting for no-shows, there were 163 papers presented (out of 171 placed in 54 session panels at the time the program was printed, not counting a topical roundtable or panel commentaries) and over 200 attendees from 18 countries. I was amazed to meet a mathematician from Holland, who was there simply out of curiosity about what the history of science is, combined with a desire to visit Canada! The official conference theme was “transitions,” but panels were organized around the usual topics one expects to find at a history of science conference, with only one panel focused specifically on (Western) Canadian science. There were three plenary keynote talks, one for each of the constituent societies: Erika Dyck (CSHPS) spoke on the history of eugenics in Canada, Aileen Fyfe (BSHS) on the publishing history behind the scenes at the *Philosophical Transactions* over the longue durée, and Larry Principe (HSS) on the use of experimental re-creation as a tool for historical research.

It was all in all a wonderful, intellectually-engaging conference with a sense of informality that I cherish in the smaller, summer 3S meetings I have attended, which somehow seem to be less frantic and offer enhanced opportunities for one-on-one intellectual exchange as compared to the large society meetings, perhaps because they occur when there is no competition from teaching preparation and exam grading.

Submitted by Jole Shackelford

ISHM Winter 2016 Newsletter

The latest ISHM Newsletter is available for download at <http://www.vesalius.org.uk/ishm-newsletter>. This edition's contents include information about the 9th Meeting in Beijing, China; the first announcement of the 46th Congress in Lisbon, Portugal, along with the forthcoming activities of members and the Affiliated Societies; calls for papers and calls for abstracts; exhibitions; online dissertations; recent publications; and a few interesting offers of fellowships in history of medicine.

Latest Dissertations – November 2016

The latest doctoral dissertations harvested from the issues 76-12 A and B of *Dissertation Abstracts* that pertain to the broad scope of the history of

science are available for viewing at <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/histmed/dissertations>.

Because ProQuest has begun downloading a large number of earlier dissertations from many institutions, a decision has been made to only include titles going back to 2015 in this database. Anyone who wants the complete list of titles on this topic should email Jonathon Erlen directly at erlen@pitt.edu.

Our thanks to John Erlen for assembling these titles.

Lawrence Memorial Award – 2016 Recipient

Mr. Andre Hahn, a student of Dr. Michael A. Osborne at the School of History, Philosophy, and Religion at Oregon State University is the recipient of the 2016 Lawrence Memorial Award. The proceeds of the award will help support Mr. Hahn's travel for further archival and library research of Goethe's influence on 20th-century plant morphologists.

Major Society Chemistry Publishers Jointly Commit to Integration with ORCID®

The Royal Society of Chemistry and the Publications Division of the American Chemical

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Society (ACS) each became signatories to the **ORCID® Open Letter**, reasserting the commitment of both organizations to enhancing the scholarly publishing experience for researchers worldwide who are involved in chemistry and allied fields.

The commitment by these two global chemistry publishers to undertake new workflow integration with technology infrastructure provided by ORCID®, a not-for-profit organization that provides unique identifiers for researchers and scholars, will enable both societies to provide unambiguous designation of author names within chemistry and across the broader sciences. This partnership with ORCID® will resolve ambiguity in researcher identification caused by name changes, cultural differences in name presentation, and the inconsistent use of name abbreviations that is too often a source of confusion for those who must rely on the published scientific record.

By becoming signatories to the ORCID® Open Letter, these two major chemical societies are voicing their intent to collect ORCID®iDs for all submitting authors through use of the ORCID® API, and to display such identifiers in the articles published in their respective society journals. The integration of such activities within the publishers' workflows means authors will benefit from automated linkages between their ORCID® record and unique identifiers embedded within

their published research articles, ensuring their contributions are appropriately recognized and credited.

About the American Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry

The American Chemical Society is a nonprofit organization chartered by the U.S. Congress. With nearly 157,000 members, ACS is the world's largest scientific society and a global leader in providing access to chemistry-related research through its multiple databases, peer-reviewed journals, and scientific conferences. Its main offices are in Washington, D.C., and Columbus, Ohio.

The Royal Society of Chemistry is the world's leading chemistry community, advancing excellence in the chemical sciences. With over 50,000 members, we are the U.K.'s professional body for chemical scientists; a not-for-profit organisation with 175 years of history and an international vision for the future. We promote, support and celebrate chemistry. We work to shape the future of the chemical sciences—for the benefit of science and humanity.

About ORCID®

ORCID®'s vision is a world where all who participate in research, scholarship and innovation are uniquely identified and connected to their contributions across disciplines, borders and time. ORCID® provides an identifier for

individuals to use with their name as they engage in research, scholarship and innovation activities. It provides open tools that enable transparent and trustworthy connections between researchers, their contributions and affiliations. The organization provides this service to help people find information and to simplify reporting and analysis. ORCID® is a not-for-profit organization, sustained by fees from member organizations. Its work is open, transparent and non-proprietary. The organization strives to be a trusted component of research infrastructure with the goal of providing clarity in the breadth of research contributions and the people who make them.

To automatically receive news releases from the American Chemical Society, contact newsroom@acs.org.

NASA Glenn Research Center Dedicates Lewis Field Historic District Markers

In recognition of Lewis Field's recently established historic district, NASA's Glenn Research Center hosted an Historic District Marker Dedication Ceremony on 5 Oct 2016.

Lewis Field's designation as an historic district celebrates NASA Glenn's tremendous past accomplishments in aircraft propulsion, space

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flight propulsion, aircraft and space flight safety, and aerospace materials research. The event featured remarks from Glenn's senior leaders, a video presentation on the center's history and a dedication of the newly placed historic district markers.

"The historic district honors the dedication of past leaders such as George Lewis and Abe Silverstein and acknowledges the accomplishments of the many scientists, engineers, technicians and staff that made these advances possible," said Janet Watkins, NASA Glenn associate director.

Lewis Field originally opened in 1941 as part of the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics and has a long history of innovation and success. The historic district is currently eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information about Glenn, visit: www.nasa.gov/glenn

NDXIII: 13th Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop, 5-9 July 2017

The Thirteenth Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop (NDXIII) will be held at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and will include a one-day trip to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

Call for Proposals

The organizers will accept proposals both for papers and sessions. Single papers will probably have to be 15–20 minutes in length, depending upon the number of submissions. Organized sessions, with multiple papers addressing a particular question or theme, can contain papers of longer length, but must incorporate significant time for discussion. Proposals for papers should include a title and a one-paragraph abstract; session proposals should identify all presenters, as well as titles, along with a one-paragraph abstract for each presenter. Proposals from graduate students and recent PhDs are especially welcomed.

Proposals, including a one-page CV for all presenters, should be sent by **1 March 2017**, to Elizabeth Hamm at elizabeth.hamm@stmarys-ca.edu. All submissions will be shared with the organizing committee: Stephen Case, Jacqueline Feke, Elizabeth Hamm, Pedro Raposo, and Sarah J. Reynolds. Final decisions on paper and session acceptance are planned for April 1. All presenters will be expected to register for the workshop and pay the registration fee; questions about local arrangements should be addressed to Matt Dowd at mdowd1@nd.edu. If you wish to propose a paper or session making use of items in the Adler Planetarium collections, please contact curator Pedro Raposo

at praposo@adlerplanetarium.org prior to submitting a proposal. To search the collections, please go to www.adlerplanetarium.org/collections.

Theme: Models and Mechanisms in the History of Astronomy

Models and mechanisms have played an important role throughout the history of astronomy, both as physical devices and as conceptual entities. In exploring this workshop theme, we invite you to consider such questions as: What do we know about historical astronomical models and mechanisms, including their origins, development, and abandonment? How have physical models and mechanistic devices influenced major developments in astronomy and related fields? How have mental models and mechanistic thinking shaped astronomical concepts and explanations? As in previous years, we expect that the theme can encompass a number of different time periods and geographical locations. Proposals that directly address the theme will receive preferential treatment.

Website: <http://www.nd.edu/~histast>

NEH Grants August 2016

Many of the grants for the National Endowment for the Humanities were awarded to projects relating to the history of science. For a complete

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list of grant awards, please visit http://www.neh.gov/files/press-release/july_2016_nehgrants.pdf.

Grant awards include:

Computer History Museum Outright: \$40,000, California

- [Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections]
- Project Director: Nina Fairles
- Project Title: Improvement Plan for the Long-Term Preservation of Computer History Museum Collections
- Project Description: A planning project to hire an objects conservator and an engineering consulting firm to evaluate optimal environmental parameters in buildings housing the largest international collection of computing artifacts in the world.

Steven Horst Outright: \$50,400, Connecticut

- [Public Scholar Program]
- Wesleyan University
- Project Title: Exorcizing Laplace's Demon
- Project Description: Preparation for publication of a book that examines the story of early modern science to demonstrate the compatibility involving science, humanism, and theism.

National Academy of Sciences Outright: \$300,000, Washington, DC

- [Cooperative Agreements and Special Projects (Education)]
- Project Director: Tom Rudin (project director)
- Project Title: National Academy of Sciences Study of Humanities, Arts, and STEM Integrated Education
- Project Description: A two-year study of the impact on higher education students of the integration of the humanities and the arts with the sciences, technology, engineering, and math.

Matthew Klinge Outright: \$50,400, Maine

- [Public Scholar Program]
- Bowdoin College
- Project Title: Sweet Blood: Diabetes and the Nature of Health in America
- Project Description: Research and writing leading to publication of a book on the history of diabetes in America from the late nineteenth century to the present.

Columbia University Outright: \$320,000, New York

- [Scholarly Editions and Translations]
- Project Directors: Pamela Smith and Marc Smith

- Project Title: Craft Techniques and Knowledge Systems in a 16th-Century Artist's Manuscript: An Open-Access Critical Edition and Translation
- Project Description: Preparation of an online open-access critical edition and translation of a 16th-century manuscript of an artist's recipes for painting and metalworking techniques and observations on scientific processes.

New Issue of *Setting the Record Straight on "Wasteful Research"* Now Available!

The latest issue of *Setting the Record Straight on "Wasteful Research"* is available for viewing at <http://www.cossa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/4-Tracy.pdf>. It includes a series of interviews with researchers whose work has been called out in Congressional wastebooks or other attacks. The goal of the issue is to give these scientists the chance to set the record straight about the value and potential of their work and confront misconceptions about social science research funded by the federal government. This edition features Megan Tracy (James Madison University), whose National Science Foundation-funded study on regulations in China's dairy industry was one of the targets of Lamar Smith's inquiry into NSF grants in

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2013 and 2014. You may have seen that Senator Lankford released a new “Federal Fumbles” wastebook earlier this week, which ridicules several NSF and NIH grants. It is hoped that this publication will continue to serve as a reminder that the people behind these competitive grants are conducting good science.

A Note from the American Historical Association

An unusually bitter and divisive election has been followed by continuing evidence of polarization to the point of harassment seldom seen in recent American history. Historians can say with confidence that this is not our nation’s finest hour. Language previously relegated to the margins has moved out of the shadows, emboldening elements of American society less interested in a more perfect union than in division and derision.

Historians should, as part of our work, explore the multiple factors that have shaped this new terrain. The American Historical Association encourages that scholarship, but at the same time condemns the language and harassment that have charred the American landscape in recent weeks.

The AHA is chartered by the U.S. Congress to promote the study of history in the United States. To advance this goal, the association has agreed on shared standards, including an emphasis on

mutual respect and reasoned discourse—the ongoing conversation among historians holding diverse points of view and who learn from each other. A commitment to such discourse—balancing fair and honest criticism with inclusive practices and openness to different ideas—makes possible the fruitful exchange of views, opinions, and knowledge.

The American Historical Association reaffirms its commitment to mutual respect, reasoned discourse, and appreciation for humanity in its full variety. We will strive to demonstrate these values in all aspects of practice, including in our roles as teachers, researchers, and citizens.

Publication of Greek Medical Manuscripts

Alain Touwaide is pleased to announce the publication of his census of Greek medical manuscripts, from Byzantium to the Renaissance. Further details can be found here: <http://medicaltraditions.org/institute/news/257-a-census-of-greek-medical-manuscripts>.

His next project will be to catalogue each and every manuscript according to standard catalographic protocols.



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