The History Community at Penn

History Undergraduate Advisory Board and The History Student Society

For many years, the History Undergraduate Advisory Board (HUAB) has organized history-related events for Penn undergraduates while also serving as the student liaisons to the Department of History administration. Comprised of Penn History Majors, HUAB has cultivated a vibrant undergraduate community within the History department. HUAB also represents the History department at university-wide undergraduate functions, such as the Courses and Majors Fair, Palooza, and Majors and More dinners. In Fall 2019, HUAB members decided to create a new, parallel organization called the History Student Society (HSS), which would be open to all Penn undergraduates regardless of major or minor. HUAB serves as the executive board for HSS, but HSS members come from other departments within the College, as well Wharton and the School of Engineering.

The collaboration between HUAB and HSS has been extremely fruitful this year. HUAB has a long tradition of holding faculty lunch talks, during which faculty discuss a current research project over pizza with undergraduates. This year, HSS continued that tradition, organizing five talks as well as a number of other events, including a tour of the African-American Museum of Philadelphia during Black History month and a Halloween visit to Eastern State Penitentiary. During the Fall final exam period, HSS held a holiday-inspired Study Hours in College Hall featuring hot chocolate and donuts. Most recently, HSS organized something completely new: a competition called “The Books that Changed the World,” in which six faculty and graduate students argued for the significance of particular books on world history while undergraduates cheered them on. First place was Coming of Age in Samoa. The People’s Choice Award was Augustine’s Confessions. Student judges determined who made the most compelling case, and winners received prizes. The event was quite popular and will likely be repeated in the future.

Penn History at College Palooza

Undergraduate members of HSS and HUAB represented the department at the 2019 College Palooza.
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

2018-2019 Newsletter

2018-2019 Annenberg Seminar in History

The Annenberg Seminar brings distinguished historians from different fields to share their work-in-progress with faculty and graduate students

Talking Back to Thomas Jefferson: African American Nationalism in the New Republic, 1776-1808

Mia Bay, University of Pennsylvania

Writing the History of Money: Perspectives from Japan and France

Federico Marcon. Princeton University
Rebecca Spang, Indiana University

Conversation on the History of Genocide, Human Rights, and Humanitarianism.

Dirk Moses, University of Sydney
Samuel Moyn, Yale University

Urdu Ethics in Literature and Colonial India: A Genre of Muslim Modernity?

Farina Mir, University of Michigan

Cuba: An American History

Ada Ferrer, New York University

Discussion and Celebration of Democracy and Truth: A Short History

Upcoming: April 25, at 4:30PM in CH209

Sophia Rosenfeld, University of Pennsylvania
Benjamin Nathans, University of Pennsylvania

Additional Departmental Events

The History Department has sponsored or co-sponsored a variety of events over the past year. To find upcoming departmental events, please see our calendar.