I heard a lot at the Montréal meeting about formal knowledge and local knowledge (one source for these ideas is James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State*). We are learning as a field to balance our study of formal knowledge with an appreciation of local knowledge, whether in the form of laboratory practice or what farmers knew and scientists didn’t. I’m wondering if we can incorporate these perspectives not just into our scholarship but also into how we work as a community. The old formal expectations of professional life, where our personal complications should be invisible in our professional lives, might similarly be enlightened by respect for the local experience of our individual lives. The centralizing institutions where most of us work try to fit us all into a few standardized categories, but our lives are more complex than that.

What might the local knowledge side of our professional lives look like? We are not only employed or independent scholars, parents of young children or empty nesters. There is more individual variation than that; we may be facing our own health challenges or caring for an ill spouse or child. Some people like to keep their personal challenges private, but I suggest we would live in a richer world if there was more room for those things to be seen, if we want. We need role models who show us the many different patterns of work/life balance; we don’t have to fit ourselves into a few standardized patterns. Standard policies for parental leave are a start, but they don’t necessarily help someone who has a disabled child. What do we do with our experience that does not fit the rationalized framework? Often we try to hide it in public, which may work for some people but leaves others feeling simultaneously both inadequate and overwhelmed: inadequate because so much of our energy goes into things that are not seen professionally; overwhelmed, at least in part, because so much of our energy goes into hiding our

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Notes from the Inside

An Appeal to All Members

For this issue of “Notes” I am making an appeal to all of our members. I am asking you to send me examples of how the history of science benefits the societies in which we live. Many of you are aware of the significant cuts facing the history of science at the National Science Foundation. Since the NSF funds many of our members’ projects, functioning as a kind of clearinghouse for research in the history of science, these proposed cuts threaten the vitality of our field. However, as is the case in any time of trouble, we are presented now with an opportunity to demonstrate the value of the history of science, not only to the core mission of NSF, but also to society in general.

Because the HSS is an international organization, with fully a third of its members living outside of the U.S., I am not just interested in how history of science enriches American culture. I would like to see outcomes that demonstrate how our discipline improves science literacy, provides a deeper understanding of scientific practice, and sustains educational efforts throughout the world. I believe, as many of you do, that examples of such outcomes will serve at least three functions: they will show decision makers at the NSF the importance of history of science in fulfilling NSF’s mission; they will convince lawmakers that these efforts at NSF should be supported; and they will demonstrate to the public the value of dollars spent in these endeavors. This latter concern, the focus on the public, has become all the more important given the recent push to involve the citizenry in science funding. Anyone who doubts this need only go to http://republicanwhip.house.gov/YouCut/Review.htm and read how individuals are encouraged to go to the NSF website; search NSF grants featuring such words as “success, culture, media, games, social norm, lawyers, museum, leisure”; record questionable grants, ones that are “a waste of your taxdollars”; and report the award numbers. For those who live in a world where voting citizens carry the ultimate power of government, it becomes all the more important that individuals’ actions, as Thomas Jefferson envisioned, spring from the well of informed decision, rather than narrow interests. How does the history of science help us achieve that goal?

This is not an American challenge—it is a challenge that each of us faces irrespective of where we live.

Thank you for your membership in the HSS.

- Jay Malone, HSS Executive Director
Important News for HSS Members

Starting on January 3, 2011, the webpages of the journals published by UCP will be joining the Current Scholarship Program and will be hosted within the JSTOR domain (www.jstor.org). This does not change the publishing arrangements for the HSS, nor does it at all affect members’ subscriptions; the only change will be that members will access Isis and Osiris at their new online home within the JSTOR website.

The look of the online journals for UCP will change as well. With improved readability and organization, we’ve maintained equivalent functionality while taking advantage of the integration of the JSTOR backfile.

When society members go to the online journal in the new year, they will be asked to create an account within JSTOR and to select a new username and password. Members received e-mail messages in December to inform them about this: a message from UCP about the upcoming change in online access to the journal, and, later in December, a welcome e-mail from JSTOR and an e-mail with information on creating an account and accessing one’s member subscription.

Members’ current usernames and passwords will remain active on the UCP website (www.journals.uchicago.edu) so that they can renew their membership, change their address, check the journal delivery schedule, or claim non-delivery of print issues. Members will be able to change their UCP username and passwords to match their JSTOR usernames and passwords, if they wish to.

In addition to these e-mails, members will see information about access on the new Journal webpage. Members who have bookmarked links to the journal will find those links are automatically redirected to the appropriate page on the new journal webpage within JSTOR.

UCP’s customer service staff will work closely with JSTOR’s User Services department to ensure that members’ access to Isis and Osiris will continue as seamlessly as possible. Please feel free to contact Chicago Press with any questions. For more information about JSTOR, visit www.jstor.org.

HSS’s Newest Interest Group

The Forum for the History of Science in Asia (FHSAsia) had its official debut on 5 November 2010, during HSS Montréal. The meeting was run by founders, Carla Nappi of the University of British Columbia and Grace Yen Shen of York University, with the help of Graduate Student Representative, Lisa Onaga of Cornell University. Two other members of the steering committee, John DiMoia of the National University of Singapore and Projit Mukharji of McMaster University, could not be there, but more than twenty other scholars of all ranks joined in to get to know one another and to discuss future activities.

Topping the list were plans to improve the visibility of Asian research at the HSS’s Cleveland 2011 meeting, which will be a co-located meeting with SHOT and 4S. Forum members enthusiastically supported the idea of coordinating with the Special Interest Group in Asian Technology that is forming at SHOT, and we welcome links to interested scholars from 4S, as well! Stay tuned for future announcements of joint activities.

Members also offered suggestions for the Forum’s website, which will be redesigned in the coming months. The FHSAsia website at www.history.ubc.ca/fhsa will increase functionality to help connect members and link them to the broader history of science community. Though we will start with baby steps, attendees put together an ambitious wish list and, in the words of our first conference travel grant recipient, Lijing Jiang of the University of Arizona, the website should soon become a “clearinghouse for scholarly resources relevant to research and teaching about the history of Asian science.”

In future years, the Forum looks forward to welcoming more international participants, getting involved with graduate-student mentoring, and sponsoring activities of interest to the whole HSS community. Anyone interested in FHSAsia’s activities should contact Grace Shen at gysen@yorku.ca or Carla Nappi at carla.nappi@ubc.ca and look for developments on our website.
Elder Care and Life/Work Issues

Continued from Front Page

private lives from our public interactions. How can we honor more the domain of local knowledge and individual experience?

So many people’s lives are difficult in so many ways, from acute illnesses to single parenthood to various kinds of trauma. I want to reflect on the issues raised by disabling chronic illnesses, particularly later in life, because that is where I am. Once my kids were both in school away from home, I expected to have time and energy for a more ambitious research project. Instead, my husband was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and the beginning of dementia. I’m finding this work/life balancing act lonelier than having small kids, so I’m trying to move it out into public view. There are characteristics of this kind of chronic illnesses that shape my experience. They last a long time and the course is, in the long run, inevitably downward. It is hard in our culture to face something that can’t be fixed. But it is also hard to face that this could easily be a 10- to 15-year journey.

There are several things it is useful to understand about dementia. We think of dementia as a person who can’t make sense of the world, but there are milder stages, sometimes called mild cognitive impairment. Cognitive impairment can result from diseases that cause dementia, from treatable medical issues, or from therapies for other kinds of illnesses, such as some cancer treatments. Smart people can often hide that they have cognitive problems for a long time, so the first clear signs are often personality changes or bad financial decisions. It is very common for people who suffer from cognitive impairment to react to the loss of control that they feel by becoming angry and/or paranoid. It is also confusing when close family member see the person as not able to manage things they used to do but friends (and sometimes doctors) say “S/he seems fine to me.”

As a person’s cognitive abilities decline, family members struggle to negotiate changing roles. My husband is no longer my partner. When children are caring for a parent, it can feel like having to swap roles and become the parent. Such changing roles are particularly hard because there is usually not one clear transition, but a gradual change. When do I decide that my husband cannot travel along with me any more, even if he thinks he can? I try to be willing to take risks in order to preserve his quality of life, but he still complains that I am controlling.

The situation of people with disabling chronic illness in the United States is difficult. Many families do not have long-term care insurance, though I would recommend everyone should buy it, perhaps around age 50. Medicare does not normally pay for supervision or help with activities of daily living or for assisted living or long-term nursing home care, even when those are necessarily because of illness. Medicaid will pay for long-term nursing home care (but usually not assisted living) after the assets of both spouses (excluding the home) are reduced to a certain level. I am required to spend my assets on my spouse’s care, including property held in my own name, before he is eligible for government help. Even assets protected by a prenuptial agreement are counted for Medicaid spend-down purposes.

When a person is diagnosed with dementia, the spouse (or child) usually goes through an intense period of learning about the disease and making arrangements for the future. My husband was 62 when diagnosed so we had to negotiate the disability retirement process. If the diagnosis comes early and the disease progresses slowly, that intense period may be followed by years in which those who are ill can
still take care of themselves in the most basic ways, even though they need help with more complex issues. Ideally the caregiving family member could then say: “Things are in order for the future, now I can relax and enjoy the time I have with my family member and pursue my own interests.” I am finding that hard to do: I feel I am living in a changed world even if the burden is not yet as constant as it will be later.

For some reason I find it harder to negotiate being a spousal caregiver and a professional at the same time than it was to be a parent of small children and a professional. This may be partly because I believed that the burden of children would lessen as they grew older (though I’m not sure that is true) while I know that the burden of caring for my husband will increase. It is also because I had my husband as a partner while raising children but have no such partner in my husband’s care (our kids are 17 and 20). I’m trying to learn the skill of carrying on a project in bits of available time instead of not wanting to start something because it is too frustrating to be interrupted.

Chronic illness in a family is terribly isolating. I feel like an outsider sometimes, though when I am brave enough to talk about it I find that people do care. What can we do as a professional society? Would it be totally impractical for the society to state that refunds of conference registration are available to people who have to cancel at the last minute because of family or health issues? [Editorial note: HSS’s policy is to refund registration fees due to health issues if the conference has not lost money.] Might it make sense to have some gathering where people can choose between different tables to talk about life/work issues such as young children or retirement or spousal or elder care? Can we, perhaps, talk with each other about how to write letters for promotion and tenure files that acknowledge the difficulty (and in some cases the ill wisdom) of asking young people to keep to a universal publication schedule? There is a wealth of information in our individual experience that gets lost when it is simplified into formal knowledge.

What do we get from the richness of local knowledge? We get the resilience of a diverse ecosystem instead of the risks of monoculture (I’m leaning on Scott again). We find ways for individuals to contribute even when their situation is limiting, instead of dropping out. Or, rather, we make room for individuals to find ways to contribute rather than giving them the message that they don’t fit. It takes a change in culture, not because we have been purposefully discriminatory but because we have so internalized the expectations that we need to fit into nice neat categories. Life is much more complex than that.

I am very thankful to Jay for asking me to write this piece because it helped me out of my feeling that I was supposed to disappear. I don’t fully know why I felt that; certainly no one told me so. But I suspect that the solution to such fears is role models, others who might be willing to come forward with their unique perplexities. I don’t think I have many answers, but at least I can try not to be invisible.
HSS 2011 Annual Meeting: Call for Papers

Cleveland, Ohio
3-6 November 2011
(Co-located meeting with SHOT and 4S)

The History of Science Society will hold its 2011 Annual Meeting in the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel in downtown Cleveland. The meeting will be co-located with the Society for the History of Technology (at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center) and the Society for Social Studies of Science (at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Cleveland City Centre). All three hotels are within easy walking distance and shuttles will run on a circuit among the conference sites. Registration for one conference will entitle the registrant to attend all three conferences. Discussions are under way as to whether or not there will be additional administrative fees for any individual who appears on more than one program.

All proposals (sessions, contributed papers, and posters) must be submitted by 4 April 2011 to the History of Science Society’s Executive Office. Poster proposals must describe the visual material that will make up the poster. The HSS will work with organizers who wish to pre-circulate papers.

Submissions on all topics are encouraged. All proposals must be submitted on the HSS Web site (http://www.hssonline.org) or on the annual meeting proposal forms that are available from the HSS Executive Office. HSS members are asked to circulate this announcement to non-HSS colleagues who may be interested in presenting a paper or poster at the Annual Meeting (all participants must register for the meeting). Applicants are encouraged to propose sessions that include diverse participants: a mix of men and women, and/or a balance of professional ranks (i.e., mixing senior scholars with junior scholars and graduate students). Strong preference will be given to panels whose presenters have diverse institutional affiliations. Only one proposal per person may be submitted. An individual may only appear once on the HSS program (see the guidelines for exceptions). Prior participation at the 2009 (Phoenix) or 2010 (Montréal) meetings will be taken into consideration.

To encourage and aid the creation of panels with strong thematic coherence that draw upon historians of science across institutions and ranks, the conference organizers have created a wiki at http://hss2011.wikia.com. Anyone with a panel or paper idea seeking like-minded presenters should post and consult the postings there to round out a prospective session. Instructions are available on the site. Before sending a proposal to the HSS Office, we ask that everyone read the Committee on Meetings and Programs’ “Guidelines for Selecting Papers, Posters, and Sessions.” The 2011 program co-chairs are Michael Gordin (Princeton University) and Matthew Jones (Columbia University).
One of the most satisfying aspects of the 2010 HSS-PSA Meeting in Montréal was the compliments and congratulations we received on Sunday from numerous attendees. It was our hope that everybody would find the conference enjoyable and stimulating, and it was gratifying to hear that for many we had succeeded. A large part of the credit goes to our graduate students, John Cirilli, Manuela Fernández Pinto, and Matt White, and the other volunteers who helped us during those four days. Of course, there were several errors and missteps along the way, and it is my hope and expectation that we will learn from those mistakes and make future conferences better.

Part of that learning process will involve the results of the meeting survey, and I want to say thank you to those who took the time to participate. We have looked at all of the results, including the comments, and will continue to review them as part of our planning for Cleveland (2011), San Diego (2012), Boston (2013) and beyond. We received a total of 343 responses, which represents more than one-third of the total attendance. If you were not one of those who participated in the survey, but have a suggestion to pass along, please do not hesitate to do so.

As you read the information presented below, please keep in mind that the percentages indicated are of the responses for that particular question, not of the entire population of respondents. You can view more detailed information at www.hssonline.org/Meeting/surveyresults.html.

In his program acknowledgements, Jay indicated that Montréal had created a bit of buzz among members, and apparently it did not disappoint, as 61% of respondents were very satisfied with downtown Montréal, with an additional 21% being somewhat satisfied. Only 11 respondents registered a degree of dissatisfaction. The hotel received more mixed, although still generally positive, results: 48% of attendees were satisfied with the Hyatt Montréal, although 27% were dissatisfied, with the hotel layout and the ongoing construction being the targets of the most criticism. The session rooms themselves were generally viewed positively, with 29% of respondents reporting being very satisfied, and 37% being somewhat satisfied. However, 26% reported some degree of dissatisfaction. The most frequent complaint was that PSA meeting rooms were too small and seating too limited for some sessions. Respondents were also generally positive about meeting space, with 28% indicating they were very satisfied, and 35% somewhat satisfied. The layout of the hotel and the impact of construction on open spaces came in for criticism from some respondents.

Several people asked at the meeting about the provision of LCD projectors/beamers for every room. As Jay noted in the program, the use of PowerPoint has become de rigueur at many conferences, including HSS-PSA. This is the second year that the projectors have been part of every room setup for the HSS meetings, and as we indicated in the survey, the cost was roughly $20 per participant. 83% of the survey respondents reported being satisfied (over 50% were very satisfied) with the audio-visual services, although there were some unfortunate glitches that we will try to anticipate and correct at future meetings. When asked if the benefit was worth the cost, 80% of respondents agreed that it was. Several expressed surprise that the A/V services are so expensive, and I would recommend reading Jay’s notes on A/V services in the program for more information.

The registration process is always an important element of the meeting experience, and one that we take seriously. Efforts in the past to improve the
pre-registration process are paying dividends, as 62% were very satisfied with the pre-registration process, with an additional 22% being somewhat satisfied. The on-site registration process was also successful, although not as definitively so. 45% rated the on-site registration as very satisfactory, while 24% were somewhat satisfied with their experience. Only 3% were dissatisfied. Many of the problems that attendees experienced can probably be attributed to having a volunteer crew being led by a rookie Society Coordinator.

When asked about the HSS Program, respondents were generally satisfied: 34% reported being very satisfied, while 33% were somewhat satisfied. 8% reported some degree of dissatisfaction. The PSA program had fewer dissatisfied respondents (7%) and a satisfaction rate of 57%. Some respondents expressed concern over scheduling of similar sessions during the same time period, sessions taking place during receptions, and overly-narrow focus.

As for the receptions themselves, reaction was largely neutral to positive, although it’s unclear how many respondents selected “neutral” intending to mean “no opinion.” The joint HSS-PSA reception on Thursday night received a satisfactory rating from 49% of the respondents, while 10% were unsatisfied. The Friday night reception for the HSS, held at the Canadian Centre for Architecture garnered a 28% satisfactory rating and 11% unsatisfactory, while the Friday night PSA reception had a 34% satisfactory rating and 9% unsatisfactory. More details about various aspects of the receptions can be seen at the survey result site, www.hssonline.org/Meeting/surveyresults.html.

The Saturday night HSS-PSA dinner was generally viewed positively by respondents. For quality of food, 31% were very satisfied and 32% were somewhat satisfied; 25% expressed some degree of dissatisfaction. Similar percentages were recorded for variety of food options and quality of beverages. The venue was not as pleasing to respondents, with 35% expressing satisfaction, but 48% dissatisfied. Although there was not a specific question about the ticketing for the dinner, it was clear both at the event, and from the comments on the survey, that the procedure needs improvement. As the “doorman” for the event, I can assure you that we are all interested in making sure the ticket procedure is more clear, and that there are no unpleasant surprises at the event.

The book exhibit, from our perspective, seemed to get a lot of traffic and ran smoothly. The survey results support our initial opinion, with 78% reporting some degree of satisfaction with the book exhibit. 4% were dissatisfied in some way with the book exhibit.

The survey included several questions intended to provide us with additional information to help us plan for future meetings. Respondents were generally cool on the idea of sightseeing tours offered during the meeting, with only 36% indicating they would like such an option. 16% of respondents anticipated needing a childcare provider at future meetings. Although this may not seem like a large percentage, it represents a significant number of meeting attendees. There was a planned childcare cooperative for the meeting in Montréal, although, to my knowledge, it was deemed unnecessary. It is clear, however, that we will need to keep in mind the needs of members with small children.

When asked about the most important factor in choosing whether to attend a conference, the program was identified the most often, with 48% of the responses. The host city was next, cited 22% of the time. Cost of attendance was selected by 14%
of the respondents; the proximity of dining and entertainment and affiliated/co-located meetings only received a combined 3% of the responses. 13% indicated “other” as the most important factor in deciding whether to attend a conference; many of these responses indicated a balance among factors like cost, host city, and participation.

Meeting costs was cited most by respondents as an obstacle to attendance in Montreal, with obtaining funding, covering classes, excessive travel time, and family care issues representing the rest of the top five obstacles.

One of the difficulties inherent in selecting sites for future meetings is balancing the desire for interesting and exciting locales with the concern over high costs. Cost was cited as the biggest obstacle in attending the 2010 meeting, and survey respondents are generally hesitant to pay $200 or more per night for a hotel room. Of course, meeting registration costs will also tend to be higher in more expensive cities, as the direct meeting costs are higher. When presented with various cities as potential future meeting sites, respondents selected Chicago the most often, with San Francisco and Toronto close behind. Louisville, Detroit, and Indianapolis were selected least often. In the comments, some respondents advocated meeting again in Canada, or elsewhere outside of North America, while others expressed concern that some regions of the U.S. have not hosted a meeting in a long time. It should not be too surprising that the most selected cities are among the most expensive. Striking a balance between cost and excitement is one of many factors considered in selecting a site, and the survey helps illustrate the challenge that can present.

Experience can be a tough teacher, and I’ve tried to learn as many lessons from Montréal as possible. I do appreciate those who made suggestions, both through the survey and in-person at the meeting. Making the meeting satisfactory for everybody is still an important goal for the HSS office, and those comments will help us move towards that goal. Once again, thank you to those of you who attended the meeting, and to those who took the time to participate in the meeting survey and to leave feedback. We were pleased with the meeting overall, and while we are gratified that many attendees had a good experience, we want to make sure that your experience is as positive as we can make it. If you would like to see more details on the survey results, please go to www.hssonline.org/Meeting/surveyresults.html.

Buckminster Fuller’s Geodesic Dome was designed for Canada’s Expo 67 in Montréal. Despite a fire in the 70s, the shape is perfectly preserved and still stands as a landmark for the city. Photo by caribb (Doug), Flickr.
My PhD is from a leading department of history of science; I am appointed in a department that has history of science at its core, and I introduce myself as a historian of science. But the meeting that I attend far more frequently than the History of Science Society conferences is the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Why? And why do I think more historians of science should make this a meeting they attend, as well?

I’m a historian of science because I care deeply about the relationship of science and society. I study the history of public understanding of science because I’m fascinated by the complexity of how science operates in a world in which it depends on public … support. I hesitate to use the word “support,” because it so often refers just to financial support from government; I also mean intellectual and cultural support for science as a key component of modern society. My French colleagues refer to “culture scientifique,” a phrase that has no direct English translation. It captures the idea of a world in which science is part of the everyday fabric of life, in practice, in ideology, in ideas.

Not only do I want to know more about how culture scientifique develops, but I also want to contribute to it myself. My own research and that of many historians whom I respect has demonstrated the complexity of how scientific knowledge is produced, including the ways in which social forces constrain and sometimes blind us to the limitations of particular understandings of the world. More importantly, that scholarship shows why modern science offers us reliable knowledge about the natural world. I deeply believe the world would be a better place if more people had access to that reliable knowledge (including understanding better both its strengths and its weaknesses).

For that goal, AAAS is an ideal setting. AAAS describes itself as “an international non-profit organization dedicated to advancing science around the world by serving as an educator, leader, spokesperson and professional association.… AAAS is open to all and fulfills its mission to ‘advance science and serve society’ through initiatives in science policy; international programs; science education; and more.” Founded in 1848, AAAS has more than 260 affiliated societies, including the History of Science Society. It publishes the journal Science, which has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world, with an estimated total readership of one million.

All of that is good, and I have been involved in many AAAS activities (including co-authoring a 1998 history of AAAS with former HSS president Sally Gregory Kohlstedt and former HSS executive director Michael Sokal). But the most important function for me is the annual meeting. There, I attend sessions addressing both the history of science and its contemporary activities. I meet with colleagues engaged in public understanding of science, public finance of science, government policy about science, science education, history of science. And in science itself: AAAS is one of the ways I keep up with what the latest excitement is in science, which is after all part of why I became a historian of science in the first place—I like science. At AAAS, I’m fully engaged with other people who are fascinated both by the latest findings of science and by the interaction of those findings with the rest of modern society.

AAAS meets each year in mid-February. At the 2010 meeting in San Diego, I highlighted in the program sessions on:

- Civic scientific literacy in developed and developing countries
- The brain on trial: Neuroscience evidence in the courtroom
- Plato’s progeny: Academies of science [as tools for] bridging science and society
- Oceans apart? Transatlantic perspectives on public research and business innovation
- False discoveries and statistics: Implications for health and the environment
• Physics and art: A gateway to the sciences
• Can geoengineering save us from global warming?
• Ethical and societal dimensions of biosecurity and dual-use research

And that doesn’t even count the sessions that were more historically oriented:
• 50 years of exobiology and astrobiology
• SETI turns 50
• Past, present, and future of forensic science in the United States
• Celebrating the birth of the laser: A look back after 50 years

In addition I attended the annual Sarton Memorial Lecture, held at AAAS each year but selected by the HSS—last year, it was Caltech’s Jed Buchwald on “Knowledge in the Early Modern Era: The Origins of Experimental Error.” I attended the business meeting of the AAAS section on History & Philosophy of Science & Technology (“section L” of AAAS), where in past years I have served on the nominating committee. I also attended the business meeting of the section on Societal Implications of Science and Engineering (“section X”), where for about a decade I was HSS’s formal representative to the section. Although Section L is my primary affiliation within AAAS, I apparently became so well-known at Section X meetings that they considered me one of their own—I’m now serving as chairman of that section.

For the February 2011 meeting in Washington, DC, I have already noted that Larry Principe of Johns Hopkins will give the Sarton lecture, “Revealing the secrets of Alchemy”—and Larry’s lectures are consistently fascinating. Other major lectures will come from President Obama’s science advisor and a former director of the NSF.

Browsing the program, I see a session celebrating the 100th anniversary of Marie Curie’s Nobel Prize in Chemistry, featuring several well-known historians of science. Naomi Oreskes will continue drawing on her recent extremely-well-reviewed Merchants of Doubt while speaking to a session on climate change denialists, and there’s a paper on the history of Islamic creationism in Turkey.

All of this is in addition to meeting my colleagues—often historians of science and technology—in the hallways, connecting with leading scientists, talking with collaborators at museums and outreach programs, meeting with publishers across a wide range of fields, and all the other ancillary activities of a good meeting. For me, AAAS has the diversity and stimulation that addresses the full range of my interests in science. It exemplifies culture scientifique.

Yes, I’m a historian of science. But I’m also a science fan, maybe even a science groupie, and for that AAAS is superb. I thoroughly enjoyed the HSS meeting in Montréal last November, but I can’t wait to get to AAAS in February.

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Bruce Lewenstein (PhD, University of Pennsylvania, History & Sociology of Science) worked for Isis as a graduate student, was managing editor for an issue of Osiris, and served as HSS’s public information officer and representative to AAAS Section X for many years. Today he is professor of science communication at Cornell, jointly appointed in Communication and in Science & Technology Studies.

[Editorial Note: The HSS is working to offer discounted meeting registration to AAAS for HSS members. Please contact Jay at jay@hssonline.org for more information.]
Integrated History and Philosophy of Science “&HPS3”

Indiana University Bloomington, September 2010.

In 2010, the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (HPSC) at Bloomington celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. To mark this occasion, the department hosted two events: The third international conference in the series “Integrated History and Philosophy of Science” (“&HPS3”) and, immediately preceding the conference, a panel discussion on interdisciplinary graduate education in history and philosophy of science.

Six graduates of the department reflected on his or her experience as an HPS graduate and the way in which their graduate work has shaped their professional trajectory—and shared fond memories with the panel chair, Professor emeritus Fred Churchill, as well as with several alumni and emeriti in the audience, among them Professor emeritus Ed Grant, one of the founding members of the department.

The Roundtable was followed by the three-day conference “Integrated History and Philosophy of Science.” As in previous years, the contributions covered a broad range of topics, ranging from Newton’s conception of space (Mary Domski, Andrew Janiak) and Leibniz’s anti-vitalism (Justin Smith) to Hilbert’s Method of Analogy (Lydia Patton) and Developmental Evolution as a Mechanistic Science (Manfred Laubichler). &HPS3 showcased and explored the many dimensions of “integrated HPS,” such as the fruitful merging of history of science and history of philosophy, the placing of philosophical positions in their historical contexts, and the study of the trajectories of epistemological and methodological concepts. A highlight of the conference was the plenary lecture by Michael Friedman, “A Post-Kuhnian Approach to the History and Philosophy of Science.”

The Fourth Conference on Integrated History and Philosophy of Science (&HPS4) will be held in Athens, Greece, in 2011. The Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Athens will be the host.

Newton in Three Dimensions

By Katie Turnbull/Menagerie Theatre Company

Craig Baxter’s new play, Let Newton Be!, premiered in late October at Newton’s old college, Trinity. One of these early performances was introduced by the just-retired Lucasian professor of mathematics, theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, and by Denis Alexander, director of the Faraday Institute for Religion and Science, which had sponsored the production as part of the celebration of Cambridge University’s 800th anniversary and the International Year of Astronomy.

Baxter, whose play Re: Design consists entirely of extracts from Charles Darwin’s correspondence, found few Newtonian letters with which to begin. But there were words, millions of them, from notebooks and personal accounts. The incomparable Newton Project, which has over the past ten years put four million of Newton’s words online (making them widely accessible for the first time), has revolutionized the ways in which we can understand Newton. Baxter has quarried these millions of words on theology, alchemy, mathematics, and physics to produce a Newton whom brilliantly he chose to split.

Baxter gives us a trinity of Newtons: the child Isack (played by Caroline Rippin), who runs and jumps and measures and records; the man Newton (played by Neil Jones), at war with himself, contemplative,
constantly list-writing, driven, on the brink of breakdown; and the mature Sir Isaac (played by Paul McCleary), self-possessed master of the mint. It would have been easy to present Newton’s life chronologically, one Newton after another. But Baxter has all three on stage all the time, challenging and questioning one another. That produces a multidimensional Newton—one who is indeed torn among selves, split, divided, energetic, and spilling over, but whom we see as a complete being. The result is a play that barely contains its own subject. This is Newton fully in three dimensions.

The International Year of Crystallography — 2013

The birth of modern crystallography took place almost 100 years ago when Max von Laue directed the experiment that showed that crystals diffract X-rays and the Braggs (father and son) shortly afterward showed that the diffraction of X-rays can be used to determine accurately the positions of atoms within a crystal. The significance of these experimental results was realized immediately, and Max von Laue received the Nobel Prize in 1914 and the Braggs the year after.

The International Union of Crystallography wishes to mark the centennials of these results by making 2013 the International Year of Crystallography (IYCr). The crystallographic scientific community has welcomed the idea of having 2013 as an International Year of Crystallography with great enthusiasm and several National Organizations have already started their preparations in eager anticipation of the IYCr. Since its birth, modern crystallography has developed in close collaboration with other scientific disciplines. Since crystals also diffract neutrons and electrons the scientific focus of the International Union of Crystallography has enlarged, so that crystallography now covers all aspects of structural science involving X-rays, neutrons and electrons.

The IUCr envisions the IYCr 2013 as a unique opportunity to promote scientific cross-fertilization between crystallography and its related disciplines. Indeed, crystallography permeates all structural science at the molecular level, including physics, biology, chemistry, mineralogy and the geosciences. The International Union of Crystallography is therefore seeking your support to make 2013 a unique year for all crystallographers worldwide, stimulating interactions between crystallography and its closely related research areas.

For further information: http://www.iucr.org/

Lise Meitner Returns to Berlin

Lise Meitner has returned to Berlin. That is, as a theatrical character on stage, when Robert Marc Friedman’s award-winning play Remembering Miss Meitner was performed at Maxim Gorki Theatre, Oct 9–10, 2010.

Lise Meitner (1878–1968) devoted herself to physics. After receiving a doctorate in Vienna, she moved to Berlin in 1907 and quietly broke barriers against women in science. By the 1920s she headed her own department of physics at the Kaiser Wilhelm Society and emerged as Germany’s leading nuclear physicist. That is, until 1938 when Nazi persecution forced her to flee. Meitner lost virtually everything. But it was as a refugee in Sweden that insult and intrigue compounded injury and eroded her self-confidence and reputation.

Having been the initiator and scientific leader of the team investigating uranium that included her earlier long-time collaborator, chemist Otto Hahn, and even secretly remaining in contact with Hahn after fleeing Berlin, she was at the time denied credit for her role in the discovery of nuclear fission.

In Stockholm, Meitner received a cool welcome. Manne Siegbahn, Sweden’s most powerful physicist, gave her a room in his laboratory but little more. Moreover, the Nobel committees for both physics and chemistry ignored or downplayed Meitner’s contributions. Hahn received a Nobel Prize alone. Meitner remained silent. History now suggests how and why these events happened.

The one-act play, Remembering Miss Meitner, is set in the theatrical present. Recent historical research
draws the scientists Lise Meitner, Otto Hahn, and Manne Siegbahn onto the stage of collective memory. Having always shunned publicity and conflict, Meitner must now confront the new revelations of how she was betrayed by her closest colleague and by the prestigious Nobel institution. Hahn and Siegbahn, both Nobel laureates, refuse to perform in a play that questions their own reputations. Something far more important than the Prize itself is at stake.

In conjunction with the performances in Berlin a symposium took place on October 8th at Humboldt University (Institute for North European Studies) on Scandinavia as a refuge for Jewish academics during the Nazi-era.

For further information on the symposium: http://www.ni.hu-berlin.de/termine/meitnersymposium/

**Internet Resource: Debating Glacial Theory, 1800–1870**

The debate over glacial theory was a major episode in the history of geology. Original sources and other resources for teaching about this episode (and for easy reference) will soon be available online, through a new website: http://www.glacialtheory.net

The site is the brainchild of Keith Montgomery, geology professor at the University of Wisconsin, Marathon County. His original goal was to convey to his students a sense of doing science, including fieldwork, scientific debate, and conceptual change. The strategy was to situate students in the 19th century by having them read the original papers and “visit” some of the major geological formations and phenomena (erratics) across Europe. Thanks to Google Books, all the original sources are now available online. However, access needed to be consolidated in one centralized location. Montgomery has organized the works into episodes (based on major sites), with a narrative introduction to each, plentiful original images—maps, cross-sections, sketches, portraits, caricatures, etc.—and some modern photos. To capture some of the experience of journeying across the continent, Montgomery assembled a “tour” using GoogleEarth, allowing students to zoom in to, say, Glen Roy. From this historical perspective, students are to make their own judgments about glacial theory in the early 1840s.

With further work by Douglas Allchin at the University of Minnesota, the debate also became a classroom simulation, set at the Geological Society of London in 1842. Students assumed the roles of one of 15 geologists who all wrote about glacial theory or interpreted the phenomena under debate. For each role there was guidance about what to read and the individual’s unique point of view. The activity further highlights the experience of active debate in historical perspective.

The website also functions as a convenient reference. All the primary, secondary and tertiary literature is in a bibliography, with links to online sources provided. The images throughout (although not yet fully indexed) may prove a valuable central resource for presentations.

This project is the first major product from a 2009 workshop where science teachers convened with historians, philosophers and sociologists to assemble problem-based historical case studies for teaching science and the nature of science. The workshop was funded in part by a grant from the HSS’s Joseph H. Hazen Education Fund. The new website is being hosted by the SHiPS Resource Center (http://ships.umn.edu), where other new case studies will be posted, joining a growing number of such cases for K–12 education.

**History of Science Society Executive Office and Notre Dame**

On December 6th, the Executive Office moved from its temporary space in the Hesburgh Library at Notre Dame to its permanent space in Geddes Hall, next door to the library. The Office is located adjacent to the offices of the Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values, and we look forward to collaborating with our new neighbors. The following press release was issued shortly after the Executive Office’s relocation to Notre Dame:
History of Science Society Comes to University of Notre Dame

The History of Science Society (HSS) has arrived at Notre Dame—a move that promises to benefit the society, the University’s History and Philosophy of Science (HPS) program and Notre Dame’s science programs by providing new opportunities for collaboration among society members, faculty, and students. HSS, which relocated from the University of Florida this fall, is the world’s largest society dedicated to understanding science, technology, medicine, and their interactions with society in historical context. The organization has more than 3,000 members. The society’s work “fits into Notre Dame’s mission to cultivate an appreciation of human achievement while underscoring a desire to better the human condition,” says Robert Jay Malone, HSS executive director. “This way of thinking also motivates scientists, and so creates a common goal between the humanities and the sciences.”

“By nurturing this shared objective, HSS and ND hope to create an atmosphere where science is seen as a personal endeavor and not an objective practice removed from context, devoid of emotion and biases,” he continues. “The history of science can serve as a kind of conscience for science, providing practitioners—as well as the public—with insights into how science operates and giving examples of where it has given comfort and where it has startled us into new ways of thinking.” Don Howard, professor of philosophy and director of the HPS graduate program at Notre Dame, says he looks forward to partnering with the society to bring new conferences to campus, to support future research, and to give students more opportunity to learn from working scholars. Because HSS also serves the Philosophy of Science Association, he says, HPS will now benefit from having “the two biggest professional associations in the two areas central to our graduate program be housed at Notre Dame.”

According to Malone, HSS organizes the world’s largest annual meeting devoted to the history of science, which will help make “international scholars aware of the importance that ND assigns to the history of science.” The society also plans to organize colloquia where graduate students can present their work and polish their deliveries for meetings and the job market. In addition, says Malone, HSS’ comprehensive repository will expose students to the latest trends in the field. “For example, we are encouraging more poster presentations—a staple at scientific meetings—at conferences,” he says, “and I am hopeful that we can work with students to raise the number of such presentations.” The society’s arrival “represents the real maturing and importance” of Notre Dame’s program, says Phillip Sloan, who is currently a member of the society’s Isis editorial board, a former elected council member of the HSS, newly emeritus member of the Notre Dame faculty for HPS and the Program of Liberal Studies, and a concurrent member of the University’s Department of History. “Our HPS program is unusual in the landscape,” he says. “By requiring coursework in the history and the philosophy of science, it encourages a closer collaboration within the discipline. That was a founding vision of the program.”

CALL FOR PAPERS: Midwest Junto for the History of Science

54th Annual Meeting
1-3 April 2011
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Midwest Junto for the History of Science and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) invite students, faculty, and independent scholars to participate in the 54th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Junto, to take place on the UNL campus in Lincoln, Nebraska, from Friday, 1 April to Sunday, 3 April 2011.

Short papers (about 15-20 minutes) on any topic in the history of science, technology, and medicine, or the philosophy of science and technology, are welcome. A brief abstract (one-page maximum) should be submitted no later than 22 February 2011 to the program organizer, David Cahan (see address below). Abstracts may be submitted electronically.
in an e-mail message or as an attachment, or in paper format. The Junto especially encourages graduate students to participate. Acceptance of paper notifications will follow around 1 March. Graduate students who present a paper may request a partial subsidy for lodging from the Midwest Junto.

A block of rooms for conference participants at the recently remodeled Holiday Inn Downtown has been reserved. Rooms have double or king-size beds, and sleep 1-4 person(s) per room, as desired. The (discounted) room price ($99/night) includes a hot, buffet-style breakfast and parking. To receive the discounted price, participants must reserve a room before 21 March 2011 under “Midwest Junto for the History of Science.” (Block code: MJH) Please call the Holiday Inn at 402-475-4011 or use its website (www.holiday-inn.com/lincolnne).

On Friday evening, 1 April, there will be a reception at the Holiday Inn for all registered participants. On Saturday, 2 April and on Sunday, 3 April (until noon), the conference proper will take place on the nearby UNL campus (in Architecture Hall 127), which is about a 5-minute walk from the Holiday Inn. Coffee and other refreshments will be served throughout the conference. The cost of registration, which includes the reception (hors d’oeuvre and cash bar) and the conference, is $40. On Saturday evening, there will be a banquet at Lazlo’s restaurant, also near the Holiday Inn and the UNL campus. This year’s after-dinner speaker (the Stuart Pierson Memorial Lecturer), will be Professor Robert Seidel of the University of Minnesota. The banquet (dinner and cash bar) costs $25.

This year’s Junto meeting is partially sponsored by the Department of History at UNL.

Please send abstract or registration form to:
David Cahan
Charles Bessey Professor of History
Department of History
610 Oldfather Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588-0327
e-mail: dcahan@unlnotes.unl.edu
Fax: 402-472-8839
Telephone: 402-472-3238

Registration form: http://www.history.iastate.edu/images/pdf_files/Registration.pdf

Go West! — Columbia History of Science Group

This year’s annual meeting of the Columbia History of Science Group will again be held at Friday Harbor Laboratories in the San Juan Islands of Washington. The CHSG is a regional science studies organization and offers a warm, collegial environment to present papers, meet other scholars, and enjoy the comforts and atmosphere of the University of Washington’s marine biological laboratories. The meeting will be held Friday, March 4 to Sunday, March 6. We are also happy to announce that this year’s keynote speaker will be Elizabeth Watkins from the Department of Philosophy at the University of California, San Francisco. The deadline for registration is February 1, 2011. www.columbiahistoryofsciencegroup.org

Paper Proposals are now being solicited on any science, technology or medicine-related topic for presentation at this year’s meeting. We are especially interested in proposals from junior scholars and graduate students. We also hope that senior scholars will use the conference as an opportunity to present preliminary research on new topics. As is the tradition at this meeting, talks are limited to 20 minutes and should not be read (further guidelines for presenting are on the website). Proposals, consisting of a 100-200 word description of the proposed talk and a formal title, must be received by January 20, 2011. Please email the proposal to gormley7@msu.edu.

SoHOST 2011

Auburn University proudly announces it will be hosting the fifth annual Southern regional conference for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine on April 12, 2011. In an attempt to combine the traditions of other regional conferences, such as the Midwest Junto and the Columbia History of Science Group at Friday Harbor, SoHoST provides a welcoming environment for graduate student presentations along with more established scholars, as well as a collegial venue to allow the growing community of scholars in the South to present new
material. Faculty and graduate students are invited to submit paper or session proposals addressing all themes, time periods, and geographical regions in the history of science, technology, and medicine. Paper and session submissions were due December 1, 2010. More detailed information about the conference including registration can be found at: http://media.cla.auburn.edu/historyconferences/index.htm

SAHMS Thirteenth Annual Meeting

The Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science (SAHMS) will hold its thirteenth annual meeting on March 4–5, 2011, at the famous Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, sponsored by the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Library. All participants are responsible for their own travel expenses and must pay registration costs in advance of the meeting. Student travel awards are available each year; for more information, contact SAHMS President Michael Flannery at flannery@uab.edu. The deadline for proposals was September 30, 2010.

Darwin in American Textual Studies

Organizers are seeking submissions for an interdisciplinary textual studies essay collection that explores Darwinism in the American scene. Essays will examine the ways in which Darwinian language and theories have made their way into American literary and cultural texts, initially providing writers with a new vocabulary to describe human affairs and interactions with other living organisms, and continuing to shape the discourse and debates of today. The collection will include articles addressing texts written from the publication of *On the Origin of Species* (1859) through the present day. Texts examined may include fiction, nonfiction, popular science, film, documentary/television series, visual art, performance art, personal correspondence, etc. Comparative studies treating texts by a single writer before, as well as after publication of *On the Origin*, are also welcome. Textual readings that engage with Darwin's works other than *On the Origin* and *Descent of Man*, such as *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and the Animals*, the barnacle and worm studies, and the plant researches are especially welcome. Essays examining the distinctive qualities of America’s textual engagement with Darwin are of particular interest.

Submissions should explore the diverse issues that arose as a result of Darwin's exploration into the mechanisms of evolution: How, for instance, did Darwin's vision of natural and/or sexual selection shape late-century cultural productions? What role did the Darwinian view of evolutionary kinship play in late-century benevolence literature? How did his work on animal behavior and communication in *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and the Animals* affect the representation of animal consciousness and animal rights?

The collection should be useful not only for scholars of American literature and culture, but also for advanced undergraduate science and history of science courses that might incorporate textual studies work.

Please send a 500-word abstract or completed essay or inquiry to both Tina Gianquitto (tinagian@mines.edu) and Lydia Fisher (lfisher@pugetsound.edu) by January 31, 2011. Submissions should contain the author's name and contact information (e-mail, postal address, phone, and fax numbers), and the working title of the proposed submission. Submitted manuscripts should be between 20–25 pages and formatted in MLA style.

Dingle Prize 2011

The British Society for the History of Science invites book nominations for the 2011 Dingle Prize. In keeping with the Society's concern to communicate history of science to broad audiences, the 2011 Dingle Prize will be offered for the best book in the history of science, technology, and medicine, first published in English in 2009 or 2010, which is accessible to a wide audience of non-specialists. The winning book should present some aspect of the field in an engaging and comprehensible manner and should also show proper regard for historical methods and the results of historical research: for example, it might re-examine a well-known historical incident or achievement, or bring new perspective to previously neglected figures or fields in the past.
The value of the Dingle Prize is £300. The winner may also have the opportunity to give a public lecture or presentation, sponsored by the BSHS, on the book’s subject. The Prize was established in 1997 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Society, and is named after the mathematician, astronomer and philosopher of science Herbert Dingle, a founder member of the BSHS. More information about the prize, including details of past winners, is available at http://www.bshs.org.uk/prizes/dingle-prize
Nominations for the Prize are invited from both individuals and publishers. Nominations should be sent to Jeff Hughes at jeff.hughes@manchester.ac.uk by 31 JANUARY 2011. Please include full publication details with nominations.
Publishers should send four copies of each of their nominated book(s) to:

BSHS Executive Secretary
3 Rectory Court
Elm Grove Lane,
Norwich, NR3 3LH, UK
to arrive by 14 FEBRUARY 2011.

Dissertations in the History of Science and Technology

The most recent doctoral dissertation abstracts pertaining to the history of science and technology—found in the November 2009 hard copies of Dissertation Abstracts—can be viewed at http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/guides/histmed/dissertations/
Our thanks to Jonathan Erlen at the University of Pittsburgh who compiles these lists.

IHPST Newsletter

For the latest issue of the International History, Philosophy and Science Teaching Group, go to http://ihpst.net/newsletters/

CFP: New Palgrave Series

Series Editors James Rodger Fleming, jfleming@colby.edu, and Roger D. Launius, launiusr@si.edu, invite proposals for a new series in the history of science and technology published by Palgrave Macmillan in New York. Designed to bridge the gap between traditionally divergent fields, “Palgrave Studies in the History of Science and Technology” aims to publish the best new work by scholars. The series accommodates a wide variety of titles, including but not limited to research monographs, synthetic studies, biographies, conference volumes, and single-authored works featuring ethical and public policy debates and issues in cultural context. Their dominant disciplinary approach is historical, but they may also incorporate economic, social, cultural, anthropological, and political perspectives.

Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF), an independent research center and library in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, would like to encourage applications for long-term and short-term predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships at CHF for the academic year 2011–12. These fellowships are for scholars working in any area of the history or social studies of science, technology, medicine, or industry in all periods and geographical areas. To get a better sense of the kinds of research we support as well as the kinds of benefits our fellowships offer, please visit our website: http://www.chemheritage.org/research/fellowships-and-travel-grants/index.aspx
The deadline for applications, which are to be completed online, is February 15, 2011. A peer-review selection committee will select the Fellows.

ScienceOnline2011 Panel: Making the History of Science Work for You

At ScienceOnline2011, the fifth annual conference on Science and the Web (mid-January, Research Triangle area of North Carolina), there will be a session concerning the history of science, Making the history of science work for you. Most scientists know just enough history of science to share a story or two about the quirky characters and events that shaped their scientific field. However, history can do so much more for scientists to help them as bloggers, as researchers and even as citizens. This session will explore the ways in which using the history of science can help individuals connect to readers, combat misinformation (such as quote-mining) on the web,
and find common ground between the sciences and humanities. Discussion leaders are Michael D. Barton (HSS member), Eric Michael Johnson, Greg Gbur, Randi Hutter Epstein, and Holly Tucker.

For more information, go to: http://scio11.wikispaces.com/Program

Renewing the Heritage of Chemistry in the 21st Century: Conversations on the Preservation, Presentation and Utilization of Sources, Sites and Artefacts

A Symposium of the Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry (CHMC) in Conjunction with the IUPAC-UNESCO International Year of Chemistry, 2011

Paris, 21-24 June 2011

All those interested in the heritage of chemistry in the 20th and 21st centuries, including historians, chemists, archivists, museum curators, librarians, and industrial archaeologists, are invited to Paris on 21–24 June 2011 for a symposium involving conversations among experts from many different perspectives. The symposium will present not only the views of historians on how best to use the sources, sites and artifacts of chemistry in the contemporary era, but also the views of those concerned with the technical problems related to the preservation and presentation to historians and the general public of those sources, sites, and artifacts.

General questions to be discussed:

The goal of the proposed symposium, to be held in the centenary year of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry awarded to Marie Curie, is to bring together a wide range of experts to discuss the challenges associated with understanding, preserving, and presenting the heritage of chemistry in the 21st century. We have entered an era in which new scientific ideas and new technologies have changed not only the face of chemistry itself—which has become a highly diversified discipline and profession—but also the nature of the sources for its future history. Along with the paper documents, oral histories, instruments, and other artifacts that have previously embodied the heritage of chemistry we now need to include sources and artifacts that represent the chemistry of the present and future, including electronic documents, images, videos, databases, software, and the hardware needed to preserve and use these sources. How can we best apply the new technologies to preserve and enhance the use of older sources and artifacts as well as the new ones? How will historians need to adapt their methods of research to utilize these new technologies and sources, and how will the resulting changes affect the process of writing and publishing results, including electronic publications? How can archivists, librarians and museum curators best obtain, preserve, and ensure their future accessibility to interested specialists? Besides the preservation and use of these materials, historians must also be increasingly concerned with the preservation of key sites associated with the heritage of chemistry, including academic and industrial research laboratories as well as centers of technological innovation, because the historical development of scientific and technological innovations may often be most clearly understood by seeing the original apparatus and equipment in their original settings. This raises the further question: how can the specialists and institutions concerned with the heritage of modern chemistry, including industrial archaeologists, best present critical sources, sites and artifacts to the general public, in ways that will highlight key developments and avoid misconceptions? In view of the rapid development of current technologies and the many challenges that they present, the organizers wish to engage specialists from different national, professional and institutional backgrounds in conversations that may help to produce constructive and ongoing interactions among all concerned. We will therefore welcome the participation of a broad range of experts concerned with the heritage of chemistry. These should include historians of science and technology; curators, industrial archaeologists, and directors of public and private museums and cultural sites as well as directors and staff of libraries and archives of all kinds, including those in industrial settings; experts in electronic media concerned with the heritage of chemistry; and of course chemists in all types of institutions. Ultimately we hope to promote a better understanding of how best to deal with the current
46th Annual Joint Atlantic Seminar for History of Biology

The 46th Annual Joint Atlantic Seminar for History of Biology will take place Saturday, 9 April 2011 at Yale University in New Haven, CT. Graduate students and younger scholars are encouraged to submit work for presentation. Abstracts (200 words) should be sent to JtASHB@gmail.com by Friday, 25 February 2011. The schedule of accepted presentations will be available by Friday, 4 March 2011. Additional information can be obtained from william.summers@yale.edu or bruno.strasser@yale.edu.

American Association for the History of Nursing Presents Research and Writing Awards

At its 27th annual conference, held jointly with the European Nursing History Group in London, the American Association for the History of Nursing awarded its distinguished Lavinia L. Dock Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing to Dr. Kara Dixon Vuic (Bridgewater College) for her book, Officer, nurse, woman: The Army Nurse Corp in the Vietnam War (Johns Hopkins Press, 2010).

The Mary Adelaide Nutting Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing went to Dr. Julie Fairman and Dr. Patricia D’Antonio for their article “Reimagining nursing’s place in the history of clinical practice,” published in the Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences. Dr. Fairman and Dr. D’Antonio are on the faculty of the School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania.

The AAHN’s Teresa E. Christy Award recognizes excellence in historical research and writing done while the researcher was a doctoral student. This year Dr. Winnifred Connerton won the award for her dissertation, “Have cap, will travel: U.S. nurses abroad, 1898—1917.” Dr. Connerton is a nurse and nurse-midwife who currently holds a joint post-doctoral fellowship with the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research and the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Detailed information regarding all AAHN Awards can be obtained from the website, www.aahn.org.

Arizona State University and the 24th History of Biology Seminar at the Marine Biological Laboratory

Announcing the 24th History of Biology Seminar at the Marine Biological Laboratory, which is part of the new Arizona State University-MBL HPS Program. This year’s topic is Cell Biology and the seminar will take place May 15—21. After the seminar a new HPS Informatics Workshop will take place on May 23–26. We shall give some preference to those who attend both, although we shall accept applications for either (application due date is January 31, 2011). For applications or more information, please see: http://cbs.asu.edu/mbl_seminar/seminars/2011.php

New History of Medicine Resource

History of Vaccines (http://www.historyofvaccines.org) is a website devoted to exploring the history of immunization and its continuing contributions to human health. The site originates from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

PACHS Newsletter

HSS members may be interested in the Fall 2010 newsletter of the Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science (PACHS). This newsletter summarizes the Center’s activities in its first few years. Future newsletters will be published about every six months. The newsletter is posted at http://www.pachs.net/notes/news2010.html
History of Science Society Newsletter

75th Anniversary of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

On 19th November 2010, the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry celebrated its 75th anniversary with a meeting at the Royal Institution in London. The Society, which publishes the journal *Ambix*, was founded in 1935 and its earliest Council members included historians J. R. Partington, Frank Sherwood Taylor and E. J. Holmyard, whom many remember as authors of school textbooks. The meeting’s theme was the History of the History of Chemistry, the day’s proceedings ending with an entertaining lecture by Simon Schaffer. It may be useful to know that the archive of SHAC has been deposited in the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford.

Dibner Award for Excellence in Museum Exhibits

The exhibition *Split + Splice: Fragments from the Age of Biomedicine* has received the prestigious Dibner Award for Excellence in Museum Exhibits of the Society for the History of Technology. This international award is given to exhibitions interpreting the history of technology, industry, and engineering for the general public—one of the rare awards for this important field of museum practice. Over the years since its establishment in 1985, many of the world’s great museums, including the Science Museum (London), the National Museum of American History (Smithsonian Institution, Washington), and the Powerhouse Museum (Sydney, Australia), have won this award. *Split + Splice: Fragments from the Age of Biomedicine* opened on 4 June 2009 at the Medical Museion of the University of Copenhagen. Martha Fleming co-curated the exhibit with a team of post-doctoral researchers in the humanities disciplines of history and philosophy of contemporary biology and medicine.

NAS Announces Exhibition of Permanent Collection Highlights

“Art & Science: Highlights from the Collection of the National Academy of Sciences,” an exhibition of more than 40 works of art, is on display through April 2, 2012, at the National Academies’ Keck Center, 500 Fifth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. The exhibit is viewable by appointment by calling 202-334-2415 or e-mailing cpnas@nas.edu; a photo ID is required for admittance.

For more than 30 years, the Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences has exhibited and collected artwork that explores relationships among the arts and sciences. The collection’s highlights include sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, and paintings, and feature notable artists such as Alfredo Arreguin, Robert Berks, Harry Bertoia, Justine Cooper, Jill Greenberg, Susan Middleton and David Liitschwager, Vik Muniz, Tim Rollins, Jim Sanborn, and Mike and Doug Starn. Traditionally displayed throughout the NAS headquarters on Constitution Avenue, which is currently under restoration, these objects provide a sampling of the range of styles and approaches that artists take in preserving the ideas of science today.

There are many connections between the fields of art and science. Both seek to explain the world around us, but they do so from distinctly different perspectives. Artists have always worked not only with the material and technology of their time but also in terms of the prevailing thoughts of society. Contemporary artists, such as those represented in this exhibition, are no exception. In the constellation of disciplines that shape culture today, few have had more impact than science and technology. It is no surprise that many artists gravitate toward the tools and themes these fields have generated. The Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences sponsors exhibitions, concerts, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences.

Further Information:
http://www.nasonline.org/site/PageServer?page
name=View_Future_Exhibitions_Artandscience

2000–year-old Roman Pills Reveal Their Secret and Open a New Path for innovative Drug Research

A cross-disciplinary team of the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions and
the Smithsonian Institution has succeeded in identifying the components of pills more than 2000 years old. Around 140–120 B.C. a ship sailing from the eastern Mediterranean to Etruria sank just off the coast of Tuscany. In its hold was a chest containing medicines and 136 vials full of natural substances used for therapeutic purposes. An agreement was signed with the museum where the pills were preserved and two fragments of these pills were brought to the United States. This was the start of a new research project aimed at unlocking the mysteries of these pills and identifying their contents. Years of attempts have been successful: next-generation DNA sequencing has enabled Rob Fleischer, Head of the Center for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics of the Smithsonian Institution, to identify the plants mixed together to compound these pills.

“This is a truly unique discovery,” declared Dr. Alain Touwaide, Scientific Director of the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions. “These pills are the only ancient medicine recovered from archaeological excavations so far. Their analysis is an absolute premiere, something never attempted so far, and opens a new field of scientific investigation whose importance should not be underestimated.” The analysis of the Roman pills tells us much more, however, than just from which plants apothecaries compounded the pills. The composition can be found in the writings of ancient Greek and Roman physicians dating back into antiquity and transmitted without interruption to the modern day. The successful analysis of the Roman pills shows for the first time that these writings recorded the actual practice of physicians. Ancient medical works were not encyclopedic compilations with no contact with reality. “Until recently we did not know if ancient pharmacological treatises could be trusted,” comments Alain Touwaide. “With the analysis of these pills, we know that they are reliable. This discovery here is a huge step forward in research. The whole body of pharmacological literature inherited from the ancient world can now be considered as a first-hand witness to the personal practice of medicine by ancient physicians.”

The Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions is devoted to recovering ancient healing arts and to repurposing them for new scientific investigations, a mission best summarized by its emblematic phrase: Inspiring Innovation from Tradition. The scholars of the Institute have uncovered hundreds of ancient pharmacological books worldwide, directly examined them, and deciphered and digitized their contents. They have extracted and have put into databases these books’ vital information, which can now be retrieved either by therapeutic substance (with all their applications) or by medical condition (with all the therapeutic agents). “The information generated in the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions on the basis of ancient texts is a unique reservoir of knowledge,” says Touwaide. “The Institute’s databases record the results of the experience of ancient therapists, which was created by trial and error over the millennia. By bringing together archaeological evidence, written record, and laboratory analysis in a cross-disciplinary way without equivalent so far, the Institute develops a research strategy of a new type that opens new horizons for pharmacological research. We go further, however, since we make possible an innovative approach to drug discovery that capitalizes on the experience of the past. This is a very promising avenue that we’ll continue to explore.”

Contact: Emanuela Appetiti  CEO, Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions

Further Information: http://medicaltraditions.org/institute

Animal Studies Bibliography

The Animal Studies Bibliography has been revised, expanded and updated: http://ecoculturalgroup.msu.edu/bibliography.htm This is an ongoing project of the Animal Studies Graduate Program at Michigan State University. Please send additions and corrections to LKalof@msu.edu.

Further Information: http://ecoculturalgroup.msu.edu/bibliography.htm
The Foreign Laboratory Visits of Francis Gano Benedict and the Virtual Laboratory Project

Between 1907 and 1933 the American metabolism researcher Francis Gano Benedict toured Europe seven times in his capacity as director of the Carnegie Nutrition Laboratory. On these tours, Benedict visited dozens of physiology laboratories at universities, medical clinics, agricultural experiment stations and vocational schools throughout Continental and Eastern Europe, the UK and Scandinavia, venturing as far as St. Petersburg and Moscow in his search for the latest and most promising apparatus and techniques for studying bio-calorimetry and respiratory exchange, the basis for energetic metabolism studies. He recorded these visits in a series of extended reports, in which he describes in detail the laboratories he visited; the apparatus and instruments he saw, tested and purchased; the physiologists he met and what he thought of them; and, revealingly, what they thought of one another. The reports constitute a unique synchronic and diachronic history of European metabolism laboratories and research, containing, in addition to the written descriptions, hundreds of photographs of laboratories, apparatus, and physiologists at work and at leisure. They have now been digitized by the Virtual Laboratory Project, co-directed by Dr. Henning Schmidgen, with the permission of Benedict’s grandson, Dr. Cecil E. Leith and in cooperation with the Centre for the History of Medicine of the Countway Library of Medicine and the library of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. An introductory essay to the volumes has been prepared by Dr. Elizabeth Neswald, Brock University, Ontario and can be viewed at http://vlp.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/essays/index.html

Other resources:
- Virtual Laboratory Project: http://vlp.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/index.html
- Reports of Foreign Laboratory Visits: http://vlp.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/library/data/lit39744

For further information:
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Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario
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Henning Schmidgen
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
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schmidg@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Urban Studies and Urban Culture Network

The German Studies Association (GSA) is seeking to create network databases of multi- and interdisciplinary scholarship designed to bring together scholars from different disciplines around common themes and shared problems. The purpose of such networks is to encourage innovative discussions and to create continuity from meeting to meeting around the kinds of issues that are best dealt with by bringing the scholarship of different disciplines into contact—or indeed confrontation— with each other and by breaking with traditional periodization schemas. Over time, these might encourage workshops and conferences as well as discussions on Facebook and other media beyond the GSA annual meeting. As of now the Germans Studies Association is a free-floating, unconstrained Network, meaning that all time periods are open and all fields as well as subgenres. We are interested in anyone working on Urban Studies and Urban Cultures.

Further Information:
http://www.thegsa.org/index.asp

Announcement and Call for Submissions: Metatheoria. Journal of Philosophy and History of Science

Metatheoria is an academic, print and online peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles, discussions, and reviews in the field of philosophy of science—including not only systematic, synchronic, and formal philosophy of science, but also historical, diachronic approaches to the field as well as historical epistemology, and history of science from a philosophical point of view. Email: redaccion@metatheoria.com.ar.
Metatheoria, which is published twice a year (April and October), is available free of charge as an Open Access journal on the Internet. Abstracts are available online in Spanish or Portuguese, and English. Articles are available in PDF format in Spanish, Portuguese or English. Current Issue: Volume 1 Number 1 (October 2010): http://metatheoria.com.ar/Index.php/m/issue/current/showToc The journal welcomes submissions via the online portal (http://metatheoria.com.ar/Index.php/m/information/authors) or by e-mail to the Editorial Secretariat (redaccion@metatheoria.com.ar).

Further Information: http://metatheoria.com.ar/Index.php/m/index

ACLS Humanities E-Book to add almost 550 titles to the collection in January 2011

Information on these titles is available at: http://humanities-ebook.blogspot.com/2010/10/new-titles-forthcoming-january-2011_27.html

CFP: Spontaneous Generations: A Journal for the History and Philosophy of Science

Spontaneous Generations is an open, online, peer-reviewed academic journal published by graduate students at the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto. Spontaneous Generations publishes high quality, peer-reviewed articles on any topic in the history and philosophy of science. For our general peer-reviewed section, we welcome submissions of full-length research papers on all HPS-related subjects. Scholars in all disciplines, including but not limited to HPS, STS, History, Philosophy, Women’s Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, and Religious Studies are welcome to submit to our fifth (2011) issue. Papers from all historical periods are welcome. In addition to full-length peer-reviewed research papers, Spontaneous Generations publishes opinion essays, book reviews, and a focused discussion section consisting of short peer-reviewed and invited articles devoted to a particular theme. This year’s focus is “Science and Public Controversy.” Submission Guidelines: the journal consists of four sections: the focused discussion section, this year devoted to “Science and Public Controversy” (see below; 1000-3000 words recommended), peer-reviewed section of research papers on any topics in the fields of HPS and STS (5000-8000 words recommended), a book review section for books published in the last 5 years. (Up to 1000 words), and an opinions section that may include a commentary or a response to current concerns, trends, and issues in HPS (Up to 500 words).

Submissions should be sent no later than 25 February 2011 in order to be considered for the 2011 issue. For more details, please visit the journal homepage at: http://spontaneousgenerations.library.utoronto.ca/ Further Information: http://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php//spontaneousgenerations

Picturing Science Exhibition

4 December 2010–26 February 2011

Disease, dissection, and Darwin are the subjects for artists displaying at the Riverside Gallery, Richmond. (The gallery is located in the London borough of Richmond Upon Thames). The Gallery presents Picturing Science, an open exhibition that examines the collision between two harmonious and contrasting fields of symbolic representation, Art and Science. Picturing Science continues the successful program of open exhibitions from Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham. After receiving 650 works from over 130 artists and an intense selection process, the judging panel whittled the submissions down to just 26 works in various media. The criteria included a direct yet imaginative concept and technical virtuosity. The exhibition features experiments with ink, mold growth and microscopes that have produced visually stunning images.

Julia Hembrow’s Temporal Flow 3, could be interpreted as a landscape or figurative work yet is in fact a representation of the effect of early morning drizzle which fluctuates between scientific observation and visual art. Detailed anatomical and botanical drawings and three dimensional works such as Susan Harrison’s ecorché inspired sculpture are also highlights. Other exhibiting artists, both local and international include Anais Tondeur,
History of Science Society Newsletter

Chris Boland, Nicola Simpson, Johanna Davidson, Amon Alt-Jafarba, Jonathan Wright, Pery Burge, James Collett, Tracey Holland, Pauline Pratt, Annie Ridd, Izzy Wingham, Frédérique Swist, Stan A. Lenartowicz, Sally Hewett, Pascale Pollier, Hilary Arnold-Baker, Amy Louise Nettleton, Charlotte E. Padgham, Julie Light, Heather Jukes, Margaret R. Marks, Nick Pollen and Andy Dunn. In addition, Artist-in-Residence Alex Baker will be producing a series of new drawings made using sound and ink. He will also be working with the local community on a workshop exploring the effects of sound vibrations using his technique of drawing as a starting point.

Curator Mark De Novellis stated: “Although science is seemingly the logical, rational, ordered antithesis of artistic creativity, artists and scientists still share a common drive to innovate, explore, dissect and reveal. They have a unified love and awe for the world around and within them. Exhibiting artists draw from a wide variety of scientific disciplines from botany, astronomy to astrophysics to create an accessible, compelling and thought-provoking show that is not to be missed!” The exhibition runs until 26 February 2011 and admission to the Riverside Gallery is free. For further information: http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/leisure_and_culture/arts/riverside_gallery/riverside_gallery_exhibitions/picturing_science.htm

Riverside Gallery Old Town Hall Whittaker Avenue, Richmond TW9 1JP

Gallery open: Monday and Wednesday: 10:00–6:00 pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 10:00 -5:00 pm, Saturday: 10:00–1:30 pm, Sunday: Closed

Tel: 020 8831 6000
Email: artsinfo@richmond.gov.uk
Website: www.richmond.gov.uk/arts/

For further information or images, call Mark De Novellis on 020 8831 6490.

New NLM Traveling Exhibit:

Many have written histories about medical care during the American Civil War, but the participation and contributions of African Americans as nurses, surgeons, and hospital workers have often been overlooked. “Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries” looks at the men and women who served as surgeons and nurses and explores how their service as medical providers challenged the prescribed notions of race and gender, pushing the boundaries of the role of African Americans in society. Through historical images and Civil War-era documents the exhibit explores the life and experiences of surgeons Alexander T. Augusta and Anderson R. Abbott, and nurses Susie King Taylor and Ann Stokes as they provided medical care to soldiers and civilians. The exhibition is currently on display at the National Library of Medicine through February 28, 2011 and is touring around the country. For more information, please contact Erika Mills at millser@mail.nih.gov, or visit the exhibition website at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/bindingwounds/index.html

Medical Heritage Library Digitization Survey

Several large history of medicine libraries in the U.S. have recently begun a collaborative digital project called The Medical Heritage Library (see: http://www.medicalheritage.org). The Medical Heritage Library promotes free and open access to quality historical resources in medicine. Our goal is to provide the means by which readers and scholars across a multitude of disciplines can examine the interrelated natures of medicine and society, both to inform contemporary medicine and to strengthen understanding of the world in which we live. Several Medical Heritage Library partners are currently scanning history of medicine printed materials using a grant from the Sloan Foundation and Open Knowledge Commons, and the entire group is investigating innovative ways to give scholars access to the materials. Scanning partners are contributing their files to a single repository, currently in Internet Archive (see: http://www.archive.org/details/medicalheritagelibrary). The group hopes that others who are scanning history of medicine materials will consider contributing their files here, as well, so that those looking for online history of medicine materials will have to search in fewer repositories. The Medical Heritage Library partners are seeking
input from other history of medicine collections. If your library has already digitized history of medicine related materials or is considering it, we would be interested in hearing about your projects.

For more information about the Medical Heritage Library, please contact medicalheritage@gmail.com or visit http://www.medicalheritage.org

**Notre Dame’s Unique Interdepartmental Doctoral Program**

The doctoral program in History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Notre Dame offers graduate-level instruction that prepares students for positions in both history and philosophy departments and in specialized programs in the history and philosophy of science. Faculty members are drawn from the Departments of English, History, Philosophy, and Theology, and from the Program of Liberal Studies. Alumni and alumnae of the program currently hold positions at Boston College, Boston University, DePauw University, Georgia Tech, Haverford College, the University of Georgia, the University of Manchester, and the University of South Carolina, among others.

Further information: [http://reillyreports.nd.edu/hps/](http://reillyreports.nd.edu/hps/)

**American Studies Association Interest Group**

Anyone who is interested in joining the ASA’s Science and Technology Caucus, or who would just like to hear about news of the group, should contact Christina Cogdell, Caucus Coordinator (UC Davis) christina.cogdell@gmail.com or Monique Laney, Caucus Web Coordinator laney.monique@gmail.com.

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**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PROGRAM IN HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Temporary, One-Semester Position Available in History of Science in the Early Modern Period, 1450-1750**

**Beginning January 2012**

The University of Minnesota Program in History of Science and Technology, Twin Cities campus, invites applications for a one-semester visiting professorial (assistant to full, depending on qualifications) position beginning January 2012. The duties include carrying out an active research program and teaching two courses, one a history of science survey course (ancient to early modern) and the other a graduate seminar on the history of early modern science; the candidate’s major research area should be the early modern period. All requirements for the Ph.D. must be completed by December 1, 2011. Applicants for this position must go to [http://employment.umn.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=92069](http://employment.umn.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=92069) to provide basic personal information. You may then either complete the entire application process on-line, or send a letter of application with a description of your teaching and research interests, evidence of teaching ability, a CV, and publications or samples of writing to the address below. You should also arrange for at least three letters of recommendation to be sent to the same address. (E-mail: HST@umn.edu)

Sally Gregory Kohlstedt
Program in History of Science and Technology
108 Pillsbury Hall
University of Minnesota
310 Pillsbury Drive, S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Applications will be reviewed starting February 28, 2011. Position is open until filled.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Warwick Anderson's (University of Sydney) *The Collectors of Lost Souls: Turning Kuru Scientists into Whitemen* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008) has been awarded the 2010 Ludwik Fleck Prize at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) in Tokyo. *Lost Souls* also received the 2010 William H. Welch Medal and the 2009 New South Wales Premier’s General History Prize. A profile of *The Collectors of Lost Souls* appeared in the October 2008 HSS Newsletter.


On November 13, 2010 James Bartholomew (Ohio State University) delivered an invited lecture in Japanese to members of the Keio University Medical School in Tokyo. The subject of the lecture was the career and Nobel Prize candidacy of the Keio nerve physiologist Gen’ichi Kato (1890–1979), the first person to isolate single nerve and muscle fibers when both were in functioning contact, and who was nominated for the 1936 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Barbara Becker’s (University of California, Irvine) book on William Huggins and the origins of astrophysics (*Unravelling Starlight: William and Margaret Huggins and the Rise of the New Astronomy*) is due to be published in February 2011 by Cambridge University Press. It is the first scholarly biography of nineteenth-century English amateur astronomer William Huggins (1824–1910). A pioneer in adapting the spectroscope to new astronomical purposes, Huggins rose to scientific prominence in London and transformed professional astronomy as a principal founder of the new science of astrophysics. The author re-examines his life and career, exploring unpublished notebooks, correspondence and research projects to reveal the boldness of this scientific entrepreneur. The book also examines Lady Margaret Lindsay Huggins’ (1848–1915) involvement in her husband’s research, which may previously have been overlooked or obscured. [http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item5756728/Unravelling%20Starlight/?site_locale=en_GB](http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item5756728/Unravelling%20Starlight/?site_locale=en_GB)

Ann Blair’s (Harvard University) book on information management in early modern Europe, *Too Much To Know: Managing Scholarly Information before the Modern Age* (2010), is now available from Yale University Press. Blair’s account features figures familiar to historians of science, including Conrad Gesner and Theodor Zwinger.

Janet Browne (Harvard University) has been elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.
Ken Caneva retired in August from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He will now be able to devote himself to his wide-ranging study of the establishment of the principle of the conservation of energy during the second half of the nineteenth century.

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In October 2010 H. Floris Cohen’s new book How Modern Science Came Into the World. Four Civilizations, One 17th Century Breakthrough came out with Amsterdam University Press. The author replaces the ‘master narrative’ of the origins of modern science with one quite differently organized and far more comprehensive. He first contrasts nature-knowledge in Greece and in China and then shows in a comparative manner how their appropriation and enrichment in Islamic civilization, in medieval Europe, and in Renaissance Europe culminated between c. 1600 and c. 1700 in six revolutionary transformations.

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Richard (Rick) Creath has been selected as a President’s Professor at Arizona State University. This is one of ASU’s top honors, and Rick will join his wife Jane Maienschein as the first couple who are both President’s Professors.

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Edward B. Davis, (Messiah College) has been appointed a Fulbright Senior Specialist to New Zealand, pending final approval by the U.S. Department of State. He will be lecturing at the University of Auckland and the University of Otago in July and August, 2011.

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William Eamon’s (New Mexico State University) latest book, The Professor of Secrets: Mystery, Medicine, and Alchemy in Renaissance Italy (National Geographic Books, 2010) is now available. More information may be found on his website: http://williameamon.com/

Matthew D. Eddy (Durham University) has just finished editing a special issue of Notes and Records of the Royal Society entitled: “Prehistoric Minds: Human Origins as a Cultural Artefact, 1780–1930.” He has also received a British Arts and Humanities Research Council fellowship for the book that he is writing on graphic culture and the natural sciences during the Scottish Enlightenment. He will be on sabbatical for the 2010–2011 academic year.

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André Feldhof (Maastricht University, the Netherlands) has won the 2010 ESST Award for Aspiring Undergraduates in Science Technology and Society (STS). The award committee thought that Feldhof’s paper offered an informed and elaborate account of the connection between development of policies towards sustainable development in China and the relationship between this Asian country and the European Union. Further Information: http://www.esst.eu/

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On 16 December 2010 Alette Fleischer obtained her PhD in the History of Science and Technology. Her dissertation is titled: “Rooted in Fertile Soil: Seventeenth-Century Dutch Gardens and the Hybrid History of Material and Knowledge Production.” Her promotor is Prof. Dr. L.L. Roberts of the University of Twente, the Netherlands Faculty of STePs Department of the History of Science and Technology.

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The second edition of Donald Forsdyke’s (Queen’s University, Kingston, Canada) Evolutionary Bioinformatics (Springer, 2011), despite its daunting title, contains buckets of biohistory. Forsdyke and Alan G. Cock have described the antics of its motley crew (Samuel Butler, Francis Galton, George Romanes, William Bateson) at a more personal level in Treasure Your Exceptions (Cock & Forsdyke, Springer, 2008).

Rod Home was recently appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to the field of history and philosophy of science in Australia.

Svante Lindqvist has received the 2010 Leonardo da Vinci Medal. This is the highest recognition from the Society for the History of Technology, which presents it to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the history of technology through research, teaching, publications, and other activities. “We are fortunate that a person of such consummate abilities has devoted so much of himself to the history of technology. In bestowing the Leonardo da Vinci Medal upon Svante Lindqvist, SHOT offers him its deepest thanks and heartfelt appreciation.” Further Information: http://www.shpusa.com/press/davinci.html

In early 2011, Roy MacLeod will join international colleagues in the history of science as a Fellow-in-Residence at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg in the Historischen Sternwarte at the University of Göttingen. Last year, he published a major study of late-19th-century traditions in Anglo-Australian colonial science—“Archibald Liversidge, FRS: Imperial Science under the Southern Cross” (University of Sydney Press, available through the University’s website).

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education have named Arizona State University’s Jane Maienschein the 2010 Arizona Professor of the Year. Maienschein, a Regents’ Professor and Parents Association Professor in ASU’s School of Life Sciences, was selected from more than 300 top professors in the United States. Congratulations Jane!


Beginning on 1 January 2011, David Philip Miller will be Professor of History & Philosophy of Science at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

Eric Mills’ (Dalhousie University) *The Fluid Envelope of Our Planet: How the Study of Ocean Currents Became a Science* (University of Toronto Press, 2009) has won the Keith Matthews Award for 2010 of the Canadian Nautical Research Society as the best book of the preceding year by a Canadian on a nautical subject.

Donald Opitz (Depaul University) was named a 2010–2011 Faculty Fellow of the Humanities Center at DePaul University in support of his project, “At Home with Science: Domesticating Science in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.” The fellowship provides a partial release from teaching, research assistance, and a budget for carrying out a community-engagement event connected with the project. See the blog inspired by his project: http://scienceparlor.wordpress.com

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Guy Ortolano’s (New York University) book, The Two Cultures Controversy: Science, Literature, and Cultural Politics in Postwar Britain (Cambridge, 2009) was named runner-up for the Whitfield Prize from the Royal Historical Society. The jury called the book “imaginative and beautifully written,” and said that it demonstrates “masterfully both how much richer and how much more complex and contradictory than has commonly been supposed were the debates that C. P. Snow provoked with his 1959 address on ‘The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution’.”

 ...

Maria M. Portuondo, (Johns Hopkins University) has won the John Edwin Fagg Prize from the American Historical Association in 2010 for her book Secret Science: Spanish Cosmography and the New World (University of Chicago Press, 2009). This prize, which is in its final year, is given for the best publication in the history of Spain, Portugal or Latin America.

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Philadelphia microbiologist, James A. Poupard, Ph.D. has published A History of Microbiology in Philadelphia: 1880 to 2010 (see www.philamicro.com for details). It includes a comprehensive history of the early generation of Philadelphia bacteriologists and institutions in Philadelphia and traces the separation and evolution of bacteriology from other related disciplines.

 ...

Peter J. Ramberg (Truman State University) was Visiting Professor at the Organic Chemistry Institute of the University of Zürich in September and October of 2010. He taught a four-week special course on the history of chemistry for the chemistry students entitled “Atoms, Elements, Structure, and Mechanism. Lectures on the History of Chemistry.” Details about the course are available online at: http://www.oci.uzh.ch/edu/lectures/short_courses/Ramberg/Ramberg.php

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This last August, Stephen Randoll accepted a position as Associate Professor of History at St. Charles Community College.

 ...

Harriet Ritvo’s (MIT) Noble Cows and Hybrid Zebras: Essays on Animals and History will soon be available from the University of Virginia Press. She is currently president of the American Society for Environmental History.

 ...

Michael Robinson, (University of Hartford), will appear in the American Experience documentary “The Greely Expedition” on 31 January 2011 on PBS. He will also be giving the keynote address at the NASA symposium “1961/1981: Key Moments in Human Spaceflight” at NASA Headquarters, Washington DC, in April 2011.

 ...

Arturo Russo, who received the first HSS/NASA space history fellowship, will publish a paper based on his fellowship research, in Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences. The paper deals with the history of the European Space Agency’s Mars Express mission and it is slated for the spring issue of HSNS (vol. 41, no. 2, 2011).

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Joel S. Schwartz, professor emeritus of biology at City University of New York, had his book, Darwin’s...

Silvan Schweber (Harvard University) has won the American Physical Society’s 2011 Abraham Pais Prize for History of Physics. This Prize was established to recognize and encourage outstanding contributions to the history of physics. The citation that will appear on the certificate reads as follows:

“For his sophisticated, technically masterful historical studies of the emergence of quantum field theory and quantum electrodynamics, and broadly insightful biographical writing on several of the most influential physicists of the 20th century: Einstein, Oppenheimer, and Bethe.”

The announcement of Dr. Schweber’s selection for the Prize and the citation will appear in the March 2011 issue of the APS News. A special page linked to the Prize and Awards page on the APS website will soon be created. For more information, http://www.aps.org/programs/honors/prizes/prizerecipient.cfm?name=Silvan%20Schweber&year=2011


Carlos Solís’ new book, La Medicina Magnética: Del Ungüento Armario al Polvo Simpático de Kenelm Digby (Madrid: Fondo de Cultura Económica) will be available January 2011. Solís discusses the weapon salve and the sympathetic powder, and includes a translation of Sir Kenelm Digby’s Discours fait en une celebre Assembée... touchant la Guerison des Playes par la poudre de Sympathie. (356 pp, illustrations, bibliography, indexes)

In 2010 Frank W. Stahnisch (University of Calgary, Alberta) received a 2010 Research Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The fellowship enabled him to visit the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, where he has continued his work on his book project, “The Making of a New Research Field: On the Pursuit of Interdisciplinarity in the German Neuromorphological Sciences, 1910–1945.” He has also recently become the President of the International Society for the History of Neuroscience, and in that capacity he is co-organizing the joint annual meeting of ISHN with Cheiron, the International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences, to be held at the University of Calgary and the Banff Center for the Arts (June 16–23, 2011). For more information: http://www.ucalgary.ca/ISHN_Cheiron/

George W. Stocking, Jr.’s (University of Chicago) Glimpses into My Own Black Box: An Exercise in Self-Deconstruction was published by the University of Wisconsin Press in December 2010.

Liba Taub, Director and Curator of the Whipple Museum of the History of Science, in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, and Fellow of Newnham College, has been promoted to a personal chair at the University of Cambridge, and is now Professor of the History and Philosophy of Science. She has also been awarded an Einstein Foundation Visiting Fellowship. This award will fund her work with the Berlin-based excellence cluster “TOPOI: The Formation and Transformation of Space and Knowledge in Ancient Civilizations.” As an Einstein Visiting Fellow, she will make regular visits to Berlin to initiate research and coordinate work relating both to ancient scientific texts and to instruments, with the aim of establishing a lasting and productive collaboration.

Leslie Tomory defended his thesis on the origins of the gaslight industry in 2009 at the University of Toronto. The dissertation has been accepted for
publication by MIT Press and should be available in 2012.

Jeremy Vetter has left his position at Dickinson College to become an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Arizona.

The Modern Language Association of America announced it is awarding its forty-first annual James Russell Lowell Prize to Laura Dassow Walls, (University of South Carolina) for The Passage to Cosmos: Alexander von Humboldt and the Shaping of America, published by the University of Chicago Press. The prize is awarded annually for an outstanding book—a literary or linguistic study, a critical edition of an important work, or a critical biography—written by a member of the MLA. The Prize was presented on 7 January 2011 during the association’s annual convention in Los Angeles.

Jeff Weber’s An Annotated Dictionary of Fore-edge Painting Artists & Binders (Mostly English & American). Part II: The Fore-edge Paintings of Miss C. B. Currie; with a Catalogue Raisonné, is now available from Weber Rare Books (Los Angeles: 2010), designed by Patrick Reagh printers. This is the first book of its kind ever published, being an annotated dictionary of known artists & binders who are known to make fore-edge paintings, a field which is heavily dominated by anonymous artwork. Jeff’s grandfather Carl J. Weber wrote the last history of fore-edge painting, which went into two editions (1949 and 1966).


Jeffrey Wigelsworth’s (Red Deer College, Alberta, Canada) latest book, Selling Science in the Age of Newton: Advertising and the Commoditization of Knowledge, is now available from Ashgate.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

Deputy Assistant Director in the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE/OAD)

The Deputy Assistant Director, a key member of the SBE Directorate management team, provides leadership and direction for the support of research, education and statistical activities that develop and advance scientific knowledge focusing on political, economic, and social systems and how individuals and organizations function within them.

The Deputy Assistant Director provides overall direction and management in the directorate that includes a staff of approximately 125 employees and a FY 2011 budget of about $268.79 million.

The ideal candidate’s strong research background and commitment to interdisciplinary research will enable the continued success of the Directorate during this exciting time for the SBE sciences. In addition to a commitment to research in the scientific domains supported by SBE, we are also looking for someone with experience in managing a complex organization. This is a permanent Senior Executive Service appointment.

The announcement for this position is available under Current Vacancies -Executive at http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/vacancies/executive.jsp.

For more information contact:

Myron Gutmann
Assistant Director
mgutmann@nsf.gov
703-292-8700

Application deadline is January 24, 2011.
Situating the “Situating Science” Cluster

by Emily Tector

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada’s Strategic Knowledge Cluster, Situating Science: Cluster for the Humanist and Social Study of Science, has already reached the halfway mark of our seven-year project.

Situating Science (or Situsci, for short) fosters contact and collaboration between scholars working in history, philosophy, and sociology of science and promotes linkages between those engaged in the academic study of these topics and those working on cognate topics in the news media, museums, policy development, and the arts. At the most recent HSS/PSA conference in Montreal, we were happy to co-sponsor the reception at the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

Our Nodes in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic Provinces serve as organizational centres for their respective regions, initiating and facilitating STS-HPS activities, with a particular emphasis on interdisciplinarity, under the Cluster’s four themes: “Historical Ontology and Epistemology”; “Science and Its Publics”; “Material Culture and Scientific/ Technological Practices”; and “Geography and Sites of Knowing.” The nodes also serve as centres for information exchange with other nodes and with the national and international STS-HPS communities through the means of the new Situating Science website (www.situsci.ca). Among the site’s features are searchability, updated opportunities and resources, live stream and recorded videos of Situating Science events, plus a searchable “Network Directory” of STS-HPS scholars in Canada. Local events can be found under “Network Nodes.” We welcome your suggestions for improvement.

National Projects:

Recently, the Cluster has been involved in several national projects, including a series of workshops: “Scientific Models and Simulations (4)” (University of Toronto, May, 2010); “Thought Experiments” (Dalhousie University, June); and “The Makers’ Universe: Science, Art and Instruments in Early Modern Europe” (McGill University, Sept.). Halifax and Vancouver also hosted two international conferences, the first of which was on “Objectivity in Science” at the University of British Columbia in June, followed by the “Circulating Knowledge, East and West” at King’s in July. The latter conference brought scholars from India, Singapore, China, Europe and North America to Halifax to explore the circulation of science and natural philosophy in the colonial and post-colonial period, and was coordinated with the launch of the online edition of the “James Dinwiddie Papers” at the Dalhousie Archives. “Circulating Knowledge” is the first in a multilevel project to create scholar exchange and growth in the humanities and social studies of science between Canada and Asia.

In 2011–12, the successful applicants to the annual Workshop proposal competition will organize: “Intersections: New Approaches to Science and Technology in 20th C. China and India” (York University), “Scientific Authority within Democratic Societies” (UBC), and “The Politics of Care in Technoscience” (York University).
National Lecture Series: Science and its Publics

Following on the success of the 2009–10 “Trust in the New Sciences” national series (videos online), the Canadian Centre for Ethics and Public Affairs (CCEPA) and the Cluster have launched a new national lecture series, on “Science and Its Publics”. The first of the series, “Science and the Media: Lost in Translation,” was November 9th at King’s. This panel discussion coincided with the Atlantic launch of the Science and Media Centre of Canada and engaged partners Genome Atlantic, Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, plus a host of local public and institutional groups. The series collaborated with the Making Publics Project in Montreal Nov. 25th for Dr. Golinski’s study of “Frankenstein in the Public Sphere” and continues to Toronto for an investigation of the public’s role in the latest Multiple Sclerosis treatment. The Series then moves to Halifax and Ottawa in early March for Dr. Pantalony’s exploration of “Provenance and the Role of the Public Museum,” and Dr. Lock caps the series with her latest research, “Facing Uncertainty: Who is Destined for Alzheimer’s Disease?” in Saskatchewan and Alberta at the end of that month. All events are recorded, streamed live and announced on our website.

Students and Research:

This year we welcomed MA students Dani Hallet (UBC) and Megan Dean (King’s) and Postdoctoral fellows Alex Choby (University of Alberta) and Melinda Baldwin (York University). Other students at each Node have been invaluable in assisting with project activities.

For the remainder of the project, the Situating Science Cluster will move forward with plans to sustain STS/HPS networks beyond its seven years and construct a permanent Centre or Institute for Science Studies in Canada. It will also continue to cultivate international partnerships with Asian and Southeast Asian countries.

For more information, and to keep up-to-date with activities and resources as they develop, please visit the Situating Science Cluster website at www.situsci.ca, or contact the Situating Science Project Coordinator (situsci@dal.ca, 902 422-1271, ex. 200).

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I feel fortunate to have been involved in organizing the Graduate and Early Career Caucus (GECC) Mentorship Program at the Montréal. Quite often in the process, things seemed to simply fall into place—little serendipitous events allowed good things to happen. I believe that apparent magic of this kind is almost always due to the combined efforts of multiple people. Because of those efforts, and the sustained hard work of my co-chair Rachel Mason Dentinger, the Mentorship Program really took off this year. Over 40 people participated in some regard, either in the one-on-one mentorship pairs or in the women scholars’ mentorship tea.

We arranged seventeen pairs of on-site mentor/mentees, matched by research interest as closely as possible, but also by the needs and experience of the mentees. Quite fortunately, we had many potential mentors step up to help—in fact, we ended up with a few more willing to mentor than mentees! Fortunately, the surplus of mentors let us tackle some inevitable last-minute requests and cancellations. I am very grateful both to those who did volunteer, and to those who could not, but recommended other scholars. The enthusiasm that the experienced members of the HSS had for this project was instrumental in its success.

In partnership with the Women’s Caucus, the GECC hosted a mentorship gathering for women scholars, the first time for such an event. The idea for the Women Scholars’ Mentorship Tea came from established female scholars, who asked us to find a way for them to meet casually with young women. We are grateful to Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, Rima Apple, Marsha Richmond, and Janet Browne for their wonderful mentorship; to Jay Malone and Greg Macklem for setting up our meeting room with such alacrity, but most especially to the unnamed donor who made the event possible. The Women Scholars’ Tea and Mentorship gathering was an extraordinary experience for the ten mentees who attended.

Rachel and I had such a great experience this year that we are not relinquishing the mentorship program to someone else for next time! Even with this year’s advances, there are improvements to be made. Some on-site pairs were unable to meet in person, due to various conflicts and missed connections, and despite our outreach efforts, some graduate-student members told us that they did not know about the program. But in all, the Mentorship Program thrived at this year’s meeting, and the clear support that the HSS membership has for this project has inspired us to sustain our efforts for the coming year.

Aside from the on-site mentorship, we are also organizing mentorships by email. We currently have eight graduate student mentees who are in need of an extra-mural mentor to advise them in various aspects of career planning and professionalization. Please email us at hssmentorship@gmail.com to get involved.
History of the Survey and Thoughts for the Future

HSS has collected data on the employment opportunities for historians and philosophers of science since 1972. In ’73 the job survey was taken over by the “HSS Committee on Women” and, later, the Women’s Caucus. For the 2008–09 survey the Women’s Caucus (WC) partnered with the newly formed Graduate and Early Career Caucus (GECC) to complete the survey. This shift signaled, in part, a change in what motivates the survey and we are actively looking at ways to optimize the survey, but we face several issues. The rhetoric of early surveys makes clear that the project was instrumental in the ongoing effort to raise the visibility of women in the profession and to tackle structural issues that continued to limit women’s ability to enter into the field productively. For example, the 1978/79 report observed that several positions went unadvertised and were “acquired through private arrangement.” Women have made significant gains with respect to position parity and we have not seen reports of non-transparent hiring for some time. Nevertheless, gender parity remains a concern for both the WC and the GECC (especially with respect to tenure, research funding, and child care issues). But our concerns expand beyond gender; the survey has not been able to assess adequately issues of racial and ethnic diversity in our field. The current survey does not deal with the ways that sexual orientation and transgender identity may play a role in the job market, an omission that seems particularly glaring in light of the recent reports of sexuality-based harassment at universities and colleges. We also do not currently collect data on disabled scholars or independent scholars. In addition to these major concerns, it has become clear within the GECC that graduate students, in particular, need to have a sense for the kinds of skills for which “the field” is looking. While several questions attempt to get at the kind of training that is currently expected by hiring committees, new areas such as environmental science are not adequately captured.

There is also a pragmatic issue at hand; the survey has struggled from increasingly poor response rates. As I write this report with a paltry 30% response rate for a field of 98 “opportunities,” which include post-doctoral fellowships, one year positions, non-tenure contract positions in history of science, and traditional tenure-track positions, I envy the writers of the 1981/82 report who had an 85% response rate for a field of 53 positions. Equally enviable are the years when report writers had high response rates and were then able to cobble together information on one hundred percent of the jobs. After two years of directing this survey, I cannot say that I have the answers to the pressing questions around survey response rate. What I can say is that the kinds of “opportunities” that we survey are shaped by who is advertising their positions/fellowships in our digital and print media. Changing perspectives on what “counts” as a job in a tight employment market have also shaped the feedback that we have received from various constituents about the survey. While both HSS executive staff and myself carefully cull the pool of jobs that we contact, it is clear to me that some of what we consider “opportunities” rightfully reported on in an employment survey are seen otherwise by the originating parties. Each year I receive terse emails notifying me that this or that call does not offer anyone a job. What may seem to be a legitimate one-year or short term research opportunity to those of us thinking about what new Ph.D.s will do next year clearly reads differently for others. Scale is also an issue for the survey in ways that it has not been in the past. What began as a survey of twenty or so positions has gradually grown to an evaluation of roughly one hundred, depending on the year. This evidences some growth in the field, especially in the late eighties and early nineties, which has since leveled out. But it is also an indication that we have a broader range of opportunities that this survey attempts to understand.

Our attempts to preserve some kind of continuity between data collected 38 years ago and what we
think we need in 2010 further complicates how we might envision changing the survey. While even the very first survey (and most surveys subsequently) have collected information on, or commented upon, positions in libraries, archives, and museums, the ways in which they have done so differ significantly from approaches that have been discussed by GECC and the WC in recent years. In an attempt to gather more robust data generally, including ethnic and racial information, which is nearly systematically not reported at this point by our contacts, the WC piloted a survey of departmental chairs and directors of graduate studies within H/PSTM programs. While this was not a successful attempt this year, should it or some other approach succeed in the future we will almost certainly not be able to use that data in any longitudinal fashion. The survey has historically been accomplished by a volunteer, either from the WC or GECC, with the help of HSS staff at the point of establishing contacts. The scale of a full survey overhaul simply cannot be addressed by the efforts of a few volunteer scholars, especially those who are early in their careers. The survey has a long history and it has served the HSS community well. It is clear from conversations over the last two years that HSS members want the survey to continue. In order to have a functional, meaningful survey that addresses both the history of the field and its future manifestation, we need to have a collective conversation about the goals of the annual survey and we need to find a way to fund a revision of the process that will allow us to address changes in the field, in technology, and in desiderata, while maintaining some kind of meaningful continuity with past surveys.

Method

We continued to use an online survey form for the “traditional” survey this year. The Women’s Caucus piloted an alternative survey targeting departmental chairs and directors of graduate studies at H/PSTM programs. Because we received only one response to this effort, we have not reported on this data here, nor is it integrated in any way into the survey analysis.

After eliminating pre-dissertation research grants and other opportunities that do not offer new Ph.D.s either a permanent or temporary work or research position, we had a total of 98 discrete opportunities. These included tenure-track jobs, one year or other non-tenure-track positions, post-doctoral positions, and other funding opportunities that graduates might pursue when on the job market. These included both domestic and international opportunities.

Two mailings went out, one in August and the other in late September, by email, to the contact listed in the call. Where it was clear that the contact listed was not viable (expired special email addresses, for example), we then attempted to find the appropriate contact by emailing departments/programs/offices. As was the case last year, the first email yielded about a 10% response rate. The follow up email, which was sent once classes had resumed at most institutions, yielded the remainder of the responses. One issue that we have struggled with is timing for the requests for information. While HSS was able to send me the list of contacts before the end of the academic year, teaching and interviewing kept me from my own goal to catch people before the summer. Summer requests inevitably arrive while a great many people are on vacation or are conducting research. To wait until the beginning of the fall semester compresses the schedule, given that follow up has been instrumental to increasing reporting.

The online survey may be viewed here: http://bit.ly/fe9S4P (you will need to have a Google account). We collected data on the traditional features of hiring category (tenure, non-tenure, etc. and temporary vs. permanent), expertise required, secondary expertise considered, advertising media, and hiring statistics, which included successful hire, offers made, gender and ethnic data, and applicant pool size.

The Results

The following information is for the 29 positions or opportunities for which we have data. To review all of the data, please go to the survey and click on the link at the top “See responses.”

We gathered data regarding the number of tenure-track/permanent and “contingent” (adjunct or some other form of temporary position) positions. 69% of the respondents indicated that the opportunity was temporary or “contingent.” Of the remaining 31% of positions, all of which were
permanent in some sense, only 17% (5) were tenure-track jobs, the others were contract-based positions.

As with last year, we saw a distribution in the longevity of positions. Over a third of our “opportunities” (9) were fellowship or grant opportunities, with the remaining 69% (20) classified as a formal position. Replacement was emphasized by a small proportion this year, 60% (12) of the formal positions were described as “replacement positions” and the remaining 40% (8) were “newly created or redefined” positions. This is an inverse relationship relative to last year’s survey, and while we don’t see a significant imbalance generally, we will continue to keep an eye on this particular data point as we move through the hiring done in the wake of the financial crisis.

The majority of the calls were looking specifically for expertise in the history or philosophy of science, technology, or medicine. Only 1% of the respondents reported that HP/STM was not a factor in their search. For 59% it was the primary area of expertise desired and for an additional 7% it was a desired secondary or supporting area of expertise (the remainder of respondents listed it as one of a number of possible fields of expertise). Very few (7%) of our respondents indicated that they were looking for candidates who could teach general American history or Western Civilization courses. 76% of the positions were for those who hold a Ph.D. at the time of hire. We do note that while the majority of positions required a Ph.D. at time of hire, there is some room for those finishing their degrees during the job search. 65% of respondents reported that the successful candidate had the Ph.D. in hand at the time of the offer, while 35% did not.

In addition to asking about the position title and the relative importance of H/PSTM for the search, we asked about areas of training that were important to various positions. Clearly history of technology and medicine are strong areas of expertise, with training in history of technology a factor in 28% of searches, while the history of medicine was important for 17% of respondents. Philosophy of science continues to be a desirable area of training, with 21% of the respondents listing this as a factor in their search. While museum studies and public history continues to be a growing field in terms of program offerings, for our survey it was an important area of training in just one position.

While we continue to hear about the relative scarcity of jobs, we were surprised to see that 4 of the 28 respondents did not fill the position or award the funding that was available. The reasons for this varied: in one case the search was cancelled, in another the offer was not accepted. The remaining two listed “other” as the reason for the failed search. This year, 90% of first offers were accepted. With respect to scarcity of permanent positions, while we see a small increase in the percentage of permanent positions, from 23% to 31%, it continues to be clear that tenure-track jobs make up a relatively small proportion (17%) of the opportunities for which we have data. We actually show a loss, in terms of raw numbers, of TT jobs from last year, when there were seven reported. We can’t draw significant conclusions from this, given the small numbers and the reporting issues, but we can see that year over year, there remain a relatively small number of tenure-track jobs. While other permanent positions exist, at archives, museums, or the like, our data suggest that the job market is dominated by temporary positions. In light of this, it seems particularly critical that we, as a field, find a way to understand this situation in light of the numbers of people seeking positions, much as the Modern Language Association and the American Historical Association have done for their members. While our survey does try to capture this information, we found an enormous range for the reported positions. At the high end, one indicated they had 600 applications for the opportunity and at the low end there were just three. The median number of applicants was 20 and if we eliminate the outlier of 600 (which was for an open Humanities post-doc), the average number was 26.8. Given, however, that the data does not neatly cluster around this average, we suggest that we need to find another way of quantifying the ratio of positions relative to the numbers of job seekers.

In keeping with the emphasis on temporary positions, 58% (15) of the successful searches resulted in hiring at the post-doctoral fellow level, 8% (2) as a lecturer, and the remainder as tenure-track faculty (23%). Of these tenure-track hires, four were at the assistant professor level, one at the associate level, and one at full professor. Given that hiring is happening
at a range of ranks, we think it is especially important to capture the size of the applicant field, especially at the junior level. 

As indicated above, data regarding gender remains less underreported relative to other areas and data on race distribution is extremely difficult to obtain. Only 21 respondents answered our question regarding the gender of the successful candidate, of those, 12 were female and 9 were male. Only 52% of respondents reported on whether the candidate was classified as a member of a minority group as defined by their institution. Of those 12 who did report, only one hired a candidate who qualifies as a member of a minority group at the hiring institution. We had equally low numbers last year, with just two reports that positions or funds went to members of an identified minority. In a review of the last ten years of reports, where reporting on the issue of minority status appears to have been more robust, it is generally the case that fewer than three respondents indicate that they have hired someone of minority status. When reporting on minority status is happening, it is most often to indicate that the successful applicant is not a member of a recognized category. The recent trend away from answering this question over the last five years leaves us puzzled and threatens the transparency of the hiring process with respect to race and ethnicity.

Print advertisement continues to lag behind web advertisement, a trend that has been prevalent over the last five years. Respondents were able to check all outlets in which they advertised, and a combined 79% of people reported advertising on either the HSS Website and on H-Net. Newsletters were an outlet of advertising for between 11% and 30% of respondents, depending on the particular outlet. The most popular print outlet was the Chronicle of Higher Education.

A Final Thought

A quick review of WC meeting minutes for the last decade indicates that the status of the Employment Survey has been under question for at least that long. It certainly has been an issue within GECC since our inception. It is clear to me that the survey remains a valuable conceptual tool for a number of different groups within HSS, but that different groups are asking for the survey to do different kinds of work. We need to better capture data, period. We need a survey that articulates a vision of where the field is going, one that can serve as a guide to job seekers, faculty mentors, and program directors. But we also need to do better in describing the field and in drawing attention to any race, ethnicity, gender, disability, and sexual orientation pressures that may exist in the job market. In light of reports like those of the Clayman Institute on the status of dual-academic couples, we need also to capture data about spousal accommodation, especially given that this issue disproportionately affects female academics. But we might also stop and ask ourselves how and why this survey has been the work of the Women’s Caucus almost from the beginning and now also the Graduate and Early Career Caucus, which, while not gender based, was founded by, and is largely populated with, women. A part of this history is the desire of the WC to be good stewards of the survey on behalf of its members, but we also need to be sure that we are not relying on a subset of the community to keep house in some sense. Certainly the kinds of training that employers are looking for is not an issue for a subset of the HSS community. Ensuring racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, and gender non-discrimination is equally the job of our entire community and it is a job worthy of resources, even when research is calling and money is tight. A comprehensive overhaul is long overdue and this is something that must involve the broad HSS community if the survey is to continue to have relevance and illuminating power.

Comments may be sent to
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Cleveland Meeting
3-6 November 2011
Join HSS in Cleveland as we meet with SHOT and 4S. See the Call for Papers on page 6.

HSS Meeting 2012
San Diego
Joint meeting with PSA

HSS Meeting 2013
Boston
100th anniversary of Isis

AAAS meeting
Washington DC, 18-21 February 2011
Rub elbows with scientists, hear what’s happening in the field, attend the Section L (History and Philosophy of Science) Business Meeting, and hear Lawrence Principe deliver the George Sarton Memorial Lecture in the History and Philosophy of Science on 19 February. Larry’s title is “Revealing the Secrets of Alchemy.”