

# The Courant

"To prevent the traces of human events from being erased by time, and to preserve the fame of important and remarkable achievements" - From the introduction of Herodotus' *Histories*

May, 2014

## History Student Council at the Smithsonian Museum of American History - First Trip of the Semester



### A Word from President Rachel Rettaliata

// As graduation rapidly approaches, I often reflect on how becoming a member of HSC immensely enhanced my undergraduate experience. HSC would not be possible without the incredible support of the History Department faculty. As we conclude the spring semester, I would like our faculty and staff to know that we are deeply grateful for their encouragement and participation in our organization. I hope that HSC continues to thrive and I hope to give back to HSC as a proud UMBC alum!

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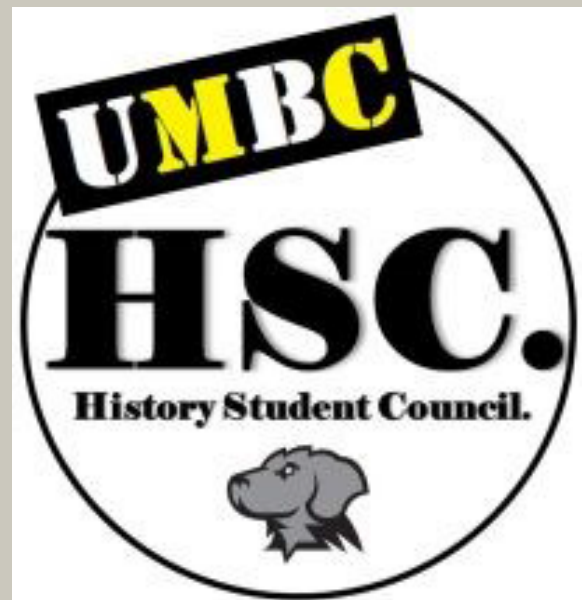
## WHAT IS THE HISTORY STUDENT COUNCIL?

HSC encourages students and faculty members from ALL disciplines to meet with common interests in mind to explore the opportunities available to us that enrich our education outside the classroom.

HSC strives to include all members in fun and inclusive events ranging from trips to professor sponsored movie nights and even some charity events.

### Our Mission:

History Student Council has been established for the purpose of representing and safeguarding the interests of History students to the History department, and to maintain and improve relations between History Students and the History department Faculty.



## Still Looking for a History Class to Take Next Semester? Check out these Cool Courses!

Hist 243 - Intro to African History

Hist 319 - Novelty and Nostalgia: The Rise of Modern America, 1877 to 1945

Hist 347 - European Women's History, 1200 to 1750

Hist 362 - Medieval Europe and the Mediterranean World

Hist 485 - Russia to 1900

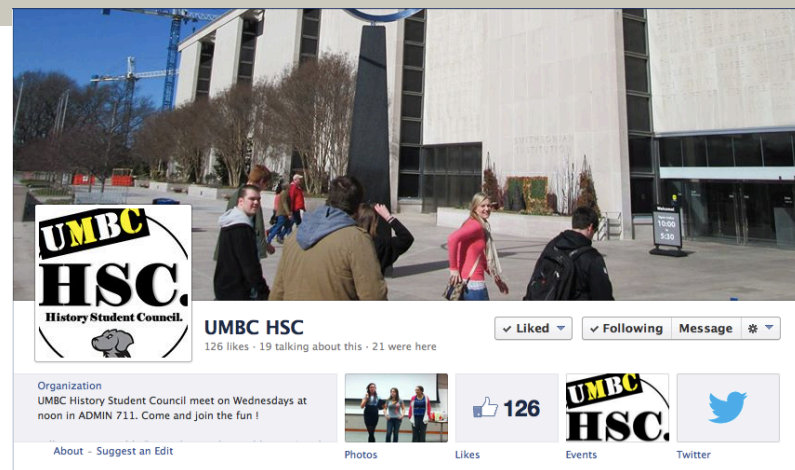
Instructor: Gloria Chuku

Instructor: Denise Meringolo

Instructor: Amy Froide

Instructor: Susan McDonough

Instructor: Kathryn Brown



Check out our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/HistoryStudentCouncil>

And stay tuned for our independent website (Still under construction)



Team HSC after placing 2nd for the Semester in Flat Tuesdays' Trivia Competition

### This Semester HSC...

Went to the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington D.C.

Ran a table at UMBC's 2014 Relay for Life walk for the fight against Cancer... and will continue the fight next year!

Watched 12 Years a Slave with Dr. Rubin

Took a trip to the Walter's Art Museum in Baltimore

Had a History Trivia table at Quadmania

## Team HSC Places Second at Upper Flat Tuesdays Trivia

*By Michael J. Stone*

If I have learned one thing this semester, it is that history majors rock at trivia! Not only are we good at packing our brains full of random facts, but also we care, to an almost embarrassing degree, about competitions that allow us to exhibit our random specialties. We would have made Ken Jennings proud as every Wednesday night at 7:00 in Upper Flat Tuesdays we competed in Trivia Night. It seemed like every week one of our proud historians would have an unexpected advantage over the competition. Whether it was Joshua McFall's mastery of modern art, my own obsession with geography, or our collective knowledge of mythology, each night one of us would rise to

meet the night's topic with supreme confidence. After entering the weekly contest several weeks late, we battled our way to the top of the semester rankings. Even though we wouldn't always have the same people there each night, a core group of three or four dedicated HSCers helped maintain the team's presence week after week for the rest of the semester. In the final showdown on May 7, the topic baffled us all. The topic was celebrities, and while we knew some answers most of the specifics of these people's lives and careers stumped us. We fell just short of our championship dreams, but we held our heads up high with our silver prize. I'm so proud of our rag-tag team. I hope next year, as many of us move on, some new bright minds and unique specialists will carry on where we left off.



# HSC Takes Their First Trip of the Semester to the Smithsonian Museum of American History

By Daniel P. Theisen

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> HSC took a trip to Washington D.C. to see the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History. Once we arrived, we first stopped for a picture in front of the museum (front page photo). The first exhibit we saw was the one containing the original Star Spangled Banner, which flew at Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore in 1814. For those of us who had never seen the flag before, it was quite an experience and a great way to begin the day. After this, HSC went through exhibits detailing American Wars from the Revolution up through Desert Storm and every major conflict in between. After this, HSC moved onto the exhibit on the American Presidency. During this exhibit, most of the HSCers present took their photo while posing behind a replica of the lectern used during the Presidential Inauguration Speech, making for some fun and memorable photos of everyone present (all of which can be seen on our Facebook page).

At this point, HSC decided it was time for lunch and headed out onto the Mall to find food. We split up into two groups, one headed off to find a food truck while the other stayed at the food stand just across the street from the Museum on the Mall lawn. It was a beautiful day, just perfect for a midday lunch in DC, partly cloudy with a slight

breeze and just warm enough that we didn't need the jackets we had all brought expecting colder weather. Most of us finished eating fairly quickly, and so we sat at our tables on the Mall and carried on light discussions for the about 20 minutes. It was a really relaxing break. After a while, we headed back into the museum.

When we re-entered the Museum, we first stopped at the American Stories exhibit, a very interesting collection of seemingly random objects of fame, from one of Bob Dylan's black leather jackets to the skates of Apollo Ohno. After we finished with looking around there, we headed to the American Cuisine exhibit, which included a replica of Julia Child's kitchen. Then we went to see the exhibit on American Transportation, a long and winding tour through what felt like miles of old cars, trains, and boats. With this, we decided to conclude our visit at the museum with a quick stop to the gift shop where some bought souvenirs, while most of us simply played around trying on Stovepipe and Tricorn hats and pretend sword fighting with plastic sabres. At the end of the day, we were all tired and ready to head for home, but satisfied at what was yet another exciting and fun HSC trip.



## Ranger Jim Bailey Comes to Recruit for the Fort McHenry Guard

By David Jackson

Thanks go out to Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine's Ranger Jim Bailey, an UMBC alumni and former HSC member, for brightening up our rainy meeting on Wednesday April 30. Ranger Bailey can be seen in the photo above with HSC President Rachel Rettaliata and Vice President Michael Stone.

Ranger Bailey spoke about reenactment opportunities/internship positions and presented a quick history of the Fort itself. This visit was coordinated by our hard working event planner Joshua McFall, who currently serves as part of the Honor Guard at the fort.

## HSC Movie Night: 12 Years a Slave with Dr. Rubin

By David Jackson

One of only a few movie nights we do each semester, our first movie night this semester was 12 Years a Slave with Civil War Professor Dr. Rubin. The event went off without a hitch and it was great of Dr. Rubin to spend some time with us before she leaves for sabbatical in the fall.

The movie exposes the barbarity of the chattel slave system during the early 1850's. This powerful

and moving true tale of Solomon Northup portrayed by British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor left everyone in the room speechless. Thanks go out to our HSC officer core, as well as to Dr. Rubin for providing the film along with her expertise and to everyone who came to support HSC.

HSC Vice President Michael Stone, Event Planner Joshua McFall, and member Raquel Grinage with Dr. Rubin during the movie night.



## Interested in Joining HSC?

Are you're a history major not yet signed up for our email list? Or are you a student of a completely different major who has never even heard of us?

Whatever it is, it doesn't matter, because HSC is always open to all UMBC students regardless of academic major. In fact some of our most dedicated members have been English, Biology, and Political Science majors.

HSC is not just for history majors, but for History lovers. We take trips from places as close as Relay, MD to as far as D.C. We host professor sponsored movie nights and regularly take part in campus events, like Quadmania or Relay for Life.

So if you're interested in joining, please reach out to any of our officers via email or join our group page through your MyUMBC Account.

And remember to come out and see us every Wednesday during Free Hour (12pm-1pm) when we have our weekly meetings (we do not meet the first one or two weeks of the semester. If you join the mailing list, you will receive an email next semester telling when and where the first meeting is).

## HSC Election Results

By Kelly Daughtridge

On May 7<sup>th</sup> HSC held officer elections for the 2014-2015 academic year. Congratulations to President Brittney Falter, Vice President Kyle Arnett, Treasurer Sidrah Shayiq, Secretary Jen Wachtel, Event Planner John Parker, Executive In Charge of Student Affairs David Jackson, and General Member Raquel Grinage. Thank-you to all the members who ran for a position and best of luck to the new officers. All of your continued support and enthusiasm in ensuring HSC continues to be an outstanding organization is very much appreciated. HSC is grateful to have such outstanding members who have worked so hard this past year and to those who will return in the Fall for another successful year.

## Officers for Fall 2014

**President:** Brittney Falter

**Vice President:** Kyle Arnett

**Secretary:** Jennifer Wachtel

**Treasurer:** Sidrah Shayiq

**Event Planner:** John Parker

**Executive of Student of Affairs:** David Jackson

**General Member:** Raquel Grinage

Many thanks to the previous officers for their many months, and in some cases years, of dedication and service to HSC.

## Volume 1, Issue 3 Contributors:

### The Newsletter Committee:

Co-Chairman: Daniel Theisen

Co-Chairman: Karl Schuman

Committee Member: Kelly Daughtridge (Article Author)

Committee Member: John Parker (Photographer)

### Non-Committee Contributors:

HSC President Rachel Rettaliata ("A Word from President Rachel Rettaliata")

HSC Vice President Michael Stone (Article Author)

HSC Executive of Student Affairs David Jackson (Author of Multiple Articles and Photographer)

## Congratulations and Best Wishes to UMBC's 2014 class of Graduates!!

Our best wishes and sincerest congratulations go out to all the graduates of both Undergrad and Graduate programs who will be walking the stage and receiving their diplomas within the next week! We are so proud of all of you and so sad to see you go. We wish you the best in the coming years and in your chosen professions. Though there are far too many graduating students to list here, the HSC Newsletter would like to say a special goodbye to our graduating officers, HSC President Rachel Rettaliata, Vice President Michael Stone (who will actually still be around for Graduate School here at UMBC) and Event Planner Joshua McFall.



Good Luck to all Students still Studying for and Taking Exams. Please enjoy your Summer Break and stay safe. We Look forward to seeing some new and enthusiastic HSCers this Fall Semester. Remember, you don't need to be a History major to Join, you simply need a love for History.