



[Administration](#)
[Undergraduate Studies](#)
[Graduate Studies](#)
[Faculty](#)
[Alumni](#)
[Departments & Programs](#)



## Professional Activities

5/12/2016 [Archive](#)

**Melissa Beske**, (PhD in Anthropology '13), a faculty member in the History and Humanities Department at Palmer Trinity School in Miami, FL, developed her dissertation into a book titled [Intimate Partner Violence and Advocate Response: Redefining Love in Western Belize](#), and it was published by Lexington Books in April 2016.

**William Binnings** (A&S '69) has been a working sculptor for 45 yrs. With many public commissions, plus his own original art, Binnings works out of his own studio and foundry. He has been commissioned to do two life-size sculptures to commemorate the 100th birthday of Walker Percy. The sculptures will be installed in this month - one will be placed at the Madisonville, La library, and the other in a public place in Covington, La not yet revealed.

**Elio Brancaforte**, Associate Professor in the Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies, was invited to present a paper on "Truth, Invention, and the Eyewitness Account—Representing Reality in European Travel Narratives of the Safavid Empire," for the 23rd St. Louis Symposium on German Literature and Culture. The topic of the symposium was "[Knowledge in Motion: Constructing Transcultural Experience in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods \(1200–1750\)](#)" and was sponsored by the German Department of Washington University in St. Louis, MO on April March 31-April 2, 2016.

**William Brumfield** - Professor in the Department of German and Slavic Studies, recently added two new articles to his [Discovering Russia](#) series entitled "Russia Beyond the Headlines," the [first article](#) is devoted to the St. Avraamy Gorodetsky Monastery on Chukhloma Lake in the Kostroma Region. The [second article](#) is devoted to two remarkable shrines in Lesosibirsk, located in the Krasnoyarsk region of the Siberian taiga. Each article in the series focuses on Russia's historic architecture and cultural heritage and is written for the foreign-language service of the Russian national newspaper *Rossiiskaia Gazeta*.

**Linda Carroll**, Professor of Italian, presented the invited paper "'Tanto che l'arò amazò': Violence in the Works of Angelo Beolco and in the Lives of His Associates," at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Italian Studies in Baton Rouge on April 23 at the session *Religious, Political, and Secular Violence in the Early Modern* organized by Prof. Dino Cervigni, the honorary president of the AAIS. Prof. Cervigni, the editor of *Annali d'Italianistica*, will include the paper in a volume on the topic that he is editing.

**Aaron Collier**, Assistant Professor in Studio Art, will be presenting a visiting artist lecture at Arkansas School of Math Science and the Arts (ASMSA) in Hot Springs on Thursday, April 28. Additionally, he will lead demonstrations with various levels of 2D studio art classes while at the school.

**Victor Holtcamp**, Assistant Professor of Theatre, presented a paper at the [2016 Comparative Drama Conference](#) in Baltimore, MD on the "Director's Manuscripts" of the Longmans, Green, and Company publishing house.

**Brian Horowitz**, Sizeler Professor of Jewish Studies, presented talks on Israel Studies at the University of Haifa and the University of Tel Aviv in March 2016.

**Thomas Luongo**, Associate Professor of History, presented a paper, "Alfonso of Jaén, the Discernment of Spirits, and the Case for the Sanctity of Birgitta of Sweden," at the Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of American, Boston, 1 April.

In April, **Nora Lustig**, Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics, taught a three day course to students enrolled in the Latin American Program at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid. The course was on "Inequality and Poverty in Latin America." Lustig was also [interviewed](#) by the Organization of the American States about the work of the CEQ Institute and the recent agreement between the Institute and the OAS.

**Jayur Mehta** (PhD in Anthropology '15) is lead author with David Abbott and Charlotte Pevny of an article, "Mississippian Craft Production in the Yazoo Basin: Thin-Section Analysis of a Mississippian Structure Floor on the Summit of Mound D at the Carson Site," recently published in the [Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports](#) 5:471-484.

**Amy Pfrimmer**, Assistant Professor of Music, was featured in writer Dean Shapiro's April 2016 Break Thru Media Magazine article, "In Grande Voce: Amy Pfrimmer sings in Great Voice!" May 2016 finds Pfrimmer as the title character in the one act opera *Friedl*, presented as part of the double bill *Friedl/Brundibár* by the [New Orleans Opera](#) and National World War II Museum. Pfrimmer also presents a May master class at the Mississippi School of the Arts.

**Alison Reip** (SLA '16) was recently featured in [The Advocate](#) for the research she conducted for her honor's thesis that focuses on public charter school marketing. Reip's thesis will also be published as a policy brief on the Scholars Strategy Network website.

**Chris Rodning**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, presented a paper in April in Orlando, Florida, at the annual conference of the [Society for American Archaeology](#). The paper, coauthored with Jayur Mehta (Ph.D. in anthropology, 2015) and entitled, "Resilience, Hierarchy, and the Native American Cultural Landscapes of the Yazoo Basin and the Mississippi River Delta," was part of an invited symposium in honor of Carole Crumley, an archaeologist affiliated with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the [Integrated History and Future of People on Earth](#) (IHOPE) project based at the University of Uppsala in Uppsala, Sweden.

**Oliver Sensen**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, presented a paper, titled: "Why should I help others?" at a conference on world poverty in Bochum, Germany.

In April, [an interview with David Smilde](#), Favrot Professor of Sociology was featured on National Public Radio's Marketplace. Journalists Scott Tong interviewed professor Smilde about dependency on oil, scarcities of basic products, and the enduring appeal of Chavismo in Venezuela.

**Randy J. Sparks**, Professor, Department of History - flier for my new book just out from Harvard UP - [Africans in the Old South: Mapping Exceptional Lives Across the Atlantic World](#) (Harvard, 2016).

**Samuel Stoner** (PhD in Philosophy '14) will begin a tenure-track position next fall as Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Assumption College in Massachusetts. Since completing his dissertation on Kant under the direction of Richard Velkley, Stoner has been a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Western Heritage and Philosophy at Carthage College.

**Toby Wikström**, Assistant Professor of French, gave a talk entitled "Was There a Pan-European Orientalism? Icelandic and Flemish Perspectives on Captivity in Muslim North Africa (1628-1656)" at the University of Iceland on April 15. The talk was sponsored by the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages, the Program in Middle

Eastern Studies and the Department of Comparative Literature.

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