Before getting to Dick's History greeting, we'd like to thank you all for sending us suggestions for renaming the History Department Newsletter. We are happy to announce that our newsletter henceforth will be called "The Archive." This reflects the fourth issue of our first volume! If you know of anyone who would like to receive our newsletter, they can sign up here.

December 2020

As 2020 comes to a close, it's impossible to reflect on what a strange year it has been. We've seen the continuous and personal distance created by the pandemic, our department has had to fulfill its full scope of work in a remote setting. Outside of the classroom, we have offered a number of public lectures and events to help keep our broader community close. In recognition of all the support you've brought to our remote lives, we made a video slideshow of our animal companions. We bet you'll recognize more than a few faces!

One of our animal supporters! In recognition and appreciation of all the cuddles, cuteness, and comfort our animals even acquired a devoted following of fans and even helped present lectures. Some have even attended meetings, come to office hours, and were even offered to us as guest lectures. Some have even taught us about the importance of remote learning and working! They've even helped to bring us together online. Their presence and participation have made our remote learning possible.

Staff Spotlight: Rhiannon Parise

Rhiannon is a friendly face that is likely to greet you at our graduate students' events and meetings. She is helpful, encouraging, and resourceful and guides many students through the administrative side of exams, funding, and resource requests. Rhiannon is a friendly face that all of our graduate students get to know well in their time here at UCSB. She is helpful, encouraging, and resourceful and guides many students through the administrative side of exams, funding, and resource requests.

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Finally, for those of you looking for the perfect gift or gift yourself – consider Professor Patrick McCray's new book, Making Art Work: How Cold War Engineers and Artists Forged a New Creative Culture (MIT Press 2020). It is already available for purchase through our department's online store. If you're looking for a gift with a little extra thought, we hope you enjoy visiting this fascinating public history project, Pride of Place: England's LGBQT Heritage, created by Dr. Justin Bengry, who received his PhD in our department in 2010. Dr. Bengry discussed his work on queer history of the public planning and activism that has preserved so much open space in Santa Barbara.

Some of our undergraduates, under the innovative leadership of faculty mentor Jarett Henderson, have been hard at work creating a new platform through which our undergraduates can learn and do history. The journal started accepting papers this Fall and received its first submitted paper by December 31st. We hope to have more news on this in the upcoming quarter! It is already making impressive progress, so be sure to check in on it to stay up to date with all of your books.

With warmest wishes,

I wish you all a healthy, safe, and happy holiday season. See you all in 2021!

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