HISTORY HOUSE HERALD

Message from the Chair

By Prof. Anthony Daly



Welcome to the 2017-18 academic Jeffrey Toobin, an analyst for CNN year! Whether you are a returning student or new to MCLA, I hope the semester is off to a good start for you and that you are excited about your classes. As a department we are excited about the range of courses offered this fall, classes that cover the globe and many different historical eras and ways of thinking about political science, public policy, and history.

The semester starts off with our traditional September open house, an opportunity to enjoy some food, introduce new students and faculty, and allow everyone to catch up after returning to campus. We hope to see you at the History House (72 Porter Street) on Tuesday, September 12th from 12-1.

Looking forward, we are excited that the Public Policy Lecture Series will bring a highly respected speaker, and staff writer for The New Yorker, to MCLA in November to provide analysis and insight on politics, media and the law. Another highlight is the Freedom from Fear/Yellow Bowl Project series of events that the department is helping to organize. Artist Setsuko Winchester's series of photographs of WWII internment camps for Japanese Americans at Gallery 51 will be the center of several opportunities for the campus and the community to come together for conversations about issues such as citizenship, democracy, remembering, and forgiving.

The controversies surrounding the nation's leadership and direction today remind us that the disciplines of history and political science provide crucial perspective and analytical tools. Make the most of your liberal arts education so that you

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PAGE 2: Our students have been busy inside and outside the classroom. From innovative online COPLAC courses to great hands on internships with museums, political campaigns and scholars.



PAGE 4: This fall's speaker lineup includes CNN'sJeffrey Toobin, ABC's Byron Pitts, environmental activist Joanna Ballentine and Berkshire Eagle president Fred Rutberg.



PAGE 6: Study abroad with MCLA! After a successful Peru trip, Prof. Cupery will bring students to Cuba while Prof. Huang heads to Japan and Profs. Janis and Jones-Sneed lead a Civil Rights bus tour.



PAGE 7: Learn more about the important research done by department faculty members.

"Who knows only his own generation remains always a child." -George Norlin

graduate with a thoughtful understanding of events in the United States and around the world, a crucial element in a healthy democracy.

As you head into the semester, remember that the faculty in the department are dedicated to student success, so don't hesitate to contact us to ask for advice or assistance drop us an email, look up our office hours on the department web sites (www.mcla.edu/hist or

www.mcla.edu/pspp), or drop by 72 Porter Street – and look for us on Facebook.

All the best to you for a productive and enjoyable semester.

Like many MCLA departments, the Department of History, Political Science and Public Policy works hard to help its students gain practical experience through internships. In fact, a 3-credit internship is now a requirement of the PSPP major. Summer ends up being the logical time for many students to complete this step in their professional development. Here are three of their stories.

Tianna Darling, Class of 2018, Westfield, MA

This summer I interned with the Berkshire County Historical Society at Herman Melville's Arrowhead. Arrowhead, as it is more commonly known as, is a combination of both the county's historical society and a historic house museum dedicated to Herman Melville, author of Moby Dick, who lived there from 1850 through 1863. I worked there throughout the summer on various projects in both the museum and historical society and learned the many aspects of working in a small museum setting. The directors, Will Garrison and Peter Bergman, were amazing and taught me so much about working in a small museum. They even kept me on as paid staff after I had technically finished my internship.

I worked on projects such as cataloging incoming items for the historical society, guiding tours of the house, creating inventories and informational binders for items on display, helping to implement self-guided house tours, and working on displays for the museum. There was always something new and exciting going on from which to gain experience . Interning at Arrowhead was a very enjoyable and rewarding experience, and helped me realize that after I graduate I would definitely consider working in a museum.

Victoria Muñoz, Class of 2019, Plymouth, MA

This summer I had the pleasure of interning for Dr. Ana Campos Manzo in the Department Sociology at Connecticut College in New London, CT. Dr. Campos Manzo invited me back for a second summer internship to continue working on her research project and publish an academic journal article. As a dual major in Political Science and Sociology I jumped at the opportunity to connect my two disciplines. During my internship Dr. Campos Manzo and I developed, "Transitioning: Boys and Girls of Color Navigating Law during Adolescence", a project that examines how adolescents interact with law. My main tasks included transcribing qualitative interviews, selecting a subsample of 40 youth of color for my paper, coding the interviews in the sample for law and other subthemes, and conducting a literature review for a paper proposal.



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Senior political Science major Charlie Weissfellner and New York City mayoral candidate Sal Albanese take a break from campaigning to snap a photo with Sal's campaign manager.

I originally connected with Dr. Campos Manzo through a MCLA professor who knew I was interested in further exploring academia. After two summers of engaging with the research process I know that I want to pursue research as a career. I'm thankful for the mentorship of Dr. Campos Manzo and the many opportunities given to me by MCLA.

Charlie Weissfellner, Class of 2018, Brooklyn, NY

This summer I interned for Sal Albanese, a New York City mayoral candidate challenging the sitting mayor, Bill de Blasio, in the Democratic primary. The campaign had very limited staff and resources, giving me the opportunity to work on all facets of the campaign. I quickly earned the job of volunteer coordinator and was briefly head of opposition research. I spent most of my time out campaigning with the candidate at events across New York City such as the NYC Pride Parade, the Dominican Day Parade, and a host of forums held by local civic groups. My time this summer culminated with the first of two Democratic mayoral debates, for which I participated in debate preparations, coordinated the volunteer presence outside of the venue, gave the candidate notes on his performance, and even made it into the post-debate media spin room. My coursework at MCLA helped me immensely during this internship, especially U.S. Government and Public Policy and Campaigns and Elections courses. My time this summer has given me experience in all aspects of campaigning and has helped me develop professionally while leaving me more politically knowledgeable and engaged. (cont'd on page 3)

Looking Forward: Alumni Notes

As you near graduation, you may be asking yourself how to wrap up your college years or what comes next. Our department works hard prepare you for the competitive ever-changing job market. We want your next steps to be fulfilling and we want your college years to be conducive to that end. This section of the newsletter highlights stories from recent graduates. First, we spoke with 2012 PSPP major **Jessica Russo**.

Could you tell us a little about your professional path since MCLA?

Since I graduated from MCLA, I have remained in the Berkshires. I have taken on a role helping individuals apply for MassHealth and free care benefits where I have stayed and moved into the program coordinator role. Even though the work I do now is more similar to that of a social worker, it has been very interesting for me to see health care policy in action. It has been very challenging to help individuals navigate a seriously flawed system that I have no ability to change in my current job position. I have learned that a degree in Political Science and Public Policy can be very versatile and lead to several different career paths.

What is your long term professional goal and how has it changed, if at all, since you started out at MCLA?

When I left MCLA, I was not sure of what my long term professional goal was and I'm still figuring out the answer. I do know now that even though I am very interested in politics I don't think I would ever want to run for office. I have found that I truly enjoy helping and advocating for others. My long term goal is to find a job that allows me to help others while working with and/or changing policy at least on a municipal level.

Do you have a favorite memory or course from your time in the History and Political Science Department?

I have many great memories of my time in the History and Political Science Department. There were several great guest speakers I was able to meet, once in a life time trips I was able to take and some wonderful professors who taught me a great deal. However, the one class that will always stand out is Woman as Global Leaders. We spent the semester learning about woman leaders all over the world and then attended a Women's Global Leadership Conference in Abu Dhabi. I learned that even though woman all over the world have vast cultural differences we are very similar in many ways and have the same goals. It was a once in a lifetime experience and I have been able to use a lot of what I learned in everyday life. Are there particular skills, knowledge or experience that you gained as a part of the History and Political Science Department that have come in handy for you professionally?

There are two skills that come to mind when I think of the History and Political Science Department which are my ability to research and to question what I have told both of which have been incredibly helpful in my current job role. Often times when I speak to MassHealth Enrollment Workers, they give the wrong information. Since I have learned to question what I am told, I often times will request the worker take a second look at the case or if that does not work I will research to find the specific regulation that supports what I am asking for. This allows me to help my clients obtain the most comprehensive coverage they deserve. If I did not have those skills I do not think I would have advanced at my job in such a short period of time.

Do you have any advice for our current students? Is there something you wish you would have done differently in college or an opportunity you regret not taking advantage of?

As a student who commuted I feel like I missed out a lot when it came to participating in on campus events. My advice to current students is to be involved as much as possible while still taking time for self-care. I would also advise to not be afraid to meet new people and ask questions since that is often the best way to learn new things and to grow as a person.

Annual eportfolio workshop alumni visit:

In October, Corbin Apkin'13 will return to campus to talk with the students in HIST 450/POSC 450 Career and ePortfolio Workshop. Corbin graduated Magna Cum Laude with a major in History and earned his Master of Library Science (MLS) from Simmons College with a specialization in Archives Management. He is employed as an Archivist with the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland. He will be bringing the benefit of his experiences in graduate school and the "real world" to a conversation with the class and then to a lunch with faculty and students. Contact Professor Daly if you would like to join the lunch. Corbin's visit is part of a regular program that brings History and Political Science alumni back to campus, supported by funding from the MCLA Hardman Special Initiative Fund.

Great Guest Speakers at MCLA



Department students with former Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift. From left: Nikki Logiudice, Siobhan Greene, Victoria Muñoz, Mike McAndrew, Governor Swift, Amber Coombe, Tim Williams, and Kaitlin Wright.

During the Spring 2017 semester we built on our tradition of bringing relevant and respected speakers to campus and that trend will continue throughout the 2017-2018 academic year.

For the spring installment of our biannual Public Policy Lecture Series, we wanted someone who could help us make sense of the 2016 national elections, particularly with an eye towards the future direction of the Republican Party and the potential realignment of our two major parties. Former Massachusetts governor **Jane Swift** did this by exploring the rise of the Tea Party and, later, Donald Trump and analyzing the role structural shifts in our economy, interests and groups and, particularly, the media. Students and community members alike found Governor Swift's take thought-provoking and revealing. Our students especially enjoyed the chance to interact with the former governor on a more intimate basis during a classroom visit and a pre-talk reception.

~The following section is by Professor Ely Janis

MCLA was fortunate last Spring to have John Lewis on campus to receive a honorary degree and serve as commencement speaker. Congressman Lewis' lifetime of activism in pursuit of civil rights and social equality continues to provide an inspiring model of civic engagement for the MCLA community, as well as all Americans.

The son of sharecroppers in Alabama, Congressman Lewis grew up experiencing first-hand the effects of the segregation and racism enshrined in the laws and customs of the Jim Crow South. His own activism began during his time as a student at Fisk University in



Professors Janis and Jones-Sneed enjoyed getting to know Congressman John Lewis over breakfast and at a reception prior to his 2017 commencement address.

Nashville, where he helped organize sit-ins of segregated businesses, became one of the original Freedom Riders, helped organize the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and served as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He is probably most well known for helping lead marchers across Selma, Alabama's Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965 to protest for African-American voting rights. At the end of the bridge, the marchers were beaten by an angry mob in what became known as "Bloody Sunday." Lewis himself suffered a fractured skull and still bears the scars of this beating today and has been arrested over forty times during his lifetime of activism. Since 1988, he has served as the representative for Georgia's 5th congressional district in the House of Representatives.

During Congressman Lewis' visit to MCLA, I was lucky enough to have the chance to speak with him one-on-one for a few minutes. Meeting public figures you admire can be dangerous, as oftentimes they do not measure up to the esteem and reverence you hold them up to. However, I am happy to say, Congressman Lewis was, in fact, a warm, engaging, and generous individual. I was especially impressed with his engagement and genuine interest in the lives and experiences of the students he interacted with that weekend.

In his commencement speech, Congressman Lewis urged the graduating seniors to "be brave, be bold, be courageous." Responding to the political turmoil and partisan conflict found today in American society, he responded that America had come too far to turn back and that the only way to be successful was for us to move forward as a nation. Perhaps it is best to end this account of Congressman Lewis' (continued on page 5) visit to MCLA with the call he gave to the graduates as they left MCLA and which, regardless of your political affiliation or views, is advice worth aspiring to: "Get out there, get in the way, get in trouble, good trouble, necessary trouble and make some noise."

Upcoming Speakers

CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin will give the fall 2017 installment of the Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture Series on Thursday, November 16th. Toobin's talk, entitled "Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court", will look at the changing dynamics of our nation's supreme judicial body with a special eye towards major recent points of controversy, the likely ideological evolution of SCOTUS, and the institution's potential impact on polarizing issues in the near future. He'll help us make sense of the Supreme Court under Obama and, now, Trump and the ongoing battle to shape it. This speaker series is made possible through a generous grant from the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.



Several other exciting talks are also coming up. On September 19th, retired Berkshire County judge and current president of the Berkshire Eagle, Fred Rutberg, will give a talk entitled "Freedom of the Press in an Age of Crisis" for our annual Constitution Day event. Byron Pitts, co-anchor of ABC's "Nightline" will give this year's Hardman Lecture on Wednesday, October 18th. The following week, on Thursday, October 26th, Joanna Ballantine, a vice president of environmental advocacy group Trustees of Reservations will present the Elizabeth and Lawrence Vadnais Environmental Issues Lecture.

Student Spotlight (continued from page 2)

"COPLAC Quakers" Online Seminar

In spring 2017, **Madeleine McKeon** and **Elizabeth Kurz-Michel** participated in a COPLACDigital online seminar, a project of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges. These seminars are team-taught, enroll students from across COPLAC's national member colleges, and feature innovative pedagogies and the use of digital tools to research and present projects. In this seminar, "Divided Houses: Secession and Separation," students analyzed a secessionist or separatist movement in their region. Here is Madeleine's description of their work:

"Our project focused on the Quaker community that was contemporary to the Puritan colonists of Massachusetts Bay. There was a lot of conflict between the two groups. However, the Puritans were in the majority and after a period of living under harsh Puritan laws, the Quakers decided to leave and begin their own communities in Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. This story pushes the definition of secessionism – could the Quakers truly be separatist if they were forced to migrate due to discrimination? Did their departure have a truly significant political and economic impact? The website uses the Quaker example as a case study to explore the boundaries of what can truly be considered secessionist." For more information, go to: <u>http://divided.coplacdigital.org/mcla/</u>

New Leadership New England Women's Leadership Conference

During the summer of 2017, senior History/PSPP double major **Kaitlin Wright** attended this five-day residential conference aimed at educating and empowering the next generation of women leaders. She writes: "NEW Leadership New England was a conference unlike any other. It was a weeklong event with about 25 other young women who all shared similar interests in government, politics, and leadership. While we all came from different backgrounds, majors, and various schools across the area, we all shared a similar passion for making this world a better place through forms of public service. Each day, we had multiple female guest speakers come and share their stories with us; from former state senators and representatives from New Hampshire, to leaders in the nonprofit, banking, law, and teaching sectors. Much of the conference was also spent participating in team building activities such as getting into various groups (lawmakers and lobbyists) to do a mock hearing for a bill in the New Hampshire legislature. We even spent a day touring the Capitol in Concord! This was a wonderful experience that taught me new perspectives and allowed me the opportunity to meet an amazing group of young women! "

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History, Political Science & Public Policy Newsletter

The Department of History, Political Science and Public Policy is one of the most active on campus in offering faculty-led, short-term study away opportunities in the form of travel courses, which pair on-campus, semester long academic work with 10-12 days of travel to the destinations that students have been studying.

After Professor Anthony Daly's (Ireland) and Professor Kailai Huang's (Japan) successful 2016 travel courses, Professor Dave Cupery took his first crack at it with a Spring 2017 travel course for Peru. 13 MCLA students joined Prof. Cupery and Prof. Huang and family in traveling to Lima, Cuzco, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca. An obvious highlight of the trip was Machu Picchu. For their visit to the to the famed ruins, eight group members went the extra mile and completed a pre-dawn hike in the rain up to the ruins. As the group emerged at the end of the denselyvegetated trail and arrived at the ruins, the clouds cleared and wonderful views lay before them. It was truly a magical moment. Another highlight was spending a night on the islands of Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake. Students stayed with indigenous families, visited a local school, and hiked to a sacred mountaintop for sunset before participating in a community dance. History major Anthony Corbett describes the travel component of the course as "one of the greatest experiences I have had the joy of embarking on."

Spring 2018 Travel Courses

For the 2017-2018 academic year, department faculty are offering THREE travel courses. Here's what they'll be doing:

Professor Janis and Professor Jones-Sneed will be taking MCLA students from March 9-19 on a **bus tour** to the American South to celebrate and commemorate the major milestones and events of the **Civil Rights** Era. Beginning in North Adams, we will visit Washington, D.C.; Greensboro, North Carolina; Atlanta and Albany, Georgia; Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham, Alabama; and Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee. At these sites, students will also have the opportunity to meet with veterans of the Civil Rights movement and hear their first-hand experiences of this momentous time in American history. Through the generosity of donors to MCLA, this trip will also be heavily subsidized for students. For more information on the trip, please contact Professor Janis at <u>ely.janis@mcla.edu</u>

Professor Huang will be returning to **Japan** during Spring 2018. This trip promises to be an experience of lifetime. If you are an enthusiast of Japanese anime/ manga, or simply want to challenge yourself to a sensory overload in a dramatically different culture, a trip to



Profs. Cupery and Huang with the group at Machu Picchu

Japan will take you through times, terrains, and tastes like no other. The trip will take you to the main island of Honshu, where the ancient capital Kyoto and the world's largest metropolis Tokyo are located. From these two base cities, high-speed trains will reach temple mountains, country trails, and castle towns. For a preliminary itinerary and additional information about this course, contact Professor Huang <u>kailai.huang@mcla.edu</u>

Professor Cupery will be returning to Latin America; this time to Cuba. After studying the island's contentious relations with the U.S. and controversial communist system, students will spend 11 days visiting sites of historical, cultural and political significance and experiencing Cuba's rich and varied culture. The group will spend the first half of the trip in the bustling capital, Havana, where students will have access to the best museums, political sites, and music scene. Later, the group will tour Santa Clara, Trinidad, Cienfuegos and the Bay of Pigs, diving (literally and figuratively) into the last site's history and natural beauty through a museum visit and historical lecture as well as an afternoon of snorkeling. Overall, aside from addressing the country's history and politics, the trip is designed to maximize interaction with the Cuban people and their culture. Thus, students will be spending their nights with Cuban families, meet face to face with Cuban experts, scholars, and artists, and even find time for salsa lessons.



Faculty Research Spotlight

In addition to teaching courses, advising students, and serving on committees, department faculty also continue their work as scholars, researching topics of political and historical importance. The next few editions of the History House Herald will give you a look at some of the work they are currently completing.

Samantha Pettey, Assistant Professor of Political Science

My research is currently focusing on women in office, or the lack thereof. Women are vastly underrepresented in the political system at all levels of government. Studying reasons why this is the case is important because research finds women are better at representing other women. In other words, legislation (at all levels of



government) becomes more favorable to women in the public when women serve as politicians: think women's health, amongst other topics.

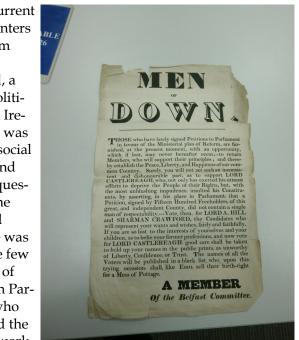
I was initially drawn to the fact that some states legislatures are much closer to having an equal number of men and women in office. For example, Colorado's legislature is comprised of about 40% women. I wanted to further our understanding of how differences across the states may be effecting a woman's decision to run office. Specifically, I have been studying the positive effect state legislative term limits have on female candidate emergence. In a piece forthcoming in Political Research Quarterly, I find women are more likely to run as candidates in states with term limits than in states without term limits. The next phase of the research delves even deeper, to the district level within each state, to examine how socio-demographics differences affect a females' decision to run for office (and win).

Further, I think studying voter's perceptions of female candidates is important as well. The research on emergence is just the first step in the process--- women can run all they want, but voters get the final say in who wins. To that extent, I have spent the last few years working with colleagues to understand how voters perceive a female candidate when their opposition is a male candidate. We find that female voters are much more likely to think a female candidate is competent when compared to a male candidate.

Anthony Daly, Professor of History and Dept. Chair

My current project centers on William Sharman Crawford, a radical politician from Ireland who was active in social debates and political questions of the 1830s and 1840s. He was one of the few members of the British Parliament who supported the rights of workers as ad-

vanced in the



Deep in the archives in Belfast

People's Charter, a petition that gained millions of signatures asking for changes such as wider voting rights and secret ballots.

Working on this project is an example of both old and new methods. Some sources such as Parliamentary records and many important newspapers are available online and are fully searchable. However, to examine the documents of Crawford's life-letters, diaries, essays-I needed to travel to an old-fashioned archive in Belfast. Actually, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland is a state of the art facility, with documents swiftly retrieved from climate-controlled underground vaults via a computer ordering system. There is something very cool about handling – very carefully--documents written almost 200 years ago. Using a digital camera, I was able to bring hundreds of images back with me. Drawing on these primary sources, I will prepare a paper to present at the annual meeting of the North American Conference for British Studies, held this November in Denver.

This research is in many ways very distant from our contemporary world, but I believe that examining issues such as what a democracy is, who gets to vote, and how politicians respond to popular pressure is always relevant. When we analyze the past, we have the benefit of a better perspective, of being able to see the big picture, and it can help us think more clearly about the issues and decisions we face in 2017.

Other Department News

There are some exciting changes to the History major this fall, changes we believe will improve students' experiences and help to give a better sense of what is stirring and valuable about the study of history. Faculty in the department have been talking for a few years about how to broaden students' experiences in their first few years beyond survey courses and how to update our approach to teaching historical methods to reflect changes, especially in technology, that have transformed how historians work. This fall will see the first of three new introductory courses offered. HIST 230 War, Science, and Society will explore a variety of case studies from European and world history with a focus on how conflict and scientific innovation have combined to change societies. Next year we will begin to offer HIST 220 Reformers, Rebels, & Revolutionaries in East Asia and HIST 240 Reacting to the Past. Another significant change is the replacement of two methods classes – Research and Bibliography along with Historiography-with the new HIST 290 Historical Methods and Theory. More information on this pivotal course can be found below. These changes only apply to students who enter MCLA in fall 2017 or after; for the complete listing of the newly reconfigured major, look at the program details on our web site: www.mcla.edu/hist.

The new HIST 290 – Historical Methods and Theory will focus on the historical questions central to an understanding of the past and the way various scholars

have interpreted historical events. Regular readings and writing assignments will be used to focus on a series of topics such as defining history, how to conduct research and find relevant and reliable information, the creation of a historical profession, and methods of evaluating the past and historical interpretation. Students will also contribute to local history projects sponsored by the MCLA History Department. By examining the various research methods used by historians, this course aims to provide you with a more complete understanding of the way history is interpreted, written, evaluated, and (re) constructed. The process of history, then, serves as the broad template for our course this semester, and this focus will provide you with a number of key skills.

In January 2017, the department officially added a new minor in Public History, which provides students with knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience that can be used as preparation for a variety of careers in public history such as local, state, and national historic historic sites, archives, and museums. This program will draws on the strengths of our department and courses in the Arts Management that examine topics such as museum studies and fundraising. As part of the minor, students will complete an internship at a site such as a museum, archive, or library, either in the Berkshires or perhaps a summer internship near their home. For more information, visit the History web site at www.mcla.edu/hist or contact Professor Daly.

Spring 2018 Courses Offerings

In addition to survey courses and methods courses, the department plans to offer these upper level courses...

HIST 305 Ancient Greece and Rome	TRVL 300 Japan Travel Course
HIST 310 History of Japan	TRVL 300 Cuba Travel Course
HIST 320 American Immigration and Ethnicity	POSC 315 Latin American Politics and Society (HIST
HIST 330 Latin American Politics and Society (POSC	cross-list)
cross-list)	POSC 316 Model UN
HIST 401 The 1960s seminar	POSC 315 Race and Ethnic Politics
HIST 403 European Empires in the 19th Century semi-	POSC 304 Constitutional Law
nar	CCAP 300 Conversations on Race
HIST 450 Career and ePortfolio workshop (POSC cross-	POSC 450 Career and ePortfolio workshop (HIST cross-
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TRVL 300 Civil Rights Travel Course