The Primary Source Reborn
Salutations and Felicitations!

The Primary Source is the official newsletter of the History Graduate Student Association and functions as "party organ," meaning the repository of official and unofficial opinions of the HGSA and its members. The Primary Source is also a place to contact fellow student-historians for most of the reasons one contacts another person.

In the following numbers, expect to see information on our newest members of the cohort, more helpful advice on writing, publishing that first article, and thoughts on the daunting task of entering the academy or making an entry into the non-academic workplace.

The Editor pro tempore of the Primary Source is Michael Hancock-Parmer. Mistakes are his alone.

This first number of the resurrected newsletter will attempt to fulfill several functions: 1) that of a functioning departmental graduate student newsletter, 2) a workable precedent for future newsletter layouts, and 3) a newsletter that will allow room for growth as more graduate students feel comfortable sharing their content with their cohort.

With that, I hereby inaugurate the first number of the reborn Primary Source!

From the Archive

Primary Source 9, no. 3
(Nov 1993)

Computers installed at History House

The History House (712 E 8th St.) now has two computers for graduate student use. Each computer has WordPerfect 5.1 installed, a hard drive, 5.25" and 3.5" disk drives, and a printer. One of the computers also has a modem, which allows access to VAX accounts and the library’s online catalog, as well as other services.

All that is needed to use the computers is a key to the History House, which can be obtained in the department office from Pam Kramer. (A $2 deposit is required)
HGSA Website
Updates and You!

The HGSA website hosts several items of importance to its members. First among these, the website is the public face of IU’s history cohort. It is the place where visitors and fellow professionals learn more about IU’s graduate students. The website hosts a list of current students as well as additional information relating to each student. The HGSA invites students to name their faculty advisors, the details of their research, and the existence of other online material relating to those students.

Please send your information to miflhanc@indiana.edu

Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2013

HGSA Meeting Minutes – 11/1

Meeting called to order

Michael Hancock-Parmer, HGSA Tech coordinator, opened the floor for concerns about technology issues.

Point raised about how to address the possibility of acquiring new computers for the graduate lounge. As the computers are university property and on an update schedule. Discussion followed regarding how HGSA money could be used to purchase a separate computer, but that was not recommended, as the computer would mostly likely need to be put in the control of the college in order to be part of the university security system. The printer in the grad lounge is owned by the department.

Point raised about use of the public and private HGSA listserves, followed by discussion of how to use those resources most effectively. The private list-serve, for communication within HGSA, has not been used as frequently in recent years, and contacting people via the HGSA Facebook group is now a more active location for contacting other history graduate students.

Discussion about both the department and HGSA websites. The department website is not under control of HGSA. The graduate student list is not current on either of these sites. The plan going

Cheap Eyewear

The editor shares a personal recommendation regarding purchasing cheap glasses.

When I first came to IU in 2008, I bought a pair of glasses at the IU Optometry clinic, which included a very thorough eye exam. The cost of the glasses was roughly $300.

However, this summer I needed a new pair of glasses. While searching for cheap alternatives, a fellow History graduate student suggested I check out Zenni Optical via their website.

I bought my current pair of glasses for under $20. The catch is that you must measure the distance between your pupils, which can seem daunting. The website gives clear instructions and the precision needed is forgiving enough. I have worn my new pair of glasses since mid-August and have no complaints.
forward, however, is for the HGSA list of current students to be updated, and for the department website to link through to the HGSA site for their section on current graduate students. If your name is not on the HGSA website under the ‘current students’ section, e-mail Michael Hancock-Parmer (miflhanc@indiana.edu) with your name, field, advisor, research interests, etc.

Decision made to resurrect “Primary Source,” the HGSA newsletter. This would be an electronic publication either monthly or quarterly. Primary Source will be an institutional document online, and will be under the jurisdiction of an HGSA appointed editor. Meeting members voted by acclamation to accept Michael Hancock-Parmer as the new editor of “Primary Source.” Please contact Michael if you wish to participate in the publication of the new newsletter in any way. Contributions could be as diverse as articles or crossword puzzles.

Geoff Ralston sent an update from GPSO, as follows:

“We’re introducing a resolution to the GPSO today to change the SAA pay schedule to coincide with faculty pay dates. This essentially means that SAAs [AIs, CAs, etc.] would get paid on a regular monthly schedule (including during the summer) instead of being paid twice in a month for fall and spring semester. Note that this is merely a resolution that we’re planning to submitting to the Bloomington Faculty Council and the Office of Financial Management Services, and there’s a chance the GPSO may vote it down.”

Geoff should have more information for HGSA next meeting regarding the changes to university Health Insurance policies that will come into effect on January 1st. There is some information available about that change already in the latest GPSO newsletter.

Tara Saunders announced that there are plans for another pedagogy round-table by the end of November. Stay tuned for more information.

The HGSA Conference committee has announced the date and theme of next spring’s conference. “Positioning Histories: Consequences of Space and Place on Historical Narratives” will take place on the IU campus on April 5th. The deadline for abstract submissions is January 17th. Location TBD

Meeting closed

HGSA Caroling

Wassailing, anyone?

Last year the HGSA caroling outing was a success and we hope to repeat the same.

HGSA Caroling is non-sectarian and secular in nature, though the music will be the traditional fare of the Christmas holiday. Familiarity with the carols is also not a necessity, as HGSA provides caroling books with music and lyrics.

Details will follow in future HGSA announcements and future numbers of the Primary Source. Questions and concerns should be sent to the editor.
Writing Advice
On perfectionism

Few aphorisms offer solace or guidance to the distracted and distraught graduate student. One, though, attributable to Voltaire, may be of use.

“Perfect is the enemy of good”

Insisting on perfection will keep a solid piece of work from being completed in the first place. Robert Watson-Watt, early engineer of radar, suggested that one should attempt the third best option in any project because the second best will take too long and the best will never materialize at all. This leads us to the second aphorism:

“Good is the enemy of done”

Whether turning in your first colloquium paper or preparing your first article for scholarly publication, this is advice difficult to swallow, digest, and live with. Our work lives after us and will continue to represent our flaws and imperfections as long as our work remains relevant. The sooner one can come to terms with this fact, the better for one’s career.

Genealogy at IU
Are you interested in learning more about your own or someone else’s family history in North America? There are some excellent resources available. More importantly, these same resources are quite expensive for those unaffiliated with a university.

Wells Library maintains a detailed page describing their genealogy resources. Of particular interest is the library edition of Ancestry.com.

Restaurant Reviews
This is a column that you, HGSA Member, can put to better use than your humble editor, a self-described “non-food-person.” Please share your restaurant likes (or dislikes) with the Primary Source!

With that caveat, I endeavor to recommend the décor and cuisine of one of Bloomington’s lesser-known haunts: El Norteño. Located in this historic Princess Theater--built in 1913--building on Walnut street just uphill from 6th street, the layout of the restaurant is uniquely suited to fun and friendly dining. They both lunch and dinner menus, with most entrées coming in at around $7/plate.

The Huevos Motuleños (pinto beans and eggs in tortillas, side of rice with house mole sauce) are excellent. Arroz con pollo may be unexciting, but it is delicious and filling. The food style helps highlight the regional definition of the eatery, the northern state of Nuevo León in Mexico.

Vegetarians will be delighted by the options. The upper floor holds extra dining room and gallery space looking out on the street.

The weekend bed-and-breakfast crowd is growing and El Norteño added a weekend brunch menu to meet the demand. 10:30AM-1PM on the weekend, one finds a variety of light dishes, including delicious molletes, breakfast burritos, and huevos rancheros.

El Norteño is open 11AM to 10PM Monday through Wednesday, 11AM-3AM Thursday through Saturday, and 10:30AM-9PM on Sunday. Reservations and catering are available at 812-333-9591 and be sure remember them when May rolls around. They claim to have the best Cinco de Mayo party in town!
Relax around town
Brown County Cabins

The best-kept secret in the area is likely the very reasonably priced A-frame Family Cabins at Brown County State Park. These cabins have two bedrooms, a full kitchen and bath, and a woodstove provided with plenty of firewood. The cabins offer a comfortable way to enjoy the wilderness. The best deal is to reserve the cabins during the “off-season” in December-February on the weekdays, when the normal cost of $160 before tax covers two nights instead of one.

The cabins sleep eight, with large beds in the bedrooms, plus two foldout sofas in the main room. The park stocks the cabin kitchens with cookware and utensils. Bring your DVDs and veg out between the woodstove and the flat-screen TV. Each cabin has a deck and easy access to a woodshed for firewood. Abe Martin Lodge, just down the hill from the cabins, houses a hotel, restaurant, gift shop, and modest waterpark with a large waterslide and Jacuzzi. Access for 8 to the waterpark is included with reservation of cabins.

One of the greatest benefits to staying in one of the Family Cabins is easy access to the hilly woods of Brown County. The park maintains nearly a dozen groomed trails of varying lengths, allowing you to get the most out of your time.

Whether you are planning a romantic getaway or a fun post-Finals party for your close friends, it is hard to beat the Family Cabins for price, convenience, setting, and comfort.

Next Issue...
Keep your eyes open for the December issue of the Primary Source. It should include:

- Caroling details
- Meeting Minutes
- HGSA Treasury Note
- More on B-town and its opportunities for fun and relaxation
- Writing/Career Advice
- More treasures “from the Archive”

Until then!

(812) 988-4418 for reservations or try their website for online reservations
https://abemartinlodge.dnr.state.in.us/