

## **Graduate Historians' Association Meeting October 22, 2008**

The first meeting of the Graduate Historians' Association for the 2008-2009 school year convened at approximately 12:10 PM on Wednesday October 22, 2008.

In attendance were Justin Carroll, Jason Freidman, Lindsay Gish, Melissa Hibbard, Jill Kelly, Rebecca Koerselman, Kitty Lam, Eric Limbach, Matthew Park, Natalie Rose, Ben Sawyer, Micalee Sullivan, Ashley Wiersma, Laura Cuppone, Leonard Mbah, and Elizabeth Pellorito.

Graduate Student Union representative Elizabeth Pellorito spoke about union benefits, protocol for addressing grievances, and answered questions.

Micalee Sullivan recalled that last year a few students presented papers to GHA colleagues and members expressed a desire to continue this. Ben Sawyer volunteered to conduct the first in this year's series of graduate presentations to fellow students. Ben will present his paper "An American Company? Singer Manufacturing Company and American Capitalism in the Russian Imagination during WWI" on Wednesday October 29, 2008 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Discussion followed about other ways the GHA could increase its activity this school year. Members voiced interest in talks with departmental faculty and ABD students about topics such as "comp survival," finding funding, conference presentations, etc. The GHA also hopes to sponsor more social events. The first is a "Happy Hour" at Dublin Square on Friday, October 24, 2008 at approximately 5:00 pm. The hope is that this Happy Hour can be a weekly, or at least bi-weekly event, where members of the department can relax and converse in an informal setting.

Melissa Hibbard suggested the scheduling of a regular monthly meeting. Members agreed to hold a meeting in November, but no exact date was set.

Ashley Wiersma announced that she and other graduate students that have taught at the secondary level are preparing a forum to speak with undergraduates majoring in secondary education. Please contact Ashley if interested in participating.

Ben Sawyer suggested the election of officials, but those present decided that they would be satisfied with volunteers to serve. Ben recommended that Kitty Lam serve as the president since she was involved in the GHA last year and had several new ideas for the organization. Kitty agreed and asked that Melissa Hibbard assist her. The members agreed. Jason Friedman will serve as the 2008-2009 treasurer and will report at the next meeting about the amount of money available in GHA's account.

The meeting ended at approximately 12:45.