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## NEW FACULTY

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### **Carol Faulkner**

A new addition to the History department is Professor Carol Faulkner. Her concentration is in nineteenth century United States History. Her dissertation was on the Freedman's Aid Movement which she further expanded upon and turned into a book called *Women's Radical Reconstruction: The Freedman's Aid Movement*. The thesis of this book is how female activists viewed reconstruction as an opportunity to secure rights for themselves and the newly freed slaves. As of right now she is working on biography of Lucretia Mott because she has done a lot of research on her and feels that there is a gap in the information on her. Prof Faulkner really wants to demonstrate how Lucretia Mott shook up the standard narratives in women's rights and anti-slavery. Prof. Faulkner also is the book review editor for an online journal called *Women and Social Movements*.

This coming fall she'll be teaching two courses, HST 200, which is History of Sexuality and HST 300, which is Women's Rights in American History. In regards to future courses Prof. Faulkner is creating two new courses. One is for the social movements in American History from the 1800's until now; she wants to make it a 300 level so that more history majors can get into it. The other course she is working on is a HST 401 on researching sexuality for history.

Prof. Faulkner is a bright, intelligent, interesting woman who believes that history is very relevant for thinking about contemporary issues. She realized that she wanted to study history when she was young because she was a big mystery reader and she saw a relationship between mystery and history. In the classroom, Prof. Faulkner engages her class with in depth discussions and witty comments. In an attempt to keep history interesting and relevant she tells jokes, shows clips from YouTube.com, screens films and provides a variety of historical sources to her students.

Welcome to SU Professor Faulkner, we are glad to have you.

Michelle Austin

### Albrecht Diem

Albrecht Diem is a professor in the history department at Syracuse University; born, raised and educated in Europe. Diem describes himself as a wandering scholar who is “culturally Dutch, legally German, most at home in Toronto.” His area of interest lies in the early middle ages with his area of expertise being in western monasticism. He is fascinated by the role of monasteries in the middle ages and the rise of the concept of monastic communities. The question of the role that monasteries played in the development of communities, in developing systems of discipline and law, and how monasteries eventually grew into large institutions deeply intrigues this scholar of history.

After earning his Ph. D in history, Diem worked as a lecturer at different universities and then worked as a research fellow at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. He also threw himself into the job market, applying for a multitude of teaching positions in New Zealand, Australia, England and the United States. He stayed in the job market for three years before finding a job at Syracuse University. And he says, “it was worth the wait,” describing Syracuse as one of the best jobs he could have found.

Currently, Diem is working on several projects. Eventually, one of the main projects that he would like to do would be to produce an English translation of his Ph.D. It's currently written in German and very few people in the United States can read it. But he still has other obligations to finish which he describes a “couple of rotting corpses in his closet.” Although he has other projects to do, he can only work on them part time as he is currently teaching. He describes this as a “time battle between research and spending the necessary time with your students.”

Although Diem misses the time to do research, he enjoys teaching. But he notes that there is a difference between students in the United States and Europe. In America, teaching is more challenging as students expect more guidance and have much more contact with their professors. Diem recalls as a student in Europe, “I spoke five minutes with the professor when I handed in my paper and that was all the contact I had.” Although the teaching styles between Europe and the United States are different, Diem enjoys his job at Syracuse.

Since arriving at Syracuse University, Diem has taught three classes: Early Medieval Europe, Origins of western monasticism and is currently teaching Saints and Sinners in the Middle Ages. Although he has a lot of freedom in what he can teach Diem believes it is logical that he start with his area of expertise. He would eventually like to teach a class on the history of opera and even a class on gay and lesbian people in the middle ages.

While Diem's classes look fascinating, the real interesting experience for any student will be Diem's way of teaching. Diem says he's not interested in pouring facts into students' brains, but rather being a teacher that can spark curiosity. He wants to teach students questions that will make them more inquisitive about the subject. The best learning experience will come with an exercise of curiosity. Any class with Professor Diem is sure to be a challenge most students won't forget.

**Welcome to Syracuse, Professor Diem!**

Kari Foley