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# IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Spring/Summer 2009 – Volume XXIII, No. 2

## From the Director

In the midst of challenging times, I am deeply optimistic about the IHRC's current work and future. Our mis-



sion to preserve and create access to historical materials about immigration becomes more relevant each year. IHRC cavern capacity limits have energized our outreach efforts, calling others to join with us in the work of preserving American heritage collections. IHRC processing projects create more access each day to current holdings.

I am pleased to announce that the College of Liberal Arts has appointed **Donna Gabaccia** to another three-year term as Director of the IHRC. The level of support that the College provides to the Center is substantial. Your support is needed to match that of the University. Our highest fundraising priority is to complete the Rudolph J. Vecoli Professorship Endowment. The professorship funds research programs, international scholar visits, graduate students and other activities that make the IHRC an internationally distinguished research center.

Your gift as a donation or a bequest, to the professorship honors the legacy of our former director, **Rudi Vecoli**. Outstanding leadership is a hallmark of the IHRC, and we need your help to continue that tradition. I encourage you to contact **Eva Widder**, our new development associate, or me as we together move toward completing this important fund.

—*Haven Hawley*

## Vecoli, Hoglelund Donations Support Collections Processing

In 2008, the IHRC began processing the Rudolph J. Vecoli Papers and print materials with funding provided by the Settima Palmerini and Giovanni Vecoli Endowment Fund. **Rudolph J. Vecoli** established the fund with a gift of \$100,000 to celebrate his parents, their immigrant experience and his scholarly career.

Processing of the A. William Hoglelund Papers and print holdings has been supported by an initial donation of \$10,000 from the estate of **A. William Hoglelund**, donated in spring 2009 by **Kaz Takahashi**. Additional funding will be contributed to the Timo Riippa Finnish American Studies Fund to continue work on the Hoglelund materials.

The imprint of these two scholars on the field of immigration history has been profound, and the IHRC is honored to be able to make available for research in the near future the Rudolph J. Vecoli Papers and the A. William Hoglelund Papers.

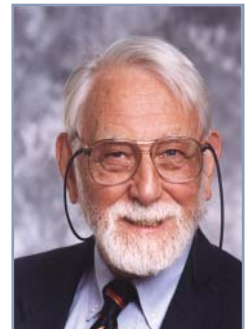


Photo by Tom Foley



Courtesy of Kaz Takahashi

## Global REM Seminar Videos Now Available

Videos from the Global Race, Ethnicity and Migration (Global REM) seminars presented by leading scholars 2007-2009 at the University of Minnesota are available on the Web. The seminars are sponsored by the IHRC and the Institute for Global Studies of the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) at the University of Minnesota.

**Richard Stachow**, CLA video photographer, arranged videography; **Mari Magler**, associate director for Disability Services, coordinated closed captioning for accessibility of the 2007 videos. IHRC's front desk team of **Meghan DeLisi**, **Brian Matsu-moto**, **Kian Missaghi**, **Alexis Yeboah** and **Mai Houa Yang** have continued the transcription and captioning process for 2008-2009 videos using Dragon Naturally Speaking voice recognition software and Media Access Generator (MAGpie) for the closed captions. **Cindy Herring** supervised the project.

The videos, teaching modules, and scholarly resources are available through the Global REM website at <http://www.globalrem.umn.edu/>.

## Visiting Scholars

Visiting scholars provided presentations on a variety of topics related to their research in the IHRC collections in spring 2009. Research in Progress Talks featured established scholars, graduate students and international researchers including:

**Yael Schacher, Kitty Lam, Maarja Merivoo-Parro, Carl Rahkonen, Gristel Ramler, Birgit Nurme, and Ieva Zake.**



Courtesy of Y. Schacher

**Yael Schacher** of Harvard University discussed the network of social workers who helped connect Armenians and Russians stranded

at way stations in France and Greece with family in the United States. Her talk was co-sponsored by the Social Welfare History Archives (University Libraries).



L to R, Haven Hawley, Kitty Lam and Karen Karni

In the early 1930s, about 6,000 Finns from North America moved to the Karelian Autonomous Republic as part of a Soviet labor recruitment campaign. **Kitty Lam** of Michigan State University examined how these North American Finns responded to and internalized “building socialism” as part of their encounter with the Soviet state. Her research visit was supported by the IHRC’s 2009 Michael G. Karni Scholarship.

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**Maarja Merivoo-Parro** of the Tallinn City Museum (Estonia)

discussed connections between Estonians in the USSR and the North-American diaspora, with song as a dynamic cultural practice in the process of Estonian independence.



**Carl Rahkonen** assessed the state of the field, resources available for future study, and IHRC holdings related to Finnish music. Rahkonen is music librarian at the

Harold S. Orendorff Music Library and professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His research visit was supported by an IHRC Ethnic Studies Grant in Aid.

**Gristel Ramler and Birgit Nurme** of the National Archives of Estonia provided an introduction to the virtual archives of their organization. The National Archives (Rahvusarhiiv) is a leader among Baltic nations in digital initiatives that link centuries-old cultural materials in Estonia to diaspora collections around the world.



**Birgit Nurme**



**Gristel Ramler**

**Ieva Zake** presented material from her new project researching the role of post-World War II émigrés, examining community activity and influence on the policies of both Republican and Democratic parties from the late 1940s to the 1980s.



Prof. Zake is a faculty member of the Sociology Department, Rowan University. Her research visit was supported by an IHRC Ethnic Studies Grant in Aid.



**Daniel Necas (L)** with **Joseph Moukarzel**, a visiting researcher from Holy Spirit University of Kaslik in Lebanon.

## Giving to the IHRC

Welcome to the newest member on the IHRC team—**Eva Widder!** She has worked in the College of Liberal Arts for nearly 3 years and is a proud U of M alumna. She looks forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and to working together to reach our \$1 million goal for the IHRC Professorship. With your help, we can continue to strengthen this already vibrant resource. Contact her at External Relations, College of Liberal Arts, at 612-626-5146 ([ewidder@umn.edu](mailto:ewidder@umn.edu)).



Photo by E. Ayoubzadeh

## Global Race, Ethnicity and Migration

Scholarly events at the IHRC included many Global Race, Ethnicity and Migration events co-sponsored by the IHRC and the Institute for Global Studies in Spring 2009.

Although many nations have as much immigration as the U.S., Americans especially identify with a national identity shaped by migration according to **Donna Gabaccia**. The program “Nation of Immigrants” on Friday, March 6 brought together spoken word artists from the Twin Cities to explore how newer immigrants express their relationship to American identity.

Global REM also hosted two major scholarly conferences. “Racism vs Xenophobia” held on Friday, March 13 featured prominent scholars and attracted a standing-room-only crowd in room 120 of Elmer L. Andersen Library. “Placing the Maghrib at the Center of the Twenty-First Century” brought scholars to the University of Michigan and the University of Minnesota for an international two-campus conference held April 6-7 and 9-10. The conference revisited last century’s major events through North African perspectives. \*[ihrc.umn.edu](http://ihrc.umn.edu)\*

## Collections Note

Three student assistants continued major processing projects with **Daniel Necas** this semester working on the papers of A. William Hogle, Philip Khouri Hitti and Rudolph J. Vecoli collection. The Vecoli Papers will become one of the largest collections of personal papers at the Center. Volunteers **Shruti Rajan** and **Michael Anuta** assisted staff with Arabic translation for the Philip Khouri Hitti Papers and processing the Michael Anuta Papers, respectively. \*[ihrc.umn.edu](http://ihrc.umn.edu)\*

**Halyna Myroniuk** and **Haven Hawley** have begun meeting with University Libraries representatives to ensure that IHRC and other University collections provide the best possible coverage of and access to migration-related print materials, despite capacity concerns and anticipated budget pressures.

To strengthen IHRC’s relations with other repositories in the Upper Midwest, **Daniel Necas** visited several institutions in March 2009 that have long been involved in documenting and researching immigrant experiences on the Iron Range in Minnesota and the Copper Country mining region of the Upper Peninsula in Michigan. He visited The Iron Range Research Center in Chisholm, MN, and in Michigan he met with representatives at Finlandia University’s Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, the Keweenaw Historical National Park in Calumet and the Keweenaw County Historical Society in Eagle Harbor. \*[ihrc.umn.edu](http://ihrc.umn.edu)\*

In 2008 and early 2009, the IHRC accepted selected materials to complete existing collections, fulfill agreements for acquisition, respond to emerging scholarship, and save endangered historical materials. Acquisitions related to the following collections were accepted: A. William Hogle Papers; Records of the Order of the Sons of Italy, California Grand Lodge; Rudolph J. Vecoli Papers; Sucheng Chan Papers; and the Records of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

**Halyna Myroniuk**, Sr. Assistant Curator, participated in the Hist3959 “How to do History” course at Andersen Library along with curators from the Archives and Special Collections units on March 4. She researched, selected, and provided historical background on the 1932-1933 famine in Ukraine.



Top photo (L-R)  
**Alexis Yeboah**,  
**Kian Missaghi**,  
**Brian Matsumoto**  
& **Mai Houa Yang**  
at left

## Staff Updates

The IHRC has benefited from the addition of four talented students to our ranks for spring semester. **Alexis Yeboah** is a freshman who is in the process of deciding her major. **Kian Missaghi** is a graduating senior studying finance and international business. **Brian Matsumoto** is a junior majoring in applied economics. **Mai Houa Yang** is a freshman with a pediatric nursing major.

The IHRC front desk team also digitized prior issues of *Spectrum*, *IHRC News*, and a number of collection guides previously available only as print copies for sale. These pdf files are now posted on the IHRC’s Web site and available as free downloads.

*IHRC News* is published fall/winter and spring/summer (print and online). It is sent to supporters of the IHRC, including selected and prospective members of Friends of IHRC, donors, University of Minnesota colleagues, and exchange publications. Please notify the IHRC if you wish to receive the online version only.

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## IHRC News —Spring/Summer 2009



### IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

The IHRC promotes interdisciplinary research on international migration, develops archives documenting immigrant and refugee life, especially in the United States, and makes specialized scholarship available to students, teachers, and the public. The IHRC acts in partnership with various ethnic communities, historical agencies, research specialists, educators, and many others. Its work supports the tripartite mission—teaching, research, and service—of its parent institution, the University of Minnesota. IHRC is a unit of CLA.

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**(L-R) Don & Jeanette Pafko, Haven Hawley, Judy Rosenblatt, Marilyn Chiat, and Kirsten Rome**

### IHRC 2009 Recognition Event

Congratulations to **Don & Jeanette Pafko, Judy Rosenblatt, and Marilyn Chiat**, recipients of an IHRC Keystone award and recognized at an evening reception held February 19, 2009, in Elmer L. Andersen Library. Keystone awards honor long-term volunteer contributions and leadership that have helped define the IHRC. Congratulations also to **Michael & Elaine Anuta, Katherine Fennelly, Mari Magler, Bahjo Mahamud, and Kirsten Rome** who received special Certificates of Appreciation recognizing their efforts on behalf of the IHRC.