

30 September 2018

To: Tamela Eitle, Vice Provost for Curriculum, Accreditation, and
Assessment

From: Michael Reidy, Professor and Director Graduate Studies

Re: PhD Program Assessment Activities Report 2018

**Graduate Program Assessment Plan Department of History &
Philosophy 28 August 2014**
Program Learning Outcomes

For masters' students:

1. Conduct research resulting in an original Professional Paper or Thesis
2. Demonstrate mastery of subject content knowledge and research/ critical inquiry methodologies
3. Demonstrate effective written communication of substantive content
4. Demonstrate effective oral communication of substantive content
5. Be able to conduct scholarly or professional activities in an ethical manner

For doctoral students:

1. Produce and defend an original significant contribution to knowledge in the form of a dissertation
2. Demonstrate mastery of subject content knowledge and research/critical inquiry methodology
3. Demonstrate effective written communication of substantive content
4. Demonstrate effective oral communication of substantive content
5. Be able to conduct scholarly and professional activities in an ethical manner
6. Professionalization into the field of history as demonstrated through publications, presentations, funded fellowships, professional association activities, etc.

Based on this plan, I am submitting our Graduate Program Assessment Activities Report for the past three years for our PhD program. Tim LeCain, our Department's former Director of Graduate Studies, submitted the last MA assessment report in 2015. **This assessment is only for the PhD program since the fall of 2015. Assessment of the PhD program is to be achieved through the following means:**

1. Performance on written comprehensive exams and completion and defense of dissertations
2. Completion of CITI Ethics Training Course
3. Demonstration of professionalization as indicated through an analysis of the C.V.s of students who have taken comprehensive exams or defended their dissertations.

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1) Below is the list of the department's PhD students who defended dissertations over the past three academic years, 2015-2018. The chart also includes the results of the comprehensive exams for each student and the cumulative pass/fail percentages.

Last Name	First Name	Oral and Written exams taken	Pass or Fail?	Defense of Thesis	Pass or Fail?
Hardy	Robin	2014	Pass	2016	Pass
Scheidler	Natalie	2014	Pass	2016	Pass
Hendry	Cheryl	2015	Pass	2017	Pass
Quammen	Betsy	2012	Pass	2017	Pass
Sims	Gary	2015	Pass	2017	Pass
Totals:		Taken	Passed	Failed	
Exam		5	5	0	
Defense		5	5	0	

1b) Below is the list of the department's PhD students who took their comprehensive exams over the past three academic years, 2015-2018. The chart also includes the results of the comprehensive exams for each student and the cumulative pass/fail percentages.

Last Name	First Name	Oral and Written exams taken	Pass or Fail?
Bartos	Jeffrey	2015	Pass
Colgrove	Clinton	2016	Pass
Dunn	Jennifer	2017	Pass
Mackin	Jill	2017	Pass
Matson	Kelsey	2015	Pass
Scherffius	Latrelle	2018	Pass
Totals:		Taken	Passed
Exam		6	6
			0

In 2016, our PhD program had 7 applications, we accepted 5 students, and 2 enrolled in our program.

In 2017, we had 7 applications, we accepted 5 students, and 1 enrolled.

In 2018, we had 16 applications, we accepted 12 students, and 6 enrolled.

2) In the fall of 2014 the department instituted mandatory CITI Ethics Training for all graduate students. Since then, all graduate students have successfully completed this online training. Incoming students for fall 2018 may not yet have completed training but will be the end of the semester.

3) As Director of Graduate Studies, I have reviewed the CVs of the six students who have taken their comprehensive exams for evidence of successful professionalization into their fields of study. I found the following evidence of professionalization:

Publications

Jeff Bartos, "The Accumulated Knowledge of a Thousand Generations: Mining Engineers as Public Intellectuals," under review in *Technology and Culture*.

Jill Mackin, "Home Ground and Kin: Ivan Doig's Montana" *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, Special Ivan Doig Issue, Fall 2018

Jill Mackin, "The Sea Is My Country: The Maritime World of the Makahs." Review of Joshua L. Reid. 2015. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT. 400 pp. *Ethnobiology Letters* [Online], Volume 8 Number 1 (9 October 2017).

Will Wright, "Geological Semantics and the Naming of the Anthropocene," *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 48 (February 2018): 110-22.

Will Wright, "Geophysical Agency in the Anthropocene: Engineering a Road and River to Rocky Mountain National Park," *Environmental History* 22 (October 2017): 668-95. Reprinted in *Historians Without Borders, Historians Without Limits*. Edited by Lawrence Abrams and Kaleb Knoblauch (under contract).

Mark Boxell and Will Wright, "Postwar Play and Petroleum: Tourism and energy in Abundance in Rocky Mountain National Park," *Journal of Tourism History* 9 (2017): 119-38. (Runner-up for the John K. Walton Prize)

Will M. Wright, "The Enduring Frontier: Joseph and Ercell Flood and Homesteading in Postwar Idaho," *Idaho Yesterdays* 54 (2016).

Will Wright, "Flooding in Colorado" and "Wildfire in Colorado," in *Colorado Encyclopedia*. Edited by William Wei et al. (August 2016).

Presentations

Jeff Bartos, "From Speculative Boom to Efficient Monopoly: Herbert Hoover in Western Australia and the Pacific Rim, 1897-1908." The Business History Conference Meeting, Denver, CO, March 2017.

Jeff Bartos, "The Accumulated Knowledge of a Thousand Generations: Herbert Hoover and John Hays Hammond as Public Intellectuals." Annual meeting of the Mining History Association, Telluride, CO, June 2016.

Jeff Bartos, "Mining for Empire: American Mining Engineers in the Late British Empire." WEST Network annual meeting, Portal, AZ, May 2016.

Jeff Bartos, "Glorifying the Golden Fleece: Mining at World's Fairs, Chicago to San Francisco." Panelist at the Columbia History of Science Group Annual Meeting, Friday Harbor, WA, March 2015.

Jeff Bartos, "Mining World's Fairs for All They're Worth: Cultural Representations of Mining, 1894-1915." Panelist at 2014 Michael P. Malone Conference, Cody, WY and Big Sky, MT, September 2014.

Jeff Bartos, "The Argonaut's Palace: Mining at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, 1915." Panelist at 2014 American Association for the Advancement of Science-Pacific Division annual conference, University of California-Riverside, June 2014.

Clinton Colgrove, "Montana's 'Fourth Division of Government': The Evolution of Higher Education in Big Sky Country, 1868-1948." Presented at *Ways of Seeing: A Graduate Student Conference for the Arts and Humanities* at Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, March 2018

Clinton Colgrove, "Teaching Environmental History in High Schools: Future Possibilities." Roundtable Discussion with Graeme Wynn (moderator), Kerri Keller Clement, Megan Jones, Neil Shafer Oatsvall, and Darren Frederick Speece at American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2017.

Clinton Colgrove, "Electronics Research Laboratory: An Oral History." Paper presented at 42nd Annual Montana History Conference, Bozeman, MT, September 2015.

Clinton Colgrove, "Frontier States and Frontier Knowledge: Land Grant Schools, Schools of Mines, and the Colonization of the American West and Japan." Paper presented at 2015 WEST Conference, University of Colorado INSTAAR Mountain Research Station, Nederland, CO, June 2015.

Clinton Colgrove, "Eastern Education & Western Applications: Migration of Science and Engineering in Nineteenth Century America." Paper presented at 41st Annual Montana History Conference, Helena, MT, September 2014.

Clinton Colgrove, "Eastern Education & Western Applications: Migration of Science and Engineering in Nineteenth Century America." Paper presented at Columbia History of Science Group Meeting, Friday Harbor, WA, March 2014.

Jen Dunn, "Superfunded," Poster presented at Western History Association Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2018.

Jen Dunn, "Superfunded: Butte and Libby's Historical Backgrounds", WEST Network Conference, MT, 2018.

Jen Dunn, "Superfunded: Post-Industrial Mining Communities and Recreating Nature", WEST Network Conference, AZ, 2017.

Jill Mackin, "Landless Indians Living off the Land & Reservation Farm Experiments," *Montana, 1917: Time of Trouble, Time of Change*, The 44th Annual Montana History Conference, Helena, MT September 21-23, 2017.

Jill Mackin, "You Can't Not Go to the Home Café Again," *Doig Country: Imagining Montana and the West: A symposium on the work of Montana writer Ivan Doig*, Montana State University, September 13-16, 2017.

Jill Mackin, "From Food System to Famine: Colonizing 'All Our Relations,'" *Sovereign Foods Symposium: Revitalizing Indigenous Culture through Relationship with Food*, Montana State University, March 2016.

Jill Mackin, "Mapping Métis: Indigenous Knowledge on the 49th Parallel," Montana Historical Society Annual Conference, Bozeman, MT, September 2015.

Jill Mackin, "Mapping Métis: Epistemology on the 49th Parallel," The West Network, University of Colorado Boulder Mountain Research Station, Colorado, May 2015.

Jill Mackin, "People and Place: The Old North Trail Corridor," The West Network hosted by Montana State University, at Flathead Lake Bio Station (University of Montana), Polson, Montana, June 2018.

Jill Mackin, "People and Place: The Seasonal Round in the Old North Corridor," *Graduate Research Expo*, 125th Anniversary Celebration, Montana State University, February, 2018.

Jill Mackin, "Riparian Areas from the Red River to the Rockies: Ojibwe Women and the

Seasonal Round,” History Graduate Student Association Colloquium, Department of History and Philosophy, Montana State University, November 2017.

Jill Mackin, “Seeking Justice for Indigenous Land and Indigenous People’s: the Blackfeet Native Land Project Partnership,” Annual Conference of the American Indigenous Research Association, Kwa Tuk Nuk Resort, Polson, MT, October 2017.

Jill Mackin, “Agriculture and Conservation on the Blackfeet Reservation,” *Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent*, Center for Large Land Landscape Conservation, Choteau, MT, September 2017.

Jill Mackin, “Strengthening Resilient Community-Based and Community-Led Food Systems,” Co-presenter with Professor Mary Stein, *Faith, Science & Climate Action 2018 Conference*, sponsored by the Montana Faith and Environment Coalition, Bozeman, MT, October 13, 2018.

Jill Mackin, “Collaborating to Strengthen our Community Food Economy,” Panel Presenter on Amskapi Piikani Food Sovereignty Initiatives, sponsored by Open & Local, an emerging coalition to strengthen the local food economy and conserve open land in the Gallatin Valley, Bozeman, MT, September 18, 2018.

Jill Mackin, “Issues facing Indigenous Women in Accessing Food, Water and Land,” presentation to Indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations, at the 62nd Annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, Fordham University, New York City, March 2018.

Jill Mackin, “Native Language in the 21st Century,” Helena College, University of Montana, November 2017.

Jill Mackin, “*The Hidden Half: Studies of Plains Indian Women After 40 Years*,” Annual Conference of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Winnipeg, MB, Canada, October 2017.

Latrelle Sherffius, “Contorted Coyote Carcasses and Modernity,” WEST Network 2016, 2018.

Latrelle Sherffius, “Shooting Animals: Cameras, Guns and Rethinking Nature,” Montana Historical Society Conference (2018).

Will Wright, “Wolves on the Prowl: Human-Animal Geographies and the Origins of the Yellowstone-to-Yukon Conservation Initiative,” Tracking the Human Footprint: 14th Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Big Sky, MT, 11-14 September, 2018.

Will Wright, “Helen McAuslan, Modern Medium,” Extreme History Project Lecture Series, Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, MT, 30 August, 2018.

Will Wright, “Wolf Wests: Predator Eradication in a Comparative Perspective,” WEST (Western, Environmental, Science, & Technology) Network History Workshop, Flathead Lake Biological Station, Polson, MT, 11-14 June, 2018.

Will Wright, “Big Money, Big Data, Big Trees: Global Capital and Global Science in the High Sierra,” MSU History Graduate Student Association Colloquium, Bozeman, MT, 20 April, 2018.

Will Wright, “Big Money, Big Data, Big Trees: Global Capital and Global Science in the High Sierra,” MSU Earth Sciences Colloquium, Bozeman, MT, 20 April, 2018.

Will Wright, “Seeing Sequoias: How the Big Trees Came to Be Viewed as Objects of Climate Change,” Ways of Seeing Humanities Conference, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, 28 March, 2018.

Will Wright, "Beyond the Borders: Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks in a Transnational Perspective," Brown Bag Presentation, Sequoia National Park, Ash Mountain Headquarters, CA, 13 March, 2018.

Will Wright, "Ain't Gonna Study War No More: Montana Modernism," Montana Historical Society Conference, Helena, MT, 21-23 September, 2017.

Will Wright, "'The Secret of the Big Trees': Giant Sequoias, Climate Refugees, and Race Science," Festival of the West, Western Lands and Peoples Initiative, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, 20 April, 2017.

Will Wright, "Partnerships at the Nexus of History and Science, and Management: Preparing High School Students for Interdisciplinary Engagement," American Society for Environmental History Conference, Chicago, IL, 29 March-2 April, 2017.

Fellowships, Grants, Honors, and Awards (external to MSU)

Clinton Colgrove, NSF Grant for Travel to ASEH, 2017

Jen Dunn, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Summer Award for Off-Campus Upper Division and Graduate Students, 2018

Jill Mackin, American Society for Ethnohistory Research Presentation Award, Fall 2017

Jill Mackin, Montana Bureau of Land Management Research Support Grant, Fall 2015.

Will Wright, John K. Walton Prize runner-up, best article from a junior scholar in the *Journal of Tourism History* (for "Postwar play and petroleum"), 2018.

Will Wright, Washington Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship, Montana Historical Society, 2017.

Will Wright, National Science Foundation Travel Grant, American Society for Environmental History, 2016.

Will Wright, Graduate Student Summer Research Grant, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University, 2015.

Summary of Results:

As noted above, 100% of our PhD students either successfully passed their comprehensive exams or defended their dissertations on their first attempts. All of our PhD students have also taken the mandatory CITI Ethics Training course. Finally, there is substantial evidence to indicate that our PhD students are being successfully professionalized into their chosen fields of study, as demonstrated by an impressive record of presentations at professional conferences, publication of scholarship, and success in receiving grants and awards. For these reasons, the faculty concludes that they are currently meeting the stated department goals for PhD training.

Moreover, our PhD enrollment is growing. This past year we had more applications, accepted more students, and more students enrolled. This year's group includes:

Jacey Anderson

Environmental History, Public Lands, El Salvador
BA, Montana State University in 2015 (GPA 3.93)

Micah Chang

Depopulation of the “Hi-Line” in Northern Montana
BA, University of California–Berkeley in 2015 (GPA 3.9)

Dorrell Dalton
Land Management Agencies in the United States
BA from Western State Colorado University in 2016 (GPA 3.94)

Kirke Anderson Elsass
Ceramics as Sediment Transport in the United States
MA, Wayne State University in 2016 (GPA 3.96); BA, Carleton College (Geology) in
2009 (GPA 3.4)

Steve Peterson
How Mormon Trail has been shaped by memory and environment.
MA, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in 2013 (GPA 4.0); BA, Weber State in 2008 (GPA
3.3)

Katie McLain
Drug Trafficking and Human Rights in South America and American West
MA, George Washington University in 2010 (International Affairs) (GPA 3.8)
BA, Bucknell University in 2003 (International Relations) (GPA 3.5)