

**Subject:** NERWHA newsletter

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**From:** Mary Jane Maxwell

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December 2, 2012

Dear NERWHA members,

It is a pleasure to write to our extended NERWHA community. Our association continues to expand and attract new members as it enthusiastically prepares for future events.

*Braided Narratives*

November marked an important month for NERWHA with the commencement of the first symposium, *Braided Narratives: Integrating Research and Teaching*. The event held at Salem State University on November 5 brought together two excellent roundtable discussions on the ways research informs teaching world history.



The morning roundtable session, “Tools and Techniques in World History Research and Teaching,” addressed the general problem of bringing World History into the classroom. We heard stimulating presentations from:

• Kara Kaufman, North Shore Community College, "Using Self-Reflective Dialogue in the World History Classroom: The Politics of the 'Veil'"

• Mary Jane Maxwell and Shai O'Rourke, Green Mountain College, "Spiritual Constructs": Making Sense of Female Mystics in a Global Era of Divine Love”

• Kim Kimball, Independent Scholar, "Using Art to Construct a Pan-human Narrative in World History"

• Donald Ostrowski, Harvard University, "*Queen Christina Meets Ivan the Terrible: Using Film to Illustrate Early Modern Monarchies*"

The roundtable "Asia in the World" explored an exciting range of pedagogies that we can readily employ in the classroom. These engaging conversations included:

• Roland Higgins, Keene State College, "Comparing Early Modern Asian Empires"

• Nicholas F. Russell, Tufts University, "The Chinese Influence on the Spanish Enlightenment"

• Cyrus Veaser, Bentley University, "Using 'Artifact Capsules' in World History Curriculum "

• Wynn Wilcox, Western Connecticut State University, "Reexamining the Confucian Examination System in the World History”

• James Diskant, John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, “Ideas for Student Involvement: Individual Versus Group Projects"

The symposium also offered hands-on guidance through four terrific afternoon workshops:

• Alfred Andrea, *emeritus*, University of Vermont, and James Diskant, John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science:  
Mentoring

• Jeremy Greene, Chelmsford High School and Angela Lee, Weston High School:  
Advanced Placement

• Robert Maloy and Sharon Edmunds, University of Massachusetts, Amherst:  
Using a Wiki to Cover, Uncover, and Discover World History

• Whitney Howarth, Plymouth State University, and Jane Weber, Nashua Community College:  
Teaching World History with Essential Questions





The participants and audience registered their satisfaction with the symposium. Their comments included:

- “Thank you so much for yesterday's conference. That was one of the most productive, helpful, and congenial conferences I have ever attended. I really appreciate the sharing of ideas; I walked away with so many useful and practical ways of improving my World History courses. I look forward to future NERWHA conferences.”
- “Thanks for a great day! I came home refreshed, and inspired from the symposium. I'm looking forward to the next one in the spring.”
- “I can already see ways for us to use the wiki to post resources for teachers and students. I will be back in touch soon with concrete ideas.”
- “I really enjoyed the conference and was sorry to miss most of the second session. I liked the format because it really did invite audience participation. I also got several ideas that I will probably try in world history eventually. I may not use the same content, but I do think I will use some of the approaches discussed.”



A special thanks goes to the planning committee of Mary Jane Maxwell, Michele Louro, and Dane Morrison for organizing this stimulating event, and to Dean Jude Nixon, College of Arts & Sciences, Salem State University for his generous funding and continued support of NERWHA's efforts.

### April Symposium

The Executive Committee of NERWHA is in the process of planning the next symposium for the spring to be held at Salem State University. More details will follow in subsequent newsletters.

### NERWHA Elections

Elections for NERWHA officers took place in September and October for President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. At the November meeting of the Executive Committee, the following results were announced:

President: Dane Morrison

Vice-President: Michele Louro

Secretary-Treasurer: Mary Jane Maxwell

Congratulations to the new officers.

Mary Jane Maxwell was also recently elected to the Executive Board of the World History Association.

### Web Administrator Search

NERWHA is currently searching for a web administrator to maintain our webpages. If anyone in the NERWHA community is able to take on this responsibility, please reply to Mary Jane Maxwell at [maxwellmj@greenmtn.edu](mailto:maxwellmj@greenmtn.edu).

### Call for teaching and research resources

Please see the new updates on our NERWHA website, especially the teaching and research tabs. If you have something to post, send it along to Mary Jane Maxwell. Also, if you have world history news or know of upcoming events, please pass it along to post on our events tab.

With warm regards,

Dane Morrison

Michele Louro

Mary Jane Maxwell

