



Saint Xavier
UNIVERSITY

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Saint Xavier University's Graham Peck chosen to participate in selective "Slave Narratives" seminar

Chicago (June 9, 2016) Saint Xavier University (SXU) is pleased to announce that Graham Peck, professor of history for the Department of History and Political Science, is one of a select group of faculty members nationwide chosen by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to participate in a special American history seminar on "Slave Narratives." The multidisciplinary seminar for faculty members is history, English and related fields that will use the slave narratives – as well as some other assigned secondary reading – to comprehend the lived experience of slaves themselves in the transition from bondage to freedom. From a pool of 66 highly competitive nominations, 27 faculty members were selected to participate in the seminar, which will be held at Yale University June 19 – 24, 2016.

In announcing the selection of participants, CIC President Richard Ekman said, "Strengthening the teaching of American history at colleges and universities is of critical importance. This seminar will provide a great opportunity for participating faculty members to gain a better understanding of the experience of emancipation that the 19th century events that were so important in shaping our world today. We believe that Graham Peck will play a strong role in the seminar."

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“We are so thrilled to see Graham Peck chosen for this opportunity,” said Kathleen Alaimo, interim provost. “At Saint Xavier we love being able to showcase the expertise of our professors both in and outside of the classroom, which of course contributes to the relevance of our programs. Graham will represent the university well at the seminar.”

David W. Blight, class of 1954 professor of American History at Yale University, will lead the seminar. Blight is the author of *American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era* (2011); *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Narratives of Emancipation* (2007); and *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (2001), for which he won the 2001 Frederick Douglass Prize and the 2002 Bancroft and Lincoln Prizes, among other books.

Seminar participants will examine both antebellum and postbellum narratives. Before the Civil War approximately 65 narratives were published in English, many of them now classics. The pre-emancipation narratives were often serious works of literature as well as that fit into certain conventions and formulas. They tended to focus squarely on the oppression of slavery and on a former slave’s indictment of the institution of bondage as a means of advancing the antislavery argument. The post-emancipation narratives, of which there are approximately 55 in existence, tended to be more success stories – triumphs over the past and visions of a more prosperous future. The most famous pre-war narrative is that of Frederick Douglass, and the most famous post-war narrative is that of Booker T. Washington. Seminar participants will read both of these and several other books, including *A Slave No More*, which reveals two unique postbellum narratives as a means of understanding the experience of emancipation itself.

The seminar is generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. For more information, visit the CIC website at www.cic.edu/AmericanHistory.

Participants in the 2016 CIC-Gilder Lehrman Seminar

Lauren Anderson, Luther College (IA)
Aaron Astor, Maryville College (TN)
Glenn Avent, Hastings College (NE)
Kenneth Banks, Wofford College (SC)
Daniela Barberis, Shimer College (IL)
Jon Blandford, Bellarmine University (KY)
Kelly Carney, Methodist University (NC)
Rachel Cole, Lewis & Clark College (OR)
James Dator, Goucher College (MD)
Elizabeth Dell, Baylor University (TX)
Raymond Frey, Centenary College (NJ)
Erica Hayden, Trevecca Nazarene University (TN)
Tameka Hobbs, Florida Memorial University (FL)
William Hustwit, Birmingham-Southern College (AL)
Mark James, Molloy College (NY)
William Kerrigan, Muskingum University (OH)
Melvin Macklin, Ferrum College (VA)
Ada McKenzie, Bloomfield College (NJ)
Joseph Moore, Gardner-Webb University (NC)
Dorothy Mosby, Mount Holyoke College (MA)
Monica (Lynne) Niznik, Clarke University (IA)
Allison Paynter, Chaminade University of Honolulu (HI)
Graham Peck, Saint Xavier University (IL)
Jared Richman, Colorado College (CO)
Cynthia Salmons, Alice Lloyd College (KY)
Brie Swenson Arnold, Coe College (IA)
Diane Wenger, Wilkes University (PA)

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The **Council of Independent Colleges** is an association of 765 nonprofit independent colleges and universities and higher education affiliates and organizations that has worked since 1956 to support college and university leadership, advance institutional excellence, and enhance public understanding of private higher education's contributions to society. CIC is the major national organization that focuses on providing services to leaders of independent colleges and universities as well as conferences, seminars, and other programs that help institutions improve educational quality, administrative and financial performance, and institutional visibility. CIC conducts the largest annual conference of college and university presidents and of chief academic officers. CIC also provides support to state fundraising associations that organize programs and generate contributions for private colleges and universities. The Council is headquartered at One Dupont Circle in Washington, DC.

The **Gilder Lehrman Institute** was established in 1994 to promote the study and the love of American history. The Institute organizes seminars and enrichment programs for teachers; supports and produces publications and traveling exhibitions; sponsors lectures by eminent historians; develops electronic resources; creates history high schools and extracurricular history programs; and founds research centers at universities and libraries.

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Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1846, [Saint Xavier University](#) was the first Mercy college in the United States and is Chicago's oldest Catholic university. The University serves more than 4,000 students at the [Chicago](#) and [Orland Park](#) campuses, and its Loop location as well as the

[Gilbert, Arizona location](#) and offers the following: 43 undergraduate programs; 25 graduate program options in [arts and sciences](#), [business](#), [education](#) and [nursing](#); and a variety of program options in [continuing and adult education](#). Recognizing Saint Xavier's excellence in education, U.S. News and World Report has ranked SXU consistently among the Best Colleges in the Midwest.