The Department of History
welcomes back to campus

November 21-22, 2013

Professor Catherine Denial
Burkhardt Distinguished Chair in History at Knox College

Denial earned her BA (Hons) from the University of Nottingham, England, her MA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and her PhD from the University of Iowa in 2005. Her research interests include Dakota and Ojibwe history, women’s and gender history, and the history of marriage, birth control, and sexuality.

Thursday, November 21 – 4:30 pm, 302 SH (Commons)

Pelagie Faribault’s Island: Marriage and the American State in Early Nineteenth-Century Dakota Country

In the Leavenworth/Dakota treaty of 1820, Pelagie Farribault – the Dakota wife of a French trader – gained ownership of Pike’s Island at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. This gift depended on her identity as Dakota woman, and she maintained her claim over it despite the attempts of several U.S. government officials to insist she could not own land because she was married. To representatives of the United States government, Farribault should have been a woman who lived within the dictates of coverture (the laws which governed a woman’s legal capacity once she was married) – but she was not, and they could not mold her to be such, despite repeated attempts. In Pelagie’s story we discover much about the uneven application of American imperialism’s in the region, the necessity of the American system adapting, for a time, to the cultural landscape of the Dakota, and the power that individuals, too often considered uniformly powerless, could claim in that mix.

Friday, November 22 – 9:30 am, 302 SH (Commons)

Life After Schaeffer: The Academic Career Trajectory

Friday, November 22 – 12:00 pm, 302 SH (Commons)

A light lunch will be served.

Bringing History Home: Historical Thinking Skills in the K-12 Classroom and Beyond

From 2001 to 2012, Denial was the lead historian for the Bringing History Home, a professional development program for teachers where they were taught the skills that professional historians use in their jobs. The teachers’ task, with the program’s help, was to then teach their students these same skills at a grade appropriate level, effectively making historians out of students from kindergarten right through to twelfth grade. Bringing History Home was funded by three Teaching American History grants from the federal government, totaling $3.1m, and ultimately served over 900 teachers, 45,000 elementary school children, and 15,000 middle and high school students in Iowa, Alaska, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, and Wyoming. Come hear about the program, and how its approach to history instruction can be adapted to the college classroom.

If you need accommodation in order to attend events, please contact Pat Goodwin in 280 SH or by phone at 319-335-2309.

Co-sponsored by: American Indian & Native Studies; American Studies; Gender, Women’s & Sexuality Studies; History