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ELIZABETH FAUE
Professor, Department of History
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The Board of Governors recognizes Elizabeth Faue, Professor in the Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for the publication of Rethinking the American Labor Movement (Routledge, 2017). Rethinking the American Labor Movement is an ambitious reappraisal of twentieth-century labor history. Focused into competing groupings by age, gender, religion, region, and political allegiance, the working class has rarely operated as a monolithic whole. Dr. Faue undermines the common narrative of a singular, white, male working class by using intersectional analysis to place the experiences of women and people of color at the center of her story. She draws on the insights of feminist scholarship and criticises race studies while maintaining a social historian’s interest in power dynamics and the lived experiences of her subjects. Her approach reveals how decades after decade, conflicts caused by racism, sexism, and class antagonism shaped the union movement. Rethinking the American Labor Movement forces the reader to re-evaluate whose stories they tell when they talk about labor history. It is mandatory reading for anyone interested in American labor class, or capitalism.

JENNIFER HART
Associate Professor, Department of History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes Jennifer Hart, Associate Professor in the Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for the publication of Ghana on the Go: African Mobility in the Age of Motor Transportation (Indiana University Press, 2018). Ghana on the Go is a history of motor transportation in twentieth-century Ghana and the first book to examine automobility in Africa. Dr. Hart argues that the introduction of motor transportation shaped social, cultural, and economic practices and modes of political engagement that continue to reverberate in Ghana today. She deftly weaves together archival and ethnographic research to reconstruct the culture and practice of automobility and to show how entrepreneurial drivers and their passengers adapted technology for their own purposes. Professor Hart bridges the gap between colonial and postcolonial studies by centering her narrative around Ghanaians’ experiences of the road before and after independence. This path-breaking history sits at the intersection of African studies and science and technology studies, extending the boundaries of both fields by bringing them into conversation in exciting and unexpected ways. Ghana on the Go is a major contribution to the field and a tremendous achievement for Professor Hart.

JEFFREY HOWARD
Associate Professor, Department of Geology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes Jeffrey Howard, Associate Professor in the Department of Geology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for the publication of Anthropogenic Soils (Springer: March 2017). Anthropogenic soils appears in the series Progress in Soil Science (Springer). The scope of this series is to publish books that enhance the understanding of the functioning and diversity of soils in all parts of the globe. Dr. Howard’s book fills an important scientific gap by collating data from such diverse fields as soil science, archaeology, geology, engineering, and environmental science, organizing them into a state-of-the-art compendium of scientific knowledge on the topic of artificial soils. This timely book is relevant given the extensive and ongoing studies of soil health and resilience, urban soil revitalization, surface mining and other types of land reclamation, and contaminated site assessment and remediation. This book is anticipated to be a resource for those who deal with anthropogenic soils, including urban planners, federal and state environmental protection agencies, environmental consultants, engineers, and academicians.

RECIPIENTS

ROBERT AGUIRE
Professor, Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes Robert Aguirre, Professor in the Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for the publication of Mobility & Modernity: Panama in the Anglo-American Imagination (Ohio State University Press, 2017). In Mobility & Modernity, Dr. Aguirreinger brilliantly in a place which, as he argues, was defined too often by Anglo-American observers as in between and on the way to other places—that is, as a "transit" zone, an exploitable geographical byway, instead of a nation in its own right. Tracing U.S. and British representations of Panama in the pre-Canal decades of the nineteenth century, Professor Aguirre shows how central Panama figured in the development of modern ideas about global transport, mobility, and speed. True to its subject’s global reach, the book puts British, U.S., and Panamanian writers like Anthony Trollope, John Lloyd Stephens, Edward Maybridge, and Thomas Martin Feudal in a newly transnational context, reshaping scholarly understandings of the Panama Canal and the ideas of the interconnected world that it helped create.

ERIC ASH
Professor, Department of History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes Eric Ash, Professor in the Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for the publication of The Draining of the Fens: Projectors, Popular Politics, and State Building in Early Modern England (John Hopkins University Press, 2017). Dr. Ash’s book explores the draining of the fens in eastern England as one of the largest engineering projects during seventeenth-century Europe. A series of Dutch and English "projectors," who claimed to be able to accomplish wonderful and novel technical feats, worked over several decades and with the full support of the Crown. They transformed hundreds of thousands of acres of seemingly barren wetlands into dry, fertile farmland. The drainage project was also supposed to reform the sickly, backward Fenlanders into civilized, healthy farmers, to the benefit of the entire commonwealth. As projectors reconstructed entire river systems, these new, artificial channels profoundly altered both the landscape and the lives of those who lived on it. However, the efficient management and exploitation of fenland natural resources in the rising nation-state of early modern England was a crucial problem for the Crown, one that provoked violent confrontation with fenland inhabitants, who viewed the drainage (and accompanying land alterations) as a grave threat to their local landscape, economy, and way of life.