

Curriculum Vitae
Kersten Jacobson Biehn
Sam Houston State University
Department of History

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CURRENT STATUS

Assistant Professor of History, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX Fall 2006–
Currently teaching HIS 164: United States History Since 1876 and HIS 378: The Emergence of
Modern America, 1877–1945

EDUCATION

Rice University, Ph.D., History, May 2006, Houston, TX

Dissertation title: *Improving Mankind: Philanthropic Foundations and the Transformation of American
University Research between the World Wars*

Advisor: Thomas L. Haskell

Fields: U.S. Intellectual History (Thomas Haskell), Modern U.S. History (Allen J. Matusow), Theory
and Methodology of History (Carol Quillen). Passed all qualifying examinations with distinction.

Rice University, M.A., History, August 2003 GPA: 4.0

Princeton University, B.A. with Honors, History, May 1997

Thesis title: *The Crystal Palace: The Evolution of the Institute for Advanced Study, 1930-1947*

Advisor: Daniel T. Rodgers

AWARDS/HONORS

John W. Gardner Award for Best Dissertation in the Humanities, Rice University, 2006

Charles Septimus Longcope Award, Rice University, 2006

Awarded annually for the best written work in the history department by a graduate student in Rice
University

James Scott Peterson Award for Distinguished Service, Rice University, 2006

Awarded occasionally to an exceptional graduate student who embodies and fosters in others the
qualities of scholarly excellent, maturity and humanity

Rockefeller Archive Center Research Grant Spring 2004–Spring 2005

Grant to complete dissertation research at the Rockefeller Archive Center. Spent April–June and
September 2004 at the Archive Center researching the Rockefeller Foundation, General Education
Board, and Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial project and policy files.

Rice University Graduate Fellowship in History Fall 2001–Spring 2006

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers, “Nature Transformed: Imagination and the North American Landscape,” National Humanities Center, Durham, NC, Summer 2000
Institute Professors: Carolyn Merchant (University of California at Berkeley); Shephard Krech (Brown University); Timothy Silver (Appalachian State University)
Research included comparing the human/environment divide to Cartesian mind/body dualism

PUBLICATIONS

“Kanonisierung der Freien Künste: Der Aufbau eines säkularen Lehrplans—das Beispiel der Princeton Universität.” *Zeitschrift für pädagogische Historiographie* 10 (2004), H2, 74-82. [“Sanctifying the Liberal Arts: The Building of a Secular Curriculum—The Example of Princeton University”]

Review of *Head, Heart and Hand: John Brown University and Modern Evangelical Higher Education* by Rick Ostrander. *History of Education Quarterly* (Winter 2005), 645–647.

Review of *Sidney Hook: Marxist and Pragmatist* by Christopher Phelps, *American Communist History* (Forthcoming)

PRESENTATIONS

Interdisciplinary Symposium—The Mind Project: Intersections of Philosophy, Humanities, and Human Science, 1876-1920 Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Institute of Technology, December 2005

“Philanthropic Foundations, the Yale Institute for Human Relations, and the Development of ‘Psychobiology’ between the World Wars”

History of Education Society Annual Conference Kansas City, MO, November 2004

“Leading them to the Truth: The Educational Mission of the Syrian Protestant College, 1866–1920”

International Conference: Secular and Religious Aspects of Contemporary Pedagogics Ascona, Switzerland, October 2004

“Kanonisierung der Freien Künste: Der Aufbau eines säkularen Lehrplans—das Beispiel der Princeton Universität”

Thirteenth Annual Graduate Student Conference of the Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture Rutgers University, Rutgers, NJ, February 2003

“Sanctifying the Liberal Arts: How Princeton University Ousted Religion from its Curriculum.”

North Carolina Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference Durham, NC, March 2001

“Using Artifacts to Teach History: Creating a Museum”

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

History Teacher, St. John's High School Houston, TX, Spring 2006

Plan, execute, and evaluate lessons for ninth grade World History course at a small private school.

Instructor, Writing History: Environmental Issues in American History Rice University, Houston, TX, Spring 2005

Designed and taught a writing-intensive, introductory level course in environmental history for the Rice University History Department. Participated in a preparatory pedagogy seminar.

Teaching Assistant, Modern United States History Rice University, Houston, TX, Spring 2003

Tutored students, assisted planning, and led discussions in a survey undergraduate course.

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to United States Intellectual and Cultural History Rice University, Houston, TX, Fall 2001 and Spring 2002

Tutored students, graded assignments, led discussions, and delivered a lecture for a two-semester, mixed-level undergraduate history course.

History Teacher, Raleigh Charter High School Raleigh, NC, August 1999–June 2001

Planned, executed, and evaluated lessons for ninth and tenth grade World Civilizations classes.

Cooperated with teachers, administrators, and parents to facilitate better learning. Organized projects and field trips, conducted daily tutoring. Sponsored Environmental Club and Student Activists' Club. Coached girls' volleyball and acted as interim athletic director, Fall 2000.

Princeton Project '55 Isles, Inc., Trenton, NJ, June-August 1996

Internship as Environmental Education Coordinator and Site Remediation Researcher

Research presented to the New Jersey Environmental Protection Agency to provide a Site Remediation Plan for an abandoned Magic Marker factory. Interviewed community residents, organized meetings, researched New Jersey state archives and E.P.A. files. Taught environmental awareness as part of the Trenton "Weed 'n' Seed" program for children living in urban poverty.

Residential Advisor, Princeton University, Forbes College Princeton, NJ, August 1995–May 1996

Selected by the director of Forbes College to serve as an advisor and counselor to freshmen and sophomores at Princeton University within the residential college system. Arranged social gatherings and provided guidance in areas ranging from academics to extracurricular activities.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Rice University History Department Graduate Representative 2005

Elected by fellow graduate students to serve as their student representative on the Graduate Committee. Revised and edited the Rice University History Department Graduate Handbook.

American Society for Environmental History Conference Volunteer Houston, TX, March 2005

Assisted the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, Kathleen Brosnan, with logistical needs during the ASEH conference. Participated in various conference events and fundraisers.

University Court Justice Rice University, Houston, TX, August 2002–May 2005

Representative for the Graduate Student Association on the Rice University internal, student-run court.

Abuse Victims Counselor and Teacher, Safechild Raleigh, NC, December 1999–June 2001

Prepared and led activities that foster self-esteem for victims of child abuse, ages 6-11. Led weekly sessions for families that have court mandated counseling, with separate classes for parents and children.

Tutor- Provided weekly schoolwork assistance for two children from the Safechild group.

Helpline Paracounselor, Georgia Council on Child Abuse Atlanta, GA, January–June 1998

Trained in listening skills and in handling crisis situations. Answered calls and assisted witnesses to abuse, perpetrators of abuse, abuse victims and abuse survivors.

Crisis Counselor and Peer Counseling Coordinator, Friend-to-Friend Crisis Center

Southern Pines, NC, Summers 1990–1993

Started a Peer-to-Peer crisis phone line for physically and sexually abused teenagers. Organized filing system and created a database to maintain information on abuse victims. Sorted clothing and toys to distribute at Friend-to-Friend's battered women's shelter.