

# History Concentration Graduation Program

## April 29, 2010 – MLB Auditorium 3

The History Class of 2010 and their families were the honored guests at a graduation program on April 29, 2010. The crowd nearly filled the Modern Languages Auditorium 3. Department Chair Geoff Eley welcomed the group and introduced the speaker, Robert J. Donia, who earned his Ph.D. in Balkan history from the department in 1976.

Dr. Donia and his wife Jane Ritter have been generous supporters and recently endowed the *Fred Cuny Professor in the History of International Human Rights* chair. Speaking to the new historians, he summed up why their background will be important to them as they move into the larger world.



“Only by understanding and appreciating history, can our nation achieve a healthy, vigorous public discourse that defines our values and allows us to carry out our responsibilities as citizens of the strongest nation on earth. Acquiring historical understanding, in other words, not only illuminates, it liberates....It is essential to defining our futures and achieving our destinies as individuals and as a nation. I am not arguing that knowing history leads inexorably to any single conclusion or policy; men and women with historical understanding will invariably come to quite different conclusions. But they will be conclusions based on sound values, considerable knowledge, respectful debate, and appropriate contemplation.”



Graduating senior Michael F. Black was recognized for his work as co-editor of the *Michigan Journal of History*, a student-run publication of scholarly undergraduate historical work. He called on the editorial staff in the audience to stand and be recognized. The *MJH* is one example of what makes the department outstanding.



The main event of the day was seeing each of the graduates come to the stage for a well-deserved round of applause and a certificate. Professors Matt Lassiter and Farina Mir did the honors.

The faculty and staff of the History Department join families and friends in extending congratulations and best wishes for the future to each new historian in the Class of 2010.



History graduates in the Class of 2010.  
Below: Thanking their families for their love and support through the years.



Professors Matt Lassiter and Farina Mir invite each graduate to the stage for a round of applause and a certificate.



Clockwise: Ellen Melville, James Mosteller, Paula Papay, Pramila Sivapalan, John Lin.

