Homecoming Week 2014 was very exciting for the Department of History and the College of LAS. With the Investiture of our own Professor Jimena Canales as the Thomas M. Siebel Chair in the History of Science we were lucky to have Mr. Siebel, himself an Alumnus, visiting campus.

The event was held at the Tryon Festival Theatre at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

Dr. Canales, her family and Mr. Siebel were welcomed by Dean Barbara Wilson, Chancellor Phyllis Wise, Provost Ilesanmi Adesida, History Chair Diane Koenker, several History faculty members and staff.

After the initial welcome statement by Dean Wilson, Chancellor Wise spoke of the significance of having such an accomplished scholar on our campus. Mr. Siebel then had a few remarks for the audience and Diane Koenker spoke with eloquence in recognizing Dr. Canales. After the medal presentation, Jimena Canales captivated the audience by discussing the foundations of her study of the history of science. Everyone who was present understood why she so well deserves to be the Thomas M. Siebel Chair in the History of Science.
Jimena Canales received an MA and PhD from Harvard University in the History of Science and a BSc in Engineering Physics from ITESM. Her first book, *A Tenth of a Second*, explored the relation between science and history as one of the central intellectual problems of modern times. Her work on the history of science has been published in *Ish, Science in Context, History of Science, the British Journal for the History of Science*, and the *MLN*, among others. Her work on visual, film and media studies has appeared in *Architectural History, Journal of Visual Culture, Thresholds, Aperture*, and *Artsforum*. Her second book project, *The Physicist and The Philosopher: Einstein, Bergson and the Debate That Changed Our Understanding of Time* will be published by Princeton Press in the spring 2015.

She received the "Prize for Young Scholars" of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science, Division of History of Science and Technology and was recently awarded the Charles A. Ryskamp research fellowship award from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). She has been a visitor at various universities and research centers including the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin and MIT and has lectured widely nationally and internationally, presenting her work in the BBC, Juan March Institute (Madrid) and the Musée Georges Pompidou (Paris). She was previously an Assistant and Associate Professor at Harvard University; a senior fellow at the IKKM (Internationales Kolleg für Kulturanthropologie und Medienphilosophie) in Germany and taught at the Princeton-Weimar Summer School of Media Studies at Princeton University.
Thomas M. Siebel

Thomas M. Siebel (BA History '75, MBA '83, MS CS '85) is the chairman and CEO of C3 Energy, a software company that helps utility companies realize the full promise of their investments in smart grid technologies.

Siebel was the founder, chairman, and CEO of Siebel Systems, one of the world’s leading software companies, which merged with Oracle Corporation in January 2006. Before founding Siebel Systems, he served as CEO of Gain Technology. From 1984 through 1990 he was an executive at Oracle, where he held a number of senior management positions.

An active philanthropist, Siebel is the founder and chairman of the Siebel Foundation, which supports efforts related to education and research programs, the homeless and underprivileged, public health, and energy solutions. His generosity to the University of Illinois has included major funding for the Thomas M. Siebel Center for Computer Science, the Thomas M. Siebel Chairs in Computer Science and in the History of Science, and the worldwide Siebel Scholars program (which annually recognized five Illinois graduate students).

Siebel serves on the board of advisors of the Stanford University College of Engineering, the University of Illinois College of Engineering, and the University of California, Berkeley, College of Engineering. His University of Illinois honors include the Presidential Award and Medallion (2001), an honorary doctorate of engineering (2006), induction into the Engineering at Illinois Hall of Fame (2010), and the Alumni Association’s Alumni Achievement Award (2013). In 2013, he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
(above) Thomas Siebel, Jimena Canales and Provost Adesida

(above) Chancellor Wise, Jimena Canales, History Dept Chair Diane Koenker and LAS Dean Wilson

(above) Chancellor Wise presenting Jimena Canales with the medal honoring her as the Siebel Chair in the History of Science

(left) Dean Wilson greeting Professor Canales’ family

(below) Chancellor Wise, Thomas Siebel, Jimena Canales, Chair Diane Koenker and LAS Dean Wilson