

# History at Lehigh University

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Fall 2011

Welcome to the Fall 2011 issue of *History at Lehigh*, the official newsletter of the Department of History at Lehigh University. *History at Lehigh* is published twice per year in an effort to maintain contact and share information with students, alumni, and faculty.

## *Message from the Chair*

In last fall's newsletter, I wrote: "As the semester winds down, Bethlehem is once again aglow with seasonal fall colors, along with an invigorating nip in the morning air, leaving everyone to wonder how long before the first snowfall." This year the answer is very clear: we had one heck of a snowfall, leaving Lehigh without electricity from Saturday noon on October 29<sup>th</sup> through to early morning on Wednesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Classes had to be cancelled for three days as the students had been sent home due to the lack of heat and light in the dorms. As I write, we are still scrambling to reorganize and make up missed classes. Adding to the extra hubbub of activity in the office is the usual flow of students signing up for major and minors, registering for next semester's courses, and requesting transfer approvals for study abroad programs. All this has certainly made for exciting times here in River City.

This fall, as usual, the department has been busy with a number of public lectures and seminars. In addition to the regular brown bag series of weekly presentations, Joan Hedrick, Charles A. Dana Professor from Trinity College, delivered the annual George Harmon Lecture on Civil War History. Her talk was entitled, "Church and State: The Civil War and the Apocalyptic Imagination." We continued our co-sponsorship of lectures with the Gipson Institute for 18<sup>th</sup> Century Studies, the American Studies Program, and the Africana Studies Program. Details of some of these talks are contained within this issue.

On the teaching front, two department faculty members are teaching courses associated with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Undergraduate Women at Lehigh. Both Prof. Jean Soderlund's Research Methods course, entitled "Gender and the University," and Prof. Gail Cooper's course, "Women, Science and Technology," focus on the Lehigh experience for some of the subject matter. In terms of research, faculty members, students, and alums have published books and articles of interest as noted within this issue.

On a closing note of humor, I want to report that while cleaning out some files last summer, Coordinator Janet Walters discovered what may be the only known and remaining copy of "The Times," an unofficial spoof edition of the more scholarly and well known Newsletter of the History Department. No one here remembers who put it together, but included in Vol. 1, Issue 1 were such articles as "Dr. Jim Saeger Abducted by Rebels;" "Jeff Schramm to become Locomotive Engineer;" and "New Dairy Farm Operated by Craig Coenen." So, while we have our suspicions as to origins and authors, please do tell if you had a hand in creating this bit of fun, whose concluding editorial read in total: "Everything is OK."

On a more serious note, and as always, we continue to appreciate the many alumni and friends who support the department. A complete list of supporters for the year will be included in the spring issue of the newsletter. With continued thanks to Professor Gail Cooper, please be sure to visit our regularly updated department website at: <http://cas.lehigh.edu/casweb/default.aspx?id=764>. If friends, alumni, or past colleagues are travelling through the area, please feel free to stop by the department. As always you'll find the coffee pot is on.

Steve Cutcliffe, Chair

## Faculty Accolades

**Michael Baylor** participated in the Lehigh in Belgium program last summer. His tenth year with the program, Professor Baylor taught two courses and acted as the program co-director. In late October he gave a paper, "Knowing God Through Dreams: Thomas Müntzer on Dream Revelations," at the meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. His new book, *The German Reformation and the Peasants' War: A Brief History with Document*, is now in production with Bedford / St. Martin's. It is a volume in their Bedford Series in History and Culture and should be available at the start of 2012.

**Steve Cutcliffe** participated in two conferences this fall. In October he attended the Pennsylvania Historical Association's annual meeting in Johnstown, where he participated in a session on incorporating environmental history into one's teaching using Pennsylvania biographical connections as the entrée point. In November he attended the joint Society for the History of Technology and Society for the Social Studies of Science meeting, participating in the latter's panel session on the current state of Science, Technology, and Society programs.

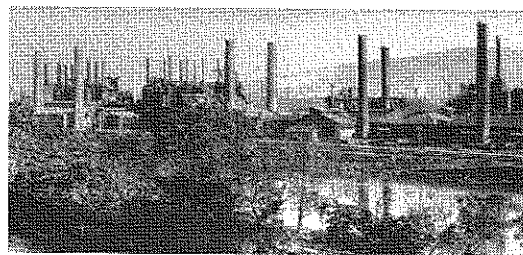
**Nitzan Lebovic** published his article "Benjamin's Nihilism: The Rhythm of Time" in *Benjamin- Studien* (vol. 2, 2011). In addition, he published two web-based articles: "Time of the End: Four Questions about Israeli Politics," on *Haemori Blog* for History and Theory of Politics and "The Biometric Law and the Leakage of the Israeli Census," on The Israel Democracy Institute Website. Lebovic also participated in three conferences this fall. He served as the respondent to "Mapping the Border Between Judaism and Catholicism in Interwar Jewish Philosophy," at the Continental Philosophy in a Jewish Context Conference in Philadelphia on October 19. He also presented his paper, "The Book of Jeremiah: The Perpetual Revolt," at The Princeton Seminar on 'Political Theology,' on October 4 and gave his "Missing the Future: German Jewish Legalists after Weimar," at the Jewish Studies Colloquium at Brandeis University on October 25.

**Michelle LeMaster** gave a pre-circulated article-length paper entitled "'[B]utchered after the most barbarous manner': Massacre and Gendered Violence in the Tuscarora War," at a joint seminar sponsored

by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania Law School, and Georgetown Institute for Global History. The conference was called "Bloody Days: Massacres in Comparative Perspective," and was held June 23-24, 2011.

**Monica Najjar** published "The Devil's in the Details: Revisiting the Early Baptist South," in the *Journal of Southern Religion* (vol. XIII, 2011, online). This essay explores the major concerns of her book and contextualizes it within the rapidly changing historiography. She also presented two papers on her new project, "Gender, Sex, and the Catholic Menace in Anglophone Print Culture, 1700-1850," which uncovers the ways that anti-Catholic writers drew upon gender and sexual ideologies to narrate and popularize anti-popery in the Atlantic World. She gave "Selling the Catholic Menace in Anglophone Print Culture, 1780-1830," at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic in Philadelphia in July 2011 and presented, "Wicked Intrigues, Or How Power and Pornography Intersected to Define the Catholic Menace in the Eighteenth-Century Anglophone World," at the Eighteenth-Century Studies Group at the University of Michigan in March 2011.

**Jeffrey Richey**, our current Latin American Studies pre-doctoral fellow, made a presentation based on his dissertation research at UNC, Chapel Hill to faculty and students from the department and Latin American Studies Program on November 8. Entitled "Soccer, Race, and the Roots of Rivalry: Argentina and Brazil, 1919-1929." Jeff's talk analyzed how the prominent role of racial ideology, racist discourse and mutually constructed misgivings helped to structure relationships between the two countries in one of the most unfortunate episodes in their national histories and the game of soccer.



*A glimpse into the past: Bethlehem Steel, 1907.*

Image courtesy of *Beyond Steel: An Archive of Lehigh Valley Industry and Culture*, National Canal Museum.

## Graduate Student Accolades

**Adam Bentz** presented his paper entitled, "America's Immigration Debate: Perspectives from the McCarthy Era and Today," as part of the Lehigh brown bag series on November 30. The paper reflects part of his dissertation work on Rep. Francis Walter.

**Kelli Curtin** presented her paper, "Conversations Among my Friends: The Influence of Clarissa and Pamela on the Lives of Eighteenth Century American Women," at the Mid-Atlantic Popular American Culture Association on November 5.

**Joshua Britton** presented his paper 'A City of Repose': Green-Wood Cemetery, Tourism and Civic Identity in Brooklyn New York, 1830-1860," at the Society for American City and Regional Planning History in Baltimore on November 18, 2011. Joshua was also the Hoben Teaching Fellow for the fall semester and taught a course examining the history of the American suburbs.

**Silas Chamberlin** was recently named Assistant Teaching Editor for H-Urban. In this position, he will maintain the forum's teaching website, edit syllabi, and facilitate discussions about teaching urban history. Chamberlin was also named a Commonwealth Speaker at The Pennsylvania Humanities for the 2011-2012 season. He will give his talk, "Hiking in Penn's Woods: A History" to audiences throughout the state.

**Jay Donis** presented his paper, "The Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial: An Innovative Civil War Monument and New Direction for Civil War Remembrance," at the Legacy of the Civil War Conference at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, held November 10 -12.

**Colin Fitzgerald** presented his paper, "American School Desegregation in the Context of Forced Busing: A Comparative Urban Analysis," at the Windy City Graduate Student History Conference at Universeity of Illinois – Chicago on November 5. The Conference theme was "Contested Spaces, Contested Identities: Exploring Power and Resistance in the Modern World."

## Alumni News

**Bill Dunkel**, PhD 1976, Upper School Principal at the Lovett School in Atlanta, Ga., reports that he and his wife Chris are fine, although since both their children got married this summer, they are now empty nesters.

**Jim Higgins**, PhD 2009, has been teaching at Kutztown University and reports that he has given several conference presentations and lectures including at the University of Pennsylvania, Society for the Social History of Alcohol, Drugs and Medicine, and the Medical History Conference. A book manuscript based on his dissertation on the history of the 1918 flu epidemic in Pennsylvania is under consideration at a major university press. Watch for his article on the topic in *Pennsylvania History*.

**Angelo Spinoso**, MA 1983, is living in Somerville, Mass. He writes that he still maintains an interest in Pennsylvania crafts and trades—Moravian pottery and New Harmony, Pa. produced furniture, and he forwarded an image of a 19<sup>th</sup> C., nearly four-foot long, carved wooden and gilded beaver, emblematic of the earlier colonial era fur trade in this region. Would that he had only sent us the original.

## In Memorium

We were saddened to learn that Eric Eisenberg, who received his MA in History in May 2009, passed away since the last issue of this newsletter. Following his time at in the department, Eric had been enrolled in the Duke Law Program.



*Alumni: Lehigh students in the Commons (now Lamberton Hall), 1907-14, estimated.*

Image courtesy of Beyond Steel: An Archive of Lehigh Valley Industry and Culture, Bill Weiner Collection.

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***Fall 2011 Co-Sponsored Colloquia***

**Ivy Wilson**, "The Visuality of Black Political Thought: The Museum Idea and Political Aesthetics Between Slavery and Freedom," co-sponsored by American Studies, October 6.

**David Waldsreicher**, "Phillis Wheatley's African and Ancient Worlds (and Thomas Jefferson's)," co-sponsored by The Gipson Institute, October 26.

**Koritha Mitchell**, "Living with Lynching: African American Lynching Plays, Performance, and Citizenship, 1890-1930," co-sponsored with Africana and American Studies, November 9.

**James B. Stewart**, "Slavery and Human Trafficking in the Twenty-First Century," co-sponsored by American Studies, Globalization and Social Change, November 15.

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