

History at Lehigh

Volume 13, Issue 1

Fall 2012

Welcome to the Fall 2012 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

Last fall when I wrote this message, I commented on how the usual crisp fall weather, normally aglow with golden leaves, had been turned upside down with “one heck of a snowstorm.” Well, this year, as most of you well know, our usual pleasant fall weather was again turned upside down, but this time with “one heck of a hurricane.” Hurricane Sandy was disruptive most everywhere up and down the East Coast, although Lehigh and Bethlehem did not suffer as badly as some places along the New Jersey Shore and in the New York City area. Nonetheless, parts of the campus, including class room buildings, dorms, and dining halls were without electricity for the better part of the week such that classes were cancelled for that period and students urged to go home or stay with friends due to the lack of heat and light in many facilities. Since returning to campus, we have all been scrambling to reorganize our class schedules and the like. Add to that the normal flow of students registering for classes for the spring semester, major declarations, and study abroad credit transfer requests, and the buzz of activity within the department during this period has kept everyone hopping.

This fall we welcomed a new faculty member to the department, Kwame Essien. Kwame is one of several new hires made as part of the African Studies Cluster Hire and as such he holds a joint position with History and the Africana Studies Program. Kwame received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin, and prior to joining us he taught at Gettysburg College and the University of Central Arkansas. His current research focuses on the reverse diaspora of the Afro-Brazilian Tabom people back to Ghana, his home country, in the 19th and 20th centuries. He is currently teaching the survey course on African history and a more specialized course on Ghana. We are excited by Kwame’s arrival and look forward to his offering of courses focused on this important part of the globe as part of our continued effort to provide the broadest coverage of the world possible.

In closing I want to note the many activities in which History faculty, students and alums have been engaged and to congratulate them for their successes, many of which are included in this issue. If you have additional news to report, please let us know so that we can include notice in the next issue. One item we were not able to include in last spring’s issue was that Kristen Tremper was selected as the recipient of the 2012 Joseph A. Dowling Teaching Assistant Award, as that prize was determined too late to be included at the time we went to press. So, although somewhat belated, our sincere thanks and congratulations go to Kristen for her efforts on behalf of all her students over the past several years. I also want to thank once again all those who have donated so graciously and generously to the department and/or to the Dowling Fund. We have included a list of names of those alumni and friends who have made donations since the last issue. We will again update this list in the spring issue, so if we have somehow overlooked anyone, please let us know and we will be sure to rectify the oversight.

Finally, as I have closed other newsletter issues, if you find yourself in the area, you should feel free to drop by the office and catch up on the news; the coffee pot will be on.

Steve Cutcliffe, Chair

Accolades

Faculty

William Bulman organized an international conference (along with Robert G. Ingram) at Ohio University titled "God and the Enlightenment." He presented "The Achievements of the British Revolutions of the Seventeenth Century: A Post-Liberal Account," at Three Revolutions? Remaking Political Society in Britain and America 1640-1865 at Yale University's International Conference in June. He also published "Enlightenment and Religious Politics in Restoration, England," *History Compass* 10:10 (October 2012), 752-764.

Stephen Cutcliffe '76 recently published two articles. The first article was titled "Framing the Discussion: Nanotechnology and the Social Construction of Technology – What STS Scholars Are Saying" and it appeared in *NanoEthics: Ethics for Technologies that Converge at the Nanoscale* (September 2012). The second article was titled "From Seed Men to Bird Women: Pennsylvanians and the Environment" and it appeared in *Pennsylvania History* (Autumn 2012).

Nitzan Lebovic recently published two articles. The first was "The Biopolitical State and Biometrics, or 'Who Guards the Guards'?" *Eretz Acheret* 63 (Summer, 2012), 36-42 [in Hebrew]. And the second included "A History of a Non-Existent Constitution to Israel or why the Basic-Order Comes after the End of Politics" in *Grundordnungen. Wechselbeziehungen zwischen Geographie, Religion, Kultur und Gesetz*, eds. Zaal Andronikashvili, Sigrid Weigel (Kadmos, Berlin, 2012), 97-115 [in German]. He was also a paper presenter and panel moderator at the German Studies Association Conference: A Special Panel about German-Hebrew Relations in Milwaukee, WI, in October. And lastly, he organized a one-day workshop for faculty and graduate students at Lehigh's Berman Center for Jewish Studies.

Faculty Cont'd

Roger Simon was elected to his second three-year term on the Council of the Pennsylvania Historical Association (PHA).

John Smith presented "Raising a Stink: The Short Happy Life of MTBE" at Hazardous Chemicals: Agents of Risk and Change (1800-2000) at the Deutsches Museum in Munich, Germany, in April.

Graduate Students

Joshua Britton was a Short-Term Research Fellow at the New York Public Library over the summer and spent two weeks in residence at the library's Manuscripts and Archives Division. Joshua blogged about his experience for the NYPL's staff blog while he was there. He also presented "The Advantages of the Country: Yankee Merchants and the Settlement of Brooklyn Heights" at the Urban History Association's biennial meeting in New York City on October 27th.

Silas Chamberlin's article "New Paths towards a History of Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation" appeared in the Fall 2012 issue of *Pennsylvania History* and his review of Joy Parr's *Sensing Changes: Technologies, Environments, and the Everyday* appeared in Summer 2012 issue of *Environment and History*. Silas was the keynote speaker at the thirteen-county Pennsylvania Wilds' Trail Conference, and he also presented papers at meetings of the Boston Environmental History Seminar, Urban History Association, Pennsylvania Historical Association, and the history department's lunchtime colloquium.

Jay Donis received an adjunct position at Gwynedd-Mercy College for Spring 2013 to teach a class on American history and economics.

Graduate Students Cont'd

Kim Fabbri spent six weeks conducting research along Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, courtesy of a Strohl Summer Research Fellowship. The majority of her time was spent in the port cities of Bluefields and Puerto Cabezas. Her experiences in these cities subsequently became part of a conference paper that she delivered in October at the Third Annual Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History and Music.

Colin FitzGerald presented "Early Du Boisian Pragmatism in the Context of Selected Atlanta University Studies, 1895-1915" as part of the History Department's brown-bag series on September 19th in preparation for this year's Windy City Graduate Student History Conference at the University of Illinois-Chicago in October.

Christine Hill received a full-time summer internship from the Martha's Vineyard Museum in Edgartown, MA. She interned in the curatorial department where she wrote exhibit labels, cataloged new collections, and edited online exhibits. She also conducted research for a new permanent exhibit, wrote a historical newspaper article, and designed a small exhibit for the island's Agricultural Fair. Her internship lasted 10 weeks.

Matthew Schandler co-authored a chapter in an edited volume by Matthew Wysocki. The chapter's title is "Would You Kindly?" *BioShock* and the Question of Control," in *Ctrl-Alt-Play: Essays on Control in Video Gaming* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press, 2012).

Michael Zvalaren co-authored an article (along with **Stephen Cutcliffe '76** and **Christine Pense '08**) titled "Framing the Discussion: Nanotechnology and the Social Construction of Technology – What STS Scholars Are Saying."

Graduate Students Cont'd

The article appeared in the September 2012 edition of *NanoEthics: Ethics for Technologies that Converge at the Nanoscale*.

Undergraduate Students

Brian Hanley is a senior history major who received a Strohl Senior Thesis Award for \$1000 from the College of Arts and Sciences. He plans to use the money to fund his research efforts. His thesis is tentatively titled "Caste and Class in the Quaker City," and will examine the life of Benjamin Chew as a Philadelphia jurist with the all-important responsibility of applying and interpreting Pennsylvania's constitution.

Sam Hodges is a senior history and international relations double major who was the keynote speaker at the 2012 Founder's Day celebration. Held on October 19th in the Packer Memorial Church, Sam reflected on the principles of Asa Packer, the importance of leadership, and the power of a Lehigh education in today's world. Raised in Big Timber, Montana, Sam graduated from Sweet Grass County High School. He is active in Lehigh's Community Service Office, a brother in the Phi Sigma Pi fraternity, and a proud member of the Marching 97. After Lehigh, Sam plans to obtain a graduate degree in higher education administration.

Former Students

Mark Gallimore '10 presented "Busy Bus Business: The Motley Beginnings of Motor Buses in Pittsburgh, 1918-1940" at the Pennsylvania Historical Association's 81st Annual Meeting in November.

Stephen Harper '01 published "The Map That Reveals the Deception of the 1737 Walking Purchase" in the October 2012 edition of *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*.

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Gifts

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(Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list, but if you notice an error or omission, please contact the History Dept., College of Arts and Sciences, Lehigh University, 9 West Packer Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18015. Our phone number is 610-758-3360.)