

History at Lehigh University

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Fall 2015

Welcome to the Fall 2015 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

This year Lehigh celebrates its 150th anniversary along with that of the Borough of South Bethlehem, which was established in 1865. The community was indebted to Asa Packer for his railroad, iron works, and university. The normally reclusive Packer did make an appearance at the 150th Founder's Day celebration (see below), though as usual he refused to make a speech. He did graciously agree to pose for "selfies" even though he seemed somewhat perplexed by the concept. The history and evolution of our small community nestled between the Lehigh River and South Mountain continues to be a remarkable resource for teaching and research. My popular local history syllabus looks very similar to one for an American history survey course.

Last year, Professor Kim Carrell-Smith, along with an honorary member of the department, Julia Maserjian, who is officially Lehigh's Digital Scholarship Projects Manager, documented the "Lost Neighborhood" where the Lehigh lower campus now resides because of an urban renewal project in the 1960s. Maserjian was also instrumental in promoting the construction of an elevated walkway immediately in front of the blast furnaces. She made sure that there were signs that pointed out that these were indeed blast furnaces, not "steel stacks," a term used by the Arts Quest organization that has a performing arts facility in the same area. In the short time that it has been open, this walkway has become a very popular attraction. Also, Professor John Pettegrew is a key participant in a large grant obtained by Lehigh from the Mellon Foundation to "Engage Undergraduates with the Local Community through the Digital Humanities." If you have any particular stories about your engagement with the local community please send them along to me.



Accolades

Faculty

William Bulman published his first book, *Anglican Enlightenment: Orientalism, Religion and Politics in England and its Empire, 1648-1715* (Cambridge University Press). Over the summer he gave invited talks at Princeton and Berkeley. Since finishing his book he has also completed six articles for publication, and his co-edited volume, *God in the Enlightenment*, will be published by Oxford University Press in March 2016.

Kim Carrell-Smith co-presented “*Still Looking For You: Place-Based Community Engagement*,” with Julia Maserjian, Lehigh’s Digital Scholarship Manager, at the National Digital Storytelling Conference in September. They discussed “The Lost Neighborhood,” a digital project undertaken by upper-level public history students in Fall 2013, which tells the story of the eight square-block community that was acquired and demolished in the early 1960s by Lehigh, in an urban renewal partnership with the City of Bethlehem, in order to expand the university’s campus below Packer Avenue – where Maginnes Hall now stands. Public history students researched the urban renewal project, collected oral histories, and collaborated with South Bethlehem Historical Society on a story-gathering event with former residents of the area, to create a digital history “tour” of the lost neighborhood through interview clips, photos, maps, aerial views, and stories, on Lehigh’s existing Bethlehem “place+memories” website.

We are still looking for photographs and stories from folks who lived in the area or were Lehigh students at the time of demolition, or in the 1970s. The website is interactive and it is easy to upload a picture and caption, or a paragraph or two about what you remember about this place in the 1960s and 1970s. To find the project, go to memories.lehigh.edu and click on “The Lost

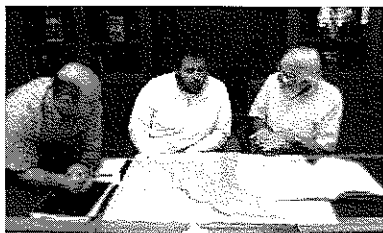
Neighborhood Tour.”

Natanya Duncan joined the department this fall. Prior to coming to Lehigh she taught at Morgan State University. Duncan, who earned her doctorate from the University of Florida, specializes in African American History, and is completing a book manuscript, *Crossing the Waters and Fighting Tides: The ‘Efficient Womanhood’ of the UNIA*, which examines the blending of nationalist and gender concerns among female followers of Marcus Garvey.

Nitzan Lebovic’s second book, *On Zionism and Melancholy: The Short Life of Israel Zarchi*, is coming out this fall in Israel. Additionally, Nitzan’s article “Biometrics or the Power of the Radical Center” was published in the recent issue of *Critical Inquiry* (Summer, 2015). This fall, Nitzan also edited an internet project that will be published in the MLA Commons website, which brings together seven different scholarly voices of history, literature, philosophy and religion to contemplate the future of the Walter Benjamin field. Finally, Nitzan is lecturing this fall in two special forums in Switzerland and at Indiana University about his work in Jewish studies.

John Pettegrew recently published *Light It Up: The Marine Eye for Battle in the War for Iraq* with Johns Hopkins University Press. In the book he argues that American military power in the War on Terror has increasingly depended on the capacity to see the enemy. The act of seeing—enhanced by electronic and digital technologies—has separated shooter from target, eliminating risk of bodily harm to the remote warrior, while YouTube videos eroticize pulling the trigger and video games blur the line between simulated play and fighting.

History in Action!



Stephen Cutcliffe took his History 315 (American Environmental History) class to Linderman Library Special Collections where in the Bayer Galleria they looked at old maps, primarily of western U.S. military and scientific expeditions. They will be doing short research papers on a single map each, and the idea is to have them actually look at the primary document. They also looked at a couple of volumes of different early naturalist painters such as John J. Audubon, Marc Catesby, and George Catlin.





Graduate Students

Gerald Rogers was awarded the Lawrence Henry Gipson Institute Dissertation Fellowship for the 2015-2016 academic year. He was also awarded the King V. Hostick Scholarship from the Illinois State Historical Society. On October 10, 2015, Gerald presented a paper, "Consequences of Peaceful Actions: Political Decisions of the Illinois Indians, 1778-1832," at a conference in Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. The conference was entitled "A Confluence of Cultures: U.S.-Native American Relations in the 19th Century." Lastly, on November 12, 2015, Gerald

presented a paper, "Layers of Networks: Political Change and the Illinois Indians," at West Chester University, in Pennsylvania.

Amanda Tuttle presented a paper entitled "Kerlin, Barr, and the Pennsylvania Training School: Laying the Groundwork for a Nazi Eugenic State" at the 12th Biennial Middle Tennessee State University Holocaust Studies Conference in October 2015.



Alumni

James Higgins (PhD, 2009) won the Philip S. Klein Pennsylvania History Prize awarded by the Pennsylvania History Association. The prize is awarded on odd-numbered years for the best article published in their journal, *Pennsylvania History*. James, a faculty member at the University of Houston at Victoria, won the prize for his article "B. Franklin Royer: A Half Century in Public Health," which was published in the Spring 2014 volume.

collaborated with the surgeon who had documented his often long and trying days with letters and tape recordings.

Maria McGrath (PhD, 2006) was promoted to Professor at Bucks County Community College.

Mary Jane Capozzoli-Ingui (PhD, 1985) completed a manuscript on the experience of an army surgeon who treated non-combatant Vietnamese victims of the war. She

Jon Price (Graduate student, 1995-2000) was hired as a full-time instructor in history and political science at Pennsylvania State University, York Campus.



Founder's Day 2015



Scenes of Dr. Stephen Cutcliffe as Asa Packer on Founder's Day

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Lehigh University Department of History

If you have any information for future newsletters, please contact the department.

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William Mor '66
James Ryan '01
Richard Small '69
James Smith '56

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