

History at Lehigh University

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Spring 2011

Welcome to the Spring 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

“Spring” arrived with record setting temperatures of 86 degrees as I sat down to write this issue’s Message from the Chair as yet another academic year winds down. Currently students are registering for the fall and declaring their major or minor in history. The total annual number of majors continues reasonably steady with approximately 65 at this point in the year; 19 are scheduled to graduate in May. Again this year we received a very large number of graduate applications with nearly 30 prospective students requesting admission. We anticipate welcoming approximately 10 new graduate students into the program in the fall.

Each spring I find myself faced with one of the department’s more pleasant tasks, the announcement of awards and prizes for achievement. This year the George D. Harmon Award for scholastic achievement goes to four outstanding seniors—Nicholas Baran, Zackary Biro, Hilary LaBar, and Anu Paulose. We also saw another large group of students inducted into the department’s chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society. They include Anne Bracaglia, Sarah Jones, Justin Kauffman, Alyssa Klein, Giuliana Terrell, and Joseph Voltz. At the graduate level, the Joseph A. Dowling Dissertation Award is presented to Holly Kent for her study, “‘All Reform Depends upon You’: Femininity, Authority, and the Politics of Authorship in Women’s Antislavery Fiction, 1821--1861.” Holly has also just accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Illinois—Springfield. The recipients and their dissertation titles in the first round of Kritzer Family Dissertation Research Grants are Adam Bentz, “Statesman and Sentinel: The Complex Career of Rep. Francis E. Walter, Immigration Hawk, Anticommunist Zealot, and Solon of the Lehigh Valley”; Silas Chamberlin, “On the Trail: A History of American Hiking”; and Christianne Gadd, “*The Advocate* and the Shaping of Gay Subjectivity in the U.S., 1967-2007.” Joshua Britton has been awarded a College of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Fellowship to work on his dissertation, “Creating ‘A Fair and Beautiful City’: Elites, Space and City-Building in Brooklyn, 1809-1898.” Finally, I am pleased to announce that Dean Anne Meltzer has established a History Department Dissertation Fellowship for advanced PhD candidates working on their research and/or writing. The fellowship, which includes a stipend and tuition, may be awarded to a single individual for a full year or to two individuals for a semester each. The first two recipients will be Adam Bentz and Silas Chamberlin for one semester each. Heartiest congratulations go to all these individuals for their accomplishments.

We continue to be very appreciative of the support given to the department by our many alumni and friends. A list of supporters for the academic year beginning July 1, 2010 is included inside this issue. Any friends, alums, and former colleagues travelling through the area should feel free to drop by the office to share a cup of coffee and update us on your most recent activities.

Steve Cutcliffe, Chair

Accolades

Faculty

Michael Baylor, as he has done for the past ten years, in May and June 2011 will again take a group of Lehigh students abroad for a four-week program in Leuven, Belgium. The History students enrolled in the program will take both Hist. 355, The Destruction and Reconstruction of Europe, 1870-1950, and Hist. 371, Independent Study. Earlier this year Baylor's essay on the life of the sixteenth-century German radical religious thinker Hans Denck ("Hans Denck: vom revolutionären Wiedertäufer zum radikalen Spiritualisten") was published in the catalog for an exhibition entitled *The Subversive Image* at the Dürer-Haus museum in Nuremberg.

Stephen Cutcliffe co edited a book with Martin Reuss, who retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, entitled "The Illusory Boundary: Environment and Technology in History." This collection of essays challenges the view that there is a clear boundary between nature and technology. The book was published by the University of Virginia Press in Nov., 2010.

Michelle LeMaster gave a paper at the American Historical Association Conference in January of 2011 entitled "I am a Mico, & Micoes Scorn to Spake Lyes': Honor, Masculinity, and Diplomacy in British-Native American Relations."

John Savage was invited to participate in the Remarque Institute of New York University's Kandersteg Seminar in Switzerland this April. He will present research at the Conference on Massacres in Comparative Perspective at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies in June. This work will also be presented in Toronto at the French Colonial Historical Society in June of 2011.

Jean Soderlund gave a presentation on February 23, 2011 entitled "Immigrants Before and After William Penn: 17th and 18th Century Settlement in Pennsylvania" to the Rural History

Confederation at Pennsbury Manor. On March 23, 2011 she also served as the moderator of a panel discussing the concept of Philadelphia as the "City of Brotherly Love" over the 329 years since William Penn founded the city. The panel was sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Roundtable and held at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The panelists included Chris Satullo of WHYY, Kali Gross of Drexel University, and Stephen Glassman, Executive Director of the PA Human Relations Council.

Nitzan Lebovic published a review entitled "Jacob Taubes: Looking into the Beauty of the Night" in *H-Judaic* and the *Jewish Daily*. He also presented "Rhetorics of Religion in Germany 1900-1950" at Princeton University on March 31-April 2, 2011. Another paper entitled, "Jacob Taubes" was also presented at the Workshop at the Zentrum fuer literatur und Kulturforschung in Berlin on February 21-23, 2011.

Graduate Students

Adam Bentz presented "Taming the Lehigh: Representative Francis E. Walter and Pennsylvania Flood Control, 1930s-1960s" at a brown bag talk on Wednesday April 6, 2011. Adam presented the same talk at the New York State Political Science Association Conference at Niagara Falls, New York on April 9, 2011.

Joshua Britton reviewed David Stradling's "The Nature of New York: An Environmental History of the Empire State" for the journal *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies*. Joshua's review appeared in the April 2011 issue.

Amanda Brown gave a brown bag talk entitled, "Peace and the East: The Intellectual Exchange Between the Modern African American Community and Third World India." This paper was then presented at the Herman C. Hudson Symposium at Indiana University, Bloomington in March of 2011.

Silas Chamberlin presented his poster, "'This Trail Disturbs the Peace': The Spatial Politics of Rails to Trails," at Lehigh's research symposium. Chamberlin also received a U.S. Forest Service assistantship that supported his travel to the annual American Society for Environmental History conference in Phoenix, Arizona. In December, Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski appointed Chamberlin to the city's Environmental Advisory Council, on which he now serves as Vice Chair.

Carolyn Dwyer presented a paper entitled "Seeing America, Being American: New Deal Reconstructions of Masculinity through National Parks" at the American Society of Environmental Historians (ASEH) Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Matt Schandler presented a paper entitled "Early Game-Playing Programs, or, Why Computer Chess Matters" at this year's Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference. The conference took place in San Antonio in April of 2011.

William Whyte is presenting a paper entitled, "Brooklyn Navy Yard: The Heart of the Union Anaconda, Naval Logistics and Ship Conversion during the Civil War" at two separate conferences. The first conference is the McMullen Naval History Symposium at the United States Naval Academy, which will take place on September 14-16, 2011 in Annapolis, Maryland. The second conference is for the Society for Military History's 78th Annual Meeting- Ways of War. It will be hosted by the First Division Museum at Catigny to be held in Lisle, Illinois from June 9-12, 2011.

Brian Lauderdale Young gave a brown bag talk on March 21, 2011 entitled, "Allegorically Recoding the Delaware (or Penn) Wampum Belt." This work was presented at the James A. Barnes Club History Graduate Student Conference that occurred on March 26, 2011 at Temple University. Brian also delivered, "Confronting the Urge to Dam a River by

Actually Living on the Land" as part of the Tocks Island Panel within the East Stroudsburg University (ESU) and the Monroe County Historical Association on Local History, held on the ESU campus.

Mike Zvalaren presented a paper entitled "A Club that Lasts: The Centennial Celebration of Reading (PA) Motorcycle Club" at the 2011 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Alumni

Meghan Berkenstock (BA '06) will graduate this May with a Doctor of Medicine degree from Drexel University College of Medicine. She will start her transitional year at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and follow with a residency in ophthalmology at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Harmon Lecture

On October 18, 2011, Professor Joan Hedrick will deliver the eleventh George Harmon Memorial Lecture on the Civil War, on the topic "Harriet Beecher Stowe and 'Uncle Tom'." Hedrick is the Charles A. Dana Professor of History at Trinity College, Hartford, and the author of *Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Biography* (Oxford University Press, 1994) for which she won the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for biography. She is also author of *The Oxford Harriet Beecher Stowe Reader* (Oxford University Press, 1999). The Harmon lecture series is funded by an endowment established by the late Fr. William Holberton, '43; MA, '93.

Gipson Events

In the spring, the Gipson Institute for Eighteenth Century Studies was pleased to host Eran Shalev of Haifa University. He spoke on "A Republic Amidst the Stars": Political Astronomy and the Intellectual Origins of the Stars and Stripes."

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Gifts

The Department of History recognizes with gratitude those individuals, foundations and corporations listed below who have chosen to designate a gift specifically in support of our academic and programmatic offerings.

Gifts, July 1, 2010 to the present:

David D. Dubosky ('82)

Jean E. Friedman ('67, '76)

The Stuart and Janet Kritzer Family Foundation

John P. Servis ('11)

(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 610-758-3369.)

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