

History at Lehigh University

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Spring 2012

Welcome to the Spring 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

As I write this message, the 2011-2012 academic year is well into its annual wind down. 16 majors are scheduled to graduate in May, and we congratulate them on their accomplishments. Again this year we received a very large number of graduate applications with nearly 35 prospective students requesting admission. We anticipate welcoming approximately 10 graduate students into the program in the fall.

This year's awards and prizes for achievement include the following. The George D. Harmon Award for scholastic achievement goes to two outstanding seniors—Stephanie Albano and Allyson Baer. Students inducted into the department's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, include Jinny Ahn, Alexandra Doersam, Leah Dworkin, Brian Hanley, Samuel Hodges, and Ben Kelley. At the graduate level, Joshua Britton has been awarded one of the newly established College of Arts and Sciences Dale S. Strohl '58 dissertation year fellowships to finalize his work on "Building Brooklyn: Elites, Space and Development in a Nineteenth-century City." Kimberley Fabbri was selected as the recipient of one of the College of Arts and Sciences Strohl summer research grants to work on her dissertation, "A Denomination's Dilemma: Moravian Missionaries in Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast." Amanda Brown has been selected to receive a College of Arts and Sciences graduate summer fellowship. The newly established History Department Dissertation Fellowship for advanced PhD candidates working on their research and/or writing will go to Nathan Friend for 2012-2013. His dissertation is entitled "Jonathan Edwards and the Evangelical Consensus." Heartiest congratulations go to all these individuals.

This year witnessed the arrival of our newest colleague, William Bulman. Bill is an historian of Britain and its empire. He received his PhD from Princeton University. He is currently working on a book entitled *Anglican Enlightenment*. Bill and his wife Kathy recently welcomed into their family a second son, Andrew, who joins older brother Liam. At the same time we welcome Bill, we bid official farewell to James Saeger, our long-time Latin American and military historian, who is retiring after 45 years of service. We wish Jim all the best in his retirement and know that he will stay in contact. Finally, we have all been saddened by the death of Joseph Dowling, long time member of the department, who passed away in late December. A memorial is included inside this issue.

As always we are 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, 2011, including those who contributed to the Joseph A. Dowling Fund, is included inside this issue. If perchance we have missed anyone's name, please let us know, and we will rectify the oversight in a subsequent 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

William Bulman organized an international conference at Yale University in March entitled "Institutional Perspectives on Early Modern Britain and its Empire." He presented "Lancelot Addison and the Intolerant Religious Liberalism of Late Stuart England" at the God and Mammon: The Religious and Economic Fault-Lines of Liberalism conference at Yale University in April and "The Effects of Britain's Seventeenth-Century Revolutions" at the Three Revolutions: Remaking Political Society in Britain and America, 1640-1865 conference at Yale University in June. He also published "Publicity and Popery on the Restoration Stage: Elkanah Settle's *The Empress of Morocco* in Context" in the *Journal of British Studies* 51:2 (April 2011).

Nitzan Lebovic was a panel co-organizer and contributor to "In the Shadow of Catastrophes: German History and Theory," German Studies Association Conference, in September 2011. He gave an invited lecture, "The Jew as a Prophet and Legislator," at the Institut Francaise de Tel Aviv in December 2011 and "The Crisis Paradigm: From Weimar to Jerusalem," in the Jewish Studies Colloquia, Brandeis University, October, 2011. He was a speaker at the Princeton Seminar on "Political Theology," Department of German Studies in October 2011.

Michelle LeMaster presented a paper entitled "The Tuscarora Massacre Revisited: These Were Not Random Acts of Violence," at the New Voyages to North Carolina Conference, in February 2012. She also published her book *Brothers Born of One Mother: British-Native American Relations in the Colonial Southeast* through University of Virginia Press.

John Savage presented "Colonial Jurisdiction: Law, Imperial Reform and Moral Capital in the French Caribbean" at the conference *Legends of Empire: Negotiating the Imperial Moral Compass*, sponsored by the Atlantic World Workshop at New York University in February 2012 and will present "The Colonial Exception: Carl Schmitt, Caribbean Violence and the Extra-legal State in the Revolutionary Era" at the annual French Colonial Historical Society meeting in New Orleans in June 2012. He is publishing an article entitled "Slave Poison/Slave Medicine: The Persistence of Obeah in Early Nineteenth-Century Martinique" in a volume entitled *Obeah and Other Powers: The Politics of Caribbean Religion and Healing*, edited by Diana Paton and Maarit Forde, which came out in May from Duke University Press.

Graduate Students

Adam Bentz presented "A Red Hawaii? HUAC's 1950 Investigation of Labor and Politics in Paradise" as part of the Lehigh History Department's brown bag colloquium series on April 12 and "America's Perennial Debate: Perspectives on Immigration Policy from the McCarthy Era and Today" at the New York State Political Science Association Annual Conference, Wagner College, Staten Island, New York, on April 21, 2012.

Silas Chamberlin presented his paper "Many Bulldozers are Drooling: The Urban History of Rail Trails" as part of the Lehigh History Department's brown bag colloquium series on April 5.

Kim Fabbri published a book review of "Benjamin F. Tillman's Imprints on Native Land: The Miskito-Moravian Settlement Landscape in Honduras" in the *Journal of Moravian History* (Penn State University Press).

Jerry Rogers presented "Jean Baptiste Ducoigne: A Policy of Familiarity and Mutual Relationships" as part of the Lehigh History Department's brown bag series on April 26 in preparation for this year's Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) meeting in Uncasville, Conn. in June.

Calvin Tessler received an adjunct position at Chestnut Hill College for next fall to teach a history course he developed on the Holocaust.

Billy Whyte presented "Naval Station New York: The Heart of the Union Anaconda" on March 10 at The Civil War Navy Conference: The 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Hampton Roads at The Mariner's Museum, Newport News, Virginia.

Michael Zvalaren presented "Mostly True Lies: *Platoon*, *Born on the Fourth of July* and Truth v. truth" at the PCA/ACA National Conference in Boston, Mass. on April 11.

Former Students

Gina Guzzon, '09 writes that she has recently finished her first year in the Masters in the History of Decorative Arts Program at the Smithsonian Institution. "The Smithsonian/George Mason University program is coming along nicely, with the opportunity to visit amazing collections in DC and to meet some fantastic museum professionals in the field."

In Memorium

Joseph A. Dowling



November 10, 1926-December 21, 2011

Professor Joseph A. Dowling passed away late last year just after our last newsletter was published. Joe was a member of the Department of History from 1958 to 1994, and subsequently active as an Emeritus Professor for a decade longer. As anyone who knew him can attest, Joe was passionate, dedicated, and supportive, whether it was about family, work, or politics; or as a good Clydebanksman about Scotland, fine scotch whiskey, and in his later years the Scottish national game of golf; and, of course throughout his life, he was a very funny man. He was a master teacher for which he was duly awarded recognition as a Distinguished University Professor. He was a renowned lecturer, even in large format courses with several hundred students. His force of personality and use of humor and anecdotes about historical actors—both the famous and the infamous—as well as stories drawn from his own personal experience endeared him to several generations of Lehigh students.

Among the letters and notes written to Joe at the time of his retirement, the following are illustrative of how people felt about him.

“He had a love of learning that was contagious!”

“When I think of Joe Dowling, two things come immediately to mind—his raucous laughter and his love of ideas.”

“...during the turbulent years of Vietnam, you touched my life and helped focus my otherwise scattered energies.”

“He would put you completely at ease with a story from his past that was both self-effacing and illustrative.”

And this from one of his first generation students:

“I am thankful that you were still teaching at Lehigh when my daughter had the opportunity to take one of your courses.”

Joe loved a good conversation. Most weekday mid-mornings, especially during his tenure as chair of the department, Joe held court in our Commons Room. Discussions ranged freely from politics—national, state and local, campus—to art and literature. Graduate students and colleagues, from History but from other departments as well, dropped in or out as their schedules permitted, but always at the center of those often heady and always funny conversations was Joe. Joe didn't easily suffer those he saw as fools, whether they resided in Washington, D.C., Harrisburg, or the University's Alumni Memorial administration building, and often as not, his somewhat socialist leanings would come out as he concluded some barbed observation with one his favorite quips, “well, come the revolution.” Although the “revolution may not yet have come,” we return a final salute to our departed friend. For over 35 years Joe was the heart and soul of the History Department and his colleagues will miss him dearly.

In lieu of flowers, the Dowling family have requested donations be made to the Lehigh University Dowling Fund. This fund supports annual prizes for the best PhD dissertation and the best TA in the department during their time here in the department. Many of you graciously donated to the fund, for which we are very appreciative. We have included your names in the list of donors elsewhere in the Newsletter, but if we have missed anyone's name, please do let us know and we will update the list in the next issue. Meanwhile, we have also determined to commemorate Joe's presence in and contributions to the department for nearly a half-century by naming the History Commons in his memory. We plan to have a commemoration plaque placed on the door during the coming months.



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Gifts

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Northeast Utilities

(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 601-658-3369.