

History at Lehigh University

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Spring 2013

Welcome to the Spring 2013 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 "Message from the Chair" is my 10th and final such note. This fast concluding 2012-2013 academic year is my final one as department chair, after which I will be returning to the ranks of the regular faculty. I have very much enjoyed my term as chair, but I am also excited to be returning to full time teaching and research. John Smith will be succeeding me as department chair, and I wish him the very best as he takes on his new set of responsibilities.

I want to use this final message as an opportunity to thank all the people who have helped make my term enjoyable, rewarding, and smooth running. First, we have a wonderful group of faculty in the department, and I truly enjoy coming to work each day knowing they are a supportive, hard working, and intellectually exciting group of colleagues and friends. Next I want to note my appreciation for the great students—both undergraduates and graduates—we have in our History programs. They at once work hard on their reading, research, and writing assignments, but also challenge us all to be better teachers and mentors. They are a basic reason for our being here, and I cannot imagine a better group of students at any institution. I also need to thank Janet Walters, our department's academic coordinator, who is the one individual who really keeps the administrative wheels of the department functioning smoothly. All chairs, past, present, and future, recognize (or soon will recognize) the great debt they owe her in making our administrative lives successful. Finally, I want to thank all the wonderful alums and friends of the program for your generous support, both financial and otherwise. It is always wonderful to hear of your activities and successes, and we very much appreciate your gifts to the department which enable us to offer programs, field trips, and lectures, and to provide research support for our students, which we would otherwise be unable to offer. So, thank you, one and all.

The following constitutes my annual report on achievements and prizes. 27 majors are scheduled to graduate in May, which may be a record number. This year we will also have awarded 3 PhD and 2 MA graduate degrees. We congratulate all these students on their accomplishments. This year's awards and prizes for achievement include the following. The George D. Harmon Award for scholastic achievement goes to two outstanding seniors—Anne Bracaglia and Tierney Gallagher. Students newly inducted into the department's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, include Kayleigh Billings, Caroline Couzens, Jason DuPaul, Gregory Edwards, Lacey Evans, Cameron Lan, and Joshua Stern. At the graduate level, Amanda Brown has been awarded a College of Arts and Sciences Dale S. Strohl '58 dissertation year fellowship in support of her project, *Mystical Experiments: The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples and the Spirituality of Democracy*. Gregg Pearson was selected as the recipient of one of the College of Arts and Sciences Strohl summer research grants to work on his dissertation, *The Democratization of Food: Tin Cans and the Growth of the American Food Processing Industry, 1810-1930*. This year we bid official farewell to Michael Baylor, our long-time early modern European historian, who is retiring after 36 years of service. We wish Mike all the best in his retirement.

As I noted above, we are very appreciative of the support given to the department by our many alumni and friends. A list of donors from July 1 to December 31, 2012 was included in the fall 2012 newsletter, while in this issue we include supporters for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2013 to date, including those who contributed to the Joseph A. Dowling Fund. If perchance we have missed anyone's name from throughout the year, 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

Nitzan Lebovic had his article "Paul Celan, Gershom Scholem, Martin Heidegger" published in Tel-Aviv University's *Intertextuality in Literature and Culture*. He organized a conference at the New York Consortium for Intellectual and Cultural History for Columbia University entitled "Reconsidering Opposition: Historical, literary, theoretical, and Activist Perspectives" in addition to organizing a one-day seminar with Dana Yahalomi, "The Public Movement," and coordinating an open conversation with Joseph Cedar, director of *Footnote*, both of which took place at Lehigh. He also presented "Biometrics," in Political Concepts III, at New York University, was a key note speaker at the Undergraduate Conference in German Studies at Moravian College, and was invited to give a lecture entitled "Foucault in the 21st Century" at Syracuse University.

Graduate Students

Joshua Britton has written an article for the online journal *Common-place: An Interactive Journal of Early American Life* published by the American Antiquarian Society. Joshua's article "The Brooklyn Theatre Fire, Outdoor Charity, and the Regulation of the American Theater, 1876-1890" will appear in the July issue. Joshua has also written two book reviews. His review of *Turning the Tables: Restaurants and the Rise of the American Middle Class, 1880-1920* appeared in the April issue of the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*. His second review essay entitled "The Modernization of Manhattan and Its Discontents" will appear in the summer issue of the *Journal of Urban History*. Joshua is also in the process of developing a panel for the American Historical Association's annual meeting in 2014.

Adam Bentz presented his talk "The Thirty-year Incumbent: the Congressional Campaigns of Lehigh Valley Representative Francis E. Walter, 1932-1935" at the Pennsylvania Historical Association's annual meeting in Harrisburg in November. He gave the same lecture in longer form at the History Department's Colloquia Series in

March. Adam plans to present at the annual meeting of the New York State Political Science Association at Syracuse University his talk "Too Red to Join the Red, White, and Blue? Hawaiian Statehood and HUAC's 1950 Visit" in April.

Silas Chamberlin shared his research on rail trails as a participant in the Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Science at the University of Pennsylvania. As a Pennsylvania Humanities Council Commonwealth Speaker, Silas gave his talk "Hiking in Penn's Woods: A History" to a large audience at Jenkins Arboretum near King of Prussia. Silas also made a presentation entitled "Lessons Learned from 150 Years of Trail Development" at the International Trails Symposium in Phoenix. His review of Kevin Olson's *Frontier Manhattan: Yankee Settlement to Kansas Town, 1854-1894* appeared on H-SHGAPE.

Andrew Dyrli Hermeling published two articles in the March issue of *District Administration Magazine* – "Social Studies on the Outside Looking In: Redeeming the Forgotten Curriculum" and "Network Infrastructure Requirements for Common Core Assessments: Will Your District Pass the Test?" Drew's articles relate to current trends in Social Studies Curriculum design in public schools.

Rachel Engl presented a talk in February entitled "George Washington and His Circle of Friends: Affection, Honor, and Friendship in the American Revolution" to the Valley Forge Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution at a luncheon in honor of George Washington.

Colin FitzGerald presented "Early Du Boisian Pragmatism in the Context of Selected Atlanta University Studies, 1895-1915" at the W.E.B. Du Bois Wings of Atlanta Commemorative Conference at Clark Atlanta University in February. Colin plans to develop a new brown-bag talk on Du Bois for the Fall based on this experience.

Alisha Hoffman-Mirilovich received a grant from Steamtown National Historic Site to supervise Marywood University's public history students as they documented four wooden railcars. The students researched the history of the cars and their respective railroads, as well as photo documented the individual cars. The project began in June 2012 and ended February 1, 2013.

Calvin Tesler presented his paper "The American Jewish Response to the Holocaust in the Post-War Period: Development of Holocaust Education in America" at the National Social Science Technology Conference in Las Vegas in March.

Billy Whyte had his article "The Brooklyn Navy Yard: The Heart of the Union Anaconda" published in the October issue of *The Northern Mariner*. Billy has also written two book reviews. His review of Craig Symonds' *The Civil War at Sea* appeared in the January issue of the Naval Historical Foundation's *Navy History Book Reviews*. Billy's second review of Kevin Dougherty's *Strangling the Confederacy: Coastal Operations of the American Civil War* was published in the October issue of *The Northern Mariner*.

Brian Young will be presenting a talk in April at East Stroudsburg University (ESU) entitled "Walking Purchase – Neither a Walk nor a Purchase: What was it?" as part of a conference on local history sponsored by ESU. Brian also gave a talk last fall entitled "Tocks Island Hippie Ruralists: Confronting the Urge to Dam a River by Living on the Land" at the Pennsylvania Historical Association's annual conference in Harrisburg.

Undergraduate Students

Brian Hanley participated in an undergraduate research workshop in February at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Brian's essay "Slavery, Consumption, and Social Class: A Biography of Chief Justice Benjamin Chew (1722-1810)" was selected for publication in the *Lehigh Review* in March.

Alumni

Vincent Capozzella (MA '73) since leaving Lehigh Vince has taught courses in criminal justice, law, and history at Jefferson Community College (SUNY) in Watertown, NY and served as faculty association President. Vince was also mayor of Sackets Harbor, NY for 10 years. He is now retired and living in Breckenridge, CO with his wife Barb. Vincent tries to ski at least twice a week.

Mary Jane Capozzoli-Ingui (PhD '85) writes that as of November 2012 she now works for the Vero Beach NewsWeekly, a Scripps Publication covering news of the North County area of Indian River County Florida, which includes the city of Sebastian and Fellsmere. Mary Jane focuses her writing on people and businesses in the local communities.

Maria McGrath (PhD '06) writes that she recently published her article "Back to the Kitchen?" in the Winter 2013 issue of *Ms. Magazine*. Maria discussed that today's proponents of a natural-food "revolution" sometimes forget history and return us to patriarchal fantasies of happy housewives at their hot stoves.

Susan Wigodner (BA '10) writes that she completed her MA in Museum Studies at George Washington University in May 2012 and is now working at the 9/11 Memorial Museum as an Exhibition Coordinator.

Gipson Events

On March 21, the Lawrence Henry Gipson Institute for Eighteenth-Century Studies hosted a talk by Jon Butler, Howard R. Lamar Emeritus Professor American Studies, History & Religious Studies Yale University, entitled "The Religion Problem in Pre-Revolutionary America."

History Department Events

Thanks to a generous donor, the department sponsored a trip to Gettysburg National Park under the coordination of Prof. Monica Najjar on April 5. Approximately 30 students and faculty enjoyed the museum and cyclorama, lunch, and a guided tour of the battlefield. It was a great way to commemorate the Battle of Gettysburg's 150th anniversary.

Lehigh University Department of History

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

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Gifts

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Gifts since January 1, 2013:

Stephen Amrol '94
David Dubosky '82
Neil Hanlon '57
Anthony Snyder
John P. Servis '11
James J. Spinner '73

The Stuart & Janet Kritzer Family
Foundation

(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.)