

History at Lehigh University

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Spring 2014

Welcome to the Spring 2014 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

The Changing History Department

There are a lot of new faces in the History Department these days. In the past five years we have hired four new faculty members: Nitzan Lebovic (Jewish intellectual and cultural history), William Bulman (British and British Empire history), Kwame Essien (African and African diaspora history), and most recently Maria Barbara Zepeda-Cortes (Mexican and Spanish Empire history). Barbara joined the department last fall after receiving her PhD from the University of California at San Diego. We have all been reassuring her that this winter was unusually harsh. Barbara's research focuses on the career of Jose de Galvez, a bureaucrat in charge of modernizing Spain's colonial policies as part what was known as the Bourbon Reforms of the late 18th century. Of course, these new professors have replaced many of our longtime colleagues: Ian Duffy, Jim Saeger, and Mike Baylor all retired in the past few years. Retiring this year was Bill Scott (African-American history), who pioneered the Africana Studies Program at Lehigh twenty years ago. Next year Robert Phillips who has taught Classics at Lehigh for thirty-nine years and Jean Soderlund (American Colonial History), a twenty year veteran will both retire. Jean has just completed a book on Native Americans in the Delaware Valley. We will miss them both in 2015. Our thirty years-plus-club is now down to Roger Simon, Steve Cutcliffe, and Steve Goldman. We hope to be able to keep them around for at least a few more years. Next year I hope to be able to report that we have added a couple more outstanding historians to our department.

Accolades

Faculty

Bill Bulman was awarded the inaugural Digital Scholarship Faculty Fellowship at Lehigh, for his second major research project, on political decision-making in the early modern British Atlantic World. His first book, *Anglican Enlightenment*, is now under contract with Cambridge University Press.

John Savage presented at the American Comparative Literature Association's annual meeting in New York City as part of the seminar on

Paris, Capitalism and Modernity. His paper was entitled, "Capitalism, Slavery and the Urban Gothic: Eugene Sue's Colonial Paris."

Jean Soderlund presented a paper, "At Present Inhabited Only or Most By Indians': Lenapes and Colonists in West New Jersey, 1664-1680," in Trenton, NJ at a conference on early New Jersey history co-sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies.

Dr. Soderlund is also giving a lecture at Susquehanna University entitled "Lenape Country: Delaware Valley Society before William Penn."

Graduate Students

Zackary Biro, Christopher Campbell, and Danielle Lehr presented their project, "'Still Looking For You': Creating a Virtual Tour of South Bethlehem's Lost Neighborhood" at the UMass Graduate History Conference on "History in the Making: Pivotal Moments in Public Understanding."

Silas Chamberlin presented his poster, "'This Trail Disturbs the Peace': Considering the Spatial Politics of Rails-to-Trails Conversions," at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington, D.C. In March, Silas accepted a regional adviser position with the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. He had previously been director of stewardship and senior manager at the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc.

Rachel Engl is presenting in June at the Colonial Society of Massachusetts' Graduate Student Forum. The title of her presentation is "Bonds Forged through Fire: Friendships within the Continental Army."

Kim Fabbri presented "The Governor wants to be 'muy suave' with the mission: Moravian political maneuverings in the 1920s and 1930s" at the Barnes Conference at Temple University.

Andrew Dyrli Hermeling will be presenting at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association's (NAISA). His paper is entitled "Onondaga and the Ohio Country: Six Nations Civil Government and the Ohio Iroquoians."

Danielle Lehr won a competitive summer internship at the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute. She will be assisting with the general running of the program and writing updates for the program.

Gerald Rogers will present his paper, "Dividing the Illinois Indians: Culture and Political Relations in the 18th Century," at the 2014 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association conference in Austin, TX.

Calvin Tessler will present "The American Jewish Response to the Holocaust in the Post-War Period: Development of Holocaust Education" at the International Journal of Arts and Sciences Conference in May.

Kristin Tremper was awarded a 2014 Mellon Research Fellowship from the Virginia Historical Society.

Scott Wert presented his paper, "Dispersing the Dark Clouds: Indian Treaties as Religious Discourse," at the American Indian Studies Working Group Conference at Princeton University.

William Whyte will present his paper, "Daunting Invaders: Yankee Ingenuity Afloat and its Impact along the Western Rivers, a Socio-Technological Perspective," in June at the Society of Civil War Historians Biennial Conference.

Alumni

Joshua Britton (Ph.D '13) was hired as an Interpretive Programs Specialist at the National September 11th Memorial Museum in New York City. Josh assists in writing the scripts for museum tours and leads tours of the museum space. Josh also has recently published articles relating to nineteenth-century New York in the journals *New York History* and *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*.

Undergraduates

The History Department would like to welcome the newest members of the Lehigh chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. Congratulations go to **John Behre, Lyasha Bishop, Rebecca Castaldo, Robert Hart, and Lara Wolkomir**.

Nicholas Ivers won this year's George D. Harmon Prize for the highest history cumulative GPA.

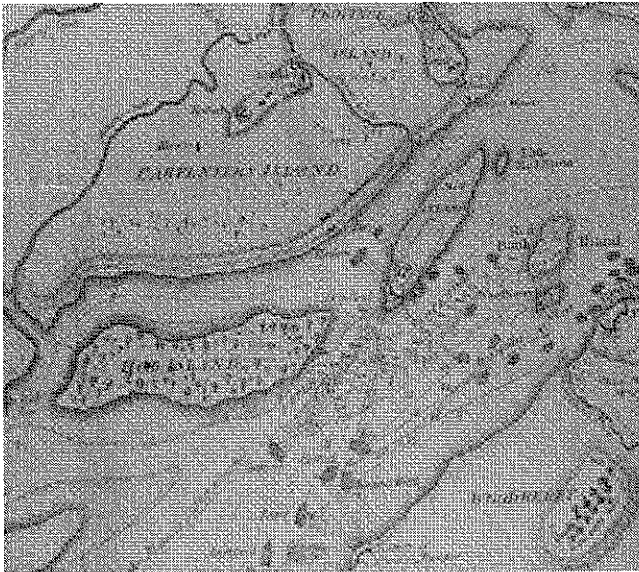
John Behre won a Libraries Student Research Prize for his paper, *The Central Park Zoo: Its Development and Connection to Greater New York City*. Behre wrote the paper for Dr. Roger Simon's History of New York City course.

Gipson Institute Events

The Gipson Institute sponsored two visits this semester. **Martin Bruckner**, from the University of Delaware, presented "For the Love of Maps: Pattern, Passion, and Performance in Eighteenth-Century America."

Clare Lyons, from the University of Maryland, delivered a lecture entitled "Thinking Globally: Sexuality, Mobility, and Power in the Eighteenth-Century Anglo-Oceanic World."

Rare Map Discovered in Lehigh History Department



During my move into the chair's office I saw a framed map depicting the 1777 British siege of Ft. Mifflin in the Delaware River, south of Philadelphia. A google search revealed that if it was an authentic 1785 map, it was quite rare and valuable. In fact, it was potentially valuable enough to have it appraised. I took it to an appraiser in Philadelphia and they verified its authenticity. The map unfortunately has had some water damage so it will cost about \$1000 to restore and reframe it. Please consider donating to the restoration of this piece of history so that it can hang in the chair's office for a long time.

Lost Neighborhood Rediscovered



Students in Kim Carrell-Smith's public history class collected stories from people who once lived in the neighborhood between Packer Avenue and Morton Street, now part of the Lehigh campus. The students discovered that the former residents were enthusiastic about telling their stories. Surprisingly, the students heard a wide range of attitudes from people whose homes were lost to the Urban Renewal initiative. Some remained bitter, but most just accepted it and moved on. While the neighborhood is gone; it still fondly remains in many people's memories. After presenting their project at a conference at the University of Massachusetts, the students were asked to submit their project to a national competition.

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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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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 Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, Lehigh University, 9 West Packer Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18015. Our phone number is 610-758-3360.)