

# HISTORY AT LEHIGH

## A Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 2, Issue 1

Fall 2001

### DEPARTMENT NEWS

This is the second volume of *History at Lehigh*, which we expect to publish twice a year to keep in closer contact with graduates and share information among alumni, friends, students, and faculty. News of alumni activities will appear in this and the next few issues. Please keep us up-to-date with your work, activities, publications, and changes of address.

This fall, **Prof. John Savage**, who received his

Ph.D. in History from New York University, joined the department. He is a historian of modern Europe, specializing in the way legal systems shaped social relations and political culture. His current research focuses on the application of the Napoleonic Codes to French possessions in the Caribbean, particularly looking at how a modern legal system was accommodated to slave society.

**Prof. Savage's** field will be an asset to the comparative and integrative Atlantic World program Lehigh offers.

In early January 2002, **Prof. John Savage** will present a paper entitled "The Legal Problem of Race in Early 19th Century Martinique" at the annual American Historical Association meeting held in San Francisco, California.

### LEHIGH ABROAD

**Prof. Michael Baylor** spent this past summer overseas with the Lehigh in Belgium program. It was his first year participating in the program, which **Prof. Joseph Dowling** began over a decade ago. The program ran from late May till the end of June, during which time **Prof. Baylor** taught two courses: Hist. 303: Destruction and Reconstruction of Europe, 1870-1950, and Hist. 371: a directed readings course on Nazism and the Holocaust. **Prof. Baylor** looks forward to future involve-

ment in what he characterizes as "one of the oldest, most popular, and successful of Lehigh's abroad programs."

**Prof. William Scott**, director of the Africana Studies Program at Lehigh, recently launched a pilot summer study abroad program in South Africa at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg. An intensive six week study program from late June to early August, the program features courses in Zulu language and culture, re-

gional history, and local policy issues and community service. Students are permitted to take two of the three courses offered for a total of six Lehigh credits. In the early phase of the program's development, the evolving institutional linking has focused on short-term exchanges of faculty. **Prof. Scott** visited Natal twice prior to last year's visiting lectureship by **Dr. John Laband**, a leading historian from Natal. **Prof. Scott** is now looking to increase the

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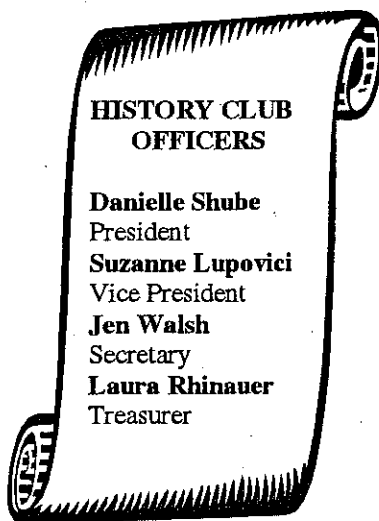
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## Organizations



The **History Club** is having its "best year ever," says Treasurer **Laura Rhinauer**. An annual club fair at the beginning of the semester attracted over 100 prospective members who signed up or expressed an interest in the organization. Club members kicked off their first meeting of the year with a pizza party in early September that drew about sixty students with a strong freshman turnout. On November 10, the group sponsored a trip to Philadelphia's historic sites. The club also held a movie night on November 27, putting together their own History vs. Hollywood discussion. The club continues planning upcoming events, including a faculty-student barbeque for the spring.

**Maria McGrath** is serving as the department's representative in the **Graduate Student Council (GSC)**. The organization represents the student community on issues relating to graduate programs and graduate student life at Lehigh, and provides a forum for discussion with university officials and committees. **The Council** also plans numerous activities throughout the year, including social events, trips, and seminars. Because of the history department's continued involvement and consistent attendance at meetings, several graduate students were eligible for and received **GSC** travel grants to help fund trips to conferences.

## Faculty News

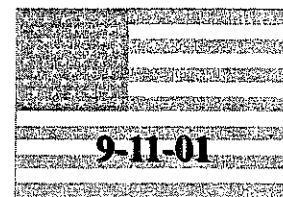
**Gail Cooper** has been fielding media questions about energy concerns. To add a historical perspective to the recent energy crisis, **Prof. Cooper**—author of *Air-Conditioning America*—was asked to speak at the Lawrence-Berkeley National Laboratory, interview with BBC radio, and act as on-camera expert for the History Channel's *Modern Marvels* series.

**James Saeger** will be on academic leave during the spring 2002 semester. He travels to Asuncion, Paraguay for six weeks, conducting research for his biographical work on the Paraguayan dictator Francisco Solano Lopez.

## Lehigh Teach-In

Lewis Lab was filled to near capacity on the evening of October 22, as the Lehigh community addressed issues relating to the horrific events of September 11. While the teach-in was interdisciplinary, the department of history was strongly represented. The gathering was co-moderated by the department of history's **Prof. John Pettegrew** and **Prof. Seth Moglen** of the English department. After some introductory remarks the panel of six delivered their brief presentations.

Faculty from different departments gave presentations. **Prof. Larry Silberstein** from the Berman Center for Jewish Studies, talked about the language and catch phrases used in media discourse to describe the situation. **Prof. Ruth Setton** of the Berman Center for Jewish Studies discussed the status of women under Taliban rule and in the Middle East generally, speculating how the war and a Northern Alliance ascendancy could affect Afghani women. **Prof. Amardeep Singh** of the English Department spoke on some of the domestic effects of war, such as scapegoating, racial profiling, and civil liberties. The Philosophy Department's **Prof. Alex Levine** spoke on the definitions and meanings of justice and responsibility.



Several graduate students also presented on a topic related to the events of September 11. History graduate student **Erwin Pantel** surveyed recent Afghan history, tying in US foreign policy. Fellow history graduate student **Jim Higgins** provided a background history of bombing campaigns, paying special attention to the consideration of civilian casualties.

The presentations generated a lively response from the audience. Questions and debates marked the discussion portion of the teach-in. Audience members put forward varying views, but all agreed on the need to continue with open forums.

Indeed, the teach-in was organized in response to calls from the student population. **Prof. Pettegrew** remarked he was "impressed with graduate and undergraduate students from the history department demanding something be done" to contextualize the events. Designed to be the first in a series, many students such as **Erwin Pantel** "would like to see another teach-in organized."

## Experiencing History

Students of **Prof. Gail Cooper's** women's history course have taken to the air waves. Supported by the university through a Ventures Grant, members of the class recently worked in conjunction with WDIY, Lehigh's public radio station, putting together short segments on various aspects

on women's history. After attending lectures, touring exhibits, and visiting historic sites, students worked in teams to produce a half-dozen, four minute documentary features to be broadcast during women's history month, March 2002. Some of the topics included: female political candidates,

midwives, women in non-traditional careers such as engineers, the acceptance of women at Lehigh in 1971, and public recognition of women's wartime contributions. For a local take on women's activities and perspectives they interviewed **Eileen Krajczar**, the mother

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## Students

**Paul Gillespie** organized a session and presented a paper at the annual conference of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), in San Jose, California on October 5, 2001. His paper, which he also presented as part of the department's brown bag series on September 26, was entitled "Ultimate Weapons: The Development of Precision Guided Munitions and their Effect on National Security Policy."

**Mark Hoff** is a senior history major and a third year resident of Taylor College. He is serving a second year as Gryphon (R.A.), organizing various programs for his residence hall. This year he has been involved with the Taylor Dinner program, which brings student, staff, and faculty together four times a year.

**Maria McGrath** is currently studying for preliminary exams in December. On November 4th, 2001, she delivered a paper at the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture and American Culture Association. The title of her paper was, "'God Bless You Ms. Winfrey': Oprah Winfrey and the Middlebrow of New Age TV Talk." In Spring 2002 she will teach History 198: "America in the 1950s."

**Meredith Pinckney** is a senior American Studies major working on her thesis that looks at how colonial history is marketed. Focusing on colonial Williamsburg, she is examining the marketing strategies and problems re-creationist organizations encounter in presenting accurate living history to the public.

## Alumni

*N.B. : Not all of the responses received from alumni have been included in this newsletter. More Alumni updates will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.*

**Nicolette Angelos** ('88 B.A.) is a director of Marketing at Charles Schwab Corp, San Francisco, CA. With a masters in accounting, she believes that a "history major is a great basis for any career."

**Sarah Carey** ('88 B.A.) continues to serve in the military as an Executive Officer for the 36th Signal Battalion. She has served overseas with her husband, including tours in Saudi Arabia and South Korea.

**Mark Strauss-Cohn** ('93 M.A.) received his rabbinical ordination from Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, OH, in 1998. He lives in Tampa, FL with his family, serving as a congregational rabbi.

**Peter Gushue** ('77 B.A.) received his Ph.D. in Latin American History in 1997

from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. He is an assistant professor at Christopher Newport University.

**Ruth Katcher** ('81 B.A.) is a senior editor of children's books for Harper Collins Publishers.

**Thomas Kline** ('71 M.A.) received a J.D. from Duquesne University. A partner in the Philadelphia law firm of Kline and Specter, P. C., he is presently counsel in catastrophic injury cases. He recently put on "Trial as Theatre," an onstage demonstration of trial skills and persuasion techniques.

**Karen Talhelm Knauer** ('78 B.A.) obtained her M.S. in Library and Information Science from Drexel University in June, 1999. She is a librarian in readers' services at Camden County Library in Voorhees, NJ.

**Robert J. Martin** ('73 M.A.) earned a J.D. from Seton Hall University, LL.M. from NYU Law School, and is pursuing an Ed.D. from Columbia University. A New Jersey Sena-

tor, he chairs the Senate Education Committee. He is also professor and director of state and local government law at Seton Hall University School of Law.

**Joseph H. Reynolds** ('68 B.A., '72 M.A.) received his J.D. from Albany Law School of Union University. He is a partner at Nixon Peabody LLP, Washington, DC.

**Robert Rosner** ('97 B.A.) graduated from Villanova University School of Law in 2000. He is an Assistant District Attorney for Lehigh County, working in the General Trials Division.

**Fredric J. Sirota** ('67 B.A.) received a J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1971. Presently a partner at the law firm of Wiley, Malehorn, and Sirota in Morristown, NJ, he has found "that majoring in history provided a terrific foundation for a wide variety of careers."

**James Wrigt** ('72 M.A.) teaches American history at Nazareth Area High School.



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### Abroad, continued

number of Lehigh participants in the summer program at Natal, and hopes that future arrangements will bring some of Natal's graduate students to take course work at Lehigh. Students who have completed summer studies in the "New South Africa" report that the experience was life-changing, giving them a fresh perspective on how a multi-racial democracy might seek to resolve social divisions caused by a longstanding "color line."

Four Lehigh University four credit courses on the history, culture, art, and literature of New York City will be offered in Manhattan this summer. It is "modeled as a study abroad program," explains **Prof. John Pettegrew**, director of the American Studies Program. From late May until early July, students will stay in New York University dormitories in Greenwich Village and attend classes at the City University of New York—Graduate Center, located across from the Empire State building. The courses will be team taught, with **Prof. Roger Simon** serving as faculty-in-residence. This "exciting program," **Prof. Pettegrew** believes, "will present students with a rich opportunity in experiential learning."

### Experiencing History, continued

of department coordinator **Janet Walters**. The segment, which focused on skills and the variety of roles assumed by ordinary women such as cooking, illustrates how students looked for local examples of national trends.

The history and community memory course, **Prof. Kim Carrell-Smith** explains, discovered "a real different way of doing public history." Working closely with the Touchstone Theatre, students reached out to cover diverse immigrant groups without much previous contact, such as the Hispanic population. Archived at the South Bethlehem Historical Society, the class's collection of oral histories will also be used by the theatre for the creation of a production exploring the South Side experience and what it means to live in the community. While learning traditional techniques for gathering oral histories, working with the theatre taught students more interactive techniques to draw out the people's stories. The theatrical technique showed students different ways to translate the nuances of people's gestures and expressions during an interview. The innovative approaches in both classes aimed to teach public history techniques in a traditional setting. While learning about women's and local history in familiar classes, the course projects sought to provide students with applied skills to use in the marketplace.

### Donors

We would like to thank the following people for their contributions to the department of history:

Sarah Carey

John David Layton

Jean Friedman

Joseph H. Reynolds

Steven Goldman

Roger Simon