

# HISTORY AT LEHIGH

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Volume 6, Issue 1

Fall 2005

This is the sixth volume 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. Please let us know if you have information or updates you would like to see appear in future issues of *History at Lehigh*.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS AND NOTES

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Dr. John K. Smith attended "Transitions in the U.S. Chemical Profession in the 20th Century: Crises, Turning Points and their Resolutions," a conference held at the 230th national meeting of the American Chemical Society on Aug. 28. He lectured on the integration of catalysis and polymer science into the American chemical community in the post-World War Two era. From Sept. 6-10, Dr. Smith attended the 5th International Conference on the History of Chemistry in Lisbon, Portugal, held by the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences. Dr. Smith presented "No More Miracles: the Unfortunate Decline in Catalyst Innovation."

Dr. Michael G. Baylor presented a paper entitled "The Strange Christian Utopia of Hans Hergot" at a session of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, a leading conference for historians of early modern Europe, in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 21. The topic of the session, which Baylor helped organize and which was sponsored by the Frühe Neuzeit Interdisziplinär, was entitled "Dreaming of What Might Be: Vernacular Utopias in the Early Reformation." Baylor's paper, a longer version of which he presented at the History Department's "Brown Bag" lunch seminar series the previous week, examined a utopian writing, *On the New Transformation of the Christian Life (Von der neuen Wandlung eynes christlichen Lebens)*, that was published anonymously at Leipzig in 1527 and that most scholars ascribe to a Nuremberg printer, Hans Hergot. In addition, an article of Baylor's on the politics of the radical reformer Andreas Bodenstein von Karlstadt has been translated into German and will be published

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## DEPARTMENT NEWS AND NOTES, CONTINUED

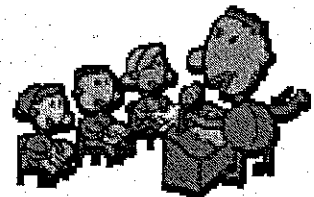
soon in the journal *Mennonitische Geschichtsblätter*.

*Prof. Steve Cutcliffe* attended the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) held in Minneapolis, Nov. 3-6. He served as the commentator for a session entitled "Artful Engineering." Also attending the conference were former students Jeff Schram [Ph.D. '03] and Paul Gillespie [Ph.D. '02]. Jeff and Paul also served respectively as commentators for sessions on "Producing Food and Consumers" and "Engineering Failure." Jeff and Paul also reported that they each have dissertation-based books under contract with a university press, so watch this space for further details when they become available.

*Dr. John Savage's* article, "Black Magic and White Terror: Slave Poisoning and the Provostial Court in Restoration Era Martinique," was selected by the organizing committee of the Law and Humanities Junior Scholar Workshop for discussion this June at Georgetown University. The workshop brings together an interdisciplinary group of legal scholars to promote new work in this field. In the spring, he participated in the Harvard Atlantic History Seminar on the theme of "Atlantic Legalities," which helped prepare for this fall's graduate seminar on "Slavery and the Law." Using one of the "new formats" suggested for this year's AHA

conference in Philadelphia, he has organized a panel entitled "Napoleon's Atlantic: The Impact of Napoleonic Empire in the Atlantic World." Five papers will be precirculated, dealing with Caribbean, Brazilian, Central American and North American history, but the goal is to bypass the traditional panel structure and engage a discussion with the audience for most of the session.

*Dr. Brian Refford* [Lehigh Ph.D. '05], current adjunct, presented a paper entitled "Merchant Friends and the Social Construction of the Mid-Eighteenth Century Liverpool Slave Trade," at "Port Histories: British Society and Maritime Culture," the Annual Conference of the Regional History Center of the University of the West of England in Bristol on Sept. 17. In addition, Dr. Refford recently submitted two articles examining friendship and reputation in the Liverpool slaving community to referred publications. He is also preparing an article-length study of the African slave trade in Post-Restoration Liverpool which he hopes to present at the Middle Atlantic Conference on British Studies at its annual meeting at Rutgers University in April 2006. Finally, Dr. Refford has been compiling a biographical dictionary of Liverpool slave traders, a long term project that he plans to extend to Bristol and London.



## ALUMNI UPDATES

*Craig Coenen* [Ph.D. '01]

is the author of recently published *From Sandlots to the Superbowl: the National Football League, 1920-1967*, published by the University of Tennessee Press as part of their Sport and Popular Culture Series edited by S.W. Pope.

*Sally Hanley* [Ph.D. '83]

taught at Franklin College in Indiana for twenty years before retiring in 2004. She specialized in British and European history. Her research has focused on Scottish legal issues, especially partnership and bankruptcy. She is currently working on a project examining legal issues raised by the works of Sir Walter Scott. Prof. Hanley is also the Producer/Director of *The Green Bus v. the White House*, a film which was shown on Nov. 16 in Sinclair Lab Auditorium. Her film examines the Illinois Senate campaign of 2002.

*Andrea Englander* [B.A. '05]

is working in Philadelphia as an investment consultant for high net worth individuals at Veritable, a small firm started by Edward Bowman [B.S. '77], a Lehigh alumnus. She enjoys her new job and credits analytical skills she acquired as a history major for helping her succeed in a field in which she had no previous knowledge. Andrea hopes to become a CFA (Certified Financial Analyst) and earn an MBA.

*Michael de Nie* [B.A. '92]

received his Ph.D. in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2001. He became assistant professor of British and Irish History at the University of West Georgia in 2003. His first book, *The Eternal Paddy: Irish Identity and the British Press, 1798-1882*, was awarded the 2005 Donnelly Prize for Books on History and Social Sciences by the American Conference for Irish Studies.

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## EVENTS

The History Department and the Science, Technology, and Society Program sponsor weekly lunch seminars (brown bags) on Thursdays in the Commons Room at 12 p.m. The Fall 2005 speakers formed an eclectic group indeed, including:

Frederick Hale, Cambridge University, "The Rise and Fall (?) of the Swedish Welfare State" on Sept. 22.

Adam Bentz, History Department, Lehigh University, "When South Bethlehem was Sin City: The Prohibition Era in the Lehigh Valley" on Sept. 29.

John K. Smith, History Department, Lehigh University, "The Search for Intelligent Designs: Making a Science of Chemical Catalysis" on Oct. 6.

## EVENTS, CONTINUED

Michael Baylor, History Department, Lehigh University, "The Strange Christian Utopia of Hans Hergot" on Oct. 13.

Brian Regan, History Department, Lehigh University, "The Clash of Titans: How Napoleon Bonaparte used Egypt to put Super Powers on a Collision Course to War" on Oct. 20.

Andrew Stahlhut, History Department, Lehigh University, "Defense Legislation in New York, 1691-1709" on Nov. 3.

Courtney Smith, History Department, Lehigh University, "Lehigh vs. Lafayette: Much More Than Just a Football Game" on Nov. 17.

William Scott, History Department, Lehigh University, "Origins of the Ethiopian Ethos in African-American Thought" on Dec. 1.

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## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

*Jim Higgins* is currently studying the infamous Spanish flu pandemic of 1918. His research leads him to believe the possible spread of the Avian flu virus currently in the news could result in an outbreak of the magnitude seen in 1918. Worse yet, he suggests that our current health care system is woefully unprepared to handle the crisis.

*Holly Kent* presented her paper "A Girl-Child Always Makes Me Sad: Marriage, Sexuality, and Singlehood in Nineteenth-Century American Woman's Rights Fiction" at the Women's History Network's 14th Annual Conference in Southampton, England, in September 2005. Kent will chair a panel on Women's Lives and Literature at the Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association Conference in Atlanta in April 2006. Kent's article "The Fragile Web: The Reconstruction of the Past in A Midwife's Tale" was recently published in the online journal *NeoAmericanist*.

*Mark A. Nicholas* recently presented four papers and has written four book reviews in the last few months. He also signed a book contract with Syracuse University Press for a biography of Handsome Lake, the Seneca prophet. *Pennsylvania History* has accepted an article Nicholas wrote for publication.

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## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**The following Lehigh History students were inducted into the Alpha Alpha Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society, on April 21, 2005:**

Katherine Allan  
Kristen Georgian

Christiana Beale  
Gina M. Jannone

Rahil Darbar  
Hadji Maloumian

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS, CONTINUED

Julie Ottaiano

Harold Matthew Schweitzer

Katharine Paine

David Webster

Harry Pinto

Mary Yoder

The Alpha Alpha Chapter advisor is Dr. John Savage.

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We are proud to have several seniors in the History program completing an honor's thesis this year. They include:

- ❖ *Katie Allan*, "Women Soldiers in the Civil War." (working title)
- ❖ *Meghan Berkenstock*, "Famine, disease, and medicine in the Thirty Years War." (working title)
- ❖ *Colin Keefe*, "The Evolution of the U.S. Military's Infantry Technology since World War II."
- ❖ *Jessica Miely*, "The Art of Velasquez and the Hapsburg Monarchy." (working title)
- ❖ *Meghan Ryan*, "Congress, FDR, and the Neutrality Act: the Fight Over Presidential Power." (working title)
- ❖ *Peter Triano*, "The Development of the National History Standards and the Resulting Controversy."



### Department of History/STS Brown Bag Lecture Series

Listen to history scholars present papers and join in discussion of their work in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

When: Wednesdays, 12 noon  
Where: History Commons,  
342 Maginnes Hall  
(unless otherwise noted)

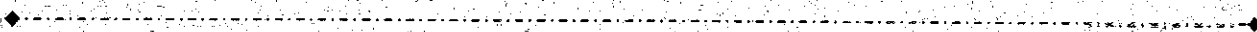
For presentation ideas and series schedules, contact Dr. Kimberley Carrell-Smith or Dr. John Smith.

**Coffee and Cookies Provided.**

## ***PASSING THOUGHTS...***

While we read history we make history.

**George William Curtis**



History is a race between education and catastrophe.

**H. G. Wells**

Thank you to Ms. Janet Walters and Ms. Holly Kent for help and support in the production of this issue of the newsletter. Thanks also to all alumni, students, and faculty who provided submissions for this publication. Due to constraints on space, not all submissions could be included. Please look for them in future editions of *History at Lehigh*.