

# History at Lehigh University

Volume 9, Issue 1

Fall 2008

Welcome to the ninth 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 appear in future issues of *History at Lehigh*.

## Message from the Chair

Greetings from the Department Chair's office where I now sit as the new incumbent. In July, Mike Baylor, who had served as Chair for four years, stepped down for a well deserved sabbatical leave. As noted elsewhere in this issue, he is continuing to work on a long-term research project, which will eventuate in a book manuscript on the Peasant's War in Germany during the Reformation. Since replacing Mike, I have been learning the ropes of the position aided by the always valuable advice of Janet Walters, our department coordinator. It has been a busy summer and fall semester to say the least.

We currently have approximately 70 undergraduate majors and 45 graduate students in the department. Notes on many of their highlights are included in this issue. Our alumni are equally active and continue to be successful in their chosen careers. We would be very pleased to hear from any and all alumni of the department, at both the graduate and undergraduate level, telling us of your latest professional accomplishments, job changes, or personal triumphs.

As always, the department faculty members are busy pursuing their research and teaching a wide array of exciting classes. Highlights are included in this issue. We now number 16 full-time faculty, including one joint appointment. This is the largest faculty size that the department has ever had. We are collectively excited by the possibilities that this presents for our students, in terms both of research areas that we can support and the classes that we can offer. Among the many faculty-led events this semester was the hosting of the 2008 annual meeting of the Pennsylvania History Association here in Bethlehem. This year's meeting was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PHA's first annual meeting also held at Lehigh University. Professors Roger Simon and Jean Soderlund served as Local Arrangements Co-chairs. A number of faculty and graduate students attended the meeting and presented papers, and Professors John Smith and Kim Carrell-Smith coordinated a tour of the former Bethlehem Steel plant and working class neighborhoods in South Bethlehem. The department also used the occasion to sponsor the Eighth George Harmon Civil War Lecture supported through the generosity of the late Father John Holberton, BA '43, MA '93. In all it was an exciting two and a half days. Thanks to all for the hard work that went into organizing and supporting the event.

Finally, I want to announce publicly two important department awards—the Joseph A. Dowling Dissertation and Graduate Teaching Assistant Prizes. The Dowling prizes are given in honor of our retired colleague and much-beloved instructor, Joseph A. Dowling, who is now living in Belgium. This year the Dowling Dissertation Award, which recognizes the best dissertation written by a PhD student over the previous two years, goes to Mathew A. Zimmerman, '07 for his dissertation, "Married to the Faith: Colonial American Quakers and the Trans-Atlantic Community." The Dowling Graduate TA Award is given to a graduate student who has displayed outstanding teaching abilities over the course of his or her time in the department. The award for the 2007-2008 academic year goes to Andrew Stahlhut.

In closing, let me encourage any alumni traveling through the Lehigh Valley to stop by the department for a visit. The coffee pot is always on.  
Steve Cutcliffe, Chair



## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **JOHN H. ELLIS, JR.**

John H. Ellis, Jr., Professor Emeritus of History, passed away on July 29, 2008, at the age of 76. Following service in the U.S. Air Force from 1948 to 1951 where he attained the rank of sergeant, he earned both his Bachelors (1955) and his Masters (1958) degrees from Memphis State University. During this period, which he described as "hard, but immensely satisfying" years, he supported himself and his growing family by working for IBM and the John Deere Company. In receipt of an academic fellowship, John turned down a promotion at John Deere to attend Tulane University for his doctoral studies where he received his PhD in 1962. While pursuing his PhD, John began his teaching career at Memphis State where he taught until 1964. Following brief appointments at Georgia State University and Georgetown College in Kentucky, John came to Lehigh in 1971 where he taught until his retirement in 1993.



John's area of expertise was in the history of medicine and public health, especially in the U.S. South. His scholarship was extensive and included authoring two books, numerous journal articles, and dozens of reviews. His major monographic study, *Yellow Fever & Public Health in the New South* was very well received, being described by one reviewer as "making a fine contribution to the history of public health in the South." John's scholarship also included a second book, *Medicine in Kentucky*, published as part of series of state-wide studies at the time of the nation's bi-centennial celebrations. Late in his career, John began the research for a third volume on the history of chiropractic medicine in America, a topic in which he was personally very interested.

John was an excellent instructor as well as scholar, teaching both undergraduates and graduate students with equal enjoyment and skill. He was demanding in the best sense of the word, while remaining fair to all students. In his teaching, as well as his personal life, John was particularly concerned about ethical and moral issues of both medical practice and personal behavior. Fundamental to his convictions was the notion that education, in addition to the transmission of knowledge, should serve a moral purpose. He was a true humanist.

John's colleagues in the History Department remember him as a supportive member, devoted to his family, scholarship, and the well being of his students. He will be missed by his colleagues who knew him well during his long tenure at Lehigh.

### **OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT**

Undergraduate History major Amanda Daddona ('09) spent three weeks at the University of Pennsylvania this past June. As one of only ten undergraduate students from across the country, Daddona was selected to study as a member of the SHEAR/ Mellon Undergraduate Fellowship Program. This prestigious program brought these scholars together with Professors Tamara Thornton (State University of New York, Buffalo) and Richard Newman (Rochester Institute of Technology) to complete original primary research in Philadelphia's premier archives. Their projects focused on early American history from post-revolution to 1860.

Daddona received instruction in archival research and explored the sources in the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the American Philosophical Society. Under the guidance of Professor Monica Najjar, Daddona is building on her summer experience by researching the development of American music and how it has been used to celebrate and glorify the nation and American identity in the early republic. Her work this summer is currently being used as a basis for her senior thesis.

## Accolades

### FACULTY

- ❖ **Michael Baylor** is enjoying a sabbatical leave and the opportunity to pursue his own research and writing projects after his term as chair. He recently reviewed Hans-Jürgen Goertz's book, *Die Radikalität der Reformation* for the *Mennonite Quarterly Review* and wrote the Introduction to the Martindale Center's volume of student research papers on the Benelux countries. He has just finished a long article, "Political Thought in the Age of the Reformation" for a reference work, the *Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy*, scheduled to be published next year. In late October, he gave a paper titled, "Political Theory and the German Peasants' War" at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference meeting in St. Louis. Before his leave ends, he hopes to complete the manuscript of a book, *The German Reformation and the Peasants' War*, for the Bedford Series in History and Culture.
- ❖ **Gail Cooper** completed an article on the general topic of comfort in an energy-efficient society following the Lehigh Energy Research Workshop 2007. Her piece, "Escaping the House: Comfort and the California Garden," explored the appearance of two competing paradigms in the 1950s for achieving personal comfort: cooling the house and cooling the body. She explored how these two regimes of comfort have profound implications for design at the level of the house and the neighborhood. This piece appeared in the British journal, *BRI*.
- ❖ **Michelle LeMaster** presented a paper entitled "A Meeting of Warriors: Manhood, War, and Diplomacy in the Colonial Southeast," at the British Group in Early American History Conference in Manchester, England in September. She gave another paper, "Their Women, and Children must eat Ashes for Salt: Women and the Demand for Trade," at the Berkshire Conference in June on the History of Women.
- ❖ **Joanna B. Michlic** was recently awarded the Taube Foundation Grant for translation of her book, *Poland's Threatening Other: The Image of the Jew from 1880 to the Present*, into Polish (forthcoming Oficyna Rytm, Warsaw). In early spring 2008, she was invited to join a team of international senior scholars to work on the Museum Project of Jewish History in Warsaw, Poland, under the academic leadership of Prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett of NYC. She works as a consultant on the modern period 1918-1960s and is particularly responsible for the

exhibit on "Growing up Jewish in Interwar Poland." She hopes that Lehigh students will be involved in this exciting international museum project by taking the opportunity to complete summer internships in Warsaw. She also recently published "The Soviet Occupation of Poland, 1939-1941 and the Stereotype of the Anti-Polish and Pro-Soviet Jew," in *Jewish Social Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 3, 2007; "The Impact of Ethno-nationalism on the Identities of Jews and People of Jewish Origin in Modern Poland," In Laura Quercioli Mincer, *Un ebreo resta sempre un ebreo. Vicende dell'antisemitismo e del messianesimo nella cultura polacca* (Rome, Bibliotheca Aretina, 2008) and "1939-1941 and the Stereotype of the anti-Polish and pro-Soviet Jew in Polish Historiography." Elazar Barkan, Elizabeth Cole and Kai Struve eds., *Shared History- Divided Memory. Jews and Others in Soviet Occupied Poland, 1939-1941* (Leipzig, Simon Dubnow Institute für Jüdische Geschichte und Kultur, 2008).

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

- ❖ **Silas Chamberlin** presented a paper entitled "A True Recreation of Our Spirits, Our Courage, and Our Love: Hiking Ideology in Twentieth-Century Pennsylvania" at the 2008 Pennsylvania Historical Association Conference.
- ❖ **Nathan Friend** was commissioned to submit a 1500 word article on the "Halfway Covenant" for Volume 1 of the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of American Political History*, distributed by MTM Publishing.



2008 PHA Conference;  
Tour of Bethlehem's  
South Side

### ALUMNI

- ❖ **Anna H. Janis (MA Lehigh 1990)** contributed to the book entitled *Leaving Women Behind*, in the section dealing with Social Security (Chapter 8). After completing a three year research study on the status of women in the economy, the National Center for Policy Analysis and The Manhattan Institute was accepted and published in the spring of 2006 by Rowman and Littlefield, Inc. The authors are: Kimberely A. Strassel, Celeste Colgan, and John C. Goodman. The book can be purchased at Barnes and Nobles.

## Department News and Announcements

### Historical GIS Site Launched by Lehigh University

The S. Murray Rust Jr. Digital Scholarship Center at Lehigh University recently launched a geographical information system (GIS) project that maps the townscape of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in the early twentieth century (<http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/beyondsteel/gis/>). This interactive, historical-GIS tool enables site visitors to map and to investigate spatially the lives of turn-of-the-century Bethlehem residents and Bethlehem Steel Company employees. This GIS component is the most recent addition to Lehigh University's digital library project, Beyond Steel: An Archive of Lehigh Valley Industry and Culture, which is dedicated to illustrating the region's industrial history. This project was partially funded with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds administered by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. For more information about the GIS project of Beyond Steel, contact [digitlib@lehigh.edu](mailto:digitlib@lehigh.edu).

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## History Quiz

- 1: The U.S. patent laws of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century guaranteed protection for new and original ideas and inventions, but disregarded the patentability of objects that had been reworked, reconfigured, and improved using new proportions. This fact was a constant source of vexation for which popularly known American steamboat "inventor"?
- 2: This inventor received nine patents over the course of his fifty year life (1765-1815). What were the patents for?
- 3: Which countries granted him those patents?

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Answers: 1: Robert Fulton; 2: Inclined planes (2 different countries), rope maker, panorama (2), steamboat (2), underwater cannon, the steam frigate; 3: France, England, and the United States.