

History at Lehigh

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Volume 4, Issue 2

Spring 2004

This is the fourth 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

Dr. Michael Baylor will teach in Leuven, Belgium this May and June. This will be Dr. Baylor's fourth year of involvement with the popular Lehigh in Belgium program. Also, Dr. Baylor will spend part of July leading a Lehigh Alumni tour of World War II sites from London to Berlin. The tour will also pay special attention to the 60th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. In October, the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference will meet in Toronto, Canada. Currently Dr. Baylor intends to present a paper entitled "Karlstadt's Politics: A Radical Reformer in the Early Reformation."

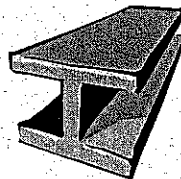
Dr. John Savage has organized a panel for the 50th Anniversary French Historical Studies Conference to be held in Paris this June. The panel is to honor the 200th anniversary of the promulgation of the Napoleonic Code, and addresses the legal history of the dissemination of the Code outside of France. His paper is entitled "An Imperial Code: Colonial Resistance to the Civil Code in the French Caribbean during the Empire and Restoration."

Professor Joseph Dowling came out of retirement to return to teaching for this semester. Professor Dowling, a Distinguished Professor at Lehigh 1958-93 and the History

department chair 1967-68 and 1984-90, returned to teach History 90, "The Great War to End War, 1914-1918," a course that examined the First World War.

Graduate student **Jim Higgins** helped kick off a lecture series in Philadelphia at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia on November 7th. His talk was entitled "Comparative Study of Pandemic Flu in Pittsburgh and the Lehigh Valley." Jim also gave a talk at Kutztown University on April 3rd concerning the Jack Johnson vs. Jim Jeffries boxing match. His talk was entitled "Jack Johnson vs. Jim Jeffries and the Search for Regional Differentiation."

The **History Department** has decided to participate in "Save Our Steel," a coalition including the City of Bethlehem, several historical societies and museums, and the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Humanities, that is attempting to help preserve the historical character of the steel plant.



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ORGANIZATIONS, EVENTS, AND STUDENT NEWS

On April 2 and 3, Lehigh hosted a conference, "American Media in Interdisciplinary Perspectives," for the **Mid-Atlantic American Studies Association**. A wide variety of topics were discussed in the sessions and a large number of Lehigh faculty from several departments chaired and presented at the sessions. **Dr. John Pettegrew** chaired a session entitled "Historical Consciousness Through Film." In this session graduate student **Holly Kent** also presented a paper, "The Fragile Web: The Reconstruction of the Past in A Midwife's Tale."

Erin Gorman, a senior Classics and Political Science major and History minor, was named the first place winner of this year's Williams Prize for excellence in undergraduate writing in the category of History, International Relations, and Political Science for her paper "The Power and Prestige of the Gens Julia in the Early Roman Republic, 509-400 BC." This year's award carried with it a \$750 prize. Erin will be recognized at an awards ceremony to be held on Monday, May 3 at 2 pm in the Diamond Theater of the Zoellner Arts Center.

The George D. Harmon Memorial Prize for the outstanding senior history major in 2003-2004 has been

awarded. The prize is in honor of Professor Harmon, who taught in the department from 1925 to 1964 and chaired the department from 1946 to 1964. Professor Harmon specialized in U.S. federal Indian policy and U.S. politics before the Civil War. This year's recipients are **Emily Henderson** and **Andrew Murphy**. Emily finished her B.A. in January with a double major in History and Religion Studies and completed a College Scholar thesis. Andrew has also completed a College Scholar thesis, and has a double major in Political Science and History. He received his B.A. in January.

Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society, held a dinner on April 22nd to honor its new members and to announce the winners of the Harmon Prize. PAT inducted 22 new members this year. The dinner was held in the UC and was attended by several faculty members. Also graduate student **Rob Armstrong** presented a talk concerning the history of Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. His talk was entitled "No More Criminals: The Origins of the Modern Prison System in 19th Century Philadelphia."

On April 3rd, several members of the department attended the Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey Regional **Phi Alpha Theta**

Conference. Several of our graduate students took home awards. Congratulations to **Courtney Smith** for her first place award and to **Jim Higgins** and **Rob Armstrong** for a second place award.

Professor Stephen Cutcliffe and graduate students **Michele Baer** and **Erwin Pantel** attended the annual **National Association for Science, Technology, and Society (NASTS)** conference on February 19-21 in Baltimore, Maryland. The theme of the conference this year was, "Science and Technology in a Global Society: Making Connections." On Saturday evening, February 20th, **Professor Cutcliffe**, **Michele**, and **Erwin** were inducted into **Epsilon Pi Tau**, the international honorary for professions in technology, at the annual initiation ceremony. **Michele** presented a paper Saturday afternoon entitled, "Opening the Black Box of Medicine: The Past and Future of Doctor-Patient Relationships." **Erwin** also presented a paper on Saturday entitled, "A System Derailed: The Sprague Electric Signal Company and the Battle to Win Consensus for Automatic Train Control." **Erwin** was also elected to a three-year term on the NASTS Board of Directors for the Ethics and Sociocultural Issues Assembly.

ALUMNI UPDATES

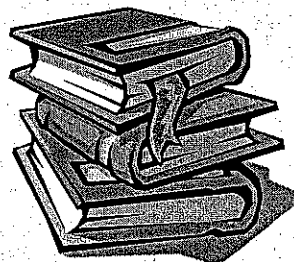
Last semester on November 17, **Stephen Strack (B.A. '00)**, returned to campus to speak to students interested in possible careers in the law. Stephen spoke about a variety of topics including the realities of law school, the bar Exam, and life as a lawyer. Stephen, following his graduation from Lehigh with degrees in Economics and History, attended Dickinson School of Law at Pennsylvania State University. He graduated from Dickinson in '03 and passed the Bar on his first attempt. He currently works for a small firm in the Lehigh Valley.

Paul Gillespie (Ph.D. '02) is currently a major in the United States Air Force and is stationed at the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. He has a contract with Brassey's to publish a revised version of his dissertation, "Precision Guided Munitions." Paul was also interviewed on a History Channel "Modern Marvels" episode focusing on smart bombs that aired on September 30th. He also joined several members of the history department at the Society for the History of Technology's annual meeting held in Atlanta in October.

Kurt D. Zwinkl (M.A. '82), former member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from Allentown and past Chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, is now the Executive Director of the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area based in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. He recently authored an article on the National Center for the American Revolution at Valley Forge Historical Park that was published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Jerri Pries, a graduate student at Lehigh in the mid-1970s, has decided to return to academia. After leaving Lehigh he went into the computer software business. After a twenty-odd year absence, Jerri intends to reenter graduate studies. He will enroll this fall in the history Ph.D. program at Clark University where he plans on studying with Professors Drew McCoy and Wim Klooster. He expects to focus on the Atlantic World in the Revolutionary and Early National periods.

Michael Cunningham (B.S. '86) worked for five years as a safety engineer. He finally decided to return to school and further study History, which had been his minor here at Lehigh. He is currently working on finishing up his Ph.D. work at the University of Connecticut. He wishes to focus on Early Modern European History, Italian History, and the History of Science.



Michael Mattia (B.A. '88) was recently named to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Old Barracks Museum and Historical Society in Trenton, New Jersey. The Old Barracks Museum is located at the site of the Battle of Trenton.

Unfortunately there are still a lot of Alumni Updates on file. More will appear in future issues of "History at Lehigh."



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**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. Stephen Cutcliffe

Coffee and Cookies Provided

Thank you to Janet Walters and Tim Hayburn 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 were able to be included. Please look for them in future editions of *History at Lehigh*.