

History at Lehigh University

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This is the seventh 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*.

The department is proud to welcome as its newest member Dr. Joanna Michlic, who will join us as an Associate Professor. In addition to her membership in the History Department, Joanna will be affiliated with the Berman Center for Jewish Studies and will hold the Apled Chair for Holocaust Studies and Ethical Values.

Joanna is a social historian specializing in Polish-Jewish relations during and after the Second World War and in the memory of Jews in post-Holocaust Eastern Europe. She is also interested in theories of nationalism and ethnicity, particularly the role of symbols and beliefs in interethnic relations between dominant nations and ethnic minorities. Her book *Poland's Threatening Other: The Image of the Jew from 1880 to the Present* was recently published by University of Nebraska Press, and she co-edited/co-authored *Neighbors Respond: the Controversy about Jedwabne* (Princeton 2004). Her most recent work is entitled *The Social History of Jewish Children in Poland: Survival and Identity, 1939-1949*.

Due to her various interests, Joanna views an interdisciplinary approach as a "stimulus to innovation" rather than a challenge. She says she looks forward to "organizing cross-interdisciplinary seminars and other events not only with my colleagues from the History Department, but also with colleagues from Departments of Religion, Literature, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Engineering and other disciplines." Joanna says she was attracted to the department "by its record of scholarship, its range of scholarly interests and its interdisciplinary approach to the study of history, which is reflected in the courses it offers to students."

History students will have the opportunity to study with Joanna this fall in her classes "The Holocaust: History and Meaning" and "Genocide and Mass Murder in the 20th Century." The latter course is open to graduate students as well as undergraduates.



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Accolades

Faculty

* **Stephen Cutcliffe** served as Chair of the Nanotechnology session at the annual meeting of the International Association of Science, Technology, and Society in February 2007. The session also included a presentation by Sharon Friedman of the Department of Journalism and Communications, on her current research, entitled, "Nanotechnology Risk Coverage in the Media."

* **Monica Najar's** article "'Meddling with Emancipation: Baptists, Authority, and the Rift over Slavery in the Upper South'" from the *Journal of the Early Republic* (2005) has been reprinted in *The Best American History Essays, 2007* edited by Jacqueline Jones (Palgrave, 2007).

* **Michelle DeMuster** presented "I am a Man and a Warrior: Native and European Rhetorics of Manhood and Warfare in the Colonial Southeast" at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Colloquium in February. She also delivered "'A Fort for the Protection of Your Women and Children: Women and War on the Colonial Southeastern Frontier'" at a Brown Bag Lunch Seminar in March.

* **John Savage** is co-organizing a two-day workshop on the theme of "Napoleon's Atlantic" at the Universite de Toulouse Le Mirail in Toulouse, France this coming June. He will present a paper and make comments at the workshop. John will also present a paper and comment on a film about slavery in Martinique at the annual French Colonial Historical Society meeting in La Rochelle, France. He is on the North American program committee for the conference. John will follow up his conference trips with research in Paris during the rest of June.

* **John Hettegrew** and **Ziad Munson** of the Sociology and Anthropology department led a seminar entitled "Action, Tradition, and the Practice of American Democracy," in preparation for a visit from political philosopher Jeffrey Stout during Inauguration Week. John also interviewed Professor Stout at the inaugural symposium on research and its global impact following Stout's lecture.

Graduate Students

* **Christine Hense** delivered a presentation entitled "Risky Talk: A Modest Proposal for Framing the Analysis of the Social Implications of Nanotechnology," at the annual meeting of the International Association of Science, Technology, and Society, in February 2007. Stephen Cutcliffe helped co-author the paper.

* **Silas Chamberlin** contributed four entries on technology and industry to the *Encyclopedia of the Early Republic and Antebellum America, 1787-1861* (M.E. Sharpe, forthcoming).

* **Tiffany Hisk-Watts** catalogued over 200 goggles and artifacts at the Goggle Works Center for the Arts in Reading. As a colonial interpreter, Tiffany also contributed to the recent PBS special *Communities: Bethlehem* and appeared on promotional billboards. Dr. John Smith also appeared in the broadcast.

* Mike Piera supervised the relocation and preservation of a pair of century-old, steam-powered hoisting engines. The 15 and 20 ton engines are being moved to the National Museum of Industrial History in the former Bethlehem Steel mill.

* Kate Meiman presented "Destruction of Dissent: The FBI COINTELPRO in the 1960s at a Brown Bag Lunch Seminar in February.

Alumni

* Robert Rosner (B.A. Lehigh 1997, J.D. Villanova Law 2000) has recently been promoted to Senior Deputy District Attorney at the Lehigh County District Attorney's Office. Robert is currently the Supervising Attorney of the Lehigh County Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force, having previously served in the Violent Crimes and Narcotics Units.

* Clarissa Woelfel Confer (B.A. Lehigh 1987), Assistant Professor of History at California University of Pennsylvania, recently had her book *The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War* published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Department News and Announcements

* Brown Bag Lunch Seminar-Spring 2007

This semester's Brown Bag Colloquium has welcomed a variety of speakers from around Lehigh, Bethlehem, and the east coast. Noel Poirier, Director of Collections and Public Programming for the Historic Bethlehem Partnership presented "Being History: Benefits and Pitfalls of First-Person Historical Interpretation." Dr. Constance Putnam discussed early American medicine in a presentation entitled, "Why Does Benjamin Rush Get All the Press?" Ken Woodcock (Lehigh B.S. 1965) delivered "Historic House Museum Development: the Contagious Nature of Historic Preservation." Kate Meiman and Michelle LeMaster also presented at spring Brown Bags. The Brown Bag Lunch Colloquium Series is sponsored by the History Department and the Science, Technology, and Society Program. Brown Bags provide a relaxed and informal atmosphere for scholars both within Lehigh and outside to present their work and engage in constructive discussions. Please join us this coming semester for the fall Brown Bag Colloquium, and if you have any presentation ideas please contact Dr. Kim Carrell-Smith at kwcz@lehigh.edu.

* The Lawrence Henry Gipson Institute for Eighteenth-Century Studies sponsored two talks in March. Dr. Catherine Kelly, from the University of Oklahoma, presented "Black and White in Miniature: Gender, Race, and Portraiture in the Early American Republic," and Dr. Stephen Craig Harper, a 2001 Lehigh Ph.D., delivered "Making History: Documenting the Walking Purchase."

* Katharine Paine and Jennifer Schappert were both awarded the George D. Harmon Award for highest achieving graduating history major.

* Congratulations to Stephanie Lynn Balavitch, Grace Behe, Amanda Daddona, Nicole D'Elia, Daniel Huang, Emily Iwan, Michael King, Alexandra Mulrow, Elizabeth Oren, Joseph Pepe, and Troy Romanowski who recently became members of Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society.

Please Clear Off Your Desks and Take Out a Pencil:

History Quiz

- A: Which state maintained state-wide prohibition laws until 1966?
B: Which country was the first to formally recognize the sovereignty of the United States?
C: Which U.S. President was arrested for running over an old lady with his horse?
D: During World War Two the Eagles and Steelers were combined to form what team?
E: Which famous inventor developed the first humanoid robot?

Answers:

- A: Missouri B: Morocco C: Franklin Pierce (the charges were later dropped)
D: the Steagles E: Leonardo da Vinci, c.1495

Parting Thoughts

"No harm's done to history by making it something someone would want to read."

-David McCullough



"History will be kind to me for I intend to write it."

-Winston Churchill