

History at Lehigh University

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Spring 2009

As the official newsletter of the Lehigh University Department of History, *History at Lehigh* maintains contact and shares information with students, faculty, and alumni. Please let us know if you have any information or updates that you would like to appear in the bi-annual *History at Lehigh*.

Message from the Chair

I write this greeting as the academic year is winding down. Actually, it is more of a whirlwind of activities as faculty and students alike seek to finish their courses and projects. Each day brings one or more students to my office desiring to declare a history major or sign up for the minor. By the time you read this issue, 25 of our current history majors will have graduated at Lehigh's 141st Commencement exercises.

It has been an exciting semester with numerous public lectures, including an exciting visit by Prof. Annette Gordon-Reed, 2008 National Book Award winning author of *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*; a major lecture by Princeton University historian Joan Wallach Scott as part of Lehigh's Research Symposium; faculty conference research presentations; and undergraduate academic achievements. Alumni have been in the news as well, and several have dropped by the office to visit or contacted us by e-mail with news of their activities. Further details and highlights can be found within this issue.

The end of the academic year also brings us to the awarding of prizes for achievement. This year the George D. Harmon Memorial Award for scholastic achievement goes to four outstanding undergraduates—Robert Buckheit, Amanda Daddona, Jessica Marczyzak, and Emily Iwan. As well, three students—Rosemary Savari, Samantha Stillman, and Scott Wojciechowski—were inducted into the department's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society. At the graduate level, the Joseph A. Dowling Dissertation Award goes to Robert Smith, and the Dowling Graduate TA Award is presented to Nathan Friend. Nathan also received a College of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship.

Finally, we always appreciate the many alumni and friends who support the department. With this issue of the newsletter, we are introducing a new feature identifying those individuals who have recently singled out the History Department as the direct recipient of their contribution to Lehigh.

In closing, let me once again encourage any alumni or friends of the department travelling through the Lehigh Valley to stop by the department for a visit. The coffee pot is always on.

Steve Cutcliffe, Chair

Presentations and Publications

Faculty

Michael Baylor will again lead The Lehigh in Belgium summer program with Jim Maskulka of the Department of Marketing and Management.

Stephen Cutcliffe published a cover essay in *Technology and Culture* (April 2009) entitled "Lehigh University's Fritz Laboratory and the Five-Million-Pound Universal Testing Machine." Cutcliffe, with his co-editor Martin Reuss, is also finalizing the manuscript for an anthology of essays, *The Illusory Boundary: Environment and Technology in History*. The University of Virginia Press will publish the book next year.

John Savage is happy to announce the impending publication of *Napoléon et les Amériques: Histoire atlantique et empire napoléonien* (co-edited with Jordana Dym of Skidmore College and Christophe Belaubre of the Université de Toulouse). An English translation is forthcoming. In addition, he will present his work at three upcoming conferences. At McGill University, Professor Savage will deliver his paper "Debt and Slavery: The History of the Process of Enslavement." He will travel to Brazil this summer to present "The 19th Century and the New Frontiers of Slavery and Freedom." In November, he will give a talk at the University of Paris on the topic "Police and Colonial Empires, 1700-1900."

In January, Roger Simon and Kenneth Jackson of Columbia University organized a session at the Columbia City Seminar on the career of Eric E. Lampard.

Bruce Sinclair, visiting scholar to the History Department and STS Program, presented his paper "Engineering Hetch-Hetchy: Nature and Civil Engineers in Early 20th Century California" at the Where Minds and Matters Meet: Technology in California and the West Symposium. The Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West sponsored the symposium. Gail Cooper provided the comment to the "Transcending the West" panel at the symposium.

Graduate Students

Adam Bentz delivered a talk, "When Bethlehem was Sin City: Prohibition in the 1920s Lehigh Valley" at the department's annual Phi Alpha Theta dinner.

Josh Britton will be presenting "Detrimental to the Private and Public Interests: Henry Evelyn Pierrepont and the Montague Street Streetcar Line" at the Beyond Dreamland Pavilion: Brooklyn and Development Conference (Kingsborough Community College) in October.

In February, Silas Chamberlin presented "In Order to Ensure Permanency: Hiking Trails and Grassroots Conservation in Early Twentieth-Century Pennsylvania" at the American Society for Environmental History annual conference in Tallahassee. He also contributed a number of entries to *The U.S. Government and the Environment: A Reference Encyclopedia*, forthcoming from ABC-CLIO.

Alumni News

Sally Hilgendorff (M.A. Lehigh, 1993) recently served as Chair of the Women in Sciences and presented a paper, "An Acceptance of How Things Must Be': Beatrix Potter, A Curator in the Crosshairs and at the Crossroads," at the 2008 Center for Film & History Conference. She also contributed to *Slavery and the Modern World* (ABC CLIO); Spencer Tucker's *The Encyclopedia of American Military History*; Macmillian's *Americans at War: Society, Culture, and the Homefront*; and *Women and War: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO). Currently, Sally is Principal Historian for Show Me History!, an historical consulting firm.

Michael de Nie (B.A. Lehigh, 1992), Associate Professor of History at the University of West Georgia delivered a talk at the University of Limerick (Ireland) entitled "The Irish Press and Empire." Michael's book, *The Eternal Paddy: Irish Identity and the British Press, 1798-1882*, received the ACIS Donnelly Prize. Fellow alumnus Úna Ní Bhroiméil (Ph.D Lehigh, 1998) and Lecturer in the Department of History at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick had invited de Nie to speak. Úna published her first book, *Building Irish Identity in America, 1870-1915: The Gaelic Revival*, in 2003.

In April, the Pennsylvania Cable Network aired an hour-long interview with Catherine Parzynski (Ph.D Lehigh, 2005). Parzynski co-edited *Backcountry Crucibles: The Lehigh Valley from Settlement to Steel* (Lehigh University Press, 2008) with Lehigh historian and deputy provost Jean Soderlund. Fellow Lehigh history professors Michael Baylor, Stephen Cutcliffe, Roger Simon, and John Smith contributed essays to the volume, as did alumni Michael Kennedy and Karen Huetter.

Gifts

The Department of History recognizes with gratitude those individuals and corporations listed below who have chosen to designate a gift specifically in support of our academic and programmatic offerings. Gifts received in the fiscal years July 1, 2006 to the present:

Individuals

Stephen H. Cutcliffe '76 and Barbara Love
David D. Dubosky '82 and Mary R. Dubosky
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James G. Mitrano '93
Joshua S. Stern '01

Corporations

Northeast Utilities
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(Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list, but if you notice an error or omission, please contact the Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, Lehigh University, 9 West Packer Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18015 610-758-3369)

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EC/ASECS Annual Meeting at Lehigh University
“The Sacred and the Secular in the Transatlantic Eighteenth Century”
October 8-11, 2009

The next annual meeting of the East-Central American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies will be hosted by Lehigh University. The theme, “The Sacred and the Secular in the Transatlantic Eighteenth Century,” fits well with Bethlehem’s Moravian history. The residents of eighteenth-century Bethlehem designed their community to prioritize their local and transatlantic missionary work. Many of Bethlehem’s historic sacred and secular buildings remain in use today, just steps from the conference site.

Jon Sensbach, professor of history at the University of Florida will provide the keynote address. Professor Sensbach is an outstanding scholar of religion, race, and colonization. He is the author of *Rebecca’s Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World* and *A Separate Canaan: The Making of an Afro-Moravian World in North Carolina, 1763-1840*. For questions concerning the conference, please contact Monica Najjar at: ecasecs@lehigh.edu.

History Quiz

1. What is the only foreign capital named for a U.S. President?
2. Where and when was the first postage stamp introduced?
3. How long did the Hundred Years’ War last?

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Answers: 1. Monrovia, Liberia; 2. Great Britain, 1840 (“Penny Black”); 3. 116 years (1337-1453)