

History at Lehigh University

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Spring 2010

Welcome to the Spring 2010 issue 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.

Message from the Chair

By the time you read this issue of the newsletter, another academic year will have wound down to its final days. As always this time of year brings a flurry of activity as students decide they want to major or minor in history and drop by to formally declare their intentions. The total annual number of majors has been holding steady with approximately 70-75 at this point each year, 27 of whom are scheduled to graduate in May. At the graduate level, this year's cycle of graduate applications was one of the largest in recent memory with over 30 prospective students requesting admission. When all is said and done, we expect to welcome approximately 10 new graduate students into the program in the fall.

Each spring we find ourselves faced with one of the department's more pleasant tasks, the awarding of prizes for achievement. This year the George D. Harmon Award for scholastic achievement goes to two outstanding seniors—Allison Prosswimmer and Susan Wigodner. Heartiest congratulations go to both individuals for their accomplishments. This year saw an especially large group of students inducted into the department's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society. They included Nicole Albano, Allyson Baer, Nicholas Baran, Samantha Berman, Zachary Biro, Julien Delabre, Shara Dunham, Amanda Howland, Hilary LaBar, Abigail Larson, Alex Orlebeke, Patricia Powers, and Eric Smith. At the graduate level, the Joseph A. Dowling Graduate TA Award is presented to Silas Chamberlin.

We continue to be very appreciative of the support given to the department by our many alumni and friends. A list of supporters for the academic year beginning July 1, 2009 is included inside this issue. If friends, alums, or past colleagues find themselves travelling through the area, please feel free to drop by the office to share a cup of coffee and update us on your most recent activities.

-Steve Cutcliffe, Chair

Southside Initiative

The Southside Initiative is a university-community collaboration program bringing together Lehigh students, faculty and staff with the people of Bethlehem. As part of its year-long focus on food systems, community gardening, and local and organic agriculture, the South Side Initiative sponsored a documentary film series during the spring semester. The series, curated by Julia Maserjian (History) and SSI co-director John Pettegrew (History), included independent features ("The End of the Line," "Buffet: All You Can Eat Las Vegas") and Academy Award nominees ("The Garden," "Food, Inc."). Additionally, SSI's Southside Community Gardens project has taken root in South Bethlehem and this spring will see the groundbreaking of several public community gardens.

Accolades

Faculty

Michael Baylor will teach this May and June in Leuven, Belgium, as part of Lehigh in Belgium summer study abroad program. 2010 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Lehigh in Belgium program and Professor Baylor's tenth year of involvement.

John Pettegrew presented two papers at the Spring 2010 Lehigh University Department of History Colloquium series. His first paper "Historical Commemoration or War Porn: Combat Videogames and the Controversy over 'Five Days in Fallujah'" was presented in January 2010, and his second paper "Reconsidering Objectivity: Linda Gordon and Pragmatism in Academic Women's History" was presented in March 2010.

John Savage is working on an English language version of a volume he co-edited, *Napoléon et les Amériques* (2009). The English language version will be entitled *Napoleon's Atlantic: The Impact of the Napoleonic Empire in the Atlantic World* to be published by Brill Press. In addition to editing and translating the text, Professor Savage is also one of the contributors to the volume.

Roger Simon served as chair for a panel entitled "Politics, Transportation and the Nineteenth-Century City" at the "Reconsidering the City" urban history conference at SUNY Fredonia in April 2010.

Graduate Students

Adam Bentz presented material from his MA about the enforcement of Prohibition in Bethlehem at the Fifth International Conference on the History of Drugs and Alcohol at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland in June 2009. Adam also presented "Cracking the Door: Francis E. Walter and the Hungarian Refugee Crisis, 1956-57" at Temple University's Barnes Club Graduate History Student Conference in March 2010, as well as well as part of Lehigh University's Department of History Colloquium series in April 2010. These presentations were based on Adam's dissertation.

Bruce Bomberger is curating an exhibit entitled *A Soldier, Three Blacksmiths and an Inventor: Profiles of Individuals from Three Historic African-American Families in the Pennsylvania German Region* at the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum near Lancaster. The exhibit opened April 8 and will run until the end of the year.

Joshua Britton presented "Henry Evelyn Pierrepont and Street Railways in Brooklyn Heights, 1868-1891" at SUNY Fredonia's "Reconsidering the City" urban history conference in April 2010.

Silas Chamberlin's article, "'To Ensure Permanency: Expanding and Protecting Hiking Opportunities in Twentieth-Century Pennsylvania" appeared in the Spring 2010 issue of *Pennsylvania History*.

Carolyn Dwyer presented a paper entitled "Publishing the Program: Discourses of Masculinity in the Civilian Conservation Corps Newspaper" at 2010 Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference in St. Louis in April 2010.

Kimberly Fabbri presented "'Go Make Disciples of Nations: Moravian and Catholic Interactions in Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, 1912-1923" at the 43rd Annual Southwest Council of Latin American Studies conference in March 2010.

Alisha Hoffman-Mirilovich presented her paper entitled "The Tale of Two Pirates: Samuel Bellamy, William Fly and Freedom Within Pirate Culture" at Phi Alpha Theta's biennial conference in San Diego in January 2010.

Matthew Schandler was the Hoben Teaching Fellow for Spring 2010. His course, based on his dissertation research was entitled "The Social History of Video Games." Matthew presented his paper "William Higinbotham and the Pre-Commercial Era of Digital Games" at the Southwest/Texas Popular and American Culture Association Annual Conference in Albuquerque in February 2010. Matthew also has reviewed the book *The Internet and Mass Media for Media International Australia*. Matthew's review will appear in the journal's next issue.

Michael Zvalaren presented "Fact as Fiction: Truth and History in Tim O'Brien's *In The Lake of the Woods* at the Southwest/Texas Regional Popular Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque, NM in February 2010.

Congratulations to **Courtney Smith** for her impressive academic achievements. Courtney earned her Ph.D in May. Her dissertation is entitled "A Delicate Balance: An Examination of Lehigh University's Athletic Culture and Extra-Curriculum, 1866-1998." Courtney is currently employed at Cabrini College.

The Department would also like to congratulate **Monita Chhun, Paul Fetzer, James Follweiler, Daniel Huang, Michael King, and Emily Smith** for completing their Master of Arts in History during the Spring semester.

Alumni

Jean Friedman (Ph.D '78) delivered her paper "Giving Justice its Due in a New England Civil War Family" as part of the Lehigh University History Department Colloquium series in April 2010.

Una Ni Bhromiel (Ph.D '98) was recently featured on the PBS program *Secrets of the Dead*. In the episode "Irish Escape," she discussed the life and career of Irish nationalist John Devoy, who rescued six Irish prisoners from a remote Australian prison in 1876.

Harmon Lecture

The Department is pleased to announce that Professor **Steven Woodworth** of Texas Christian University will deliver the 2010 George B. Harmon Memorial Lecture. Woodworth has written over a dozen books on Civil War military history. More details about the Harmon Lecture will be announced early in the fall.

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Gifts

The Department of History recognizes with gratitude those individuals, foundations 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 year July 1, 2009 to the present:

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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 Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18015. Our phone number is 601-658-3369.)

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