

# NEWS



## *of the History Department at Boston University*

December 2009

*in brief*  
**EVENTS OF NOTE!**

On November 7 graduate student **Michael McGuire** presented (replete with PowerPoint) a small component of his dissertation research at the 2009 Meeting of the Western Front Association held at Boston University. Entitled "Santa's Many Helpers: American Non-governmental Organizations, French Refugees, and Christmas in Devastated France, 1917-1919," his talk

briefly covered the significance of American humanitarian aid for French war refugees from 1914 to 1919. It focused more specifically on Franco-American celebrations of wartime, armistice, and postwar Christmases, and why these festivities offered insight into how these two groups cooperated in the monumental task of restoring devastated lands to life.

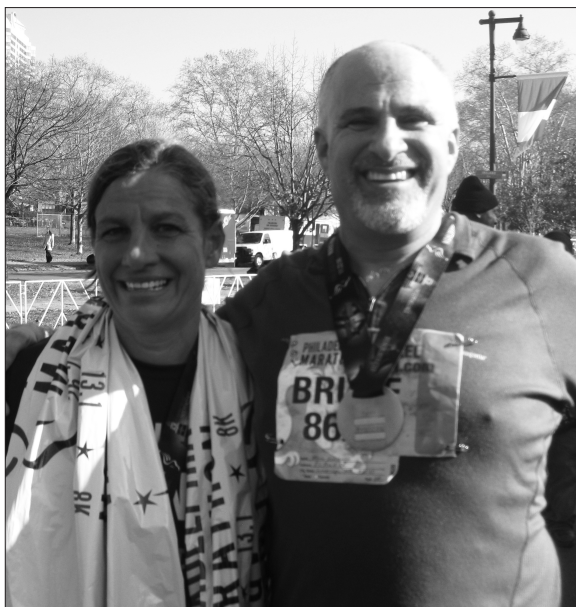
On November 18-19 Professor **Eugenio Menegon** was invited to attend the annual Church lecture at Brown University's History Department (Providence, R.I.), delivered this year by Ronnie Hsia (Penn State) on the history of Jesuit mission in late imperial China, and to conduct a seminar on

empire and religion, in the series "Forty Years after Charles Boxer: Explorations in Early Modern Imperial History," coordinated by Jorge Flores (Departments of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies and History) and sponsored by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Lisbon).

Graduate student **Gareth McFeely** presented a paper entitled "Film Censorship in Postwar Colonial Kenya, 1945-1955" as part of a panel on "Colonialisms in East Africa" at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association in New Orleans on November 19.

At the Second Annual United States Intellectual History Conference, November 12-13, held at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, Professor **Charles Capper** served as chair and commentator for the session "Science, Salvation, and Rationalism: Innovations in Nineteenth-Century American Thought." He also moderated the final plenary panel, "Assessing the Legacy of the 1977 Wingspread Conference," which included Dorothy Ross, David Hollinger, David Hall, and Thomas Bender. This panel, which attracted a large and enthusiastic audience of mostly junior scholars, used the historic "Wingspread Conference on Intellectual History" convened by John Higham and Paul Conkin in 1977 and its papers subsequently published in the book *New Directions in Intellectual History* (1979) as an opportunity for participants to reflect back on the event, how the field has developed since then, and where it might be going in the future.

On invitation from the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues, Professor **Allison Blakely** attended the Second United Nations Forum on Minority Issues, convened in Geneva on November 11-13 at the UN European Headquarters and focusing on the theme "Minorities and Effective Political Participation." Of interest for his research on Blacks in Europe, Blakely participated under the category of Academic Expert, along with 500 other attendees. Most were members of official delegations representing scores of countries and human rights organizations in Europe, Africa, and Asia; the



To "celebrate" his impending 50th birthday, on November 22 Bruce Schulman ran (and finished) the Philadelphia Marathon with his friend Lisa Lovett.

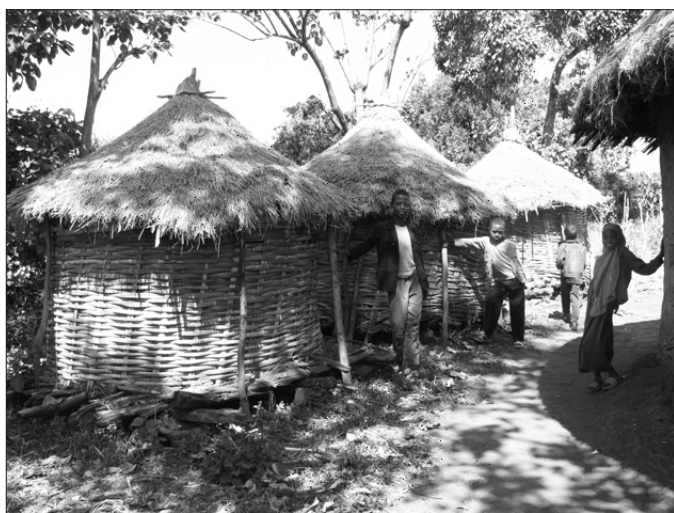
rest included over 100 elected officials and political activists. The Forum was chaired by The Honorable Barbara Lee, current Chairperson of the United States Congressional Black Caucus; and three other members of the US Congress also attended, including The Honorable Alcee Hastings, Co-Chair of the US Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Of special interest for Boston University, one of the three delegates representing Greece was Yvette Jarvis (CAS '79, *magna cum laude*), who settled in Athens after building upon her skills as a basketball star at BU to play professionally in Greece, where she was affectionately dubbed the "Black Venus." She subsequently parlayed her popularity into election to the Athens City Council and now serves as a special adviser on immigration for the Mayor of Athens.

In November Professor **James McCann** was invited to Bowdoin College to give the inaugural lecture in two new Bowdoin programs. The two seminar series were "Bowdoin African Studies" and "Race, Power, and Environment."... In December he will travel to Brown University as the keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony of Brown's Watson International Scholars of the Environment program. His lecture will be entitled "African Landscapes of 2060 A.D."... In January he has been invited to lead a seminar on the topic "Unintended Consequences of Food Security in Africa" at the University of Warwick in Britain. His partici-

pation is part of a conference within the program of affiliation between Boston University and Warwick. Also in January he will be visiting the offices of UNICEF and WHO in Geneva, Switzerland, where he will lead seminars on the agro-ecology of disease in Africa, and then Bahir Dar University in northwest Ethiopia, where he is a board member of the Amhara Region Cultural and Development Research Center. This new center will be constructing a building and program to preserve the cultural heritage of this historical region of Ethiopia (near the source of the Blue Nile and church heritage sites of Lake Tana)... Finally, in January and March McCann will be visiting farmers at his research site to pay them for their participation and for fertilizer seed for use in the Rockefeller-supported project on maize and malaria. This last activity is always an adventure of moving from farm to farm with bags of corn seed, urea powder, and nitrogen/potassium fertilizer. Each family has a story and each farm its own landscape. Those will eventually be woven into a history of the agro-ecology of malaria, the world's most deadly infectious disease.

Professor **Jonathan Zatlin** gave a paper at a conference on "German Unification: Expectations and Outcomes," which was hosted by the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University on October 30-31. On the first night, the diplomats who helped negotiate German unification, including Secretary of State James

Baker, Soviet Foreign Minister and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Foreign Minister Markus Meckel, and Margaret Thatcher's aide Charles Powell, discussed the East German revolution and the security concerns that accompanied the collapse of communism. The next day, the diplomats joined scholars to discuss the ramifications of German unification. Zatlin's paper, entitled "Rethinking Reunification: German Monetary Union and European Integration," argued against the traditional view that the Euro was a *quid pro quo* demanded by the French in return for their assent to German unification. Instead, he argued that the German decision to surrender the mark in favor of a common European currency was a consequence of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's attempt to use monetary policy to unify the two German states politically.... On November 9, the twentieth anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin Wall, Professor Zatlin gave the keynote lecture, hosted by the International Studies Institute, the History Department, and the President of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, in a lecture series commemorating the revolutions of 1989. Entitled "Tearing Down the Wall: The East German Revolution and German Unification, 1989-1990," his talk placed the long-term delegitimation of German communism in the foreground before proceed-



*In photo at left, Maize cribs at Waktola, Prof. McCann's research site*

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ing to recapture the excitement of the first successful German revolution. Despite the title's allusion to Ronald Reagan's 1987 demand that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "tear down this Wall," Zatlin demonstrated how little the United States mattered to the East German revolution.... Acting as chair of the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize committee, Zatlin participated in the award ceremony for the two winners of the prize for the best dissertation in German history, which was hosted by the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., during a two-day affair on November 12-13.

Professor **Houchang Chehabi** spent eleven days in Japan as guest of the Institute for World Languages, University of Osaka. In Osaka he attended a conference on "Languages and Memories," where he presented a paper on the first day and delivered the conference's closing comments on the second day. He then spent four days in Tokyo, where he gave a lecture on Iranian-Iraqi relations at the School of International Liberal Studies of Waseda University. While in Japan, he learned that he was appointed the Leverhulme Visiting Professor of Iranian History at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland for the spring of 2010.

In early November graduate student **David Mislin** presented a paper entitled "The Conflict That Wasn't: American Catholics and Organic Evolution, 1875-1896" in Montreal at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion.

Graduate student **Kathryn Lamontagne** will be presenting her work on the satires of British historian Catharine Macaulay at the Barker Humanities Center at Harvard on December 2 during a graduate discussion session on eighteenth-century studies.

Professor **Thomas Glick** gave two lectures at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo on October 6 and 7. The first was on "The Early Reception of Darwin in England and the United States," in which he analyzed the personal social networks through which Darwinism was disseminated within and between the two countries, from November 1859 through March 1860.

The second lecture was on "The Transmission of Greco-Arabic Science in Medieval Spain, in Latin and in Hebrew." While at the university, Professor Glick was awarded the Academic Medal of the Graduate College.... On October 31 he was in Barcelona to deliver a plenary lecture at the annual meeting of the Mediterranean Translators and Editors Association. The lecture was on "Methods of Translation in the Transmission of Greek Science to the Arabs, and from the Arabs to Latin Europe."

On October 23 Professor **Jon Roberts** served as a commentator on a paper presented by Rennie Schoepflin on "Ellen White and the Self: Mind, Body, and Soul" at a conference on "Ellen White: American Prophet," held in Portland, Maine.

Professor **Andrew Bacevich's** article "The War We Can't Win" appeared in the November issue of *Harper's*. He also made a presentation on Afghanistan to the Council on Foreign Relations and appeared on CNN to discuss that same subject.

Professor **Betty Anderson** gave the paper "Encounters and Discussions: A History of the American University of Beirut" at the meeting of the History of Education Society in Philadelphia, held October 23-25.

In early November, Professor **James Schmidt** was an invited lecturer in a year-long symposium on "Light" sponsored by the Syracuse University Humanities Center. His talk explored eighteenth-century representations of knowledge as light and examined what these images—in particular James Gilray's 1790 caricature of Edmund Burke intruding into Richard Price's study (see drawing above)—reveal about the increasingly contested relationship among knowledge, faith, and politics at the close of the century.

The book *The Impact of 9/11 on Psychology and Education: The Day that Changed Everything?* (Palgrave Mac-



Edmund Burke in Richard Price's study (see note on James Schmidt below)

millan), which has just been published, contains a chapter written by graduate student **Patricia Peknik** entitled "'City of the World!': A New Generation's American Exceptionalism." Patricia writes, "The chapter is the final one in the book, which allows me to have the last word, something I enjoy. What's even better is that the editor, Matthew Morgan, describes me in the introduction as a 'young' assistant professor." ♦



Kelsey Dorwart's research paper, "Shaking Center Stage: Transforming the Shaker Image Through American Popular Media," was approved for credit toward the MA in history.

On October 30 Jonathan Koefoed passed his qualifying oral examination with distinction. Examiners in the major field of American history were Professors Charles Capper, Brendan McConville, and Jon Roberts; examiner in the minor field of nineteenth-century European intellectual and cultural history was Professor Charles Dellheim.



## Undergraduates enjoy wide range of historical activities

The Undergraduate History Association has brought history to life this semester. Our first event of the year was a visit to the U.S.S. *Constitution*. For regular visitors, a cursory (but exciting) tour of the legendary ship suffices, but for the UHA, only a VIP tour would do. It helps to have connections! Thanks to the fact that some of our members share a hometown with one of the enlisted sailors, we experienced the cramped atmosphere of the gunpowder room and the spacious captain's quarters (with a splendid view of the ocean in the most unexpected location—the toilets), and heard tales of both former and modern sailors.

In October, we took our annual trip to Salem for the festivities of the Halloween season and the history surrounding the city. We visited the Witch Dungeon Museum, complete with history, reenactment, and scares, and the more light-hearted New England Pirate Museum. And a trip anywhere in the fall would not be complete without fresh, hot apple cider!

In December, our last two events of the year will take place. On December 5, we will travel to Worcester to visit the Higgins Armory Museum, the nation's largest collection of arms and armor. Closer to finals, we will host a cookie-exchange and movie-watching study break. Nothing inspires the brain like homemade treats and horribly inaccurate historical fiction!

We also have plenty of fun events planned for the spring—trips to the Peabody Essex Museum and Battleship Cove, lectures, and movie showings—and we're always open to suggestions! E-mail [uba@bu.edu](mailto:uba@bu.edu) to get involved and spend some time with other history lovers!

*Elizabeth Perry*

*Members of the Undergraduate History Association visit Old Ironsides in Charlestown.*



*And here they are in Salem at Halloween.*

## Oxford editor gives valuable tips on academic publishing

On Thursday, November 19, Susan Ferber, the Executive Editor at Oxford University Press for American and World History, spoke to the faculty and graduate students on the topic “Everything You Wanted to Know About Academic Publishing But Were Afraid to Ask.”

The most important step in getting the process started, she said, is for the author

to research the publishing scene. Current publication lists offer the best insight into the particular focus areas of each publisher, as well as the catalogues, backlists, and frontlists available on their websites. Publishers, she emphasized, are focusing more on their niche areas now than they used to, so sending a proposal to the right publisher can make a major impact from the start. Surprisingly, if a publisher has put out a successful book on a particular topic, it is more likely to show interest in publishing a similar book, in hopes it will capture the same audience.

Of particular pertinence to graduate students, Ferber recommended against submitting a work for publication concurrent with one's dissertation defense. "Take some time off from your dissertation," she counseled, since this time will allow the writer to take a fresh view of the work and to revise it for publication. The dissertation differs most markedly from a publishable book in its introduction. Editors, she said, are looking for the author's argument upfront and are less concerned with the surveys of literature in the field prominently featured in dissertations. A publishable book also tends to have more organic transitions between chapters than a graduate dissertation.

Likened to a "calling card," a great book proposal distills the work into a statement allowing the editor to grasp the arc of the book, writing style, analysis, structure, and sources. Ferber recommends starting with an engaging anecdote, case study, or question, then moving into the argument, an annotated table of contents, discussion of special sources and the targeted audience. A book has a better chance of being picked up if the author is specific about the market audience, even if it is directed at specialists in the field. An explanation of why the author's book complements other books the publisher has available in the field is important, as well as an update on the status of the project, word count, and inclusion of special items, such as maps and illustrations. After an editor picks up the proposal, the work will face a peer review by academics, and if the review is successful, the author can expect to

be offered a contract.

Ferber also discussed the move towards electronic publishing, including, in her opinion, the failure of electronic self-publishing. Books, she believes, will not be fully replaced by electronic media, such as the Kindle or similar devices, as electronic costs continue to outpace those associated with printing and distributing books.

*Ellen Horrow*



The newsletter editor appreciates receiving news from departmental alumni. Recently he heard from Martha Shattuck, now living in Tucson:

When I wondered why there is no mention of the activities of BU History Department graduates in the otherwise very interesting newsletter, Jim Dutton pointed out to me that it's because no one tells him about what they are doing (and alumni don't usually keep their addresses current so that he can contact them). Trusting to Jim's editorial ability, I submit the following update on my activities in the hopes that perhaps not only those from the class of 1993 but also those before and after will be inspired to follow suit.

In 1988, having returned to live in my family home outside Albany, New York, and to research the Dutch governmental papers housed in the New York State Archives for my dissertation, I started working with the New Netherland Project as editor and researcher, a position I still hold. I received my PhD from BU in 1993, and in the following years was an adjunct professor at Marymount College in Tarrytown, N.Y., and at the State University of New York at Albany. I pretty much ended my foray into adjunct activities in 1997, when I moved to Tucson—hardly a place interested in New Netherland, or the Dutch.

I kept up scholarly activities over the years: I delivered papers at universities and conferences both in the US and in

the Netherlands and had several articles published, such as "Civil Law, the Dutch Colony" included in *Scribners Encyclopedia of North American Colonies*.

I delivered various papers at the New Netherland Project's Rensselaerwijck seminars and received the Hendricks Manuscript Award for my dissertation in 1994. I gave a paper at the fifth Annual Conference of the Omohondro Institute of Early American History and Culture in 1999, later published in *de Halve Maen*. Between 2001 and 2004 I was the editor of (and wrote two articles for) the New Netherland and Colonial New York entries in *The Encyclopedia of New York State*, published by Syracuse University Press.

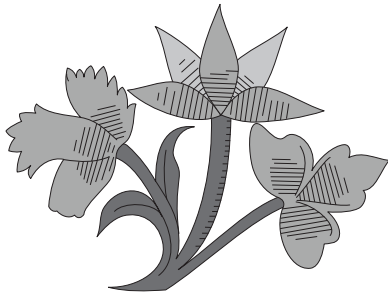
2009 is the quadricentennial of Hudson's discovery of the river that bears his name, and New York State saluted the occasion with museum exhibits of the Dutch heritage of New York, flotillas on the Hudson, conferences (often overlapping one another), the arrival of the prince and princess of the Netherlands, all of which—and more—started with the opening of an exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York in the early spring.

In late spring 2008 I edited the essays for *Explorers, Fortunes and Love Letters: A Window on New Netherland*, which was published in spring 2009, just in time for the Hudson celebration. [*Martha has donated a copy of this beautifully printed book to the department's collection of faculty works. —Ed.*] I was also asked to write an article for the Roosevelt Study Center in Middleburg, the Netherlands, for a book to be called *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations* (the History Department's Linda Heywood and John Thornton also provided an article).

Now I have to finish a legal article for a book that the Historical Society for the Courts of New York—which decided it should join in the Hudson celebration—plans to publish. Once done I can start the editing and annotating of the New Netherland papers in the Bontemantel collection at the New York Public Library. That will probably be done in between editing a new translation from the New Netherland Project.

# BOSTON UNIVERSITY

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On October 24 History Department graduate students Anne Blaschke and Scott Marr were married in Santa Barbara, California. Fellow grad student—and temporary California state commissioner—Dave Atkinson (at center in photo) served as the ceremony officiant. After their week on the West Coast, Scott and Anne are back to their dissertations in Boston.

