

NEWS



of the History Department at Boston University

February 2008



Robert Bruce

Death of Professor Robert Bruce

After a long illness, Professor Emeritus Robert Bruce died on January 15 in Olympia, Washington, where he lived.

Professor Bruce was the department's specialist in the Civil War era and in the history of American science for 35 years until his retirement in 1990. He earned his PhD from Boston University in history in 1953, then joined the BU faculty in 1955, rising to the rank of professor in 1966. His first book was *Lincoln and the Tools of War* (1956), followed by *1877: Year of Violence* (1959) and his most-famous work, *Bell: Alexander Graham Bell and the Conquest of Solitude* (Little, Brown, 1973). A highlight of his career was winning the Pulitzer Prize for his final major work, *The Launching of Modern American Science, 1846-1876* (Knopf, 1987).

Next month's newsletter will include tributes to Robert Bruce.

More department faculty win Humanities Foundation fellowships

In addition to the senior faculty research fellowship won by Professor Charles Capper and announced in last month's newsletter, three more faculty members in history have received Humanities Foundation awards:

Professor **Bruce Schulman** has been named to a senior fellowship for 2008-09. He will spend the time working on his next book, part of the Oxford History of the United States, "Reawakened Nation: The Birth of the Modern United States, 1896-1929." Instead of focusing on the Progressive Era, as have most other studies, this work will emphasize different themes as the US integrated its markets, created a continental popular culture, built a professional military and an administrative state. The book also seeks to place the American experience in the broader global context of national development in the opening decades of the twentieth century. Professor Schulman plans to be on leave for the entire academic year.



Professor **Brooke Blower** has won a Junior Humanities Fellowship for next year and will take off the fall semester. She will concentrate on finishing her manuscript provisionally titled "Becoming Americans in Paris: Transatlantic Political Culture between the World Wars." She also intends to begin work on her next project investigating the transnational experiences of Americans during the 1940s and 1950s; she hopes to create a narrative that follows intertwined biographies of individuals whose lives engaged the world beyond US borders in meaningful ways in order to understand how Americans forged, from the bottom up,

relationships to other cultures and regions of the world.

Another recipient of a junior humanities fellowship is Professor **Arianne Chernock**, who will be on leave in the spring semester of next year. She is also revising a manuscript for publication, a project reconsidering men's role in the creation of modern British feminism, with a particular emphasis on the 1790s. And she will begin work on her next project, a study of British pro-slavery advocates after the abolition of the slave trade in 1807, a time when slavers confronted a profound shift in public opinion, as sympathies in Britain switched—within just a few decades—from a predominantly pro-slavery to an anti-slavery perspective.





Emily Balić

Introduction to Visiting Faculty

A scholar's fresh look at Sarajevo

BY EMILY GREBLE BALIĆ

In 1998, as an undergraduate at the College of William and Mary, I enrolled in a semester abroad in the Czech Republic designed for students interested in “independent research” in the field of “arts and social change.” Armed with little more than a love of Cold War history and proficiency in French, I left Colonial Williamsburg and moved to Prague. For six months, I immersed myself in Czech, traveled throughout central Europe, and researched underground religious student movements that had formed in the wake of the Prague Spring. By the time I returned for my senior year, I had accumulated rich archival materials and oral histories for my honors thesis. I had also decided that I wanted to become a historian of Eastern Europe.

Taking the advice of professors and family members, I took a two-year break before applying to graduate school. I returned to New York, where my family lives, and began working for a Swiss bank. (This turned out to be an

excellent move because the bank paid for intensive German language classes during those two years.) During my time in New York, I also traveled to the former Yugoslavia and began studying Serbo-Croatian. Somewhere in the back of my head I had the grandiose idea of writing a dissertation on the comparative experiences of borderland groups in the Habsburg Empire.

In 2001, I moved to Stanford, Calif., to pursue my doctoral degree in East European history under the direction of Norman Naimark. It took only a few weeks for me to realize that broad comparative projects were not a wise dissertation choice. I decided that Yugoslav history was—at least for the moment—sexier than Czech history. I soon focused on researching the local dynamics of the Nazi satellite state, the Independent State of Croatia. Although the wartime Croatian state has secured a legacy as one of the worst of Hitler’s Europe, historians overwhelmingly have ignored how the state functioned on the ground. When I began my research, there were no academic studies that touched upon everyday life and politics in wartime Croatia, especially in Bosnia, which constituted nearly half of the country’s geographic territory. A few scholars extrapolated from German and Italian documents what might have occurred on the ground; some books explored the politics of the Ustasha regime in Zagreb; and there were countless studies on the Yugoslav Civil War (1941-1945). But none of these books examined how Muslims, Catholics, Orthodox Serbs, and Jews in local communities reacted to the new state, the genocidal campaigns, and the civil war.

In September 2004, with the generous funding of grants from Fulbright-Hays and IREX, I left sunny Palo Alto for a year in Sarajevo. My reasons for choosing Sarajevo were fairly straight-

forward: it was the second largest city in the Independent State of Croatia and it was the German army’s base in Bosnia. There was also something romantic about Sarajevo—a city with a dual legacy as both a place of violence and a place of ethno-religious cooperation. As I burrowed into the unheated Sarajevo archives that first winter, I realized that this legacy—as well as many legacies and stories surrounding Bosnian history—had become so mired in mythology that neither historians nor Bosnians could separate fact from fiction. I discarded my dissertation prospectus and waited to see what story I would uncover from the private letters of the Grand Mufti and the Catholic Archbishop, from the Gestapo and German consulate, and from the local officials attempting to build the new European order in a traditional city.

In July 2007, I completed my dissertation, entitled “A City Apart: Sarajevo in the Second World War.” In this work, I argue that Sarajevo’s Muslim, Catholic, and Orthodox leaders reacted to the implosion of their society during the Second World War by clinging either to religious traditionalism or to a civic consciousness—a *Sarajevo identity*—rooted in the city’s Ottoman and Austrian legacies. I arrive at this conclusion, which contrasts with conventional accounts of the Balkan conflicts as a series of political and national rivalries, by examining the motivations behind local decision-making in Sarajevo and revealing the step-by-step changes in perceptions of individual and community identity. The project is a narrative history, beginning with a sketch of the city on the eve of war, when Muslims, Catholics, Serbian Orthodox, and Jews lived and worked together. It traces the city’s clash with Nazi occupation and fascism, the Ustasha regime and radical Croatian nationalism, and civil war and the triumph of Communism. I am currently revising the manuscript, which I hope to complete in the next year or two.

For the past two years, I have had the honor of being a Research Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, part of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. In

During Professor Anna Geifman’s sabbatical, Emily Balić is teaching the Soviet Union lecture course and a section of HI 200. Her advisor in graduate school, Norman Naimark, will be familiar to long-time readers as the department’s Russian and Soviet scholar during the 1980s.

addition to writing my dissertation, I used this time to expand my work on Islam in Hitler's Europe, exploring the local roots of the Bosnian Muslim Waffen-SS unit and the problem of integrating Islamic law into a radical right political and legal system. I plan to use this research as a bridge to future work on the development of Muslim communities in the post-Ottoman Balkans. Last summer, I also had the wonderful opportunity to spend a few weeks as a visiting fellow at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, where I participated in an interdisciplinary workshop on the local roots of antisemitism among religious communities in Eastern Europe. Through this workshop, I started to explore the distinct aspects of antisemitism in the post-Ottoman lands, as well as the ways that local attitudes and traditions impacted officials' responses to the Holocaust.

After a number of years of research and writing, I am delighted to return to the classroom this spring. I am grateful to Charles Dellheim, Jim Dutton, and the staff and faculty who have welcomed me so graciously. ♦



The following students received the MA in history in January:

- Brian Danial Casady
- Alexey Dynkin
- Melissa Graboyes
- Eliana Tsiporah Lipsky
- Darcy Jae Pratt

Eliana Lipsky's research paper was accepted: "Re-examining the Babylonian Captivity of the Fourteenth Century"

News of the Japanese History Search

The department is conducting a search for a historian of modern Japan and has invited three finalists to campus:

- Todd Henry (PhD from UCLA in 2006) is currently assistant professor at Colorado State University and works in both Japanese and Korean history. His special interests include Japanese colonialism in Korea, urban history, and gender/queer studies. His dissertation is now under consideration for publication: "Keijo: The Japanese Assimilation of Koreans and the Politics of Public Space in Colonial Seoul, 1910-45." He will give his presentation to the department on February 1 at 2 p.m.
- Hans Martin Krämer (PhD from the University of Göttingen in 2005) is now on the faculty of Ruhr-Universität Bochum. He is the author of *Suppression or Integration? The Policy of the Japanese State Towards the Catholic Church, 1931-1945* and (his revised dissertation) *A New Beginning Under US-American Occupation? Higher Education Reform in Japan Between Continuity and Discontinuity, 1919-1953*. He is especially interested in higher education, the Catholic Church in Japan, and labor history in the interwar period. His presentation will take place on February 6 at 12 noon.
- Suzanne O'Brien (PhD from Columbia in 2003) is an assistant professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Her particular interests include the government reform of traditional Japanese customs and nationalism in the late Meiji period. She is working on a book manuscript entitled "Customizing Daily Life in Nineteenth-Century Japan." She will speak to the department on February 8 at 2 p.m.

in brief

EVENTS OF NOTE!



Professor **William Keylor** delivered a paper at a symposium sponsored by the US Foreign Policy Research Colloquium at the University of Paris (Sorbonne) on January 19. The theme of the symposium was "The United States between Uni- and Multi-lateralism: From Woodrow Wilson to George W. Bush." The title of Keylor's paper was "Wilsonianism and Its Discontents."

Professor **Eugenio Menegon** recently published a short article on "Penitential Practices" in China and Europe in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Love, Courtship and Sexuality through History, Vol. 3: The Early Modern Period*, edited by Victoria Mondelli and Cherrie Gottsleben. He also contributed a book review to the *Catholic Historical Review* (October 2007) on a recent documentary collection published under the auspices of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences. The 2006 collection, *Santa Sede e Manciuquò (1932-1945)*, gathers for the first time many unpublished diplomatic documents, proving that the Vatican did not officially recognize the puppet regime of Manchukuo established by Japan in northeastern China. This volume represents an effort by the Vatican to eliminate some of the historical grounds for criticism routinely levied by the People's Republic of China against the Pope. Beijing still considers the alleged Vatican recognition of Manchukuo in the 1930s as a great act of treason against the Chinese nation and an obstacle to full diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

Professor **Linda Heywood** presented a paper entitled "Uncovering African Memory in Brazil: The Making of the King and Queen of Kongo" at the 122nd annual meeting of the American Historical Association held in

Washington, D.C., January 3-6. She also did research in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in early January for her project on "Queen Njinga: History, Memory and Nation."

In January Professor **Betty Anderson** spoke on the following topics: "American University of Beirut (AUB): America's Religious and Educational Legacy" at the Council on Middle East Studies, Yale University and "The Influence of Liberal Education on Intellectual and Political Movements at the American University of Beirut (AUB)" at a conference titled "Liberty and Justice: America in the Middle East," held at the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saoud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR), American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Graduate student **Beth Forrest** is presenting the paper entitled "The

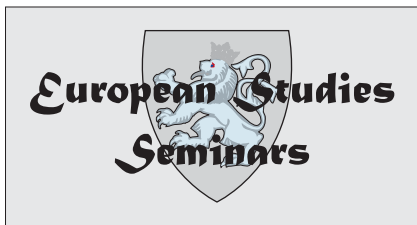
Woman is like the melon': Food and Etiquette in the Changing World of Early Modern Spain" at the fifth biennial conference on "Food Representation in Literature, Film, and the Other Arts," to be held at the University of Texas, San Antonio, February 21-23. Other presenters include BU History alumna **April Najaj** ("A 'Mawlid' Celebration in Muslim Grenada: Festival and Food in the 14th Century") and current student **Ilona Baughman** ("A Touch of Spice': Eating, Exile, and Identity").

On January 29 Professor **Arianne Chernock** presented a talk on "Radical Men and Literary Ladies: Making Women Writers in 1790s Britain" to the BU European Studies Seminars. On February 21 she will present an overview of her project "Champions of the Fair Sex: Men and the Creation of Modern British Feminism" at the Feminism and

Enlightenment conference taking place at BU organized by Professor **James Schmidt**.

Professor **Andrew Bacevich** delivered a lecture entitled "US Foreign Policy after Iraq" at Middlebury College January 9. He had a book review of *They Knew They Were Right: The Rise of the Neocons* by Jacob Heilbrunn published in the *Los Angeles Times Book Review* (January 20) and an essay, "Prophets and Poseurs: Niebuhr and Our Times," in *World Affairs* (Winter 2008).

The California State Assembly presented a certificate of recognition to Professor **Simon Payaslian** for his new book on the history of Armenia. "Your work in enlightening the international arena about the history and culture of the Armenian people," the citation reads, "is highly appreciated." ♦



The European Studies Seminars continue during spring 2008 with the following schedule of events. All are held at 12:30 p.m. in Room 304 at 226 Bay State Road:

- January 29: Arianne Chernock, History Department. "Radical Men and Literary Ladies: Making Women Writers in 1790s Britain."
- February 12: Richard Landes, History Department. "The Dynamics of Terror: The Millennial Dimensions of the French Revolution."
- February 26: Vivian Schmidt, International Relations Department. "Is the European Union Strengthening or Weakening Democracy?"
- March 18: Allison Blakely, History Department. "Afro-Europe: Rhetoric or Reality?"
- April 1: Elizabeth Goldsmith, Romance Studies Department. "Road Maps, Writing, and Risk: The Case of the Duchess Mazarin (1646-1699)."
- April 29: Brooke Blower, History Department. "Rethinking the Americans in Paris Story: Transatlantic Cultural Politics between the Wars."



Professor Bruce Schulman has announced the spring 2008 schedule of seminars sponsored by the American Political History Institute, all held at 226 Bay State Road beginning at 12 noon:

- February 20, Room 504: Lily Geismer, University of Michigan. "Suburban Civil Rights: Fair Housing, Voluntary Busing and Grassroots Liberalism in Postwar Massachusetts."
- March 19, Room 504: Michael Vorenberg, Brown University. "The Outer Civil War: Inventing American Citizenship during the Sectional Conflict."
- April 23, Room 304: Robert Self, Brown University. "Sexual Citizenship and the Privacy Quandary in Sixties and Seventies America."
- May 7, Room 504: Charlotte Carrington, Cambridge University. "Secular Dissent in Seventeenth-Century New England."

Undergraduate **Tyler Reilly** officially received his BA in History (with a minor in Theatre Arts) on January 24, the same day the *Boston Globe* ran a review of Part I ("Millennium Approaches") of the Tony Kushner play *Angels in America*. Tyler, who plays a central role in the drama, received a very positive review of his work. According to the co-directors, "We spent more than four months casting eight actors. The advantage we had was that every actor in the business wanted to audition."

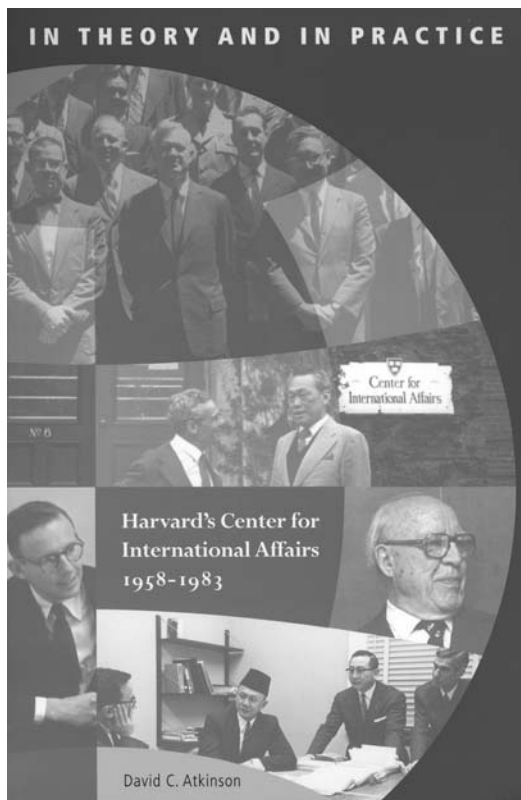
Tyler's success may make it necessary to add a new answer to the perennial question, "What can one do with a BA in History?"

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David Atkinson authors history of Harvard center

When Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs decided to publish its history, it selected Boston University graduate student David Atkinson to author the work, which appeared in late 2007. We are pleased to reprint a section of the Preface:

Most faculty, fellows, students, and staff who have been affiliated with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFA) over the years probably have some notion of the Center's rich history. That history is everywhere one cares to look, from the photographs of former associates that line the walls at 1737 Cambridge Street, to the eponymous Bowie-Vernon room. Yet much of this history may seem static upon first glance; black and white photographs, bookcases of Center-sponsored publications, and the plain, text-only covers of its early annual reports offer no immediate insights into the institution's extraordinary fifty-year history. As the Center prepares to commemorate that half century, however, it seemed to be an opportune time to dust off these ostensibly bland artifacts and delve more deeply into the Center's past.

What one finds, in contrast, is a vivid and remarkable institution, one that has grappled with the most important questions affecting the world in which we live. The Center has made enduring contributions to international affairs scholarship in the fields of defense policy and arms control, development and moderniza-

tion, and transatlantic relations, among countless others. The Center has provided an intellectual space in which scholars of all disciplines have ruminated, collaborated, and disagreed on topics as varied as exchange-rate parity and Israeli-Palestinian relations. Through its Fellows Program, the Center has housed hundreds of diplomats, military officers, media professionals, and scholars from countries around the world, who have in turn enriched the scholarship of both the Center's faculty and the Harvard community as a whole. Insights generated in CFIA seminars, conferences, and conversations have resonated in Washington, D.C. as well as in capitals throughout the world.

Two years ago, as this fiftieth anniversary approached, I was asked by then-associate director, Steven Bloomfield, if I would be willing to write a history of the Center for International Affairs (as the WCFA was known before the 1998 endowment gift of Albert and Celia Weatherhead). Having been a staff member at the WCFA from 2000 to 2002, I left that position to begin a Ph.D. in history at Boston University, and Steve felt I would be suited to undertake this study. With the support of Jorge I. Dominguez and James A. Cooney—at that time the Center Director and Executive Director, respectively—I accepted this exciting, if not a little daunting, challenge. Our collective thoughts turned immediately toward my writing an intellectual and institutional history, long on analysis and short of celebration. I was asked to carry out a robust research project with high academic promise—and particularly to pursue a series of face-to-face interviews with many quite fortunately long-lived individuals who dedicated much of their professional lives to the Center and who would offer their reflections with both pride and perspicacity.

Together, we decided that the first twenty-five years of the CFIA's history were the most compelling, and as such this is a story of the Center's founding and maturation, which took place during a period of international tension and flux. The intellectual and institutional context of the CFIA's development during these formative years was particularly interesting, and the Center's research output was energetic, profuse, and in many cases pioneering. We developed a simple outline of the trends of which I should be broadly aware, and I set off to work, with offers of subsequent guidance, if necessary, but with an expectation among us all that I would seek the truth about the Center's history mostly on my own, wherever it led me. I can't say that I never looked back, but after our initial discussions, with this encouragement, I looked forward.

The following students received the BA in History in January:

Jason Thomas Corkrum
 Michael Vincent D'Ambrosio (Minor in Psychology)
 Yitzhak Zvi Dubitzky
 Samuel Robert Edwards
 Corey Lee Eridon (Double Major in English)
 Sara Eva Fernandez (Double Major in American Studies)

Aditya Reddy Kancharla (*cum Laude*) (with a Bachelor's degree from the College of Communication)
 Eli Korer (*Magna cum Laude*) (Minor in Political Science)
 James Michael Lands (Double Major in Classical Civilization)
 Mallory Elizabeth Lotz
 Tyler James Reilly (*cum Laude*) (Minor in Theatre Arts)
 Allison Julia Winacoo (*Magna cum Laude*)

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Events of the International History Institute

- February 11, 4 p.m., School of Management 406
Professor **John Thornton** will speak on “Military Bonding: A Force in Shaping Solidarity Among Enslaved Africans?” Professor Thornton, a widely published expert on African military history, will consider the connection between military bonding and the formation of American slave communities from ex-soldiers.
- February 21, 4 p.m., School of Education 130
IHI Film Series presentation: “The Day the Guns Fell Silent.” Professor **William R. Keylor** will give a short talk on the “Christmas truce” of 1914 and will show “Joyeux Noël,” a French film about that event, when British, French, and German troops spontaneously halted fighting and instead shared Christmas Day together, amidst the shell craters and shattered hopes for a short war.
- March 24, 1 p.m., School of Management 412
Symposium on 20th-Century European Fascism. Panelists will discuss the roots and nature of fascism in Italy, Germany, Spain, and France, considering the history of fascism leading into World War II, the war which saw the apex and then military and ideological defeat of the major fascist states.
- March 26, 5 p.m., The Castle, 225 Bay State Road
Lecture by Professor **Simon Payaslian**: “Varoujan and Siamanto: The Last Generation in Historic Armenia before the Cataclysm.” Professor Payaslian, the Charles K. and Elizabeth M. Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University, will speak on Armenian history in the last days of the Ottoman Empire just before the genocide. The talk will cover the history of that period through the lenses of two famous Armenian poets, Varoujan and Siamanto, who were leading figures among intellectuals and activists arrested, exiled to the interior, and murdered during the early phases of the genocide in Armenia.
- April 10, 4 p.m., location to be announced
“Hollywood vs. History: Patton.” Professor **Cathal Nolan** will introduce, comment on, and take questions on the film portrayal of various World War II commanders, providing context of how they were seen by senior contemporaries at the time.