

NEWS



of the History Department at Boston University

January 2009



The Darwin Bicentennial at Boston University

BY THOMAS F. GLICK
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

The 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth will be celebrated around the world with a host of commemorative events. With that in mind, Boston University Provost David Campbell established a committee (the CD09 Committee) to organize and coordinate events in all Boston University schools, co-chaired by former dean Charles Delisi of the School of Engineering and by me. The committee's strategy in CAS has been to encourage heads of departments and centers with already-established lecture series or colloquia to bend them in Darwin's direction when possible. An example is the History Department's annual Gaspar D. Bacon Lecture in Constitutional Law, which will be given this year by Michael Lienesch of the University of North Carolina, on legal challenges to evolution. Lienesch is the author of *In the Beginning: Fundamentalism, the Scopes Trial, and the Making of the Antievolution Movement*. Then we were able

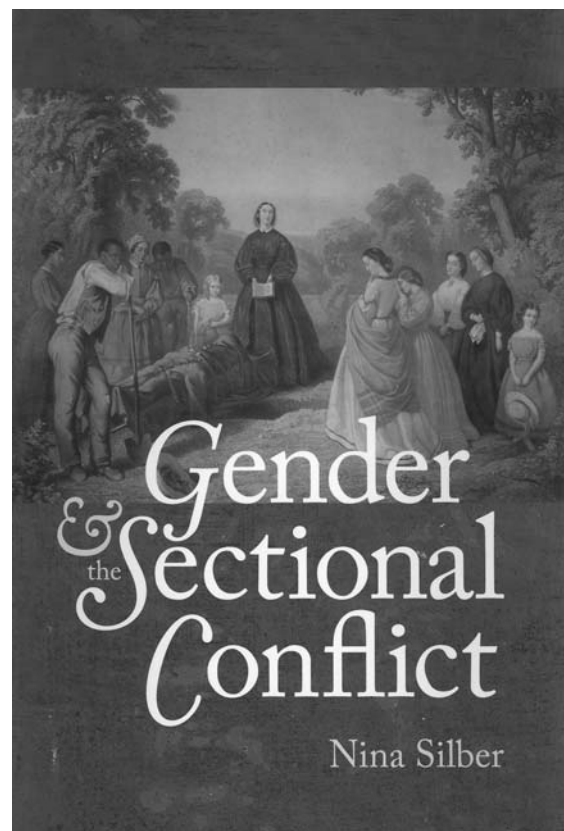
See DARWIN BICENTENNIAL, page 4

Book by Nina Silber on gender and the Civil War published

The University of North Carolina Press has recently published Professor Nina Silber's *Gender and the Sectional Conflict*. Based on the Steven and Janice Brose Lectures given by Silber at Penn State in 2006, the volume deals with a concern that has risen to the forefront of recent Civil War studies, an issue that Professor Silber formulates at the beginning of her first lecture: "Certainly one of the most enduring questions asked about war is, 'What makes men fight?' Some have also wondered, with perhaps equal persistence, 'What makes women send men off to fight?'"

Below we reprint a section of the Preface to the book:

In November 2006 I responded to a very generous request from the Richards Civil War Era Center at Penn State to deliver three lectures as part of the Steven and Janice Brose Distinguished Lecture Series in the Civil War Era. The lectures provided me with an exciting opportunity to take a new spin on an old problem; well, perhaps not an "old" problem by most accounts, but "old" with respect to the research I had been pursuing for a number of years. More specifically, I used the prospect of these lectures as a moment to think about gender and the Civil War from a comparative perspective: to scrutinize different ideas,



Nina Silber

and practices, regarding manhood and womanhood in the North and South, and among white and black Americans. I also saw this as a chance to take stock of the very rich and, by now, extensive output of scholarship that has been generated in the last fifteen years or so on gender and the sectional conflict, including dozens of books examining white women on both sides of the war, enslaved women and the struggle for emancipation, southern white women and post-war memorial efforts, the wives of Civil War-era presidents and military officers, and women who made unusual wartime contributions as spies, orators, and writers. Now, prodded by the Penn State invitation, I planned to survey this new scholarship, draw on my own research about the Civil War experiences and attitudes of northern women, and place my own findings alongside the considerable literature on Confederate womanhood. I imagined I would find obstacles, both practical and ideological, regarding women's contributions, but that I would also find women, no doubt in distinctive ways, challenging and sometimes overcoming many of those barriers. Aware of recent trends in the scholarship on Confederate women, I may have thought that my comparative argument would demonstrate how much more northern women were able to do for the Union war effort than southern women did for the Confederacy and that the success of the Union military effort hinged, to a considerable extent, on its women.

No doubt northern women did represent a critical asset in the Union victory. And while I do not ignore the problems of victory and defeat, my work here is not primarily focused on the "why did the Confederacy lose and the Union win" debate. That, to put it mildly, is a scholarly minefield from which few emerge unscathed. Nor does it seem useful to home in on the single, or principal, factor that might explain the South's loss, as it seems more likely that a broad range of contingent issues—encompassing the military, political, economic, as well as domestic, spheres—shaped the

Civil War's outcome. Steering clear of this intellectual battleground, I chose instead to pursue a different problem, one initially broached by LeeAnn Whites in a 1992 essay in which she argued for looking at the Civil War as a "crisis in gender relations." Looking at "gender relations," of course, would allow me to broaden my inquiry to include men as well as women. It would also force me to reckon with the broader ideological constructions made by northerners and southerners when they thought about masculinity and femininity. And, following Whites's lead, I also wanted to look at the "crisis," to try to understand something about the sectional battles—pitting North against South—that seemed to revolve around gender.

Indeed, as Whites observed, the evidence for a crisis seemed extensive: before the war had even started, abolitionist women had attacked the "sinful" domestic life of the slaveholding South; southern white men fretted about the threat that "black Republicanism" posed to their women; and black men had begun to challenge northern and southern white men's exclusive claim to "manhood." In making her argument, Whites echoed a long line of scholarship when she illuminated the way war, not just the Civil War, can prompt a gender crisis by compelling women to challenge traditional notions of womanhood as they respond to the new demands imposed on them by war. In different times and in different places, women in war have taken on new roles as nurses, fund-raisers, partisans, and even soldiers, transgressions that have been permitted because they can be cloaked, temporarily, in the guise of patriotism. Thus a young, unmarried woman—in the nineteenth-century South, or in nineteenth-century Britain, or perhaps in twentieth-century France—who leaves her paternal home and puts herself amidst strangers and violence and disease can be commended for the sacrifice she has made for her "cause." War inevitably brings challenges to men as well: they must make sense of war by bringing it into line with their ideas about manhood

and masculine obligations. Even more, as in the case of the Confederate South, sometimes they must reconcile their understanding of manhood with the shame of military defeat.

But Whites also touched on something else—not just the way war can inevitably disrupt standard gender relations in any society, but also the way the Civil War, more specifically, took on a distinctive gender framework that reflected historically specific circumstances, most notably the consolidation of racial slavery in the South and the emergence of an idealized and separate domestic sphere in the North. This I saw as the starting point for my lectures: to consider the distinctive gender ideologies of the two sections and understand how those shaped the very different ways in which southerners and northerners thought about the war, how they fought and participated in the war, and ultimately how they remembered the war. My goal was not to argue that differences in gender "caused" the Civil War but rather to see how gender was integral to northerners' and southerners' differing conceptions of why they fought and what the war was about. Most notably, I was intrigued by two concepts that I explored in my first lecture: that both Unionists and Confederates frequently gave women a central place in the way they portrayed wartime objectives, often as a way to lend an immediate and emotional appeal to abstract, political causes; but also that Unionists and Confederates spoke about gender considerations in very different ways when they talked about their respective "causes." ♦

Phi Beta Kappa initiates

Two undergraduate history concentrators have been elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa:

Christine Bertoglio
Sean Link



Professor **Simon Payaslian** published a book review of George Mouradian, *Never to Die: A Historical Novel about Armenia and the Quest for Noah's Ark* (MAG and Associates, 2005) in the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* (2007).

With John Metz, Professor **Louis Ferleger** presented a paper, "Real Pretty (Tho Not Expensive): The Changing Perception of House and Home in Central Georgia, 1880-1910," at the 12th Annual Conference on "Cultural and Historic Preservation: Creating and Preserving the American Home" at Salve Regina University on October 24.

Professor **Jonathan Zatlin** was a commentator at a conference on "Der Staatssozialismus und die „Transnationalen Zwischenräume“ 1956-1989" ["State Socialism and 'Transnational Spaces,' 1956-1989"] at the European University Institute in Florence, September 19-21.... He gave a paper entitled "Money for Nothing? The East German Monetary Reform of 1957" at a panel on "Money as Metaphor: Cultural Meanings of Money" at the annual German Studies Association Conference in Minneapolis-St. Paul, October 3-5 and was a commentator at a panel on "Goods, Pleasures, and Wonderlands: Consumer Culture in Post-war Poland, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia" at the National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Philadelphia, November 20-23.... Zatlin also worked in the archives of the International Institute for Social History in Amsterdam in September, researching the fate of a Ukrainian Jew with socialist leanings who made his first fortune in the import-export business in Amsterdam.

Professor **Allison Blakely** has pub-

lished a book chapter entitled "Normes «Blanches» et Accomplissements des «Noirs» en Europe: Une Théorie «raciale» de la relativité" ["White Standards and 'Black' Achievement in Europe: A Racial Theory of Relativity"] in Dieudonné Gnamankou and Yao Modzinou, eds., *Les Africains et leurs descendants en Europe avant le XXe siècle* [*Africans and Their Descendants in Europe Before the 20th Century*] (Toulouse: MAT Éditions).

In December, Professor **Nina Silber** attended a meeting of historians and museum specialists to discuss the contours of a museum exhibit on the sesquicentennial of the US Civil War to be mounted by the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

Professor **Andrew Bacevich's** "The Man in the Black Cape," an essay on Randolph Bourne, appears in the January/February 2009 issue of *The American Interest*. He also published "Afghanistan: What's Our Definition of Victory?" in the December 8 issue of *Newsweek*.

Professor **William Keylor** has been named Acting Chair of the Department of International Relations for the spring semester. He will temporarily replace Professor Erik Goldstein, who is on sabbatical.

Al Sargis, retired department secretary, has been a participant in the US-China Labor Group, co-sponsored, among others, by the Harvard University Trade Union Program. The purpose is to foster cooperative endeavors by la-

bor organizations in the US and China. Al has written papers for the group describing the situation of labor in China and making suggestions for fruitful contacts and exchanges between labor organizations in both countries. He has also facilitated ties between individuals in both countries to work on these activities. ♦



Graduate student A.J. Ballou shows off his new son, Jamison Asher Menke Ballou, whose name is longer than he is. He was born on December 10.

AJ and Angie Ballou would like to thank everyone at BU for their support and congratulations. They hope that all have a chance to meet little Jamison in the near future.



Not to be outdone by AJ Ballou, Sam Deese (visiting assistant professor this year) and his wife Isadora arranged for their new son, Leo Howard Deese, to be born on December 30. As Sam titled his e-mail about the event: "new year, new kid." In the photo Leo's brothers welcome him to the household, although we may detect a certain glint in their eyes that does not bode entirely well for Leo.

DARWIN BICENTENNIAL (cont. from page 1)

to bring the Law School into the picture by organizing a workshop on anti-evolutionism to take place the same day. The Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy and History of Science will devote its entire program for calendar year 2009 to Darwin and related topics.

The biggest surprise has been the enthusiastic participation of faculty of the College of Fine Arts. The drama department, headed by Jim Petosa, will present as the theatre program's spring event Peter Parnell's play *Trumpery*, the theme of which is Darwin's relationship with Alfred Russel Wallace, the co-discoverer of Natural Selection. Hugh O'Donnell, who teaches a course in "site-specific art" (which usually refers to installations), has convoked a student contest to produce Darwin-related projects: 100 students applied. I am working with the School of Music and its director, André de Quadros, to support a Darwin-related opera in the making. The opera, called "Children of Fire," is about Darwin's encounter with the Fuegian Indians in Tierra del Fuego and involves, among other artists, the soprano Carola Darwin, a great-great-granddaughter of Charles and Emma Darwin.

On February 11, the day before Darwin's birthday, there will be a student-organized birthday party, with comedy and music performances and other events including the presentation of a huge birthday cake with 200 candles prepared by the Program in Gastronomy. The festivities commence at a site to be determined at 6 p.m. (12 midnight London time).

All these events can be tracked on the CD09 committee's web page: www.bu.edu/darwin2009. ♦

Rudyard Kipling on Darwin:

I've been trying once more to plough through *The Descent of Man* and every fiber...of my body revolted against it. To believe in it that it is necessary never to have—Hullo! Where is this one-idea'd pen going off to anew?

Kipling to Edmonia Hall, 15 May 1888

First volume on Darwin's reception in Europe published

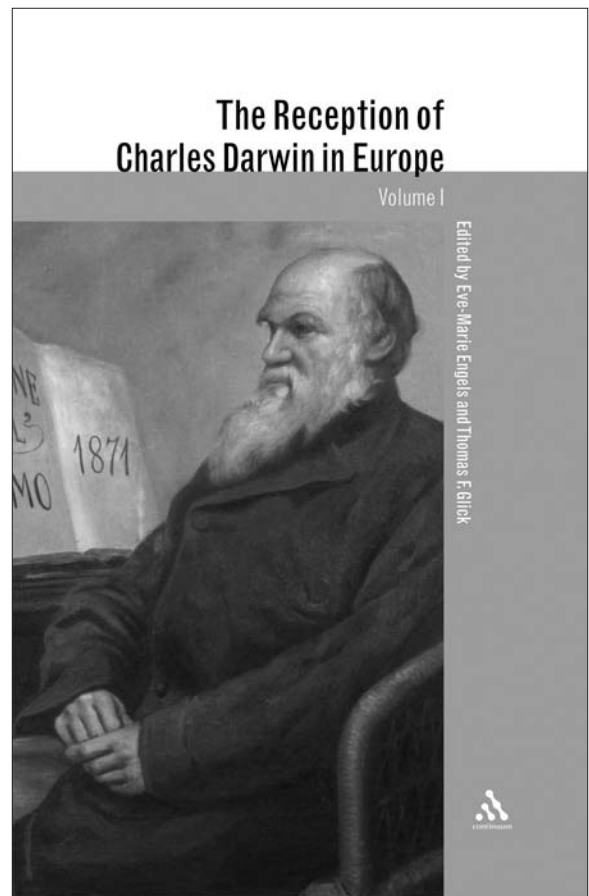
Thomas Glick and Eve-Marie Engels are the editors of a two-volume set of 29 articles on Darwin's reception in Europe, part of a larger project of the British Council called "The Reception of British and Irish Authors in Europe," devoted in the main to the European receptions of the likes of Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Swift, Yeats, Henry James—the usual suspects, with the exception of two scientists, Darwin and Newton, some philosophers (e.g., Hume), and an economist (Keynes). These are in general country studies.

If one compares this work with an earlier work of Glick's, *The Comparative Reception of Darwinism* (1974), the contrast is startling. The earlier work covered, among European countries, only England, France, Spain, Germany, Holland, and Russia. By contrast, the field has broadened dramatically to include Norway, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Lithuania, Estonia, the Czech Republic, and Italy, reflecting not only fresh interest in Darwin but also the establishment of the History of Science in countries where it had not existed as a field in 1974. Elements of this group of authors of the new work have met in two seminars, one in England, one in Germany; five of them will participate in a comparative reception of Darwinism program of the Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy and History of Science this spring; and some of the same personnel will repeat the effort at the International History of Science Congress in Budapest this summer. It is interesting to see a virtual "affinity group" evolve (as it were) into a real one.

Scholarly highlights of Darwin Bicentennial events at BU

These events are held under the auspices of the Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy and History of Science. For locations and details, visit www.bu.edu/philo/centers/cphs/colloquium/colloquia/49th.htm.

- January 26: "Evolution Before Darwin"
- February 12: "The Impact of Darwinism on the Human Sciences"
- April 3-4: "The Reception of Darwinism: Trans-cultural Differences"
- April 24: "Darwinism's Impact in the United States"
- May 1: "Charles Darwin in Biography: The Lives behind the Origin of Species"



Was Abraham Lincoln a Darwinist?

BY THOMAS F. GLICK

In the course of compiling a volume of Darwin-related passages from the works of naturalists, novelists, poets, clergymen, and any other category you can name, I have been particularly interested in politicians and statesmen. It is not all that difficult to locate on the Internet statements about Darwin or Darwinism made by significant political leaders: a search of the complete works of Marx, Lenin, Stalin, and Mao quickly revealed explicit texts certifying their acquaintance with Darwin and his ideas. The same with Disraeli, Gladstone, Churchill, Ramsay MacDonald, and Clemenceau. Among American presidents, well-known pronouncements by Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson were

easily found. And looking for memoirs of nineteenth-century personages, I came upon a letter of Chester A. Arthur, asking a friend to send him a copy of the *Origin of Species*! But I wondered whether in the period between the release of the American edition of the *Origin* in March 1860 and the election campaign of that year, someone might have brought the book to Lincoln's attention.

What I found is fascinating. Lincoln had read the first edition of *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*, a controversial book espousing a theory of the origin of species by the natural operation of nature, similar to, but not as sophisticated as, Darwin's theory. It was published anonymously in 1844 because the author, Robert Chambers, feared for his reputation and that of his family. Lincoln's law partner, William Herndon, notes that Lincoln had read the first edition. Herndon explains: "A gentleman in Springfield gave him a book called, I believe, *Vestiges of Creation*,

which interested him so much that he read it through. The volume was published in Edinburgh, and undertook to demonstrate the doctrine of development or evolution. The treatise interested him greatly, and he was deeply impressed with the notion of the so-called 'universal law'—evolution; he did not extend greatly his researches, but by continued thinking in a single channel seemed to grow into a warm advocate of the new doctrine."

I also unearthed an independent source attesting that Lincoln purchased a copy of the sixth edition. This is interesting for three reasons: first, it attests that he took Chambers's evolutionary thesis seriously; second, Lincoln was known for not being a reader, yet he may have read this work *twice*; third, the sixth edition of *Vestiges* was "The Gentleman's Edition." Pricy and elegantly printed and bound, it was a status symbol that one could display. It is not unusual to want to own an upscale edition of a work to which one is especially at-

The Charles Darwin Bicentennial

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tached. These two copies, the borrowed one (published in Edinburgh, Herndon says) and the purchased one (the sixth, published in London) were both published in 1847, the former as one volume in a seven-volume set of selected works of Chambers, who, by this time, had gone public.

So if Herndon is to be believed, Lincoln was an evolutionist. Was he a Darwinian? Herndon, an avid reader, says only that he purchased works of Darwin and Spencer and tried unsuccessfully to get Lincoln to read them. But Joseph Fort Newton, in his 1910 book *Lincoln and Herndon*, supplies some additional details. Newton (1880-1950), a Baptist minister and freemason, reports:

Often Lincoln would stretch himself on the office cot, weary of his toil, and say, "Now, Billy, tell me about the books"; and Herndon would discourse by the hour, ranging over history, literature, philosophy, and science....With characteristic zest Herndon plunged into Darwin's *Origin of Species* when it appeared, but Lincoln refused to fol-

low on the plea that the water was too deep. He was, however, interested in *Vestiges of Creation*, whose dogma of the universal reign of law fitted into his philosophy in which there were no accidents.

I conclude that Lincoln was an evolutionist and had been for a decade or more when the *Origin* burst upon the scene and that he assimilated something about the book, most likely by talking about it with Herndon, who seems not have gotten very far in his daily "readathons" in the law office. One final point bears consideration: the *Vestiges* begins with a long disquisition on the so-called "nebular hypothesis"—Laplace's notion that the sun originated in the contraction of a giant cloud of gas—which was taken broadly as the start of the cosmological evolutionary process, while the first chapter of the *Origin* is a rather mundane discussion of the "artificial selection" practiced by animal and plant breeders, which Darwin set up as a context within which he could explain "natural selection" in terms familiar to upper-class

Englishmen. Lincoln might have found the cosmic scale of the *Vestiges* more appealing than the practices of pigeon fanciers detailed by Darwin. ♦

Next this strange message Darwin brings,
(Though saying his say
in a quiet way);

We all are one with creeping things;
And apes and men
Blood-brethren,

And likewise reptile forms with stings.

Thomas Hardy,
"Drinking Song," 1928

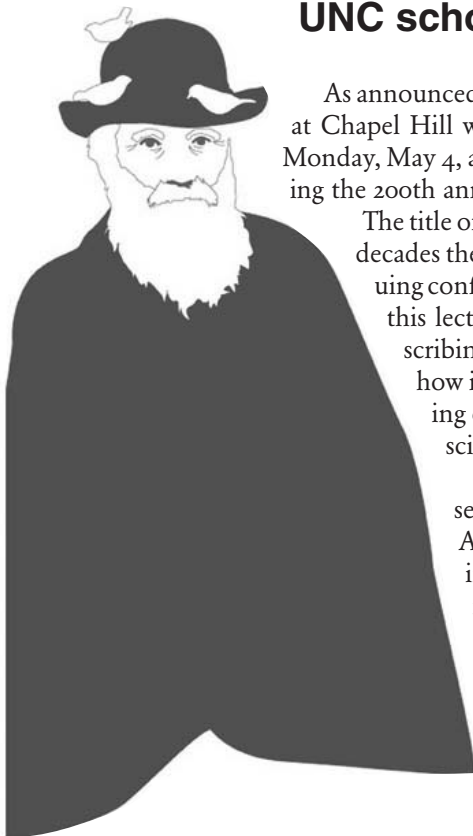
The two Darwin Bicentennial logos used in this newsletter were the winners of a contest for designs for use on the Darwin 2009 website. The one below is by Alice Du (an undergraduate studying graphic design in the College of Fine Arts); the design on page 1 is by Richard Phung (an EdM student in media and technology in the School of Education).

UNC scholar to deliver Bacon Lecture on Darwinism

As announced previously, Professor Michael Lienesch of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will deliver the department's annual Gaspar Bacon Lecture, scheduled for Monday, May 4, at 5 p.m. The lecture is part of the events at Boston University commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin.

The title of this year's lecture is "Why We're Stuck with the Scopes Trial." For over eight decades the Scopes "monkey" trial has stood as the iconic representation of the continuing conflict over the teaching of Darwinian evolution in America's public schools. In this lecture, Michael Lienesch will examine the trial in constitutional context, describing how it has cast a long shadow over court cases from the 1920s to today, and how it continues to influence American legal and political thinking on the meaning of academic freedom, the relation between church and state, and the role of science in a democratic society.

Michael Lienesch is Professor of Political Science at UNC-Chapel Hill. In several books and many articles and essays, he has written about the history of American political thought from the eighteenth century to today, concentrating most recently on the role of conservative religion in politics. He has held fellowships from the Earhart Foundation, the Lilly Endowment, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and he has been a Fellow of the National Humanities Center. In recognition of his teaching he has won UNC's Tanner Award and been named a Bowman and Gordon Gray Professor. His latest book is *In the Beginning: Fundamentalism, the Scopes Trial, and the Making of the Antievolution Movement* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007).



Erik Goldstein honored for journal work

The current editor of *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, a journal published by Routledge, dedicated the September 2008 issue to Professor Erik Goldstein. The issue begins with “An Appreciation,” part of which is reprinted below:

Professor Erik Goldstein was a founder of this journal and, for almost two decades, he served as its editor. Last year, he decided to give up the editorship to turn his scholarly attention more to research and writing—and to continue his tenure as the Chair of the Department of International Relations at Boston University. As he told me at the time, he needed new challenges and thought that, reluctantly, he needed to do so away from the journal. This decision was certainly a difficult one to make and, with typical diffidence, Erik’s reasoning belied the enormous contribution he has made over the past almost twenty years to international studies in the English-speaking world—to international history, international relations, intelligence studies, comparative history, and more. *Diplomacy & Statecraft* has emerged as one of the major learned journals in this field—in English and in any other language—because he had the foresight and the drive to create it when he was a junior scholar at the University of Birmingham. He then nurtured it with care and intellectual rigour. From the beginning it became a venue for scholarly analysis of historical and contemporary research and ideas on international studies broadly defined, not just concerning international politics and its hand-maidens strategy, foreign policy-making, and diplomacy. Naturally, his time as editor saw the publication of work by eminent academics in what might be termed the traditional fields of international relations—their willingness to seek an audience in *Diplomacy & Statecraft* only added to their and the journal’s lustre. But he also ensured that less traditional but equally

important work relating to cultural issues, gender, science and technology, and other newer areas of enquiry were given a forum from which to be heard, and by which all scholars at all levels could benefit. This gave the journal its critical *gravitas* and made it even more significant.



For the past several years Danielle Caramico (see photo above for her most typical work station, standing at the copy machine) has been a valued student employee in the History Department office. A student in COM, she completed her studies this past semester. She left this word of farewell:

Upon graduation this January, I will be moving home to New Jersey and searching for a career in entertainment and special events public relations in New York City. I will be making the trip back to Boston for commencement ceremonies in May and hope to see many of you there. Thank you to all faculty and staff of the History Department for your support and encouragement, and a special thanks to Jim and Carrie for making my time at the department enjoyable. I wish everyone a healthy and happy 2009.

GRADUATE STUDENT MILESTONES

The following students passed the language requirement through coursework in French:

Sara Georgini
Matthew Miller

These students will receive the MA in history in January:

Natalie Mettler
Mary Mason Williams

Finalists in Jewish search to visit campus

The Jewish history search committee has selected three finalists to invite to campus during January:

Kenneth Moss, who received his doctorate from Stanford in 2003, is currently Assistant Professor of History at Johns Hopkins. His book manuscript, *Jewish Renaissance in the Russian Revolution* (which has been accepted for publication by Harvard), investigates the interplay and tensions between the idea of a modern Jewish culture and Jewish nationalist and revolutionary ideologies during the revolution. Moss will give his presentation to the department on Wednesday, January 14, at 12 noon.

Simon Rabinovitch received his PhD from Brandeis University in 2007 and since then has held a post-doc at the University of Florida. His book in progress, *Jewish Nationalism and Autonomy in Late Imperial and Revolutionary Russia*, examines the movement for Jewish communal and national self-government in Russia, known as autonomism. Jewish autonomists in the early twentieth century sought to decouple national sovereignty from territory in order to make national demands equivalent to those of other minorities. Rabinovitch’s presentation will be on Friday, January 16, at 2 p.m.

Scott Ury earned his PhD in 2006 from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, studying under former department member Ezra Mendelsohn, and now holds a post-doc at Tel Aviv University. His manuscript, *Red Banner, Blue Star: The Revolution of 1905 and the Transformation of Warsaw Jewry* (accepted for publication by Stanford), focuses on the experiences of Jews in Europe’s largest Jewish community during the 1905 revolution, examining the interplay among three nineteenth-century ideologies—socialism, liberalism, and nationalism—among Jews and Poles in Warsaw. Ury’s presentation will be on Friday, January 23, at 2 p.m.

The finalists’ talks are open to faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate majors; all will be held in Room 504 at 226 Bay State Road.



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American Political History Seminars

The schedule of the American Political History Seminars for the spring semester has been announced by Professor Bruce Schulman. All seminars are held in Room 504 at 226 Bay State Road at noon. For those not already on the seminar mailing list, copies of papers are available in advance by contacting Professor Schulman at bjschulm@bu.edu.

January 28

"A Deal With the Devil: Ideology, Diplomacy, and the Dilemmas of History in Revolutionary America"

Brendan McConville, Boston University

March 4

"Government Out of Sight: The Mystery of National Authority in Nineteenth-Century America"

Brian Balogh, University of Virginia

March 25

"Institutionalizing the Sino-American Bilateral Relationship under Ford"

Emily Floeck, Cambridge University

April 15

"The Reagan Revolution: A Reconsideration"

Meg Jacobs, MIT, and Julian Zelizer, Princeton University

**"Fasting in an Age of
Anxiety,
or How to Mortify the
Flesh Reformation Style"**

**Lecture by Ken Albala,
Professor of History,
University of the Pacific**

Friday, January 16, 6 p.m.,
808 Commonwealth Avenue,
Room 117

Sponsored by the MLA Program
in Gastronomy and the
Department of History

*Free and open to the public, but the
organizers request an RSVP (617-
353-9852) for the reception follow-
ing the lecture.*