

# NEWS



## *of the History Department at Boston University*

May 2008

### **New Japanese historian appointed**

Suzanne O'Brien, currently Assistant Professor of Modern Asian History at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, has been appointed Assistant Professor at Boston University, effective September 2008. After five years without being able to offer a course in Japanese history, the department is especially pleased to welcome her.

Professor O'Brien received her BA from Stanford University and her MA and PhD from Columbia University, the doctorate in 2003. Her book manuscript, based on her dissertation and entitled "Customizing Daily Life: Representing and Reforming the Quotidian in Nineteenth-Century Japan," explores the relationships among discourses about *fuzoku* (customs, public morals), people's daily practices, and imaginings of history and community since the late 1700s in Japan. Her future research plans center on cultural and gender history; for her next project, tentatively titled "Manning the Economic Miracle: New Masculinities in Postwar Japan," she will investigate transformations in postwar masculinities.

In fall 2008 Professor O'Brien will teach the survey of modern Japanese history, HI 391, as well as a colloquium, "Interwar Japan and the Pacific War." In the following spring she will offer a section of "The Historian's Craft" (the core course required of all concentrators) and a new course entitled "Samurai in Myth and History" (which will be crosslisted with a course in the Foreign Languages department).

### **Scholarly pursuits in the south of France**

Professor Barbara Diefendorf writes as her semester-long leave of absence in France approaches its end:

**I** continue to enjoy my semester as a Fellow of the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, a small town on the Mediterranean just east of Marseilles. My apartment on the Foundation's "campus" has a stunning view of the harbor at Cassis and the thousand-foot-high cliffs that Louis XIV is said to have called "the most beautiful in my kingdom" (see photo below). The steep, narrow roads that separate Cassis from Marseilles and Aix-en-Provence do complicate getting to the archives, where I spend my days researching the new charitable and religious institutions that were founded in the seventeenth century (I seem destined to spend my life as a commuter), but it is a pleasure to return to this lovely setting each night.

I enjoy the stimulating company of the twelve other fellows for a weekly seminar and more informal activities in our off-hours. The fellows are a deliberately varied lot—an international group that includes artists as well as academics and graduate students as well as senior faculty—and seminar presentations have included poetry, readings from a novel-in-progress, and discussion with a composer about how he writes music, along with products of academic scholarship.

I was in Paris briefly in March to chair a session of a symposium on early modern history at the Sorbonne and will return there in May to comment on a panel on pious women and their spiritual directors at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes. I will also present my current research to the Reformation Seminar at the University of Geneva in early May.

The semester is going by much too quickly; at the same time, I look forward—as always—to returning home when my fellowship finishes at the end of May. My summer plans are simple: to hunker down in Maine, tend my garden, and work through some of the fascinating materials I have gathered in this semester of research.



**in brief**

## EVENTS OF NOTE!



Professor Emerita **Merle Goldman** has written an article entitled “Developing Human Rights in Post-Mao China,” published in *Insights on Law and Society* (American Bar Association, Winter 2008). On April 18 she gave the keynote address at the opening of a conference in Paris on “Beijing Olympics 2008: Winning Press Freedom.” Among its sponsors were Reporters without Borders and the World Press Freedom Committee.

On April 11 Professor **Eugenio Menegon** presented his forthcoming book’s concluding chapter at the conference “Christian Missions and National Identities: Comparative Studies of Cultural Conversions in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia and East Asia,” organized by the area studies centers of the University of Pennsylvania. Menegon’s presentation, entitled “Whose History? Sino-Vatican Relations, Local Culture, and Christian History in China,” centered on the contemporary historiographical battles over the meaning of Christianity in modern Chinese history and the tension be-

tween local communities and the central government’s management of religion in the People’s Republic of China today.

At the same conference Professor **Betty Anderson** gave a paper entitled “Proselytizing for Modernity: Conversion and Transformation at the Syrian Protestant College (SPC).” In March she delivered a talk entitled “Proselytizing for Modernity: The Case of the American University of Beirut (AUB)” at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University in Washington.

In mid-April Professor **James McCann** lectured at Colby College on the topic “Unintended Consequences: Global Health and Environmental Change.” Two weeks prior he had served as Master Respondent at the Radcliffe College Symposium on “Creativity in the Ethiopian Diaspora.” In March he was invited by Northwestern University’s Center for Historical Studies to respond to Stanford University’s Richard White on new themes in environmental history.

On April 10-12 Professor **James Schmidt** was a speaker at a workshop at the Folger Library chaired by J. G. A. Pocock on the subject of exchanges in political thought and literature between the British kingdoms and other political communities in an early age of globalization, 1750-1800. He discussed British appropriations of German philosophy at the close of the century.

Professor **Simon Payaslian** presented a paper, titled “Three Republics of the Caucasus: Independence and Human Rights in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia,” at the annual conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 3-6 in Chicago. On April 11 he gave a public lecture at the University of Montreal on US foreign policy and the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The event was co-sponsored by the Zoryan Institute of Toronto and l’Association des étudiants arméniens de l’Université de Montréal, in addition to a number of student and community organizations in Montreal.

Professor **Thomas Glick** was keynote speaker at the “Symposium on the History and Representation of Spanish

Science,” held at the University of Colorado, Boulder, April 11-12. The subject of his lecture was “All Over But the Shouting: Science and Civil Discourse in Spain, 1898-1945.” The title references José Ortega y Gasset’s observation that science cannot be pursued while shouting, an allusion to the overheated ideological climate of early twentieth-century Spain.

Graduate student **François Lalonde** reports that the Eisenhower Foundation has awarded him a travel grant to help fund two weeks of research at the Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas. He will also present a conference paper titled “The Transatlantic Dialogue on the Laotian Crisis: How France and Britain Influenced the Kennedy Administration’s Laotian Policy” at University College Dublin on June 7. The theme of the conference is “Reform and Renewal: Transatlantic Relations during the 1960s and 1970s.”

Professor **Allison Blakely** presented the keynote addresses at Phi Beta Kappa chapter initiations in April at Texas Tech University on “America Future” and at Spelman College on “Celebrating Excellence in a Multicultural World.” He was also one of five scholars, reporters, and activists invited to make presentations before the US Helsinki Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe at a hearing on Afro-Descendants in Europe, held April 29 at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington.

Professor **James Johnson** delivered a lecture and, as pianist, accompanied the Boston-based baritone Dana Whiteside in a program of French and American songs at Oregon State University in mid-April. The presentation, sponsored by OSU’s Departments of History and Music, was entitled “French Impressions. A Musical Voyage.” It featured the music of Nadia Boulanger, Francis Poulenc, Samuel Barber, Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, and Scott Wheeler.

Professor **Jonathan Zatlin** won the contest run by *H-German*, the online discussion forum focused on scholarly topics in German history, for the best syllabus in German history. The judges wrote that they “were impressed by the

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*Items of interest for publication and changes of address should be sent to the editor.*

range and quality of the readings used in Zatlin's syllabus and its combination of political, social, and cultural history."

In April Professor **Nina Silber** spoke at the Massachusetts Historical Society, commenting in the final meeting of the colloquium series on Gender and History on a paper on African American women and electoral politics. She was also interviewed by WITF—the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, public radio affiliate—regarding the new museum at Gettysburg.

Graduate student **Anne Blaschke** has received a Moody Grant from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation to travel to Austin, Texas, this fall to use the LBJ Library. She also presented a paper, entitled "Manhood, Politics, and Sports: The 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games as Contested Space for Gender Redefinition," at a conference at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia called "The Legacy of 1968: An Interdisciplinary Conference."

On April 27 Professor **Cathal Nolan** took 25 students from his HI 537 class

("History of World War II") on an all-day field trip to Battleship Cove in Fall River, Mass. Students toured a US battleship, destroyer, submarine, torpedo boats, and several types of landing craft, all of which saw active service in WWII. They viewed captured Japanese manned-torpedoes and suicide boats and an extensive exhibit of Allied and Japanese weapons, equipment, and documents housed in a museum in the interior of the battleship USS *Massachusetts*. They listened to recordings of the Veterans' Voices Oral History Project from an on-site collection. Additional exhibits pertain to post-WWII military and international history, including a Soviet missile boat from the mid-Cold War and Vietnam War-era helicopters and aircraft. On April 26 Nolan delivered a lecture at Fox Hill Village retirement community on "Defensible Deceit: Franklin Roosevelt, Presidential Lying, and U.S. Entry into WWII." Professor Nolan has also learned that the American Academy of Religion has added his name to "ReligionSource," an online database of scholars with expertise related to religion or ethics, based upon his ongoing work with the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs and his *Age of the Wars of Religion, 1000-1650* (2007) and prior publications on ethics in international affairs.

Professor **Andrew Bacevich's** recent publications include: "An Army at Risk," *The New York Times* (April 8); "The Great Divide: The Crisis of U.S. Military Policy," *Commonweal* (March 28); and "The Right Choice?" *The American Conservative* (March 24). He gave the annual Paul McNutt Lecture sponsored by the History Department at Indiana University on March 26 on the subject "US Foreign Policy After Iraq."

Professor Emeritus **Dietrich Orlow's** *The History of the Nazi Party, 1919-1945*, which was originally published in two volumes in 1969 and 1973, has been reissued by Enigma Books of New York in a one-volume edition, entitled *The Nazi Party, 1919-1945: A Complete History*, with a new introduction by the author.

Professor **Bruce Schulman** made the rounds of the conference circuit in

April, joining co-editor Julian Zelizer for a panel on their anthology, *Rightward Bound*, at the Woodrow Wilson School, attending the annual convention of the Organization of American Historians (where he commented on a panel on education reform in the 1970s), and participating in the 3rd Annual BU-Cambridge-Princeton American Political History Conference in New Jersey (the conference will return to Boston in March 2009). In May he will deliver the keynote address, "Sock It to Me: 1968 and the Birth of the New Cultural Politics," at a conference on 1968 in America at the Rothermere Institute at Oxford. In the meantime, Schulman's recent op-eds and reviews have appeared in the *Chronicle* review, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Washington Independent*. ♦

## Charles Capper wins ACLS fellowship

Professor Charles Capper has learned that the American Council of Learned Societies has awarded him a very competitive and generous fellowship for the 2008-09 academic year. As the organization informed him, the ratio of applications to awards was 16:1.

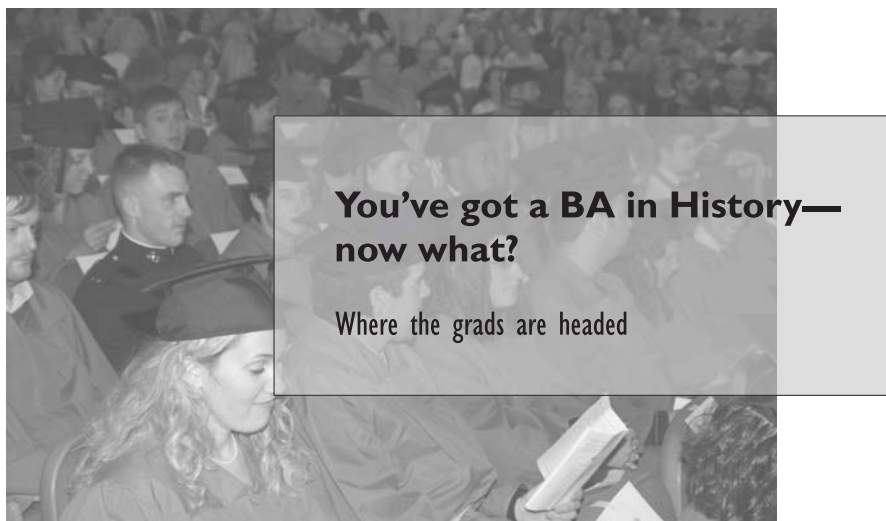
Professor Capper will use the award, together with the Boston University Humanities Foundation senior fellowship previously announced, to work on his next book, now titled "The Transcendental Moment: Romantic Intellect and America's Democratic Awakening." The project aims to be the first comprehensive history of American Transcendentalism, focusing on the movement's leaders, interactions, and writings in a narrative of connected episodes embedded in overlapping networks of their followers, publics, and milieus. As America's primordial "avant-garde" intellectual class, the Transcendentalists, Capper will argue, foreshadowed major tensions between democratic values, liberal religion, and cultural critique in the modern era.

With the two fellowships he has won, Professor Capper will be on leave for the entire 2008-09 academic year.



Kathryn Cramer Brownnell was selected as the department's winner of the 2008 Teaching Fellow Prize, awarded to the student the department (represented by the Graduate Studies Committee) deems to have "demonstrated the greatest skill, enthusiasm, and dedication in his or her teaching during the current academic year."

Katie has been a TF in Professor Keylor's international relations course and in several of Professor Schulman's modern US history classes.



Each year we ask the department's graduating seniors to let our readers know what they plan after commencement, and the responses always run a wide gamut.

**Ryan Early:** I plan to work with a documentary filmhouse and travel throughout Africa and Scandinavia.

**Brooke Feldman:** As of August, I will be teaching world history at Boston Collegiate Charter School in Dorchester, Mass.

**Brian Soares:** I am unsure about what I will be doing next year. Either I will go straight to law school, or take a year off, work, and then reapply to law schools.

**Olga Romanova:** After graduation, I plan on taking a two-month trip to Europe, including Germany, Serbia, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, and France. After returning, I aspire to pursue a career in the public sector. By December, I want to move out of Boston, hopefully to New York.

**Catherine Imes:** After graduation, I will be attending medical school at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, Maryland, and will be commissioned as an officer in the Navy.

**Andrew Shapira:** After graduation, I plan to teach English abroad (most likely in South America) for 1-2 years. After that, I would like to pursue a career in publishing or journalism back in the United States.

**Jorge Vela:** I will be attending the Trans-Atlantic Master's (TAM) Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill next year. I will be living in three places in the next 14 months (Chapel Hill, N.C.; Paris, France; and Madrid, Spain) and earning an MA in Political Science TAM in the process.

**Elizabeth Marshall:** This summer I will campaign for Tracey Brooks, Democratic congressional candidate for New York's 21st District. When not working the campaign trail I plan to attend the annual Cain Family Reunion in Mesquite, Texas, and enjoy many performances of the New York City Ballet at their summer home in Saratoga Springs, New York. After some fun in the sun hammering nails for Habitat for Humanity, I will begin my legal studies at Boston College Law School!

**Charles Pollack:** I will be starting the Master's in History program here at BU in the fall. I will also be working fulltime within one of the CAS administrative offices.

**Dianne Pierce:** After graduation I will be interning at the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C.

**Kathryn Lynch:** I will be attending Northeastern University and studying for a Master's in Public History.

**Monica Sawhney:** I will be attending Boston University's School of Public Health to get my Master's in Public Health.

**Imry Halevi:** I plan to attend the Northeastern Graduate Business School starting next year, and get my MBA.

**Amy Puliafico:** After graduation I will be attending Suffolk Law.

**Lauren Kurkul:** I plan on staying in Boston and working at a company called Shoebuy.com (it is an online retail company that sells shoes) as a marketing associate and project manager. I will be starting June 2nd.

**Kyle Getz:** After working in Milton Public Schools teaching early world history this past semester, I will be going to Columbia University to study cognitive education. Following my master's, I plan to teach in the Greater Boston area.

**Christina Walters:** After commencement I will be working with Grassroots Campaigns to get the Democrats elected in November. I don't know where I will be working yet but for now it is enough to have a job after commencement!

**Michael Weinhold:** After graduation I'm heading down to D.C. to intern for Congressman Mike Capuano (D-MA) for the summer. Then, in the fall I'm headed to St. Louis to attend Law School at Washington University.

**Hope Shannon:** This summer I will be the Lab Director on an archaeological dig in Bermuda. After that I will enter the workforce in a field relating to historical archaeology.

**Reid Jewett:** I am going on to Brown University to get my Master's in History and work on a Master's Thesis while I begin applying to doctoral programs in History. I intend to focus on African-American and Atlantic History.

**Adina Rosenthal:** I plan to receive my Ed.M. in Education Policy and Management at Harvard.

**Christopher Wiener:** I'll be attending the University of California Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco this fall.

**Claire Bennett:** I will be returning to Houston with my family, where I hope to find work relating to museums. In a year or two, I plan on returning to school to get an M.A.H. in Medieval Art History. Eventually I would like to

get my Ph.D. in Medieval Art History, as well as a Master's in Museum Studies. As a long-term goal, I would like to be a curator in a museum that deals with the Middle Ages particularly.

**Kate Birmingham:** My plans after graduation are to get a social studies teaching job for middle school or high school, either in NYC or in Boston. Eventually I plan on obtaining my master's in a field that interests me, but until then I will pursue teaching.

**Jana Sico:** I am graduating with honors as a BA, History and BA, International Relations. This summer I will begin my full-time job on Wall Street. I am working as a Capital Markets Intelligence Associate at Thomson-Reuters. So far, I plan on going to graduate school in a few years and I particularly would like to get an MBA in finance or an MA/PhD in history.

**Hilaria Duran:** I was accepted to the Stillman School of Business at Seton Hall University to pursue a dual master's degree, an MBA in business administration and an MS in sport management. However, I have deferred my admission a year and will be taking the year off, during which I will be coaching cross country at my former high school, as well as working alongside my dad at Bob Hope Enterprises. ♦

## African Studies Center holds graduate conference

Every year, the second-year grad students in African Studies host a conference for grad students from BU and other schools to make contacts and present projects in progress.

This year's conference, held March 14-15, was titled "Transcending Boundaries, Bridging the Continent: The 16th Annual Graduate Research Conference in African Studies." From the BU History Department, Brian Casady presented "On the Hot Seat: Confrontations over Firewood in Nairobi's Early Years," and Natalie Mettler presented "The Kitchen Is Older than the Mosque: Cooking and Plants in Bamana Landscapes of Knowledge." Andrea Mosterman chaired the panel "Communication, Media, and Propaganda," and Anne Blaschke chaired the panel "Gender, Power(lessness), and Resistance."

The keynote speaker at the event (Friday night, March 14) was the Reverend Gloria White-Hammond, who spoke on "The Anatomy of the Advocacy Movement."

*Anne Blaschke*

Graduate Student  
**Milestones**



The following students had the dissertation prospectus approved:

On March 31, Anne Blaschke: "Manhood, Feminism, and Sports: Gendered Racial Protest at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games." The first reader will be Professor Bruce Schulman, and the second will be Professor Nina Silber.

On April 23, David Mislin: "Faith Unbounded: Christian Exploration and the Making of Modern American Religion, 1880-1930." The first reader will be Professor Jon Roberts, and the second will be Professor Brooke Blower.

The following students had research papers approved:

David Beale: "Horror in Hartford"

Natalie Mettler: "Nafen: The Ingredients of Ethnic Identity in the Mande Region of West Africa"

## Jeffrey Rubin spends a busy sabbatical

Professor Jeffrey Rubin has been working on four projects during his sabbatical this year, for which he received a fellowship from the American Philosophical Society: a book on the rural women's movement in southern Brazil; the curriculum project on Brazilian Social Movements he developed with his daughter, Emma Sokoloff-Rubin; a multi-country research project called "Enduring Reform," funded by the Open Society Institute, based at the Institute for Culture, Religion, and World Affairs at BU, for which he is principal investigator; and a US-Latin American research consortium based at UMass Amherst and funded by the Ford Foundation, for which he is a co-

principal investigator.

Professor Rubin's book on the Brazilian women's movement combines analysis of rural women's activism and changing gender roles with attention to methodological innovation: What does it mean to be a father-daughter research team in a place where women have defined themselves by defying their fathers? Professor Rubin and Emma, who is now a freshman at Yale, presented their curriculum ("Music, Land, and Women's Rights: Citizens Making Change in Brazil and the US") at Yale, UCSD, and Brown this year. The Brown workshop included not only secondary school teachers, but university professors, Brown undergraduates, and Brown graduate students. Next year, the curriculum will form the basis of a Portuguese Department course at Brown, and undergrad-

uates will teach lessons from the curriculum in Providence schools. The use of video interviews in the curriculum inspired a graduate methodology course at Duke University last fall on the role of interviews in scholarly research and teaching about globalization, and Professor Rubin and Emma will be contributing to the edited volume that came out of that course.

The Enduring Reform project examines the responses of businesspeople, on the one hand, and leftist activists, on the other, to cases of progressive, civil-society based reform in six places in Latin America, including Zacatecas and Chiapas in Mexico, Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre in Brazil, Buenos Aires, and rural Bolivia. The goal of the project is to examine how two groups

*See RUBIN, page 9*



## FACULTY

**Betty Anderson:** For the first time in years, I'm not traveling to the Middle East this summer to do research. Instead, I am planning to write my book on the history of the American University of Beirut. Except for a short vacation in Rome, I'll be in Boston all summer.

**Andrew Bacevich:** My summer plans include attending the Sydney Writers' Festival in late May and a conference at Bar-Ilan University in Israel in June. I will also be reviewing the page proofs of my book *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*, which will be published in mid-August.

**Clifford Backman:** I will be teaching throughout the summer, coaching our son's baseball team to global dominance, putting up a fence around our back yard (so our boys can finally get their long-promised dog), and trying to finish my biography of the Iberian king, James II. I will also be traveling back to Minneapolis (*Salve, magna parens!*) to help celebrate my mother's 80th birthday.

**Charles Capper:** My plans this summer include *Modern Intellectual History* editorial board meetings in London in early July and after that a presentation of my new collection, *Margaret Fuller: Transatlantic Crossings in a Revolutionary Age*, at the Italian embassy in Dublin.

**Houchang Chehabi:** I will deliver a paper on Iranian-Iraqi relations at Yale in late April and give another paper on "The Importance of Beirut for Iranian Modernity" at Harvard in early May.

After commencement, I plan to fly to Malta, where I will give one or two lectures at the University of Malta. In June I plan to attend the annual conference of the International Qajar Studies Association in Leiden and Amsterdam, where I will deliver a paper on the abolition of titles in Iran in 1925. On June 19 I am scheduled to take part in a forum on Afghan-Iranian relations at the Otto-Friedrich University of Bamberg in Germany and hope to visit some of the minor princely capitals of Thuringia (Weimar, Gotha, etc.) after that. In late July I will return to North America to attend the Seventh Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies in Toronto, where I am scheduled to deliver a paper on the introduction of family names in Iran. I have as of yet made no plans for August, but may go up to Hudson Bay to visit Inuit settlements if I am not completely broke by then, which is not unlikely given the value of our currency.

**Samuel Deese:** This summer I will be teaching US history at Northeastern University. In July, I'll be traveling to the UK to make a research visit to the British Library and to give a paper at Oxford on Julian Huxley and the rise of global environmentalism during the Cold War. I also plan to visit California to see friends and family.

**James McCann:** In May I will travel to Ethiopia to help organize spring planting for farmers who are sowing buffer crops to assess their ability to reduce malaria rates in area of high corn production. I will also lecture at Addis Ababa University on the topic of "The Ethiopian Paradox."

**Eugenio Menegon:** I will spend the summer in East Asia, gathering materials for a new course on the History of Maritime Asia I am developing and also researching possibilities for a new book project. Thanks to a grant from the Ministry of Education of Taiwan, obtained through the sponsorship of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston and the good offices of the Cultural Section's director, Dr. Chang Shan-nan, and his collaborator, Angela Yao, I will be in residence at the Institute of History and Philology of Academia Sinica (the vast central research institution of the Republic of China) for three weeks in May-June, present my research at a workshop, and meet several scholars in research and teaching centers in Taiwan to discuss the recent developments in the fields of maritime and Asia-Pacific history. I will then move on to the "Chinese Las Vegas," Macao, the former Portuguese colony now part of China. Rather than gamble away my time there, however, I am planning to use the library of the Macau Ricci Institute and present my research at the Institute's monthly forum (and maybe have a peek at the old churches and at the Venetian Casino replica under construction on the ocean front). The next stop of my Asia tour will be Xiamen (Amoy), a lovely city in coastal Fujian, focus of my recent research, where I will reconnect with colleagues in Chinese history. After two weeks in Beijing to check out the Olympic sites while in residence at the Beijing Center for Language and Culture, I will finally settle until August at Fudan University in Shanghai, where

BU has recently opened its China office, exploring local libraries and archives, and occasionally cooling off from the steamy weather and the pollution with some outings in the nearby historic rural towns.

**Simon Payaslian:** During the summer I will conduct research in Armenia. I will also give a lecture on the Armenian Genocide on July 31 at the Genocide and Human Rights University Program of the Zoryan Institute, the University of Toronto.

**Bruce Schulman:** Once I close the books on 2007-08, I'll return to my major research project, a volume covering the years 1896-1929 for the Oxford History of the United States. Mostly, I'll be sitting and writing, but I'll also spend a couple of weeks doing research at the Hoover Institution archives in California and the Library of Congress Manuscript Division in Washington.

**Nina Silber:** June looks like it will be a Civil War month for me. In early June I'll be in Gettysburg for the opening of the new museum and visitors' center, a project for which I have served as consultant for the past nine years! Not that I had much to do with discussions about the new cafeteria, or the massive number of restrooms. But I'll be excited to see how a bunch of academic discussions about the Civil War will translate into exhibit cases and museum displays. In mid-June I'll be attending the first meeting of the Society of Civil War Historians in Philadelphia, where I will be speaking on a panel about Civil War veterans. June will also be the month when I review the final page proofs for my manuscript, to be published in the fall by the University of North Carolina, based on the lectures I delivered in the fall of 2005 on gender and the sectional conflict. After June, I look forward to focusing on my new project, still somewhat diffuse and vaguely defined, but which will somehow deal with discussions and memories of US slavery in the mid-twentieth century. In late August I'll be traveling with my family to points west—probably the Grand Canyon, maybe Utah, definitely Berkeley.

**Jonathan Zatlin:** I'll be working on my second book project, sorting out ar-

chival finds and reading neo-Kantian philosophy and sociology. I'll also deliver a eulogy for my friend and mentor, Gerald Feldman, at the University of California at Berkeley.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Ilona Baughman:** I will attend the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Food and Society in New Orleans this June and give a paper entitled "The Tastes of Exile."

**Anne Blaschke:** For most of the summer I will be working at BU, but during two trips home to Santa Barbara in June and August, I will be celebrating my grandparents' 65th anniversary, going wine tasting, and visiting the beach. I'm also going camping at Big Sur with long-time friends from home to celebrate our 30th birthdays.

**Andrew Chatfield:** I'm getting together my summer plans. I've applied to two programs at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., which I would love to take part in.

**Jolanta Komornicka:** For a week at the end of July I will be attending a course at Keele University in Staffordshire, England, on Latin and Paleography.

**François Lalonde:** After the last final exam is graded, I will be going to Abilene, Kansas, for a research trip at the Eisenhower Library. Hopefully the two weeks I'm spending there with the help of a travel grant from the Eisenhower Foundation will be enough for me to get all the material I need. I'm sure Abilene is lovely, but I hope not to have to go twice. Soon after I get back from Kansas, I'll be getting on another plane and fly the other way to Dublin, Ireland, where I'm presenting a paper at University College Dublin on June 7. Then in July I'm teaching the summer course on the history of international relations since 1945 at BU. Following that, I'll hopefully be able to spend some time at the Kennedy Library before I leave for Paris and a year of research in Europe, either in late August or early September.

**Kathryn Lamontagne:** I will be

spending the summer in Balham, London, preparing for my oral exams. I will also be volunteering at Thomas Carlyle's House in Chelsea.

**Sarah Westwood:** First, I would like everyone to know how thrilled I am to be accepted to the PhD program. I will be working this summer, most likely waiting tables in Boston at some yet undetermined location. I will also, hopefully, do some traveling to Montana and to my hometown, Evanston, Illinois, for my 10-year high school reunion. Best of all, I will have plenty of time to read all the books I didn't have time for during the school year which, for some odd reason, are also all history books.

## STAFF

**James Dutton:** This will be a different sort of summer for me. First, around commencement time the renovation of my kitchen will begin, with all the chaos such a project entails. Everyone tells me I will be happy when it is finished, and since I always expect the best in life, that calms all my fears. Then I will fly to Virginia (for perhaps the last time) to assist my sister, who has been working hard cleaning out our mother's house to prepare it for sale. After we finish, she, her husband, and I will drive to Boston, where I will try to be a good tour guide and show them some of my favorite sights.

**Annalisa Amicangelo:** This summer I will be hosting full-time at Legal Sea Foods in Chestnut Hill, hoarding oyster crackers behind the front desk and reminding patrons in high-traffic zones to fold up their walkers. In my free time, I will attempt to convince employers in the communications sector of the relevance of my history degree. In the off chance that this doesn't happen to work, I will pursue my lifelong dream of being interviewed by *Vanity Fair* magazine.

**Danielle Caramico:** This summer I will be interning at Harrison and Shriftman Public Relations in New York City and working in their fashion and special events department for eight weeks. After my internship is complete,

I will return to work at Midlantic Marketing in my home town of Hawthorne, New Jersey. Other summer highlights will include my 21st birthday and spending as much time at the Jersey shore as possible.

**Andrew Naramore:** After successfully completing my double major in history and political science (which should be grouped with the rest of CAS majors to form the “college of unemployable studies”), I will continue my search for a decent paying job. Because I have not heard back from any other federal agency, I will probably end up patrolling the southern border as a Customs and Border Patrol agent. There is also the possibility that I will enlist in the Army. Regardless of where I am in a few months, I know that I will continue to regret not majoring in Mechanical Engineering or Finance. Good luck to the rest of the graduating history majors! I hope that you all did well enough these past four years to get into graduate school. ♦

## Zbysek Brezina defends dissertation on Czech journalist and politician

On April 4 Zbysek Brezina defended his dissertation entitled “The Czechoslovak Democrat: The Life, Writing, and Politics of Hubert Ripka from 1918 to 1945.” The first reader was Professor Anna Geifman, the second was Professor Thomas Glick, and the third was Professor Allison Blakely. Other members of the defense committee were Professors William Keylor and Cathal Nolan. Below we reprint the abstract:

**H**istorical analyses of the political and cultural development of interwar Czechoslovakia (1918-1938) and of the Czechoslovak liberation movement in exile during World War Two (1939-1945) have often underestimated, if not forgotten, the significance of the journalist, scholar, diplomat, statesman, and politician Hubert Ripka (1895-1958). From the mid-1920s onward, Ripka ranked among the most influential Czechoslovak journal-



Zbysek Brezina

ists. He was an active and important supporter of the “Castle,” or the influential political network of first Czechoslovak President Tomas G. Masaryk and Foreign Affairs Minister (and later President) Edvard Benes. As a political emissary of Benes, Ripka was also deeply involved in Czechoslovak domestic and foreign politics. Furthermore, Ripka became one of the most prominent advocates of Benes’s foreign policy regarding the Little Entente, the League of Nations, and the political friendship with France and later with the Soviet Union. During the war, Ripka was among the key Czechoslovak political representatives in exile. His efforts during the war centered on propaganda, intelligence, and mainly on his work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where Ripka participated in formulating the Czechoslovak foreign affairs agenda that had an immense influence on the postwar development in East-Central Europe.

A detailed examination of Ripka’s life and work from 1918 to 1945 provides us with a greater understanding of interwar Czechoslovakia and of the political work of the Czechoslovak community in exile in France and Great Britain. By looking at the life and times of Hubert Ripka—and in particular by looking at Ripka’s writing and political activities—one may better understand the cultural and political ambitions of the Czecho-

slovak intellectual elite which came into existence with the birth of Czechoslovakia.

This thesis is the first English-language study examining the life and personality of Hubert Ripka. The study draws primarily from archival material from the National Archive and the Institute for Contemporary History of the Academy of Sciences both located in Prague, the Czech Republic. It also draws from a wide range of published primary and secondary sources to analyze Ripka’s private and public life.

## Belete Bizuneh completes dissertation on southern Ethiopia

On April 15 Belete Bizuneh defended his dissertation entitled “An Agrarian Polity and Its Pastoral Periphery: State, Society and Pastoralism in the Borana Borderlands (Southern Ethiopia), 1897-1991.” The first reader was Professor James McCann, and the second was Professor Diana Wylie; other members of the defense committee were Professors Louis Ferleger, Jean Hay, and Parker Shipton (of the Anthropology Department). We are pleased to reprint the dissertation abstract:

**T**his dissertation examines the history of Borana sub-province, a peripheral region that straddles the strategic borders of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Since its conquest by the Ethiopian imperial state in the late 19th century, Borana and its Oromo and Somali-speaking pastoral populations had experienced major political, economic and ecological changes. The most important among these include: the creation of an international border that bisected the previously culturally unified populations into different states; the introduction of alien systems of economic and political control; the rise of inter-ethnic violence among the various pastoralists of the region; and two major trans-border insurgencies that involved all three neighboring states in the region.

This dissertation seeks to understand how these major political and economic events and processes trans-





Belete Bizuneh

formed the lives of Borana's pastoralists and in what ways local pastoralists responded to these challenges. The analysis bases itself on hitherto unutilized Ethiopian archival documents, oral interviews, and British and Kenyan documents.

I argue that security consideration was the most important factor that shaped Ethiopia's administrative policy towards Borana and its pastoral inhabitants during the period 1897 to 1991. The Ethiopian state's agrarian orientations also significantly impacted the state's economic and social policies towards Borana. In the pre-1941 period, the Ethiopian state's major concern in the region was to counter the perceived threat the British posed to its political and economic interests in the region. In the post-1941 period, the growth of Somali nationalism among the Somali of Borana posed a serious threat to the Ethiopian state's authority and legitimacy in the region. An exaggerated fear of this threat led the Ethiopian state to react strongly towards all Somali in Borana that led to the outbreak of a major insurgency (1964-1970) in the region. Similar policies under the military government (1974-1991) facilitated the emergence of a second Somali-led insurgency that significantly contributed to the economic and political marginalization of the region. This study has a broader comparative value since it illu-

minates the problematic of nation building in peripheral borderlands in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

## Two students win Graduate Research Abroad Fellowships

In April Brian Casady and Andrea Mosterman learned that they had received fellowships from the Graduate School to support travel abroad for dissertation research. Each will receive a grant of \$10,000, plus the costs of participation in the health insurance program and continuing study fees.

**Brian Casady** is researching a dissertation called "An African City's Metabolism: A History of Nairobi's Energy Supply, 1890-2000," in which he will examine Nairobi's historical use of firewood, electricity, fossil fuels, and charcoal to uncover the official and unofficial stories of the city's growing appetite for energy and the physical and social networks that connected Nairobi's energy consumers to the city's hinterland. His goal is to illuminate the history of the city's ecological footprint by linking urban consumption to rural landscape change in order to clarify how environment, governance, economy, and culture interact to shape a city's relationship with its hinterland.

**Andrea Mosterman** plans a dissertation entitled "Sharing Spaces in a New World Environment: African-Dutch Contributions to North American Culture, 1626-1826." Her intent is to examine the origins and development of African-Dutch cultural practices and traditions in the Hudson Valley region, an area in which Europeans of various ethnic origins were familiar with Dutch culture and used this common denominator to create order and a sense of community. She will argue that cultural exchanges and social interactions between African and Dutch descendants in these communities brought about a unique set of practices and traditions that are particular to this region.

RUBIN (cont. from page 5)

that are conventionally hostile to progressive reform—businesspeople, who often see it as too radical, and leftist activists, who often see it as too limited—have responded over time to practical, non-utopian socioeconomic and cultural innovations that have demonstrably improved people's daily lives.

The social movements consortium ran an international conference at UMass in April ("Social Movements, Civic Participation, and Democratic Innovation") that examined the tensions between activism "within democratic institutions" and "in the streets" in Latin America in recent decades. Professor Rubin is co-editing an edited volume of articles from the conference.

This summer, Professor Rubin will spend a month in Brazil for the Enduring Reform Project. He will study the responses of businesspeople in Porto Alegre to the city's Participatory Budgeting initiative, which began in 1989 and continues today. ♦

One of our alumni submitted another memory of the late Professor Robert Bruce:

When I took my general doctoral oral exam in what was then the Lincoln Room on the top floor of the CLA library, my minor field was early national US history and Robert Bruce was the examiner. When the board finally got around to that field, I was getting a little ragged. Bruce and I ran around the block on the issue of states' rights vs. federal government in the 1840s and '50s for about ten minutes. Somehow, I managed to finish to his satisfaction, but I was sweating as I waited in the corridor for the ax to fall or for congratulations. It turned out to be the latter and there were handshakes all round. Then, as Bruce and I waited in the corridor for the elevator to take us down, he smiled at me and said, "Got kind of stuck in the Clay, didn't you?" That broke the awkwardness I felt and added to my sense of accomplishment at having jumped that hurdle on the way to my career.

Robert Bruce was the kindest person I can remember in all my years in academe.

*John F. Battick, PhD, 1967  
Assoc. Prof. of History Emeritus  
University of Maine*



Carrie Mountain

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## New secretary occupies the department desk

After seven long weeks without a department secretary, Carrie Mountain began working in the office in late March. We are pleased to have her introduce herself to our readers:

I graduated from BU last May with a degree in International Relations, and I am happy to be back at the university. I have experienced BU from quite a few different perspectives. My father is a professor of Biomedical Engineering here, and my mother is the Department Administrator for the Earth Sciences department. My sister is a sophomore in CAS. After graduation, I worked in the Barnes and Noble at BU selling textbooks before joining the History Department as the new secretary. It's nice to see friends around campus and help students and professors that I remember from my classes.

In my spare time I like to watch movies, play computer games, read, and write. My time studying abroad in London reawakened in me a love of traveling, and I hope to be able to save up enough soon to go back to all the incredible places I visited in Europe and to discover some great new destinations as well. In my time as an IR major, I studied environmental issues and sustainable development, issues that are still close to my heart. I hope that while I work here I will be able to continue taking some classes and exploring my interests. At some point I plan to go to graduate school, though I still am not entirely sure what my long-term plans are. Hopefully, my time here in the History Department will help inspire me.

I hope everyone has had a good year, and I would like to thank everyone who is making my first month in the History Department a great one!

## American history search continues

The American political history search of the current academic year resulted in offers to two candidates, both of whom eventually turned down the offer from BU. Therefore in late April the search resumed, with two more finalists coming to campus.

**Sarah Phillips** received her PhD from Boston University and is now an assistant professor at Columbia. She is the author of *This Land, This Nation: Conservation, Rural America, and the New Deal* (Cambridge, 2007).

**Wendy Wall**, who received her PhD from Stanford University, served as assistant professor at Colgate University and is now at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. She authored *Inventing the "American Way": The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement* (Oxford, 2008).

Given the lateness in the academic year, it is probable that the person appointed will not join the faculty until fall 2009.

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At commencement this year the department will bid farewell to two of its most valued student employees, Andrew Naramore and Annalisa Amicangelo. Both history majors, they have spent their entire BU working careers in the department office, where they have suffered through mountains of photocopying and probably acquired tendinitis from stapling untold history class handouts. The department wishes them well in their future endeavors.





Professors William Keylor and Andrew Bacevich participated in a public symposium at Lafayette College on April 21 as part of the college's celebration of the Legacy and Ideals of the Marquis de Lafayette. The title of the symposium was "Freedom, War, and World Peace." The third participant in the symposium was Professor Arnold Offner, former Professor in the History Department of Boston University, now Cornelia F. Hugel Professor at Lafayette College. The three are pictured above (from left, Keylor, Offner, Bacevich) outside the Department of History at the college.



## History major's internship project leads to benefit concert

On April 19 rising BU senior Caroline Smartt organized a concert at the Old South Church in Copley Square for the benefit of the Children of Jimma Project (the photo above shows one of the children).

The performance of Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 3* and John Williams's *Hymn to the Fallen* was by Eric Niessner of the Berklee College of Music and included 43 musicians and choir assembled from Berklee College, Harvard, the New England Conservatory, and the Boston Conservatory. Caroline introduced the occasion and made a presentation about the project she had developed as part of her internship with Professor James McCann's project on malaria. About 300 people attended the event.

Caroline is a history/pre-med major and next year will complete a Work for Distinction thesis on the historical agro-ecology of tropical disease in Africa under the direction of Professor McCann. She has received funding from Boston University's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program to support her travel.



On March 24, a delegation of Boston University students (including some in History) met with ASIABU faculty advisor, Professor Eugenio Menegon, with IR faculty Joseph Fewsmith and William Grimes, and with the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Victor Coelho to discuss the undergraduate international conference of the "Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations," which the students would be attending. The delegates' registration expenses for the conference were covered by a \$2,500 grant from the Student Affairs Office and the new Grants for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarship. On April 5-6, BU faculty in Asian art history (Alice Tseng), public health (Lora Sabin), sociology (Nazli Kibria), international relations (Min Ye), and history (Eugenio Menegon) presented their research in several panels to an eager audience of US and Asian students at the Harvard conference, focusing on the general theme "Cosmopolitan Asia." BU delegates bonded with students from Korea, China, Thailand, and other Asian countries over scholarly discussions and in more convivial moments at local eateries and at the final gala in a swanky hotel in Boston's downtown.

Department of History  
Boston University  
226 Bay State Road  
Boston, MA 02215



## Holder of Armenian chair gives inaugural lecture

**P**rofessor Simon Payaslian gave a number of talks in March and April. As the first incumbent of the Kenosian Chair, he gave his inaugural lecture, titled “Daniel Varoujan, Siamanto, and the Last Generation in Historic Armenia before the Cataclysm,” at the Castle on March 26. The event was co-sponsored by the International History



Institute of BU. Professor William Keylor, Director of IHI, emceed the event, and Professor Charles Dellheim, Chair of the History Department, talked about the significance of the Kenosian Chair and introduced Payaslian. Professor Payaslian thanked the audience for attending the event and said: “I dedicate this lecture to the

memory of Charles Kenosian. I am sad to note that the only time I saw Mr. Kenosian was at a lecture I gave in Watertown about five years ago on the role of intellectuals in the Armenian community and regret that I never had an opportunity to discuss his interests with him. It is a distinct honor to be the holder of the Charles and Elisabeth Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University. It is indeed my great privilege to be a member of the Department of History, and I would like to thank Professor Dellheim and members of the Department for being such great colleagues. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the International History Institute for its generous co-sponsorship of this event. Special thanks to Professor Bill Keylor, the Director of the Institute, and to Professor Cathal Nolan, the Executive Director of the Institute, for their encouragement, advice, and support.”

Payaslian’s talk presented the evolution of Armenian political thought from romanticism in the mid-nineteenth century to radicalism by the early twentieth century and focused on two of the most influential poets in Ottoman or Western Armenia, Daniel

Varoujan (Varoujan Chbukkiarian, 1884-1915) and Siamanto (Atom Yarjanian, 1878-1915). Armenian nationalism in the early part of the nineteenth century appeared in the form of cultural re-awakening, although by the end of that century it had evolved into an ideology of revolutionary struggle in reaction to oppressive Ottoman rule. In the process, Armenian nationalism benefited enormously from the importation of European philosophies of culture, nationalism, and socialism. The most significant intellectual currents witnessed in the transformation from cultural re-awakening to radical revolutionary philosophies were liberalism and westernization, romanticism and “nostalgic nationalism,” political realism and anti-imperialism, socialism, nihilism, and paganism. The evolution witnessed in the works of Daniel Varoujan and Siamanto represented the cumulative effect of these intellectual movements as both poets discarded their earlier romanticism and embraced nihilism and paganism. Both poets were among the Armenian intellectuals and community leaders arrested on April 24, 1915, exiled to the interior in Turkey, and murdered soon thereafter.