

NEWS



of the History Department at Boston University

May 2009

in brief

EVENTS OF NOTE!

Professor Emerita **Merle Goldman** reports: On April 1-3 I participated in a conference on “Rising China” at Principia University in southern Illinois, on the Mississippi River just across from St. Louis. It focused on China’s history and traditions and what they may tell us about what kind of a power China will become in the 21st century. On April 25 I participated in a workshop on “The Media in Chinese Politics,” and May 1-3 I will be presenting a paper at a conference at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard on the “60th Anniversary of the People’s Republic of China” (my paper is on the changing role of the intellectuals in twentieth-century China).

Professor **Simon Payaslian** participated in a panel entitled “Consequences of the Armenian Genocide on History, Literature, and Politics.” His talk covered the Armenian diasporan community in the US and the politics of genocide recognition both here at home and in bilateral relations with Turkey. The event took place at York University, Toronto, on April 23. The colloquium was co-sponsored by a number of Armenian student associations in Ontario and the

Zoryan Institute of Canada.

In mid-April graduate student **Kathryn Brownell** presented a paper at the British Association for American Studies Annual Conference in Nottingham, England: “A New Deal in Entertainment: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Politicization of American Celebrities.”

While on leave this past academic year, Professor **Brooke Blower** finished a draft of her book manuscript on Americans in interwar Paris. She also presented work from this project at several Boston University forums, including the interdisciplinary conference on “American Studies in Global Perspective” in October 2008 and the BU–Cambridge University–Princeton University conference on liberalism in March of this year. She reports that she looks forward to returning to her regular duties in the fall.

In June visiting faculty member **Samuel Deese** will deliver a paper at the conference of the World History Association in Salem on “From Chipko to Wangari Maathai: Ecology and Modernity in the Postcolonial World.”

On March 19 Professor **Charles Capper** gave a book talk on his *Mar-*

garet Fuller: An American Romantic Life at the Concord Free Public Library. The large audience included descendants of some of the principal figures in his book as well as enthusiastic keepers of the Concord Transcendentalist flame.

Graduate student **Jolanta Komornicka** will give a paper at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo (May 7-10) entitled “King in Woman’s Clothing.” She has also had her undergraduate thesis published by VDM Publishing: “Shadowing the Other.”

Graduate student **Scott Marr** presented a paper on April 18 at the New England Historical Association’s spring conference, held at the University of Southern Maine. The title of the paper was “Religions and Community: Catholic-Huguenot Coexistence and Christian Morality in the Thought of Moise Amyraut.”

On April 19 in Nottingham, England, graduate student **François Lalonde** delivered a paper titled “Re-establishing the Transatlantic Diplomatic Dialogue: The Eisenhower Administration and the Atlantic Community, 1957-1960” at the British Association for American Studies annual conference.

Professor **Eugenio Menegon** presented his recent research on European experts at the Manchu imperial hunts at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Chicago on March 28, in a panel entitled “Missionaries at Leisure, or Not? Courtly and Transnational Networks at the Qing Court.” On April 3, as

part of the inaugural conference “The Idea of Asia” organized by the new BU Center for the Study of Asia, he commented as discussant on papers by BU colleagues in Archaeology (Robert Murowchick), Ethnomusicology (Brita Heimarck), Religion (David Eckel), and History (Suzanne O’Brien), in a panel on “Cultural Transmission and the Boundaries of ‘Asia,’” covering the topics of archaeology and politics in China and Vietnam, the diffusion of Indian music into Indonesia in medieval times, the sacred landscapes of Buddhist Asia, and the conceptions of “Asia” among Meiji Japanese intellectuals. On April 18-19 he co-chaired a workshop at the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History, University of San Francisco, reviewing with a panel of five international scholars a forthcoming manuscript on the history of the Chinese Rites Controversy, a politico-theological battle between the Chinese emperor and the Catholic Church in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Professor **Houchang Chehabi** attended a conference on “Beauty in the Worlds of Islam” at the University of Texas at Austin and presented a paper on “Persianate Elements in the Traditional Athletic Cultures of West and South Asia” on April 4.

The paperback edition of Professor **Andrew Bacevich**’s book *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism* appeared in April. He also contributed an “Afterword” to the fiftieth anniversary edition of *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* by William Appleman Williams, also recently published.

On April 16 graduate student **Robyn Metcalfe** headed to Michigan State University to present a paper on “Necessary Cruelty? Meanings of Animal Welfare in the 19th Century Landscape.”

Professor **Nina Silber** will be lecturing on her recent book, *Gender and the Sectional Conflict*, at Western Connecticut State University on May 4 (and hence committing the unpardonable sin of missing the Bacon lecture and department dinner). She also

spoke about her book when she was the featured guest on an Internet-based “Civil War Talk Radio” show in April.

On April 3 Professor **Jon Roberts** presented a lecture on “Social Darwinism and Religion in America” at the Boston University School of Theology and the Boston Theological Institute’s Darwin Anniversary Conference on “The Science and Politics of Improving the Human Species: The Disastrous History of Social Darwinism and Eugenics.” On April 14 he served as a commentator on Dan McKanan’s “Twin Heirs of the Social Gospel: The Socialist Party and the Federal Council of Churches” at the North American Religion Colloquium at Harvard. On April 24 he lectured on “Darwin’s Challenge to Religion” at a symposium on “Darwin’s Impact in the United States” at the Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science.

Professor **William Keylor** presented a paper at an international conference in Beijing on April 16-18 (see article on page 4 of this issue). He also gave talks at the Beijing University (Beida) and the Chinese People’s University (Renda) on United States relations with Europe. On May 13-15 he will chair a session and present a paper at a conference on the French right-wing intellectual movement “Action Française” in Metz, France. ◆

A preliminary look at 2009 graduate admissions

As of mid-April the Graduate Studies Committee had completed the consideration of all 193 applications to the graduate program. The number is down by about 20 from the record number of the previous year. Of those applying for September 2009, approximately 100 were in the American field, 45 in the European, and 20 in the African, with the remainder in various other fields.

The committee admitted 78 students (40 percent of applicants, slightly higher than in most recent years), and to date, ten applicants have said they intend to enroll in September (four are MA students, six are PhD). Full fellowships have been awarded to three of the incoming students.



Professor Allison Blakely made a presentation on “Black Civic Participation in Europe: Past and Present” at the “Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion” meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels on April 16. He was part of a delegation from the US Congressional Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, led by Congressman Alcee Hastings. The delegation spent the next day in Paris in related meetings highlighted by a session (see photo above—Prof. Blakely is the fourth from the left) with State Minister for Human Rights Rama Yade.



Summer Reading

With summer in view as this newsletter goes to print, we asked department personnel for some suggestions for reading during the more leisurely months. Here they are:

From Professor **Simon Payaslian**:

John Beverley, *Subalternity and Representation: Arguments in Cultural Theory* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999)

Paula Chakravartty and Yuezhi Zhao, eds., *Global Communications: Toward a Transcultural Political Economy* (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008)

Iain Chambers, *Migrancy, Culture, Identity* (London: Routledge, 1994)

Alfred B. Evans, Jr., Laura A. Henry, and Lisa McIntosh Sundstrom, eds., *Russian Civil Society: A Critical Assessment* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2006)

Richard Howson and Kylie Smith, eds., *Hegemony: Studies in Consensus and Coercion* (New York: Routledge, 2008)

Stephen Morton and Gayatri Spivak, *Ethics, Subalternity and the Critique of Postcolonial Reason* (Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2007)

Richard Stites, *Serfdom, Society, and the Arts in Imperial Russia: The Pleasure and the Power* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005)

Elise Kimerling Wirtschafter, *Russia's Age of Serfdom, 1649-1861* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008)

From Professor **Samuel Deese**:

For summer reading, I will limit myself to books by guys named Larry: First, Larry Gonick's *Cartoon History of the Universe* (whatever volumes I can get my hands on at The Million Year Picnic in Cambridge); and, second, Larry Anderson's wonderful biography of the conservationist Benton MacKaye, entitled *Benton MacKaye: Conservationist, Planner, and Creator of the Appalachian Trail* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002).

From Professor **James McCann**:

I recommend a return to yesteryear with a revisiting of Hemingway, Steinbeck, and other scenes of rural life in various parts of the world. Steinbeck's *In Dubious Battle* is a remarkable view of past and current events in rural labor history. Think GM and Walmart.

From Professor **Eugenio Menegon**:

Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006). This path-breaking book by eminent South Asia historian Sugata Bose (Department of History, Harvard) attempts to bridge the current gulf in historical knowledge between pre-colonial and colonial empires, by focusing on the Indian Ocean as a region connecting east Africa to southeast Asia in the 19th and 20th centuries. Written in an enticing and accessible style, and programmatic in its ambition and scope, this monograph distills years of reflection on the topic and can be profitably read by graduate and undergraduate students alike, and anybody interested in understanding the modern world and early globalization from a new perspective.

From Professor **Nina Silber**:

For anyone interested in a book that provides a kind of one-stop shopping experience for the latest scholarship on Abraham Lincoln, a field even more overcrowded with books during this bicentennial year, I suggest the book *Our Lincoln*, a collection of recent essays—by scholars like Sean Wilentz, James Oakes, and David Blight—edited by Eric Foner.

From Professor **James Johnson**:

Marilynne Robinson, *Home*

James Whitman, *The Origins of Reasonable Doubt: Theological Roots of the Criminal Trial*

Karol Berger, *Bach's Cycle, Mozart's Arrow: An Essay on the Origins of Musical Modernity*

Andrew Bacevich, *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*

Jed Perle, *Antoine's Alphabet*

From Professor **Jon Roberts**:

Charles L. Cohen and Paul S. Boyer, eds., *Religion and the Culture of Print in Modern America*

Barry Werth, *Banquet at Delmonico's: Great Minds, the Gilded Age, and the Triumph of Evolution in America*

Heather D. Curtis, *Faith in the Great Physician: Suffering and Divine Healing in American Culture, 1860-1900*

Allan M. Brandt, *The Cigarette Century: The Rise, Fall, and Deadly Persistence of the Product that Defined America*

Constance Areson Clark, *God—or Gorilla: Images of Evolution in the Jazz Age*

Bernard Lightman, *Victorian Popularizers of Science: Designing Nature for New Audiences*

Ronald L. Numbers, ed., *Galileo Goes to Jail and Other Myths about Science and Religion*

D. Graham Burnett, *Trying Leviathan: The Nineteenth-Century New York Court Case That Put the Whale on Trial and Challenged the Order of Nature*

Fred Nadis, *Wonder Shows: Performing Science, Magic, and Religion in America*

From graduate student **Scott Marr**:

As time allows, I want to read another volume or two in the "Fortune de France" series by Robert Merle. François Lalonde told me about this series a couple of years back, and I bought the first volume during my last trip to France and got hooked. The books (there are 13 in the series) recount the adventures of a Protestant minor nobleman during the Wars of Religion. He witnesses first-hand many of the key events—the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre in Paris, the assassination of the duke of Guise—and meets many of the key personalities—he plays tennis with Charles IX, goes on espionage missions for Henri IV, discusses philosophy with Michel de Montaigne—of sixteenth-century France.

From graduate student **Sarah Westwood**:

Jeanette Winterson, *Written on the Body*, 1992. This is a beautifully written novel about the power of love to both heal and destroy, expressed through the lenses of desire and disease.

Anna Tsing, *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*, 2004. Anthropologist Anna Tsing establishes a nuanced framework for understanding global interactions based on the concept of friction as opposed to culture clash or conflict-based theory. Focusing on the environmentalist movement in Indonesia, Tsing studies how local actors use the language of what she terms "universals" (abstract concepts like rights, freedom, environment, etc.) to ex-

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A Boston Yankee in the Empress Dowager's Court

BY WILLIAM R. KEYLOR
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

While strolling through the grounds of Beijing's "Forbidden City" (the old imperial compound from which the heads of the Ming and Xing dynasties ruled China for centuries), I asked my graduate student guide if any of its lavish imperial treasures had been destroyed or damaged during the Cultural Revolution that engulfed the People's Republic in the late 1960s. "No," he replied. "Prime Minister Zhou en-Lai ordered the police and the army to protect our national heritage from the red guards."

This exchange transpired last month during my first visit to China. It highlighted one of the fascinating features of life in that country that is probably well known to Sinologists but came as a surprise to an untutored visitor: For all the Chinese preoccupation with economic modernization and technological innovation, as evidenced by the soaring skyscrapers, sprawling shopping malls, ubiquitous cell phones, and bumper-to-bumper traffic of its capital city, the government seems intent on preserving the relics of its long and eventful history. The urban renewal campaign that bulldozed historic buildings during China's economic "takeoff" in the last decade of the twentieth century and the early years of our own has apparently been slowed down. The government has expressed the intention to protect the remaining historic sites from the developers and their wrecking cranes. After long treating the history of China before 1949 as a sordid tale of exploitation by feudal monarchs, brutal warlords, and rapacious

foreign powers, modern Chinese seem interested in preserving the memory of their past.

An equally strong interest in the country's more recent history was evident in the international conference that brought me to Beijing.

Titled "Cooperative Security in East and Southeast Asia: Learning from History to Meet Future Challenges," this gathering was co-sponsored by the Parallel History Project (an international network based in Zurich and headed by Vojtech Mastny, former professor of history and international relations at Boston University) and the China Foreign Affairs University (which trains the country's future diplomats). The participants—all historians or political scientists—included three Americans, a contingent of Europeans, one Canadian, and a dozen scholars from the leading Chinese universities.

The objective of the undertaking was to evaluate the historical experience of attempts at regional security in other parts of the world during and after the Cold War in order to elicit lessons for the future of regional security in East and Southeast Asia. Our Chinese counterparts eagerly absorbed the lessons from the historical experience of security systems in the West, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European Union (with its Common Defense and Security Policy).

We westerners were interested in learning the Chinese perspective on Asia's difficult experience during the Cold War and on the recent trends toward peace and security in the region. There were wide-ranging, candid exchanges about the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Nixon's historic trip to China in 1972.

But for all this spirited give-and-take, both at the conference table and at meals, receptions, and chats in the halls, our Chinese hosts revealed an acute reticence about addressing certain controversial issues of the past. Discreet queries from westerners about the Great Leap Forward (when

Mao's economic policies caused a famine that killed at least fourteen million people), the Tiananmen "incident" as it is called in China, and other such topics did not elicit meaningful responses. The dark side of a country's history is always difficult to acknowledge and address, as we know from the Turkish attitude toward the Armenian genocide and the Japanese attitude toward the Nanjing Massacre. The Chinese people, at least the ones whom I met last month, are no exception.

Natalie Mettler wins research fellowship

The Boston University Graduate School has awarded Natalie Mettler a Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship for 2009-10. She will head for the African nation of Mali and to France and Britain as well.

About her project, titled "The Kitchen Is Older Than the Mosque: Cooking and Plants in Bamanan Landscapes of Knowledge," she says: "I will use food and cooking—in particular sauces, condiments, and iconic ingredients—as a lens through which to reconstitute Bamanan vernacular environmental knowledge. It is the condiments and sauces, and not the starch centers of meals, that dominate studies of African nutrition, that perpetuate ethnic identity and geographical specificity through taste and smell."

Why Mali? "The Bamanan of Mali inhabit a region with an exceptionally long agricultural history and a landscape recounted in a rich body of oral traditions, which is therefore an ideal site for which to reconstruct a landscape of meaning and knowledge in an African context."

Continuing on to Europe, Natalie will examine the paper trail on agricultural and forestry policies and practices in the African area she is studying, food-related trade and taxation, and surveys of indigenous diets by geopolitical region.

Scholar rebuts myths about Charles Darwin

On April 3 John van Wyhe, Bye Fellow at Christ's College, Cambridge, and director of the Darwin-on-Line project headquartered at Cambridge, addressed a packed classroom on "Charles Darwin: The True Story," a broadside attack on myths about Darwin that have grown up comparatively recently, in the mid-twentieth century, and for which evidence is lacking.

Among the myths exploded were:

- that Darwin's mother's death left him emotionally scarred (no evidence)
- that he studied *theology* at Cambridge (he studied for an ordinary BA degree)
- that he sailed on the *Beagle* as an "unpaid naturalist," intimating that he had no fixed status (he was appointed officially by the Admiralty)
- that what he saw on the Galapagos gave him the key to evolution (he hadn't realized the finches were of different species until he returned to England, and there was other contributing evidence as well)
- that the dream he reported of a man being hanged revealed his fear of punishment for his ideas (recent biographers have overdetermined the meaning; Darwin himself describes the dream as "witty," that is, jocular)
- that only a few insiders knew Darwin was working on evolution (Darwin himself says that he had spoken with "very many naturalists" on evolution)
- that he converted on his deathbed (no evidence; also no evidence he was an atheist, as is frequently claimed)

The most controversial target of van Wyhe's mythbusting campaign, and the one that has attracted the fire of Darwin biographers, has to do with the alleged twenty-year gap, or delay, from



John van Wyhe and Thomas Glick

the time he got the idea for natural selection in 1839 to the publication of *Origin of Species* in 1859. The "delay" has been interpreted as indicative, again, of Darwin's supposed fear of punishment were his "secret" to be found out. Van Wyhe's argument is that neither Darwin nor any of his contemporaries ever referred to a "delay"; that Darwin had lined up or contracted for various books and could not have gotten around to *Origin* until the others had been completed, in order. In his autobiography Darwin says "I gained much by my delay"—where delay could mean either conscious postponement or simply years allowed to lapse. He also told people that he worked with extreme care and attention to detail, and was always slow to publish.

Professor Thomas Glick and Jon Roberts, two department faculty involved in the study of Darwin's place in the history of science, squared off on this issue in the Q&A following the talk, the former seconding the speaker, the latter defending the received view. The lecture was sponsored by the Boston University Charles Darwin Bicentennial Committee.

GRADUATE STUDENT MILESTONES

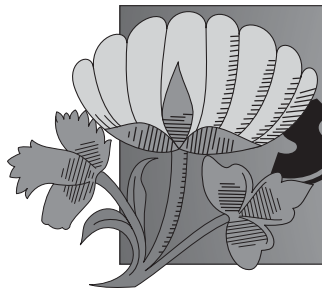
These students had research papers approved for the degree:

Darcy Pratt Jacobsen, "The Bastard in Medieval English Society and Law: 1066-1300"

Christopher Seely, "Away from Consensus: Reagan's Battle Against Sandinistas, Congress, and Public Opinion"

Sarah Westwood, "Controlled Violence: Tactics and Organization in Sierra Leone's 1898"

Seth Blumenthal's dissertation prospectus was approved: "Bridging the Gap: Richard Nixon's Culture War and the First Youth Vote, 1972." The first reader will be Professor Bruce Schulman, and the second will be Professor Brooke Blower.



SUMMER PLANS

FACULTY

Betty Anderson: At the beginning of the summer, I plan to spend three weeks in the Middle East. For the first time in many years, I won't be doing any research; I'm going for vacation. In Jordan, I will be spending time with friends, relaxing and lounging by the Dead Sea; in Syria, I plan to visit a couple of my students, one of whom is working with a German NGO rebuilding the Old City of Damascus; and in Beirut, I'm meeting with the first class of BU students participating in an exchange program with the American University of Beirut. I then have to come back and finish my book, hopefully inspired by my vacation.

Houchang Chehabi: My summer plans include presenting papers at academic conferences in Lund, Marburg, and Yerevan.

Barbara Diefendorf: I will deliver an invited lecture entitled "Rites of Repair: Restoring Community in the French Wars of Religion" at University College Dublin on April 30. I will then lead a graduate/post-graduate seminar on recent research on the Catholic Reformation on May 1 before proceeding on to Paris, where I will spend the month of May as the Alphonse Dupront Visiting Professor at the University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV). Whether I will actually deliver the lectures I have spent the semester preparing is at this point uncertain—the university has been on strike for two months now—but I am planning to go anyway so as to complete some research. I return to Boston on May 31 and, except for a week in Santa Fe, will spend the summer at home in Maine.

Anna Geifman: In the summer I will be in Israel, hopefully finishing my

next book on terrorism. This one combines all my previous research on Russia, but at the same time takes me far away from it—establishing connections between violence in the tsarist empire a hundred years ago to terrorist practices that takes place in the Middle East (and elsewhere) today. The experience will be...well, quite real, because, while living in Jerusalem, I will be spending part of the time in Sderot, a southern Israeli town that for the past nine years has been especially hard-hit by constant terrorist operations. As a specialist in psycho-history, I can assure everyone that my summer activities are not a form of masochism: I also have extensive plans for traveling, learning Hebrew, and other—more conventional—enjoyment.

Thomas Glick: On May 6 I will lecture to Boston University alumni in London on the subject "Darwin's Bostonian Friends and the Early Reception of Darwinism." The following two days I will attend a meeting at the Thomas More Center in London on Catholic evolutionism, where I will contribute a paper on "The Darwinian Current in Teilhard de Chardin's Approach to Paleontology and Evolutionary Theory." Upon my return I will teach a course on "The Darwinian Revolution" at Harvard Summer School. At the International History of Science Congress in Budapest (July 28-August 1) I have organized a symposium on "The Reception of Darwinism at the Subnational Level: Cities," at which I will read a paper on Darwinism in nineteenth-century Boston.

James Johnson: My summer plans include delivering a paper at the University of Oslo, "Ritual Killing and Civic Identity in Early Modern Venice," and participating in a small con-

ference at St. Anne's College, Oxford, on the eighteenth-century French artist Charles Germain de Saint-Aubin. I will spend time in Paris looking for the judicial archives of an impostor I am currently writing about. He escaped prison during the French Revolution, traveled to Spain where he assumed the identity of a French émigré nobleman, fought first against and then with the French Napoleonic armies, earned officer status, was unmasked while serving as commander of King Louis XVIII's army garrison, and died in prison still insisting that he was an aristocrat.

James McCann: I will have a peripatetic summer. In late May and June I will be in residence at the University of Padova as part of the BU-Padova Faculty Exchange. *Che bella cosa!* I will work on the history of malaria in the region and continue writing my book on "Landscape of Prosperity, Landscape of Disease" that traces changes in a rural landscape over a 200-year period. At the tail end of that visit I will conduct research in Edinburgh and Geneva on the history of disease and human response. In July and August I will travel into the teeth of the rainy season in highland Ethiopia to lead a Rockefeller workshop on malaria and landscape change. In the downtime during these travels I will review page proofs from my new book, *Stirring the Pot: Cuisine and Global Change in Africa, 1500-2000*, scheduled for the fall 2009. On my way to Ethiopia in July I have been invited to the University of Sussex as a Senior Resource Commentator for a planning workshop on the past and future of seeds in Africa. The meeting will take place on the Brighton seafront with a view of the Seven Sisters, fried rock cod, and Knickerbocker Glories.

Eugenio Menegon: I will travel to

my native Italy in late May to attend two conferences. The first, organized by the Network of Italian Scholars Abroad and the Istituto di Scienze Umane on the theme “The Future of Democracy,” will be held in picturesque Castel dell’Ovo on the Bay of Naples, May 20-24, with presentations by Italian professors from institutions in the USA, Canada, and Europe. After lecturing at the University of Rome “La Sapienza” in the seminar on the “History of Orientalism in Rome,” I will proceed to Venice, and will sleep, for the first time in my life, in the city where I went to college in the late 1980s (back then, I commuted every time by train from my town on the mainland)! The “Giorgio Cini” Foundation, located in a splendid former Benedictine monastery on San Giorgio Island, opposite St. Mark Square, will host an international symposium on “China and the West Today: Lessons from Matteo Ricci” on May 27-30. I will deliver a paper on the tradition of *memento mori* and the art of dying imported by missionaries to China in the seventeenth century and contextualize it within the Chinese traditions of Buddhism, Daoism and Neo-Confucianism. After a few days of rest in my native Castel-franco Veneto, the town of Renaissance painter Giorgione, I will fly to Beijing, where I will spend the month of June as a BU exchange scholar at the Institute of History of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, collecting materials for my project on the Qing court and giving a talk at the Institute’s Qing seminar. July and August will be spent enjoying the Boston summer and completing the final copy-editing for my forthcoming book, *Ancestors, Virgins and Friars* (Harvard Asia Center and Harvard University Press).

Cathal Nolan: I will travel to the Normandy beaches and Falaise, and to Verdun, Agincourt, and other nearby sites on a “Battlefields” fellowship from the Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation. After finishing Summer Term I teaching, I will start work on my next book, “The Allure of Battle: Delusions of Victory, 1700-1945,” which is under contract with Oxford University Press.

Simon Payaslian: I will be offering a

summer course on the Armenian Genocide for Summer Term II. In addition, I plan on writing chapters for my next two books. The first surveys the history of human rights as experienced by Armenians in the Ottoman, Persian, and Russian empires and the current situation in the post-Soviet republic of Armenia. The second book examines the evolution of the Armenian diasporan community in the United States and its efforts to influence American foreign policy. Also, Arpi and I hope to set aside some free time to visit Washington, DC, Bar Harbor in Maine, Montreal, and Quebec City.

Nina Silber: I will spend most of my summer working on my new research project on “The Civil War in American Life, 1929-1941”—probably reading some Carl Sandburg, Margaret Mitchell, and other lesser-known authors who helped shape the landscape of Civil War memory in the 1930s. In June I’ll make a quick trip to Berkeley (mainly to see family) and a slightly longer trip to a remote corner of Maine in August.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

David Atkinson: I’m going to go out on a limb and declare my intention to finish my dissertation this summer. It’s an off-year for major international soccer tournaments, after all, and the lure of the fall job market is so enticing. Please feel free to publicly berate me on Bay State Road in September if it turns out that I didn’t accomplish this goal.

Andrew Black: Until I complete my dissertation, I won’t be visiting any exotic locations. No archive time in the Langue d’Oc, no interviews with campesinos in Chiapas. Unless, of course, you include the streets of Baltimore in the 1830s and 40s. There, I will be strolling with my friend John Pendleton Kennedy (the subject of my dissertation), having our craniums felt up in a newly opened phrenology shop (all the rage now) and standing in line to see Chang and Eng Bunker, on tour as the “Siamese Twins” (Barnum’s newest media offering). During July of 1840, John and I will sing Whig campaign songs (the tune of “Old Tip” is really

quite catchy) as we watch a big cowhide ball, almost fifteen feet in diameter, being rolled into town all the way from Cleveland, by supporters of the new party (John and I are quite optimistic about the election!). I plan a return to the present sometime in November, 2009.

Beth Forrest: I will present the paper “Drunk of Desire: Reform Movements in Spain, 1750-1850” at the annual Association for the Study of Food and Society, held this year at Penn State University, May 29-31. This summer, I will be finding my roots (Get it? Last name is Forrest) traveling to Poland. I am particularly excited to visit the Wieliczka salt mines and eat pierogi for ten days straight.

Katherine Jewell: This summer I plan to welcome an addition to my family—my husband (Conor Hansen) and I are expecting the arrival of Leo Prichard Hansen on the appropriately-history-themed due date of June 6. I am hoping Leo has good editing skills, as my plans also include continuing my dissertation on the Southern States Industrial Council.

Jolanta Komornicka: I will be going to Paris for three months this summer to conduct my dissertation research in the archives.

Kathryn Lamontagne: I will be giving a paper at the “Spaces and Places” Conference at the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London in June. My topic is Kilmainham Gaol and Museum in Dublin. I will remain in London for the summer, completing research and preparing for oral exams.

Robyn Metcalfe: My summer plans? Write, write, write my dissertation, and take a breather (!) in early September to run the Transalpine Race (http://www.transalpine-run.com/alps_cross_start.htm), retracing Hannibal’s steps as he brought his elephants across the Alps.

Scott Marr: I will be in Boston for most of the summer, working diligently on my dissertation. I have two trips planned, one to Missouri in June to visit my sister and her family (she is having her third baby) and one to California in August for Anne [Blaschke]’s

birthday.

Sarah Westwood: This summer I will begin a part-time position in research and writing at Harvard Business School's Baker Library. I will be working with the Department of Historical Collections on a variety of upcoming exhibits. I will be traveling twice to my hometown, Evanston, Illinois, to see my sister graduate from university and attend a friend's wedding. Also, I am hoping to improve my extremely limited Wolof language skills in preparation for a directed study on Ajami script in the fall. I will hopefully do most of this studying, and my summer reading, at the free outdoor pool in my neighborhood. I'll be the one with all the books on African colonial armies.

STAFF

James Dutton: After heading to Virginia for a brief visit in late May to help oversee the auction of items from my parents' home and to prepare the house for future sale, I will—unless something exciting comes along—be in Boston for the summer. I have a major project in mind for the office that will consume many hours: devising an internal degree audit for the history major. As some students have discovered, the University's degree audit does not always assign a student's courses correctly to the categories of the revised

history major. For instance, if a student has taken HI 101 and 102 (the two halves of Western Civ), the audit may assign HI 101 to the European category (the course also carries premodern credit); when it considers HI 102, it "sees" that the European category is satisfied, and so HI 102 may go into the "Extra Courses" section, with a warning that the student still needs a premodern class. Instead, HI 101 could be placed in the premodern slot, with HI 102 in the European. As I have worked on a computer program that can solve this problem, I have come to appreciate how complex an audit really is. And every time I thought I had a program that worked and then tested it on an actual student record, I found more complications. But as of late April, I believe an audit for the general history major (Option A) is working properly. So the summer will be spent doing the same for the other seven tracks of the major, then—with Carrie Mountain's help—testing and debugging the programs. The goal is not to replace the University audit (which works very well with the basic requirements of the BA degree) but to have the capability of producing a printout that will, in simple language, inform advisors and students what remains to be completed in the major. We hope this will help solve the problem of having seniors arrive at graduation with requirements unfulfilled.

Carrie Mountain: I will spend my summer working in the department. I hope to find a course or two to take, if I can find something that fits with my schedule. My friends and I will hopefully spend our weekends doing all the warm-weather things we dreamed about all winter long: trips to the beach, picnics in the park, camping in Maine. I'd really love to find a way to travel in Europe for a bit this summer, but we'll see how things go. (Donations to the "Send Carrie to Europe Fund" are always welcome.)

Jennifer Covino: I will be moving into a new apartment with two friends this summer and I hope we will have a barbecue or two or ten. I'd also like to finish a long and treacherous journey before me: alphabetically organizing Professor Anderson's collection of arti-

cles. I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing vacation!

Grace Hoffman: I plan on spending most of the summer in my hometown, New York City. I am returning to my old high school job as a cashier and waitress at Tossed, a made-to-order salad bar in the city. In June I'll have a nice break from work—I plan to road trip with a few friends to the Bonnaroo music festival in Tennessee, where some great bands are playing. Then it's back to Boston in August to move into my first apartment!

Kimera Nielsen: This summer I will be working at the Caldwell Municipal Pool in Caldwell, Idaho. Thus I will spend my days roasting in the sun trying to convince countless children not to run on the pool deck. With the remainder of my time I will be trying to get ahead on studies by taking an 8-week calculus course and otherwise just spending my time in the Idaho sunshine.

Maria Wallace: This summer I plan on returning home to Pittsburgh. I will be working with a program that provides support for inner city kids and waitressing on the side to save up money to backpack through Europe next summer. I also plan on taking a trip to the Muskoka Lakes in Ontario to fish with my family. ♦

NEWS

of the History Department at Boston University

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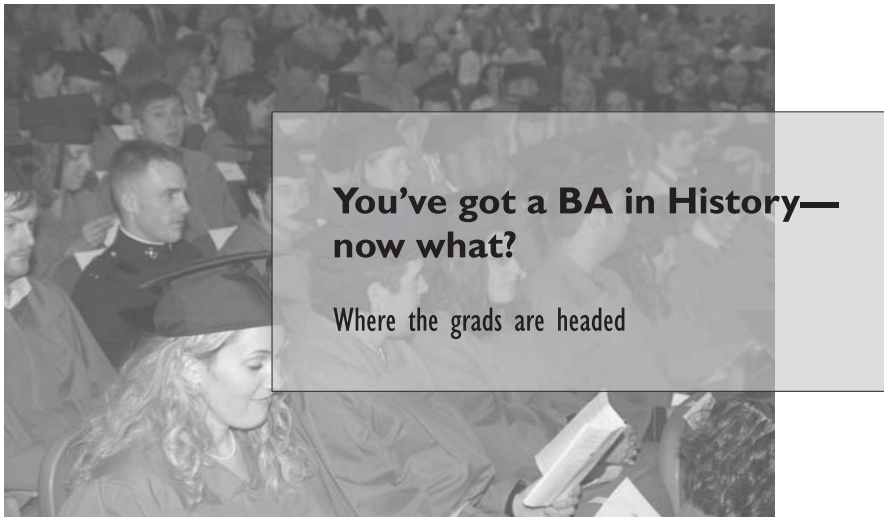
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Items of interest for publication and changes of address should be sent to the editor.



Graduate student Darcy Pratt Jacobsen gave birth to her daughter on April 17. Her name is Eleanor Pauline Marie Jacobsen, but the parents plan to call her Nell (a good medieval name, of course).



You've got a BA in History— now what?

Where the grads are headed

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.

Rose Anderson: After a summer spent uprooting my life once more, I will begin pursuing my JD at George Mason Law School in Arlington, Virginia, this fall.

Chris Bacarella: I will be navigating the labyrinthine political hierarchy known as Hollywood, trying to work my way into television writing. I'll make sure to allude to Soviet agricultural policy and puritan dating habits as much as my police/lawyer/medical procedural will allow.

Alex Berman: After graduation I intend to spend a few weeks backpacking in Utah and California. As for the fall, I've decided to enroll at Simmons College pursuing a double master's in Archives Management and History.

Emily Berman: I will be joining Teach For America as a corps member. I will be teaching elementary school in the Greater Boston area for the next two years. My long-term plans are to stay in education and pursue school/district leadership.

Javier Bermudez: I am going abroad this fall to teach English in France for about nine months. After that I am not sure what I will do, but I am looking into either doing Peace Corps, or going into IR grad school.

Christine Bertoglio: I will be doing a master's program in Medieval Studies at the University of York in England.

Matt Brothers: Aside from graduating with a degree in history, I will also be certified in secondary social studies education after student teaching this semester. I am currently looking for high school teaching positions, and I hope to be in the classroom in September. Over the summer, I will be relaxing and catching up on the many hours of sleep I missed while student teaching. I am taking a trip to Aruba with my girlfriend in July, and I may go on a road trip with my friends to make myself believe I'm still a college kid. Other than that, I will be working and enjoying baseball and the beach. I will also spend some of my free time over the summer preparing for what I hope is my first year of teaching starting in September.

Lauren Bruaski: After graduation, I plan on staying in Boston working through the summer. After that I plan on spending a few months backpacking in Europe, then starting the process of grad school.

Elizabeth Buckley: Soon after graduation I will be taking a paralegal course and then spending the next year or two working as a paralegal here in Boston. In the meantime I will be preparing for the LSATs and then later applying to law schools.

Sarah Dimock: I am a BUCOP student from SED, so in May I'll be graduating with a BA in History and a BS in Elementary Education. I am currently applying

for teaching jobs in hopes that I will have my own classroom (between grades 1 and 6)!

Alexandra Drolette: I plan to pursue a Master's in Education and to one day be a high school history teacher.

Ian Eder: Following graduation I will be a US Army 2nd lieutenant. I will be going to training schools at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, and Ft. Knox, Georgia, and eventually taking charge of a Cavalry Platoon of the 3rd Infantry Division (in Audie Murphy's Brigade) at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Robert Elliott: After a two-week eurotrip and a summer off, I will be attending Brooklyn Law School, with a focus in Intellectual Property Law.

Joe Gels: I plan on teaching high school history in the Boston area.

Alex Gontar: My plans at the moment are very tentative, but I have been considering going into public policy.

Emily Grimes: I will be commissioning in May as a 2nd lieutenant in the Army. I received an educational delay to attend Hofstra Law School and will enter the Army JAG corps after graduating from law school.

Allison Hartnett: As the recipient of a Critical Language Scholarship from the State Department, I will be continuing my study of Arabic in Amman, Jordan, over the summer. After that I will be applying to graduate schools.

Stephen Henrick: I will be attending Harvard Law School this coming fall.

Devin Kelly: After graduation, I will be commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps aboard the historic USS *Constitution* in Boston Harbor at 1700, 17 May. Following graduation, I will report to The Basic School, Quantico, Virginia, for training as a provisional rifle platoon commander. After completion of this school, I have orders to attend Flight School at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and will begin training as a naval aviator. In the future, I plan to pilot helicopters for the Marine Corps, specifically the UH-1 Huey helicopter.

Rebecca Levant: After graduation, I have plans to join the Peace Corps. At this time I do not know where I am go-

ing, but I will probably be training teachers as well as teaching English.

Evan Lowry: My plans are tentative for the next two years. Currently I'm in the process of applying to work for Americorps, either in Teach for America or Peace Corps. Apparently the application process is more competitive than in previous years, but I'm confident I'll have a fair shot at being accepted. After that I will be applying for graduate programs in European history.

Reesa Miles: I plan to attend Columbia Teachers College for my master's in Education Policy.

Nicole Norton: After graduation, I am working as a Project Manager for C. Spirito in Weymouth. As far as further education, hopefully I will be accepted into the Master's Program in Management with a concentration in Project Management with Boston University's Metropolitan College. I will also continue to volunteer as a mentor with the Boston Mayor's Youth Council and referee high school basketball as a certified IAABO official.

Shelby Patton: I have been accepted in the JET (Japanese Exchange and Teaching) Program and will be moving to Japan on August 1st. This program is one year long (with the option of renewing for five years) and will place me in a Japanese junior high or high school where I will be an English teacher. The program typically places people in semi-rural or rural areas, so I am looking forward to living in a small Japanese town and practicing my Japanese. After this program, I would like to go to graduate school and continue studying Japanese history.

Rachel Pomeroy: I'll be graduating with a degree in history and minor in biology. I will be moving to Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Virginia, in August and attending Eastern Virginia Medical School's Physician Assistant master's program.

Kyle Pronko: I plan to work as an EMT and learn Russian for a year or two to strengthen my résumé for either Russian history graduate school or medical school.

Megan Rigo: I plan to pursue teaching social studies at the high school

level.

Mallory Rott: I will continue to work at my undergraduate job full-time for the summer, and then will start law school at New England Law Boston in the fall.

Andrew Ruisi: I'll be commissioning as an Ensign in the US Navy. I will report to Naval Air Station Pensacola as a Student Naval Aviator.

Kendrick Sledge: After graduation I will be moving to New Mexico to teach elementary school with Teach For America.

Jessica Stah: I will be moving home to upstate New York to work for a year before returning to graduate school to pursue a degree in education.

Brandon Swab: My immediate plans are to continue working in the real estate office here in Boston where I have worked for the past three years. More long term, I look forward to traveling as much as possible in the next two years, and I'm going to look for a graduate program for journalism and/or writing. I want to live in an area of the country or world I haven't been to or lived in before and never stop exploring and learning.

Nicole Thalheimer: After graduation I will be taking a year off before graduate school. I received an internship in Israel and come September will be moving there for about five months. Hopefully I will be starting graduate school in September of 2010 to get my doctorate in clinical psychology.

Brian Toye: I will be studying for my PhD in History at the University of Minnesota in the fall.

Brian Walsh: After I graduate I will be a teaching assistant in Rennes, France, teaching English to middle/high school French students. I will be in France until next May, and upon my return I plan on going to grad school for a doctorate in history.

Lauren Williams: I will be attending Cardozo Law School in the fall.

Agatha Wozniak: I am teaching English in Poland for the summer, then attending graduate school in the fall. Not sure where yet, either here or in Syracuse, New York. ◆



Kathryn Lamontagne

Kathryn Lamontagne named to teaching fellow prize

The departmental Graduate Studies Committee has selected third-year PhD student Kathryn Lamontagne as the winner of this year's Teaching Fellow Prize, awarded by the Graduate School to the student who has "demonstrated the greatest skill, enthusiasm, and dedication in his or her teaching during the current academic year."

Kathryn has been a TF in a variety of courses, from the second half of the Western Civ survey to twentieth-century European history to the history of international relations.

She is preparing to take her qualifying oral exam and is working with Professor Charles Dellheim as her advisor.

SUMMER READING (cont. from page 3)

press and legitimize their own particular interests in a globalized world.

From office assistant **Jennifer Covino:**

I highly recommend *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Milan Kundera for light reading. I myself hope to read Noam Chomsky's *Necessary Illusions* and Jonathan Safran Foer's novel *Everything Is Illuminated*. ◆



At the British Association for American Studies Annual Conference in Nottingham, England, in mid-April some past and current participants in the exchange between Cambridge University and BU gathered. From left, Charlotte Carrington, François Lalonde, Katie Brownell, and Robin Vandome. Katie writes, "We met for drinks last night and took a picture that is evidence of the success of the graduate exchange program."

New class added for fall

A new course has recently been added to the fall schedule: CAS HI 378 ("History of the Civil Rights Movement"). The instructor will be Professor Julia Rabig, who holds a one-year appointment in the African American Studies Program. Dr. Rabig outlines the course content:

The civil rights movement unleashed cataclysmic changes in US political, social, and cultural life. In this class, we will draw on an exciting range of primary sources—films, organizational records, memoirs, manifestos—as well as new histories of the "long 1960s" to chart the trajectory of the civil rights movement, paying close attention to the groundwork laid by diverse activists in the 1920s and 1930s, as well as the variety of black power advocates who attempted to institutionalize the movement in the 1970s and beyond. We'll assess the movement's profound consequences for political organizing, studying the process through which other movements of the 1960s and 1970s—antiwar, feminism, gay and lesbian liberation, neighborhood rights, ethnic nationalism, and even grassroots conservatism—laid claim to the rhetoric and tactics of the civil rights movement. We'll conclude by assessing major civil rights-era legislation and consider how it al-

tered—or failed to alter—patterns of racial and class inequality over the course of the 20th century.

News of the BU-Cambridge exchange

Professor Bruce Schulman, director of the American Political History Institute, has announced that David Mislin has been selected as the BU student who will be going to Cambridge University in spring 2010.

Commencement: a reminder

The main commencement for the university will be held at Nickerson Field at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 17. The History Department convocation is at 4 p.m. that day in Jacob Sleeper Hall in the College of General Studies, 871 Commonwealth Avenue. The faculty speaker will be Professor Brendan McConville. The ceremony (at which diplomas are given out) will last approximately one hour, after which a reception is held, also in CGS. Graduates must call the department office (333-2551) to let the staff know if they are attending the convocation.

Department enlarges choices for PhD major field

The faculty of the department have recently decided, as a direct result of difficulties some doctoral students have experienced in defining the major field for the qualifying oral examination, to make an addition to how a major field is determined. The goal is to make the major field correspond more closely to what the student is actually studying. The relevant paragraph will now read:

Definition of Major Field. The definition of the scope of the major field is primarily the responsibility of the examining faculty, in consultation with the student and the Graduate Studies Committee. The major field will ordinarily be the field within which a dissertation topic is chosen. The fields of specialization are: Africa, the United States, Europe (medieval; early modern, 1500 to 1815; or modern, 1789 to present). *It is also possible, in consultation with the faculty advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies, to define a field that is not geographically specific and would allow for the exploration of a particular theme, or themes, in a transnational context.*

Within the European fields there is the option of the following national emphases: France, Britain, Germany, Russia, or Spain, or a topical emphasis such as social, intellectual, or economic. The major field in African history requires regional specialization plus knowledge of a related discipline, such as anthropology or economics.

The change (in bold italics above) means that students will be able to take their orals in fields that do not fit neatly into the department's traditional three categories of American, European, or African.

The additional sentence will be added to the Graduate School bulletin, the departmental website, and the Graduate Handbook.



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