

# NEWS



## *of the History Department at Boston University*

November 2009

### **Bruce Schulman named next department chair**

After Professor Charles Dellheim, chair of the History Department since 2001, accepted a new position as director of University Honors College at Boston University, a small committee of department faculty solicited the views of other members on their preference for the next leader of the department. Once this committee had presented its findings to CAS Dean Virginia Sapiro, she announced her selection of Professor Bruce Schulman as the next chair, effective January 1, 2010. His term will last through the summer of 2013.

Bruce Schulman received his PhD from Stanford University in 1987. After six years on the faculty of the University of California at Los Angeles, he came to Boston University in 1994 to teach in the field of American political history. Between 1997 and 2002 he also served as Director of the American and New England Studies Program; in 2008 he was named to the William Edwards Huntington Chair in History. Schulman is the author of *From Cotton Belt to Sunbelt: Federal Policy, Economic Development, and the Transformation of the South, 1938-1980* (1991), *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism* (1995), and *The Seventies: The Great Shift in American Culture, Politics, and Society* (2001) and is currently working on *Re-awakened Nation: The Birth of Modern America, 1896-1929* (Oxford History of the United States, Volume VIII). He has been advisor to numerous PhD students working on their dissertations and to undergraduate history majors on their senior distinction projects; as director of the American Political History Institute, he organizes a successful seminar series each year, an international political history conference that meets at BU every three years, and a graduate student conference that began last year.

In 1994, Professor Schulman introduced himself to readers of this newsletter with these words about his philosophy of teaching: "Alone among the disciplines, history encounters the full range of human experience; it isolates no particular endeavor (be it politics, culture, economics, religion, or science), region, or era. The History Professor selects as his mu-

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*in brief*

### **EVENTS OF NOTE!**

Professor **Simon Payaslian** gave a talk entitled "Human Rights in Armenian History" on October 15 at the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Watertown, Mass. He covered the evolution of the Armenian legal tradition over the centuries and juxtaposed the history of Armenia with the history and evolution of international human rights standards. He noted that since Armenians lived as subject peoples under Ottoman, Persian, and Russian rule for centuries, they could not develop their own political institutions, as a sovereign nation, which could promote and protect human rights upon independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. He concluded by discussing the extent to which the post-Soviet Armenian government can implement human rights policies in the political, economic, and cultural spheres in accordance with international human rights norms and standards.... Payaslian also presented a paper entitled "The US War in Iraq, War Refugees, and International Obligations" at a conference at the University of Connecticut Law School in Hartford, Connecticut, organized by the Human Rights Institute of the University of Connecticut in association with the University of Connecticut Law School, October 22-24. In his paper, Payaslian surveyed the Bush administration's policy towards Iraqi refugees from 2003 to 2008 and current efforts underway to address the humanitarian crisis. He stressed the urgent need to do more at both the national and the international levels as required by international refugee and human rights conventions.

Professor **Marilyn Halter** was a plenary speaker for a session entitled "What Is the Post-American New England City?" at the New England American Studies Association Annual Conference held in Lowell, Mass., in mid-October.... She is also serving as a scholar consultant on the documentary film slated to be released this spring entitled "Proud to Be Cape Verdean: A Look at Cape Verdeans in the Golden

State,” directed by Mike Costa and produced by Side Door Entertainment, and is the Faculty Advisor for the newly revitalized BU Cape Verdean Student Association.

Professor **Thomas Glick** gave two lectures at Western Michigan University on October 6 and 7. The first, on “The Earliest Reception of *The Origin of Species* in the United States and England,” tracked the incidence and intensity of engagement with Darwin by American and English naturalists from mid-November 1859 to March 1860. The conclusion was that elite opposition to Darwin’s theory had all but sputtered out by March 1860. The second lecture, on “The Transmission of Arabic Science in Latin and Hebrew in Medieval Spain,” was a discussion of modes of translation, from Greek into Arabic, and then Arabic into Latin, Castilian, and Hebrew, drawing out similarities and differences in the three translation movements. All three, however, were originally driven by demand for astrological services emanating from the nobility. The introduction of astrology had the unintended consequence of stimulating demand for the new “Indian calculation” (*hisab al-hind*), that is, Arabic numerals including the zero, and the place-value system (units, tens, hundreds), the translation of astronomical treatises and celestial tables, and ultimately classical Greek philosophy.

On October 2 and 3, both Professor Glick and Professor **Betty Anderson** attended a symposium on “Darwin and Evolution in the Muslim World” at Hampshire College, Amherst, Mass. This was an exploration of the debate over evolution in current and past Muslim countries, the Muslim participants being outspoken supporters of evolution and opponents of creationism. The lead speakers were Ronald Numbers of the University of Wisconsin, who reported on a personal meeting with the Turkish fundamentalist propagandist Harun Yahya, and Pervez Hoodboy, Pakistani particle physicist and string theorist, who is an outspoken opponent of so-called “Islamic science.” Glick spoke first, placing this meeting in the context of studies of the Comparative Reception of Darwinism

since 1970. He was followed by Professor Anderson, who gave a paper on “The Syrian Protestant College (SPC) and the Darwin Controversy of 1882.”

Professor **Houchang Chehabi** presented a paper titled “Diversity at Alborz” at an international conference on the Alborz School (a high school in Tehran originally founded by American missionaries) held at the University of California at Irvine on October 10.... On October 14 he spoke on recent events in Iran at a symposium on the theme of “Middle East Politics: Present and Future” held at the Crown Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Brandeis University.

On October 18 Professor **William Keylor** delivered a paper titled “The Second Cold War in Europe, 1978-1983” at an international conference at McGill University in Montreal on “Nexus Years in the Cold War.”

Professor **Bruce Schulman** is giving several public lectures and conference presentations this semester. He delivered a lecture at Eastern Nazarene College entitled “Thunder on the Right: The Rise of Conservatism in Postwar America.” At the Long Island Council for the Social Studies he presented on “Making Sense of U.S. History After the ‘Sixties’” and took part in a panel discussion on presidential rankings. In November he will travel to the Southern Historical Association conference in Louisville and also participate in a special conference on History and Journalism at BU’s College of Communication....Schulman’s article “The Privatization of Everyday Life: Privatization, Public Services, and Public Space in the 1980s” has appeared in *Living in the Eighties*, an Oxford University Press volume co-authored by Gil Troy and Vincent Cannato.

Professor **Allison Blakely** has published “The Emergence of Afro-Europe: A Preliminary Sketch” in Darlene Clark Hine, Trica Danielle Keaton, and Stephen Small, eds., *Black Europe and the African Diaspora* (University of Illinois Press).

Professor **Simon Rabinovitch** had a review published, in the October 2 issue of *The Times Literary Supplement*, of Dana Evan Kaplan, *Contemporary*

*American Judaism: Transformation and Renewal*.

Professor **Andrew Bacevich** lectured at Knox College, Northwestern University, and the Wisconsin Veterans’ Museum. He published op-eds in the *Washington Post* and the *Boston Globe*. He also appeared in a PBS “Frontline” documentary on Afghanistan.

Professor **Nina Silber** delivered a lecture at the Peabody Institute Library in September on the topic of New England Civil War soldiers and their views on slavery.... In October she spoke at an event, at the Concord Free Public Library, honoring the late historian David Herbert Donald.

Graduate student **Kathryn Lamon-tagne** presented a paper at the New England Conference on British Studies on October 3 at Brown University. For a panel entitled “Knowledge, Power, Politics, and Memory in Early Twentieth-Century Britain and Ireland,” she delivered a paper on “Forgotten Memories?: Graffiti by Civil War Women at Kilmainham Gaol.”

On September 28, Professor **Eugenio Menegon** gave a public lecture on Christian iconography in China on the occasion of the International Workshop “Venturing into Magnum Cathay: 17th-Century Polish Jesuits in China,” organized by the Monumenta Serica Institute, the Confucius Institute, and the Ignatianum Faculty

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in Krakow (Poland). The ancient Polish capital was sunny and unseasonably warm, something as unusual as the hot beer with cherries tasted at a local restaurant.... On October 19, Menegon delivered another lecture on "Preparing for Death in Early Modern Europe and China" at the China Humanities Seminar sponsored by the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, the Humanities Center, and the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University.

Professor Emerita **Merle Goldman** has recently published "Intellectual Pluralism and Dissent" (co-authored with Ashley Esarey), in *Political Change in China: Comparisons with Taiwan* (Lynne Rienner Publishers); "Developing Human Rights in Post-Mao China," in *Insights on Law and Society* (American Bar Association, Winter 2008); "Repression of China's Public Intellectuals in the Post-Mao Era," in *Social Research* (Summer 2009); and "China's Irrepressible Intellectuals," *Current History* (September 2009).

On October 2 Professor **Jon Roberts** served as commentator on a paper by Karl Giverson and Randall Stephens entitled "The Anointed: American Evangelical Experts" at a conference held at Gordon College commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of Mark Noll's *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*. ♦



The following students passed language examinations in September:

Zach Fredman: Mandarin Chinese  
Jeffrey Stout: Spanish

On October 21 Kathryn Lamontagne passed her qualifying oral examination. Examiners in the major field of modern European history were Professors Arianne Chernock, Charles Dellheim, and Robert Savage (of Boston College); the examiner in the minor field of architectural history was Professor Melanie Hall (of the Art History Department).



## History News from Mugar

BY DONALD ALTSCHILLER,  
HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHER

**T**his summer Mugar Library was renovated to accommodate the installation of 200 IT computers throughout the building. The first-floor computer cluster has been renamed the BU Common@Mugar and offers information and technology services from many parts of the University, including the IT Help Center and Print Center, as well as expanded scanning services. The new location of the Research Center (formerly the Reference Desk) provides additional space for library staff to assist students engaged in research, writing, and other academic activities. The librarians are very eager to expand their outreach to library users by offering extended research and reference consultations.

The library building has now extended its hours until 2 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday; on Friday and Saturday the building closes at 11 p.m. The library is available for study and computer use until closing but library services are not available after midnight.

Recently, some electronic resources have greatly expanded their content. (Please access databases at: [www.bu.edu/library/eresources/index.html](http://www.bu.edu/library/eresources/index.html).)

*Dissertation Abstracts* has the most comprehensive collection of dissertations and theses, starting coverage in 1861. A wonderful new feature: the database now offers full text for most dissertations published since 1997 and also includes retrospective full text for some older items. Some Master's theses published since 1988 include 150-word abstracts.

*America: History and Life* and *Historical Abstracts* are the pre-eminent electronic resources for finding journal articles and also book titles. A growing

number of citations provide links to full-text access; you can also send citations directly to RefWorks to include in bibliographies and for footnotes.

*African American Song* is a unique online resource to document the history of African American music with audio access. The collection contains a diverse range of genres such as jazz, blues, gospel, ragtime, folk songs, and narratives, among others; it features recordings from the first half of the 20th century, providing a rich source of black history and culture.

*American National Biography* contains lengthy portraits of more than 17,000 men and women—from all eras and occupations—whose lives have helped shaped the United States. The *ANB* is the first biographical resource of this scope to be published in more than sixty years. The print set—which the library also owns—was published in 1999 and soon became a landmark work of American biographies.

*British History Online* is a digital library containing some core print primary and secondary sources on the medieval and modern history of the British Isles.

*International Medieval Bibliography* provides multidisciplinary citations of journal articles, books, conference proceedings, and other literature and covers Europe, North Africa, and the Near East (300-1500).

*Iter* is a bibliographic database covering literature pertaining to the Middle Ages and Renaissance (400-1700).

*Massachusetts History Online* is a full text collection of articles from 50 magazines and local newspapers covering the people, places, and historical events of the Commonwealth.

*National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* provides bibliographic access to archives and manuscript collections located throughout the United



States.

*New York Times Historical* is a superb resource offering full-text coverage of the “paper of record” (including advertisements) from 1851 to 2006.

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* is a major collection containing more than 57,000 biographies of the men and women from around the world who shaped all aspects of Britain’s history. Published in print and online in 2004, *ODNB* offers three annual updates which add new biographies from the Romans to the 21st century.

Please note: The above resources represent only a small portion of our electronic resources that provide historical information. The library subscribes to almost three hundred databases covering the humanities, social sciences, and sciences which also offer access to a wide range of historical literature.

Finally—and it must be constantly emphasized—the BU libraries have more than two million books and we add a few thousand history titles every year. It is a continuing struggle to convince students that everything is not available through a Google search. Despite the increasingly common perception that the book has suffered the fate of slide rules, last year more than 250,000 print books were published in the United States—a record number. ♦

International History Institute

### History of Japanese Food

Professor Suzanne O’Brien will kick off this new IHI series by guiding us through the wonders of Japanese food and how it fits within cultural and other understandings of Japan. Samples of Japanese cuisine will be served as part of the presentation.

Thursday, November 12, 5:30 p.m.

Room 304, 226 Bay State Road

If you wish to attend, RSVP by November 5 to [ih@bu.edu](mailto:ih@bu.edu).

## Daniel McCall remembered

Jeanne Penvenne (PhD from the History Department, now on the faculty of Tufts University) sent us a notice on the death of Daniel McCall, a leader in the earlier days of African Studies at Boston University. “Although Dan was an anthropologist,” Jeanne wrote, “he was obviously a core mentor/teacher for BU’s first generation of historians (Doug Wheeler was there too!). From my generation’s perspective, his work on African Historiography was superb. I never had a class with him, but read much of his work and benefited enormously. He was one of the founding folks and should obviously be acknowledged.”

At an October 3 memorial for Dan McCall held at the Museum of Fine Arts, another BU figure in African Studies and professor emeritus at Indiana University, George Brooks, spoke:

**D**an McCall had a remarkable life, one that began disastrously as a truant and incorrigible youth, and ended as a distinguished scholar and a mentor to his students, his students’ students, and innumerable others who sought his counsel.

While a Navy medic during WWII, Dan landed alongside Marines during the horrendously bloody invasions of Pacific islands. He mentioned this to me for the first time in August 1996—after I had known him 39 years. Then, and subsequently, Dan never described these experiences.

My earliest recollection of Dan was soon after arriving at Boston University in 1957, finding him—my Professor!—seated cross-legged on the floor of the Mugar Library pulling books off shelves researching some topic that had attracted his interest.

I was not a promising graduate student. While I was delivering my first seminar paper—something about Uganda derived from my senior thesis at Dartmouth—Dan went to sleep. In desperation, I looked to Norman Bennett, already a friend and role

model, and Norm silently indicated that I should keep droning on. After a while Dan roused and nothing was said.

Dan never lectured from notes, passed out maps, or showed slides. He would enter the classroom, pause to collect his thoughts, then deliver a seamless lecture on whatever interested him that day. He ranged across topics and disciplines. One day, someone asked a question that involved a four-letter word. Dan obligingly wrote the word on the board and explained its meaning and derivation, followed by a number of other four-letter words, explaining the origins of each one, whether from Old Norse, Greek, Latin, or whatever. Students dutifully took notes.

Among scholars across disciplines, Dan was renowned for his path-breaking—indeed intrepid—book entitled *Africa in Time-Perspective: A Discussion of Historical Reconstruction from Unwritten Sources* (1969). Dan’s interests ranged world-wide. Consider that he might have concentrated his professional life on Ghana, where he did his dissertation research. Instead, consider some of the topics Dan wrote about: “The Horse in West African History,” “Wolf Courts Girl: The Equivalence of Hunting and Mating in Bushman Thought,” “The Marvelous Chicken,” “Towards a History of West African Dress,” “The Afroasiatic Language Phylum and African Prehistory,” “Neolithic Pig Culture,” etc.

Dan traveled widely. Wherever he went—Africa, western Europe, Mediterranean countries, Pacific Islands, wherever—he immersed himself learning about an area’s archaeology, anthropology, and history, sought out leading scholars, and began writing research papers, monographs, and novels.

In recent years, I telephoned Dan more and more frequently. During his final illness, he kept assuring me that he was convalescing, although Pat informed me otherwise. During telephone conversations Dan’s voice was strong, as was his intellect, as was his fabulous memory—he was “Total Recall McCall” to the end of his life!



The November 2009 issue of the journal *Modern Intellectual History* (Professor Charles Capper is one of the co-editors) has been published. The contents are as follows:

**Articles**

“Voltaire and the Necessity of Modern History”

Pierre Force

“Emile Boutroux, Redefining Science and Faith in the Third Republic”

Joel Revill

“The Radical Conservatism of Frank H. Knight”

Angus Burgin

“Liberalism without Humanism: Michel Foucault and the Free-Market Creed, 1976-1979”

Michael C. Behrent

**Essay**

“A Historical Atlas of Objectivity”

Mi Gyung Kim

**Review Essays**

“The Hard Birth of French Liberalism”

Johnson Kent Wright

“What the Occult Reveals”

Corinna Treitel

“Psychology and Contemporary Society”

Mike Savage

“Measurement and Meritocracy: An Intellectual History of IQ”

Theodore M. Porter

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sical score some polymorphous chunk of human experience, a crashing cacophony of voices, rhythms, and melodies—and orchestrates it, forms it into a kind of narrative symphony, with distinct movements, rotating soloists, overture, and coda. The thrill of teaching history lies in conducting the orchestra, in fashioning discordant sounds into harmony and diverse characters into a coherent story.”

The department congratulates Professor Schulman on his new appointment. ◆



Public Lecture in Chinese History

**“Place and Memory in the Singing Crane Garden”**

**Professor Vera Schwarcz**

Wesleyan University, Department of History  
and

Director, Center for East Asian Studies

Wednesday, November 4

12:00 noon

The Castle, 225 Bay State Road

Historian and poet Vera Schwarcz will discuss her recent book, *Place and Memory in the Singing Crane Garden*. At the heart of her investigation is a nearly forgotten garden on the campus of Peking University (Beida), once the personal sanctuary of a Manchu prince during the Qing dynasty. In 1860, a punitive expedition of British forces under the command of Lord Elgin looted the Summer Palace and incinerated the grounds, including the Singing Crane Garden. The owner of the garden, Prince Yihuan, chose to leave it in ruins. Thereafter, he wrote dark poems of grief centered on the ravaged landscape. One century later, during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), the Singing Crane Garden became the site of trauma again, when it was used as the staging ground for denouncing university professors as counter-revolutionaries. Recently, this same piece of land underwent another makeover, becoming the site of the Arthur Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology. The place itself bears little trace of its turbulent history. Schwarcz draws on personal interviews and literary sources to restore an authentic past to a place where memories have been effaced.

The event is co-sponsored by the BU Center for the Study of Asia, the History Department, and the Humanities Foundation.

Presentation on Publishing

**Susan Ferber, Senior Editor at Oxford University Press**

“Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Academic Publishing  
(But Were Afraid to Ask)”

Thursday, November 19, 5 p.m., Room 304, 226 Bay State Road

Susan Ferber is Executive Editor for American and World History at Oxford University Press-USA, where she has worked since 1997. Her diverse list ranges from ancient history to contemporary history and includes both academic and trade titles. She has edited many first books, as well as the work of senior scholars. Books she has edited have won numerous prizes, including a Pulitzer Prize and a Bancroft Prize, and two became bestsellers.



*Graduate Student Kathryn Lamontagne became engaged on September 25 to Richard Sands of London, England (in the photo they stand near Scotney Castle). Richard is on the editorial staff at Sky Magazine and they met while Kathryn was working on her MA at the University of London in 2004. As a Europeanist who focuses on Britain, Kathryn fears this may be a sign she is too devoted to her topic of British cultural and social history. Celebrations are planned for Chelsea, London, and Westport, Mass.*

## **Large number of applications arrive for the early modern search**

As of the end of October, 120 applications for the search in early modern European history had arrived. The search committee (Professor Diefendorf, chair, plus Professors Chernock and Johnson) has already begun sifting through them to find the best candidates. Since no specific field was mentioned in the advertisement, the primary focus of the applicants has run the gamut:

Britain: 39 applications

France: 16

Germany: 11

Spain: 10

Italy: 7

The Netherlands: 4

with several each in areas of eastern Europe.

Some have applied in non-geographic areas (11 in the history of science or medicine, 6 in the history of law or political theory, 8 in the history of religion).

The finalists' visits to campus are expected to take place early in the new year.