



**in brief**

## EVENTS OF NOTE!



On September 5 Professor **William Keylor** delivered the Plenary Session Lecture at the 20th annual conference of the British International History Group at the University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland. The title of his lecture was "The Great War, the Hall of Mirrors, and the 'Sinews of Peace.'" ... During the month of September he gave television interviews to Reuters and the New England Cable Network about international affairs and the presidential election.

Professor **Marilyn Halter** has published a chapter on Cape Verdeans in the United States, in *Transnational Archipelago: Perspectives on Cape Verdean Migration and Diaspora*, Luís Batalha and Jorgen Carling, eds. (Amsterdam University Press).

Graduate student **Linda Killian** has been named to a two-year term as a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington.

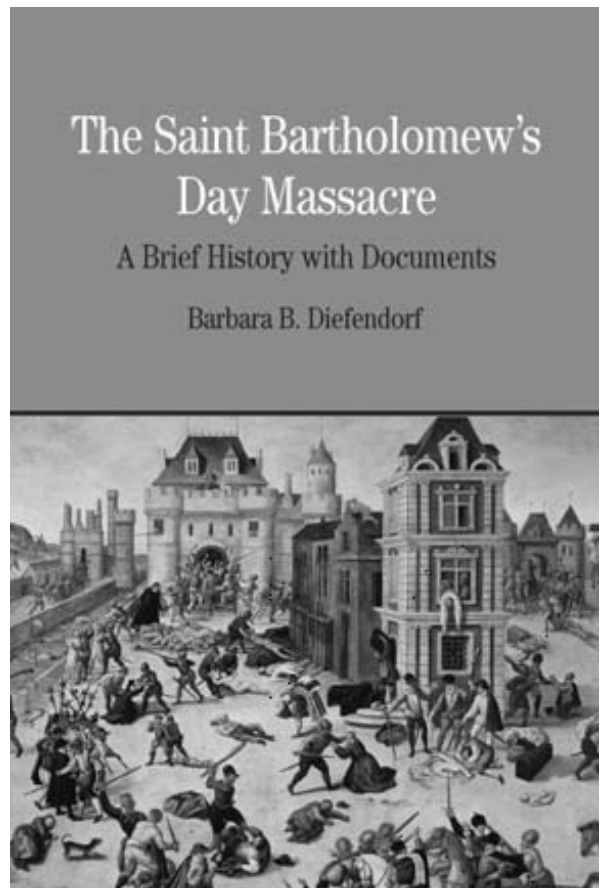
On August 27 Professor **Charles Capper** delivered the Keynote Address, "The History Journal Today: An Editor's View," at the Graduate Research Conference at the University

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## Barbara Diefendorf publishes history of 1572 massacre

Bedford/St. Martin's Press has just published Professor Barbara Diefendorf's *The Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre: A Brief History with Documents*. We are pleased to reprint the Preface to the work:

**T**he most notorious episode in sixteenth-century Europe's civil and religious wars, the events known collectively as the "Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre" are of lasting historical importance. The murder of thousands of unarmed French Protestants by Catholic soldiers and civilians in August 1572 influenced not only the subsequent course of France's civil wars but also, more broadly, the process of French state building, patterns of international alliance, and long-term cultural values. To such Enlightenment writers as Montesquieu and Voltaire, the killings epitomized the horrors of fanaticism and unexamined belief, and it seems natural to see the massacre in those terms today. In the immediate aftermath of these events, however, they were viewed very differently. Protestants reacted with horror, but Catholic leaders at home and abroad congratulated the young king, Charles IX, who publicly claimed credit for destroying his Protestant enemies and had medals struck to celebrate his triumph. Charles's image of a just and valiant king later



gave way to its opposite, and in histories, novels, and films, he has been depicted either as a treacherous tyrant who conspired to murder his own subjects or as the unwitting tool of his scheming mother. Whatever the truth of the matter, the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre raises troubling questions about the relationship between religion and politics, the moral responsibility of secular and religious authorities, and the origins and consequences of religious persecution and intolerance. These problems remain acutely important in the world today.

The breadth and depth of the massacre's repercussions, but also perplexing questions of responsibility for these events, make the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre an ideal subject for study and debate. The introduction and documents in this volume give a broad view of the social, political, and religious origins of the massacre, the complex events that unfolded in Paris and the provinces, and the longer-term repercussions of these events. They enable students to explore the roots of some of the key transitions from the medieval to the modern world, including the passage from divine-right monarchy to social-contract theories of government, from a unified faith to religious pluralism, and from the persecution of religious dissidents as threats to the social order to toleration and the separation of church and state. At the same time, they allow students to examine the causes and consequences of perhaps the most disturbing episode of civil and religious conflict during this

troubled era.

The introduction in part one provides an overview of the political and religious context in which the massacre occurred. Describing the origins and spread of Protestant ideas in France, it explains why Catholics found them so threatening and narrates the collision between growing religious tensions and political factionalism that resulted in a series of civil wars beginning in 1562. After locating the more distant roots of the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre in these conflicts, it summarily traces the course of the massacre in Paris and the provinces and outlines its immediate and long-term repercussions, both domestically and internationally. The documents in part two include such official records as royal edicts and magistrates' reports but also firsthand accounts, after-the-fact polemics and commentary, visual sources, poetry, and song. Most of the written sources have never before been translated into English and appear here for the first time. Arranged chronologically, they permit students to analyze the evolving political and religious conflicts and their outcomes from a variety of points of view. Headnotes identify each document's author and provide historical context. Additional learning aids in this volume include footnotes identifying unfamiliar terms and concepts, a list of major figures, genealogical charts for the royal family and key aristocrats, and an appendix containing a chronology of the French Wars of Religion, questions for consideration, and a selected bibliography. ♦

### Gaspar Bacon Lecture for 2009

This academic year's Gaspar Bacon Lecture will take place on Monday, May 4, at 5 p.m. We urge our readers to save the date for this special presentation. As one of Boston University's events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth, Michael Lienesch, Professor of Political Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will speak on the legal dimension of creationism. Professor Lienesch is the author of *New Order of the Ages; Redeeming America*; and the recent *In the Beginning: Fundamentalism, the Scopes Trial, and the Making of the Antievolution Movement*.

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of Connecticut.

Graduate student **Zachary Smith** writes that he is currently the field organizer for Van Buren County in Michigan for the Barack Obama Campaign for Change (Van Buren County is a rural county in Southwest Michigan bordering Lake Michigan and just west of Kalamazoo). "Next semester at BU," he adds, "I will be teaching Political Science 300: United States Congress."

Professor **Andrew Bacevich's** essay "The Petraeus Doctrine" appears in the October issue of *The Atlantic*.

Professor **Barbara Diefendorf** was a member of the jury for a French thesis defense on September 20 at the Université Lumière Lyon II. The 1200-page dissertation on attempts to implement the pacification edicts that ended the first Wars of Religion (1560-1574) was awarded the highest possible mark—"un avis très honorable avec félicitations"—after the ritual four-hour defense. "It was most interesting," says Diefendorf, "to see how attentively the more than sixty persons who came to the defense, including parents and childhood friends as well as other doctoral students, followed the proceedings, despite not having read the thesis or having any real understanding of the comments and questions posed by the six members of the jury." The celebration afterwards, with champagne and wonderful cheeses and regional specialties, was also memorable—and part of a tradition handed down from the medieval universities. Professor Diefendorf did, however, stop short of recommending that we adopt this model for our own dissertation defenses.

Professor **Brendan McConville** was in Philadelphia in September for a conference entitled "Antipopery: The Transatlantic Experience, 1530-1850," of which he was a co-organizer. He chaired the summary panel at the conclusion of the conference. ♦

## *Introduction to*

# New Graduate Students

Each year the editor of the newsletter asks the entering class of graduate students to introduce themselves in these pages. Below are the statements of the seven doctoral students and one master's candidate who came to the Department of History this fall:

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### Michael Holm

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History has been my passion for as long as I can remember, whether as a joyful read or as serious research. My primary topic of interest is the Cold War and international relations, particularly the emergence of a dominant American ideology and the debate over the premise of an American Empire after 1945. I received my BA and MA in Contemporary History from the University of Southern Denmark in Odense and a second MA in History from McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

My decision to pursue a doctorate was sparked by two separate experiences: my work as an archivist in Washington, D.C., and two years teaching undergraduate American History at Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Through my exposure to these professions, I discovered not only the excitement of research and archives, but also—rather unexpectedly—an enthusiasm for teaching.

These experiences, combined with a personal conviction that today there is a distinct lack of historical knowledge exhibited by our political leaders, as well as the belief that it is the historian's obligation to make history accessible and usable for our contemporaries, serve as my greatest inspiration for pursuing doctoral research.



*Michael Holm, Amanda Mathews, and Katherine Hollander*

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### Amanda Mathews

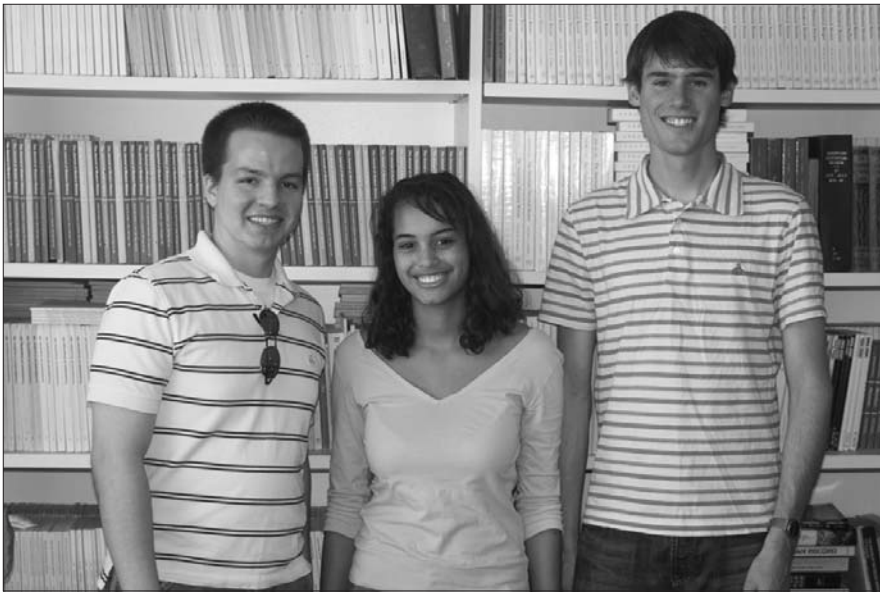
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As I was born on April 19 in Boston, it could be said that I was fated to become a historian of the American Revolution. The American Revolution has always fascinated me, although it was not until my second year of college that I realized that I wanted to make the study of it into a career. My particular interest in the field has always been in its many great figures as well as discovering the complexities and experimentation that went into the forming of the American Republic. Perhaps because of my earlier inclination to go into the law, I have always been particularly struck by the legal structures, and particularly the constitution making of this period and the foundations and ideas upon which they were developed.

I obtained my BA in History just this past spring from Boston College, having completed a senior thesis entitled "A Government of Laws, and Not

of Men': John Adams, Attorney, and the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780." In my thesis I argued that John Adams's legal training and philosophy of law uniquely informed his view of constitution making and the type of structures he put in place when he was charged with drafting the Massachusetts Constitution in the fall of 1779. I was able to continue my work with John Adams this past summer when I accepted a job at the Massachusetts Historical Society as a transcriber for the Adams Family Papers.

I will be continuing my work in Early American history with Professor McConville at BU as I pursue a PhD. Having taken Professor McConville's course on the American Revolution as a sophomore using the consortium between BC and BU, and as he was second reader for my thesis, I was particularly excited to have the opportunity to continue to work with him, which was the major reason I chose to study here



Charles Pollack, Danielle McKanic-Berman, and Jeffrey Stout

at BU. I look forward to deepening and expanding my knowledge of issues in the American Revolution and early national period, while also gaining a better understanding of the early modern world as a whole.

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### Katherine Hollander

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As a Boston native who has been living outside of New England for some years, I'm delighted to be back in town and at BU. My interest in history, and in German cultural history in particular, is a long-standing one, which found its first real expression at Marlboro College in Vermont, a wonderful, unusual school that profoundly influenced my ideas about scholarship and pedagogy. At Marlboro I pursued an interdisciplinary Plan of Concentration (the two-year self-directed project students undertake in place of a major) in poetry and history. I became very interested in the function of the imagination, both in political poetry and in politics, particularly in the intellectual processes and dialogues of German Marxist revolutionaries. My historical work focused on the differences between the imagined and the actual, between ideology and action, in the German social democratic party (SPD) during the Weimar Republic.

When people ask about my twin in-

terests in poetry and history, I always tell them that although at Marlboro I could combine them into one multi-part study, the larger world asks that we do things one at a time. So, after some time away from school in the publishing world, I came to BU as a student in the graduate program in Creative Writing, a couple doors down on Bay State Road. While I was in the program, focusing on poetry and literary studies, I also took courses on German subjects and translated a set of poems by the German poet Else Lasker-Schler, who made poem-portraits of many of her acquaintances, who included Franz Marc, Georg Trakl, Georg Gross, and Leo Kestenberg. After earning the MA, I again took some time away from school. In the meantime, I published my own poetry and criticism in a number of literary journals, most recently a review of Ian Fairley's new translation of the late work of the German-language poet Paul Celan, which is forthcoming from *Pleiades* this fall.

My strong love of and commitment to the study of history led me back to BU and to this program. My interests continue to lie with the SPD, but I'm now intrigued by their earlier history, and in particular their engagement with the arts. The party sponsored a number of artistic and cultural programs for workers which, along with literacy cam-

paigns, make it clear that an appreciation, grasp, and indeed ownership of German high culture were to them a revolutionary goal. I want to explore why that was, how it was conceived, how it came to be, and what was imagined to result from it. I also find myself increasingly interested in a number of German socialist/revolutionary groups and their conceptions of sociability and community (these include the families and groups centered around Marx, Kautsky, and Brecht). I'm very happy to have the chance to pursue these interests at BU.

I live in Somerville with two good friends, social workers who keep me connected to the non-academic world, and anticipate many plane rides to visit my partner John, who is a graduate student in the history department at UW-Madison.

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### Charles Pollack

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American history, politics, law, and philosophy have fascinated me for as long as I can remember. While I have a deep interest in all American eras, I particularly enjoy learning about the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Writing my senior thesis last year on the powerful Wentworth family in Colonial New Hampshire further developed my interest in this period, and I have made it my focus in the MA program. Specifically, my research will focus on the colonial period, American Revolution, and establishment of the republic. I look forward to continuing my work with Professor Brendan McConville and the BU history department in the coming years.

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### Danielle McKanic-Berman

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I graduated with my BA from the State University of New York at Binghamton in May 2008. During my four years there I completed majors in English, Medieval Studies, and Classical Studies. I am very pleased to be at Boston University working on my PhD in History, under the advisement of Professor Thomas Glick. My special concentration is medieval history. I did my senior thesis on religious tradition

in early medieval England, specifically dealing with the hagiography of several English and Irish saints.

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### Jeffrey Stout

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Though originally from Colorado, my wife and I come to Boston from Oxford, where I studied the history of science under the supervision of Pietro Corsi. My master's thesis examined Eastern Orthodox contributions to thought on science and evolution in late twentieth-century America.

During my undergraduate years I studied physics at the University of Denver, but feeling drawn to the humanities, I abandoned planetary gas nebulae for a year-long masters in theology at Oxford before moving on to the history of science. A historical perspective on the relationship between science and religion is important to appreciate the many diverse modes of interaction between the fields. One Orthodox thinker writes that tension between science and religion can only be resolved within the personality, and I am particularly interested in those American thinkers that have worked toward this resolution.

I am delighted by my opportunity to study with Professor Jon Roberts and to continue my migration from the hard to the human sciences. American his-

tory is a new field for me, but it is here where science and religion as major forces for change can be examined in context.

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### Kallie Szczepanski

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I became a history major as an undergraduate student after realizing that I would never be a famous concert French horn player. History had always fascinated me, but I decided that I did not want to study the history of the US or Europe—everybody studies those areas! So, I enrolled in the program on the History of Africa and the Middle East at Western Washington University. The ancient nation of Ethiopia in particular caught my interest, and I wrote my undergraduate thesis on the political and environmental causes of famine on the Horn of Africa.

Following college, I joined the US Peace Corps in hopes of going to Africa. Instead, I was posted to Turkmenistan, Central Asia, a harsh but very interesting place. I had intended to go to graduate school in African History upon my return and then become a professor. The injustices and environmental degradation I encountered in Central Asia prompted me to go to the University of Washington School of Law instead and study international and environmental law.

Law school and my internships at several policy and litigation non-profits proved frankly less than enjoyable, so I decided not to practice law after all. I went to South Korea after graduation to teach ESL and comparative law for four years (and to pay down my education loans). When I began to write to professors here in the US two years ago about returning to graduate school to study Ethiopia and environmental history, every one of them responded, "You have to go to BU and study with Jim McCann." Their advice was excellent, and I am thrilled to be at Boston University!

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### Gareth McFeely

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I have worked my way (very) gradually back to graduate studies, crossing an ocean in the process. I obtained my BA in 1995 from Trinity College Dublin, and then my MPhil from the University of Cambridge in 1997. Those years in academia were followed by a stint in the Irish foreign service, a move westwards, and settlement on this continent following my marriage to a Mainer. I've worked at Boston University since 2003, first as administrator of a large academic department (what was then Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, now two different departments), and then in the College of Arts and Sciences.

I was aware of the university's strength in African studies from the beginning: I began taking Swahili classes on my third day of work, and after much mulling eventually decided to apply to the PhD program in history. I've already enjoyed taking graduate classes with Professors Wylie and McCann, and with their encouragement presented a paper at the British Institute in East Africa conference this past July, a paper that grew out of the HI 701 seminar in Spring 2008. I'm especially interested in the history of daily life and leisure in Africa, and I've been combining that interest with a long-standing passion for movies, in order to begin an exploration of African movie audiences.

My conference paper attempted to outline some of the constraints on



*Kallie Szczepanski and Gareth McFeely*

movie audiences in a variety of West African cities in the 1950s, as well as the changes in movie audiences over the course of that tumultuous decade, and the feedback that I received was very helpful in starting to frame some of the ideas into an actual research project. Every time I mention my project to other graduate students and faculty members, they ask me if I've been able to see many of the films that African audiences were watching in the 1950s. The answer is: not many of them, since a good proportion of these films aren't widely remembered these days, but between specialist cable channels, DVDs, and the huge film collections of enterprising and obsessive friends, I'm looking forward to plugging some of the gaps to attempt to get a more meaningful sense of what appealed to the audiences I'm studying. As anyone who has ever come across my online movie diary knows, though, I'm highly unlikely to allow my studies to restrict my diet just to movies that were shown in the 1950s: I'll watch anything from any time in any location. ♦

## GRADUATE STUDENT MILESTONES

Tessa Gordon received the MA in history in September.

On September 23 Jolanta Komornicka passed her qualifying oral examination. Examiners in the major field of medieval European history were Professors Clifford Backman, Thomas Glick, and Deena Klepper (of the Religion Department); the examiner in the minor field of early modern France was Professor Barbara Diefendorf.

The following students passed foreign language examinations in September:

Christine Axen: Latin  
 Michael Holm: German  
 Amanda Mathews: French  
 Mary Mason Williams: French

These students had research papers approved:

Tessa Gordon, "More Voters, Less Votes: Voter Participation and Black Migration, 1960-1984"

Ellen Horrow, "'Texas Tea' Meets 'High Tea': American Foreign Policy and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Crisis"

## Latest issue of *Modern Intellectual History* announced

The most recent issue of this journal (co-edited by Professor Charles Capper) offers the following items:

### Articles

Michael Sauter, "The Enlightenment on Trial: State Service and Social Discipline in Eighteenth-Century Germany's Public Sphere"

Molly Oshatz, "The Problem of Moral Progress: The Slavery Debates and the Development of Liberal Protestantism in the United States"

Martin Griffin, "Emerson's Crossing: English Traits and the Politics of 'Politics'"

Gerald Izenberg, "Identity Becomes an Issue: European Literature in the 20s"

### Essays

John Toews, "Integrating Music into Intellectual History. Nineteenth Century Art Music as a Discourse of Agency and Identity"

Rudy Koshar, "Where is Karl Barth in Modern European History?"

### Review Essays

Peter Burke, "Three Approaches to Book History"

Daniel Geary, "Every Social Scientist Her Own Historian"

Edward Larkin, "Early American Literature and Culture After Exceptionalism"

Jerrold Seigel, "Ambition, Commitment, and Subversion in Courbet's Realism"

Max Paul Friedman, "Twilight of the Defense Intellectuals?"

## A Gift of History: A Symposium in Honor of Natalie Zemon Davis's 80th Birthday

The symposium will feature five panels discussing the state of the field in the many areas that Natalie Davis helped to develop.

Friday, November 7, 4-6 p.m., reception following; and Saturday, November 8, 9-5:30.

Radcliffe Gymnasium, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge.

Free and open to the public, but all attending are asked to register on-line before October 24. For a schedule and registration see [www.fas.harvard.edu/~earlymod/nzd](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~earlymod/nzd).

## Notes on Registration for Spring 2009

The registration period for spring 2009 classes begins on October 22 for graduate students and on October 26 for undergraduates. The department will have special advising appointments available beginning October 16 and continuing through November 7 (after that period students may see faculty members during their regular office hours). History concentrators and graduate students may call the office (353-2551) or stop in (226 Bay State Road, Room 308) to make an advising appointment.

For registration procedures, including admission to classes with restricted enrollments (HI 200 and the colloquia), students should check the department website (under "News").

Below are notes on new or changed courses for spring 2009:

There will be four sections of the required course for concentrators, **HI 200 ("The Historian's Craft")**; instructors are Professors Allison Blakely, Anna Geifman, James Johnson, and Suzanne O'Brien.

**HI 231. History of Europe, 1815-1914.** Survey of Europe from the Congress of Vienna to World War I. Development of liberalism, nationalism, socialism, democracy, science, and technology; their conflict and accommodation with traditionalism and conservatism. Industrial revolution and economic growth. Increasing complexity of international relations leading to world war. Visiting lecturer Mitchell Allen will teach this class, which has not been offered for many years.

**HI 308. History of the Crusades.** The origin and development of the Crusade movement in Western Christendom: the first four Crusades, their cause and results; crusader finance, preaching, and military recruitment; changing focus of Crusade movements from the Holy Land to other areas. Although this class is among Professor Clifford Backman's regular offerings,

this will be the first time it has had discussion sections.

**HI 315. Intellectual History of Europe in the Nineteenth Century.** Major figures and movements from 1799 to 1890. Topics include the impact of the French Revolution, romanticism, social utopias, the rise of nationalism, the artistic avant-garde, conflicts between science and religion, technology and urban planning, the aesthetic ideal. Professor James Johnson will teach this class, which has been absent from the schedule for a number of years because of his involvement with the Core Curriculum.

**HI 347. Issues in Modern Russian and Soviet History, 1861-1956.** Modern Russia in the imperial and Soviet eras—from the Great Reforms of Alexander II through the end of Stalin’s reign. Examines Russia’s political, socio-economic, and cultural transformation from the traditional society into the first Communist state. Professor Anna Geifman will offer this new course for the first time in spring 2009.

**HI 381. The Samurai in Myth and History.** This new class (not yet in the schedule because it is still in the approval process) explores how samurai, Japan’s (in)famous warrior class, defined themselves and how others have portrayed them in literature, art, plays, film, and animation from ancient times to the present. The course investigates why samurai ideals have become the most widely recognized Japanese “tradition.” New faculty member Suzanne O’Brien will offer this class (to be taught in conjunction with 1J 282).

**HI 393. Americans and the Middle East.** This new course examines the intersecting histories of America and the Middle East from the late eighteenth century to the present, focusing first on American missionary and educational efforts in the region and then on American political and military involvement after World War II. Professor Betty Anderson, who has spent years researching this topic and who is now engaged in writing a book on the subject, will be the instructor.

**HI 423. History of the European Union, 1945 to the Present.** Analysis of the road to European unity, wartime

plans for federalism, significance of the Cold War, failure of political union and success of economic cooperation, “Gaullism” vs. “Atlanticism,” history of the “subsidiarity principle,” the Treaty of Maastricht. Visiting lecturer Heléna Tóth will be the instructor of this class which has not been offered for many years.

**HI 549. Nationalism in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.** Nationalism as a major force in modern history. Origins of modern nationalism in Europe, the Middle East, former Soviet republics, east and south Asia. Special attention to the varieties of diaspora, ethnic revivalism, and globalization. Professor Simon Payaslian will offer this course with a broader description than in the past. It is an example of the department’s desire to offer seminars for graduate students with wider themes that might be of interest to students in several fields.

**HI 719. Readings in European History.** This course will look at some of the great historiographical debates in Western history/historiography, spending approximately two weeks on each debate, considering the nature of the argumentation, evidence, and conceptual assumptions that underly the various positions to be examined. The topics will be taken from the following list: origins of Christianity; Fall of Rome; mutation of 1000; the impact of print on the 16th century (with a look at cyberspace on 21st-century global culture); the Industrial “Revolution”; Eurocentrism and modernity (with a look at China as an alternative model of development); genocide and the Nazis; Orientalism, Post-Colonialism, and the Clash of Civilizations.

**HI 757. Topics in American Cultural History.** Offered under the rubric of American Cultural History, the spring 2009 offering of this course will be a team-taught seminar exploring the American South in a global context. Led by Professors Nina Silber (History) and John Matthews (English) and bringing together graduate students in history, English, and American Studies, students will study works of history, literature, and theory that show various ways in which the US South has inter-

sected with global developments. Topics to be studied include: New World colonialism; hemispheric plantation societies; US imperialism; decolonization; and the African diaspora.

As usual, check the departmental website (under “Courses”) for changes to the spring schedule. ♦

## CALL FOR PAPERS

In conjunction with the 2009 conference of the American Political History Institute (Professor Bruce Schulman, director), graduate students are planning a Boston University Graduate Student American Political History Conference March 21-22 and have issued a call for papers for this event.

This interdisciplinary conference aims to bring together emerging scholarship in American history that challenges traditional approaches to understanding American politics. The weekend will provide an opportunity for graduate students to collaborate, debate, and engage with one another and established professionals in the field of political history. The conference builds upon the recent reinvigoration of political scholarship by promoting exciting research ideas and forging new academic relationships.

Panels will be organized broadly around six fields of American political history:

- policy
- political economy
- political culture
- the changing electorate
- political identities
- foreign relations

The organizers encourage submissions from any era, colonial to present, that reinterpret the meaning of “political” and use new methodology and approaches to studying American history. For more information e-mail [GPHConference@googlegroups.com](mailto:GPHConference@googlegroups.com). Deadline for submissions: November 15, 2008.

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## International History Institute Faculty Seminar

“Neither War Nor Peace: FDR’s Diplomats in Berlin and Policy toward Germany, 1933-1941.” Thursday, October 16, 4 p.m.

Professor David Mayers, Senior Fellow of the International History Institute, will discuss his research on US diplomacy toward Nazi Germany carried out in Berlin in 2008. He will then lead a discussion of critical decisions made in the first years of the war, as the US departed from de facto neutrality at sea and in FDR’s rhetoric and policies, yet remained formally neutral and at peace with the Axis states. The discussion will also consider why Hitler made his strange declaration of war on the US on December 11, 1941.

## NEWS

### of the History Department at Boston University

is published monthly September through May at the department office, 226 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215, telephone: 617-353-2551, E-mail: [history@bu.edu](mailto:history@bu.edu), Website: [www.bu.edu/history](http://www.bu.edu/history).

Professor Eugenio Menegon spent all summer in East Asia (Taiwan, Macao, and China) to do research on his new project (court life during the Manchu Qing dynasty through European sources) and to collect materials for the development of a new course on the history of maritime Asia he plans to teach with support from the Taiwanese Ministry of Education. He met BU alumni in Taipei, Beijing, and Shanghai and gave talks on his current scholarly projects at several institutions: National Taiwan University, Tsinghua University, and Academia Sinica in Taiwan; the Ricci Institute in Macao; and Fudan University in Shanghai (where BU has a student program as well). China was hot and crowded, as expected, but to be there during the Olympics offered a unique window on Chinese attitudes to domestic and international affairs, besides a good array of delicious food.

On his way back from China, Professor Menegon stopped in San Francisco on August 14 to join an elegant event organized by the Boston University Bay Area Alumni Club at the SF Asian Art Museum (see photo) and partly underwritten by alumna Nancy Livingston (COM '69) and her husband Fred Levin. In conjunction with the exhibition “Power and Glory: Court Arts of China’s Ming Dynasty,” he delivered to over one hundred local BU alumni a talk entitled “The European Cabinet of Wonders of the Ming Emperors,” focusing on the princely gifts sent by European monarchs and the Pope to the Chinese emperors during the Ming period.

