

NEWS



of the History Department at Boston University

October 2009

in brief

EVENTS OF NOTE!

Professor **Thomas Glick** was a keynote speaker at the “International Symposium on Islands and Evolution,” held in Port Mahon, Menorca, September 14-17. His topic was “So Permanent a Breath’: Darwin, Lyell, and Hooker on Transportal,” “transportal” being Darwin’s word for dispersal. The dispersal of seeds and animal eggs to islands is the basic feature of island biogeography, mentioned in virtually every paper.

Professor **Jonathan Zatlin** was awarded a Grant for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarship to work with Hannah Schmidl, a senior in the

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At left: Professor Thomas Glick and PhD student Beth Forrest

On September 9, Professor Thomas Glick and doctoral student Beth Forrest (now also Assistant Professor at the Culinary Institute of America) participated in a symposium titled “Round the Table with Darwin” at the food program of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Open University of Catalonia) in Barcelona. Glick’s talk, “Darwin, His Illness, His Wife and Her Cookbook,” was about the clues that Emma Darwin’s cookbook provides in the identification of Darwin’s chronic illness. The over-representation of puddings in Emma’s “receipt book,” Glick believes, is

consistent with a diagnosis of Crohn’s Disease, a chronic irritation of the upper abdomen. Beth Forrest spoke on “Variation Under Domestication: Spanish Cuisine and National Character,” arguing that the perception of the Spanish national cuisine at the dawn of modern nationalism, around 1800, was conditioned by the culture of poverty in Spain itself, as viewed by foreigners against whose own cuisines that of Spain was measured and judged. Both talks can be seen on “YouTube.”

Introduction to

New Graduate Students

In September the department welcomed ten new students to the graduate program, four studying for the MA, five for the PhD, and one nondegree student. We have asked them to introduce themselves to our readers:

Tyler Pace

I received my BA in History and Italian from Connecticut College in 2007. My primary historical interests include rural peasants, the Ancients, and Renaissance humanism.

My decision to study “history” can’t be traced to any one definitive moment. As far as I can tell, the choice was never really made so much as happily accepted as I went along. As a child I did love *The Once and Future King*, though; perhaps that galvanized my love of medieval history. And at Connecticut College, reading Thomas Bisson’s *Tormented Voices* and Carlo Ginzburg’s *The Cheese and the Worms* convinced me once and for all that it was important to study peasants, even if there wasn’t any sort of reliable, truly first-hand testimony about their experiences. As for my interest in the Ancients and in Renaissance humanism, Robert Proctor showed me Cicero and Petrarch, and there I went.

I chose BU because of the History Department’s solid contingent of medieval and early modern historians—to find a university that had so many faculty who shared my research interests was fantastic.

At BU I hope to become a better historian, hope to develop the analytical and methodological tools that would allow me to conduct further research. I’m also hoping to take advantage of the different interests represented in the department—there are so

many! I’m truly looking forward to exchanging notes with my classmates.

As for unusual things about my background and interests: I am from Kentucky, which is generally an unusual home state for someone living in the Northeast. I’m also interested in, albeit timidly and with great reserve, adding value to the past, which is certainly unusual.

Margaret Fowler

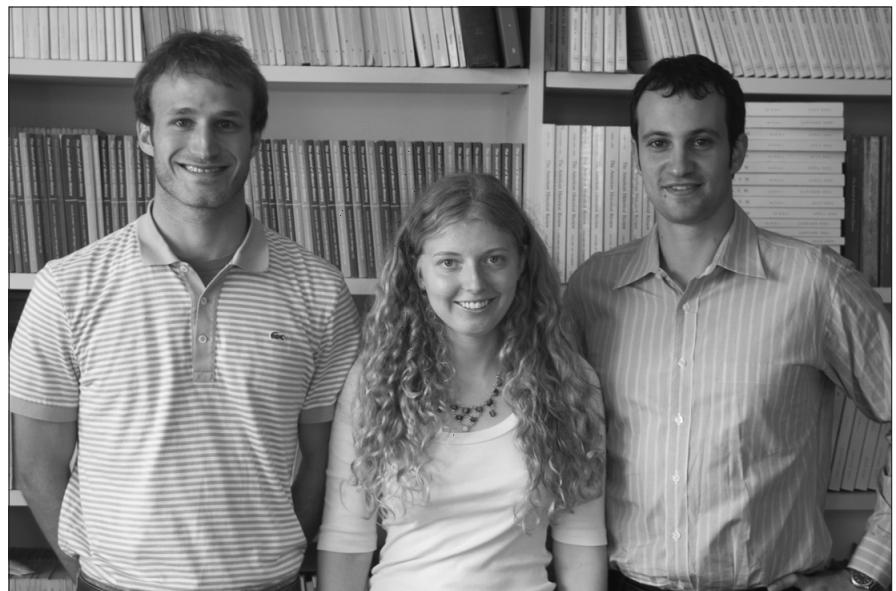
I majored in English and history at the University of Denver and received my BA in June of 2008. My primary historical interest is modern Britain, particularly Britain and Empire during the Victorian period. I wrote my undergraduate honors thesis, “‘The Most Neglected of the Human Race’: The Problem of the Workhouse Sick and the Creation of the 1867 Metropolitan Poor Act,” under the supervision of

Professor Ingrid Tague. I conducted research at the Wellcome Library for the History of Medicine in London. In the year between completing my BA and beginning work on my MA, I was a member of AmeriCorps and worked in a family resource center at a Title I elementary school in my hometown of Grand Junction, Colorado. I am looking forward to working with Professor Chernock on expanding the research I began as an undergraduate. I tentatively plan to examine the values behind secular social reform, particularly healthcare reform.

Zach Fredman

I am returning to school after a six-year break. At the University of Arizona, where I received my BA in History in 2003, I was particularly interested in the history of US foreign relations and historical interactions

Tyler Pace, Margaret Fowler, Zach Fredman



among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. After graduation I spent six months exploring Israel, Egypt, and Jordan and then decided to spend a year working in China. After arriving in Chengdu, I fell in love with the country, especially the high mountains of Sichuan, Tibet, and Qinghai. In all, I ended up living in Sichuan for nearly five years.

In China I first worked as a university English teacher and later moved to teaching Research Methods at a foundation program preparing Chinese students for graduate school in the UK. I took advantage of the long summer and winter holidays to travel extensively in China and throughout Asia. My favorite memory is of a solo motorcycle trip in 2005 where I rode a 150cc motorcycle from Chengdu south to the Burmese border, then west across the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau, and finally north to the Gobi Desert. Having a basic grasp of the history of the places I visited and showing curiosity to learn more always enhanced my interactions with locals.

I chose Boston University because of the departmental strengths in the history of US diplomacy and American interactions with the rest of the world. I have been fascinated with this field ever since I watched the Gulf War unfold on CNN as a fourth grader. Living in China shifted my focus from the Middle East to China-US relations, and I hope to develop expertise in this field that will help me to find fulfilling work in academia, government, or elsewhere.

Katherine Opie

I received my BS from the United States Military Academy in 2001. Since then, I have been serving as an officer in the Army. In July, I returned to the US after living for two years in the Republic of Korea. I am truly excited about this opportunity to continue my formal education and pursue my MA at Boston University.

I love to travel. I am not sure if that is what prompted my love of his-



Katherine Opie, Heather Garrett, Carina Steller

tory or if it was the other way around. Certainly, they complement each other. I enjoy studying history because it is my attempt to better understand the world in which we live. I am particularly interested in the effects of World War II and the Cold War. Previously, I concentrated on Central/Eastern Europe, but I am shifting my focus to East Africa.

Heather Garrett

I have spent this past year living in Prague, Czech Republic, teaching third grade at a dual-language elementary school and traveling throughout Europe as much as I could, experiencing unique people and cultures. It was the opportunity of a lifetime, as well as an experience that prepared me to embark on a new academic journey at Boston University.

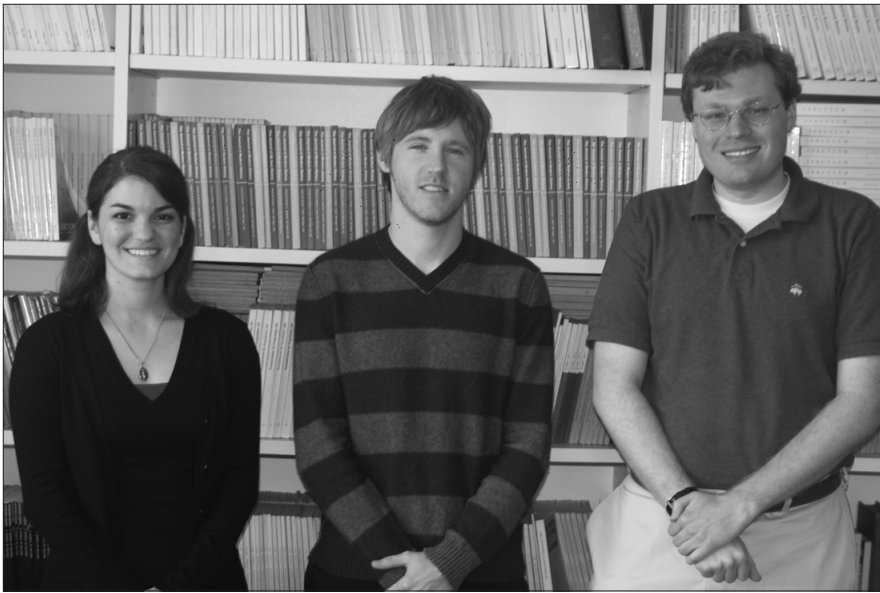
I graduated from UCLA in 2006 with dual degrees in History and English. Initially I thought that I would be pursuing a degree in literature and writing, but by my second year at UCLA, I had developed a passion for studying a specific historical time period through literature. I delayed my application to doctoral programs in order to gain more experience in Eu-

rope through working and traveling. I completed the University of Southern California's accelerated Master's program for teaching and education in 2007 and taught elementary school in Los Angeles before moving abroad.

During the summer of 2007, I worked at the Wende Museum in Los Angeles. "Wende," meaning turning point or change, is a particularly fitting name as the museum strives to provide access to cultural, political, and social aspects of the Cold War in East Germany and the Soviet Union. I was presented with the opportunity to conduct my own research on a topic of interest, in which I focused on society in the German Democratic Republic through a brief examination of the feminist literature written during this time period. In my doctoral studies I plan to examine communism in Eastern Europe and its effects on society, focusing on the roles that literature and popular culture played in 1970s and 1980s East Germany.

Carina Steller

As a graduate student from Germany, I am very happy to get to know the way history is taught in the United States. I chose BU because of



Amy Noel, Scott Hough, Andrew David

its vast variety of courses at the History Department and its link to International Relations. Since the beginning of my studies in History and English at the Ruhr-University in Bochum, I concentrated on the history of the United States. My interests lie in cultural history, the civil rights movement, slavery, international relations, and political history. Medieval history, especially of Italy, is another topic I'm interested in.

Although I have always been fascinated by history, I originally wanted to become a medical doctor and thus studied medicine for a year. Then I switched subjects. History interests me because I'm able to get a better understanding of other countries, including my own.

The paper for my master's degree will very probably deal with the renewal of diplomatic and/or cultural relations between Germany and the United States after the First World War.

Thus, I'm delighted by this opportunity to study the history of US foreign relations and 20th-century American history at BU.

Amy Noel

At five years old, I dumped tea off

the Beaver II, walked the Freedom Trail to Paul Revere's house, and stood in reverence before the hal- lowed tombstones of Old Granary. My love for all things history, but especially for early American history, began then. It was a passion that was kindled early, but one that continued to fascinate me throughout elementary and high school. As I studied history more seriously as an undergraduate at California State University, Fresno, I expanded my interests and soon became captivated by the history of the ancient world. I pursued a minor in Latin and wrote an honors thesis on the construction of the memory of a divine Julius Caesar. Nevertheless, Early American history remains my first love and is the area in which I have decided to pursue graduate work and an academic career.

Within Early American history, I am particularly interested in the colonial and revolutionary periods. Specifically, I would like to take a closer look at the iconography that emerged during the American Revolution and the beginning of the republic. I am also fascinated by public memory and its construction by means of visual and rhetorical imagery.

Several factors led me to choose

the PhD program at BU, the most important of which was the opportunity to work with Professor McConville. His book *The King's Three Faces* was one of the main reasons I wanted to pursue a career as a historian, and so I am very excited to begin learning everything I can from him. Another reason I chose BU was because of the city itself, and I am absolutely thrilled to be here. I grew up in a very small town, but the excitement of city life suits me. I look forward to everything Boston and New England has to offer, historical or otherwise (though, as a Californian, I am scared to death of an East Coast winter).

Scott Hough

My path to the study of history was unremarkable; I was one of the lucky ones that knew early on of a strong interest in the past. As I was growing up, my family moved to a new state about every two to three years. Apart from my small immediate family, the "social studies" class I would inevitably find at my new school was about the only thing I could count on. Despite living all over the country, though, this is my first time in Boston. I am very excited at the opportunity to study at BU and in such a historic city.

After mediating a complex relationship between my love for history and a passion for music (for what was quite long enough), I received my BA from the University of Washington in 2008. I focused on US foreign policy, the American West, and East Asia, but also enjoyed classes in American cultural history, late antiquity, and the medieval period. Earlier this year, I spent six months in Tokyo studying Japanese; I hope to further my study of the language while at BU and apply it to my work. Presently, I am especially interested in the international crisis of the mid-twentieth century and how it transformed America, its view of itself, and its role in the world.

Andrew David

In studying for my PhD at BU, I am returning to a familiar place. From 2001 to 2005 I was a history major in this department concentrating on European history. After graduating in 2005, I moved to London for a year to study in the International History Department at the London School of Economics. My studies at LSE convinced me that I wanted to do further work in American diplomatic history. I found that I was fascinated by both mid-20th-century Anglo-American relations and the development of the post-war national security apparatus. These are subjects I touched upon in my studies at BU but had not explored in much depth. My thesis topic was on Anglo-American Relations and the Sino-Indian Border War of 1962 and I received my MA with Distinction in December 2006. I greatly enjoyed living in London and, in a strange historic twist (and completely unbeknownst to me at the time), I spent my year over there living in Bob Marley's old apartment.

After working for the past couple of years, including some time as an intern in the Declassification Unit at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, I decided last fall that it was time to resume my studies.

I have been interested in history as long as I can remember; given BU's considerable strength in the field of American diplomatic history, it seemed like a perfect fit, and I'm delighted to be back. I'll be working with Professor Mayers on topics related to US foreign policy.

David Olson

I received my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in History from McGill University in my home town of Montréal. My previous graduate research focused on Cold War diplomacy and American-West European relations during the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). In 2008 I received a generous travel grant from the European Union Center of Excellence in order to pursue archival research in Europe. The evidence I collected demonstrated how international negotiations over human rights norms helped to shift the balance of power between the United States and Western Europe.

I entered the PhD program in 2009 and intend to study transatlantic relations in the seventies. I am particularly interested in how diplomats and statesmen attempted to identify new international challenges and causes in order to mobilize popular support during a period when détente stabilized international conflict. Although I study Cold War diplomacy, I also have broader interests in global and international history. I continue to be interested in American internationalism, international organizations, cultural and intellectual history, and comparative empires.

I chose to attend Boston University because of the school's strong focus in modern history and international relations. I find historical research and detective-work to be a very satisfying way to spend my day (and hopefully earn a paycheck). In the future, I hope to pursue a professional career as a historian or college teacher. ◆

Symposium on Eve Sedgwick announced

History students and faculty are invited to attend "Honoring Eve: A Symposium Celebrating the Work of Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick" from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on October 31. The symposium will bring together faculty and students from a variety of disciplines across the university and around the country to explore the scholarship of Eve Sedgwick, whose foundational work in feminist and queer theory has inspired countless scholars and activists in diverse fields. The symposium will consist of four roundtables, focused on specific texts representing different phases and aspects of Professor Sedgwick's career (Feminism and Queer Theory, Writing and Illness, Affect and Reparative Reading, and Reading Proust). Prof. Sedgwick taught at Boston University in the early 1980s, and the symposium will also feature a reading of a piece she co-wrote and performed as part of the feminist writing collective ID 450 that originated at BU.

In advance of the symposium, organizers will be holding workshops for students in the last week of October at which students can familiarize themselves with Prof. Sedgwick's work and discuss it in an informal environment with peers and interested faculty members.

Admission is free but registration is required. Visit the symposium website (www.bu.edu/honoringeve) to register and to access a detailed schedule of events, a list of speakers, and downloadable versions of the texts that will inform the panel discussions.

Especially encouraged to attend are students new to gender studies or queer theory but interested in exploring those fields. Questions about the symposium can be addressed to Professor Suzanne O'Brien of the History Department at sgobrien@bu.edu.

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

Early Registration

Spring 2010

The registration period for spring 2010 classes begins on November 4 for graduate students and on November 8 for undergraduates. The department will have special advising appointments available beginning October 21 and continuing through November 10 (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. A copy of the department's new "History Major Report and Worksheet" will be placed in each undergraduate's folder to be used at the advising meeting; majors may also request a report when they make an advising appointment. All students must have declared one of the eight tracks available for the history concentration before the advising meeting.

After an appointment, a student must go to the department office to obtain the code for Web registration. For admission to HI 200 (limited to history concentrators, social studies majors in the School of Education, and students in the College of General Studies who intend to become history majors) students must contact the department office in person or by phone. For colloquia (400- and 500-level courses) students first see the instructor and then visit the department office for registration. Permission slips for admission to colloquia will be accepted beginning October 1. The department will maintain a waiting list for any of the restricted courses that reach their enrollment limit; students may sign up for waiting lists by calling the office or going to the "Courses" section of the History website.

Below are notes on new or changed courses for spring 2010:

- ☛ One of the department's "divisional studies" courses (which are especially recommended for non-concentrators), but at the same time a course that has not been offered since 2004, **CAS HI 215 ("Political and Cultural Revolution")** will be taught by Professor Simon Payaslian. The course offers a comparative historical analysis of modern and contemporary revolutionary upheavals and cultural change in Europe, the Americas, East Asia, Africa, Middle East, and the former Soviet republics. The class examines the challenges posed by modernization, the crisis of legitimacy, nationalism, imperial decline, and globalization.
- ☛ **CAS HI 316 ("Intellectual History of Europe in the Twentieth Century")** is another course that has not been taught for quite a few years (not since 2004 to be exact). The class considers major figures and movements from 1890 to the present. Topics include the critique of positivism, the exploration of the unconscious, modern styles in art, reshaping Marxist theory, advances in sociology, the impact of war on modern literature and ethics. The instructor is Professor James Johnson.
- ☛ Still another course out of the rotation for many years is **CAS HI 327 ("Early Medieval Spain")**. In this course Professor Thomas Glick covers the history of Spain from the fifth through the thirteenth centuries: late Roman Spain, Visigoths, Islamic conquest, society and culture

of Islamic Spain, rise of Christian kingdoms; conquest and settlement of Andalusia, social relations and cultural exchange among Christians, Muslims, and Jews.

- ☛ New faculty member Simon Rabinovitch will offer a course entitled **"History of the Jews in Russia and Eastern Europe" (CAS HI 337)**—still in the approval process. The class offers a comprehensive survey of the history of the Jewish communities of Poland, Russia, and Eastern Europe from the middle of the eighteenth century until today. Topics examined include economic, social, religious, cultural, and political developments affecting Jews and Europeans generally.
- ☛ The department's other new faculty member, Sarah Phillips, will also offer a new course, **CAS HI 360 ("Politics of the American Environment")**, currently in the approval process. The course examines how questions of natural resource distribution, environmental rights, and environmental hazards have shaped United States politics and governance, with a focus on the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- ☛ The topic for **CAS HI 414 ("Society and Culture in Early Modern Europe")**, taught by Professor Barbara Diefendorf, is "Heretics, Demons, and Dissenters: Exploring the Dark Side of Early Modern History." Historians call the period between the Renaissance and the French Revolution the "early modern" era because it witnessed many social, political, and intellectual changes associated with modernity. It was also, however, a period marked by religious

persecution, the expulsion and even massacre of religious minorities, and witch hunts. This reading colloquium will examine manifestations of religious violence and intolerance in the early modern era in an attempt to understand the origins and impact of these attitudes and behaviors.

✦ Another new course is Professor Eugenio Menegon's CAS HI 482 (**"Merchants, Pirates, Missionaries, and the State in Maritime Asia, 600-2000"**). Oceans connected the peoples of coastal Asia, Africa, and Oceania for centuries, before the arrival of Europeans in the 1500s. This course examines the commercial, religious, cultural, political, and military dynamics of maritime Asia up to the present, showing the region's historical and current importance.

✦ Professor Charles Capper introduced a new course on the **American Transcendentalists (CAS HI 560)** last summer and will now offer this colloquium in the regular academic year. Led by Emerson, Thoreau, Bronson Alcott, Margaret Fuller, and others, the Transcendentalists constituted the first "counter-cultural" movement in American history. How and why they did so within the philosophical, religious, literary, antislavery, communitarian, and ecological currents they inhabited is the topic of the seminar.

As usual, check the departmental website (under "Courses") for changes to the spring schedule. ◆

EVENTS OF NOTE (cont. from page 1)

History Department, to organize and summarize historical documents in German relating to my current book project.

Graduate student **Jonathan Koefoed** has recently completed an encyclopedia article on "Elijah Muhammad" which will be published by Greenwood Press in the *Icons of Black*

America series due out next year. He also completed a review of Charles Maier's book *Among Empires: American Ascendancy and Its Predecessors* to be published in *The NeoAmericanist* (an online, peer-reviewed journal).

Professor **Simon Rabinovitch's** article "Russian Jewry goes to the polls: an analysis of Jewish voting in the All-Russian Constituent Assembly Elections of 1917" appeared in the most recent issue of *East European Jewish Affairs*.

Graduate student **Zachary Smith** was awarded a visiting scholar's grant by the Carl Albert Center at the University of Oklahoma.

Professor **Houchang Chehabi** published "The Paranoid Style in Iranian Historiography" in Touraj Atabaki, ed., *Iran in the 20th Century: Historiography and Political Culture* (I. B. Tauris).

Graduate student **Kathryn Lamontagne** spoke at two sessions of the Teaching Fellow Orientation held by the Graduate School in August.

Professor **Andrew Bacevich** published an op-ed on Afghanistan in the *Los Angeles Times* on September 7 and made appearances on PBS and CNN to discuss the same subject.

On October 2 Professor **Arianne Chernock** will participate in a Special Plenary Session at the North East Conference on British Studies in Providence, R.I., on "Teaching British History in North America—New Approaches."

Alumnus **William Leeman** has been appointed to a one-year teaching position at West Point for the current academic year.

Alumna **Madia Thomson** saw Professor **Diana Wylie** when the latter was in Tangier in June. Subsequently Madia left for a conference at Tel Aviv University, where she presented the paper "C'est la terre qui te libère: The Free Soil Principle in the Maghreb, 1848-1888," an invited lecture for the colloquium "Enslavement, Abolition, Trade and Households: Current Research on North Africa in the 18th and 19th Centuries," held June 14-20. She is currently working on the article version of the lecture which she plans to submit for publication. ◆

Graduate Student
Milestones



Michael Holm's research paper was accepted for credit toward the degree: "Also Present at the Creation: Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. and the Coming of the Cold War."

On September 18 Christopher Seely passed his qualifying oral examination. Examiners in the major field of American history were Professors Brendan McConville, Bruce Schulman, and Nina Silber; examiner in the minor field of international relations was Professor William Keylor.

In September Sara Georgini received the MA in history; she has been admitted to the doctoral program and has been awarded a one-semester Graduate Dean's Fellowship. Her advisor is Professor Jon Roberts.

The following students received the BA in History in September:

- Rebecca Yung Hee Brady (Double Major in International Relations)
- R. Paul Busco (*cum Laude*)
- Maggie Ann Ewing
- Talya Fern Feldman (Double Major in Religion)
- Alison Lauren Friedman
- Matthew B. Goldman (*cum Laude*)
- Kathryn Harper
- Robert Paul McEvoy, Jr.
- Jeffrey Alexander Neidorf
- Christine O'Leary (*cum Laude*)
- Charlie Francis Peabody
- Stephanie Maxine Perry (Minors in Latin and Journalism)
- Carlos Eduardo Quirola (Double Major in Economics)
- Alexander Chillingworth Russell Walker (Double Major in English), Distinction in History (*Magna cum Laude*)
- Bradley James Stuhlman

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

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Graduate student Jonathan Koefoed married Suzanne Riddle on August 8 in Columbus, Indiana. Suzanne is currently a first-grade teacher at a private school in Jamaica Plain and is finishing an MA in Education from UMass, Boston.

Despite a summer of feverish oral exam preparation, wedding planning, and a brief bout of homelessness (for Jonathan), the ceremony and surrounding festivities could not, Jonathan reports, “have been more memorable and fun.”

