

NEWS



of the History Department at Boston University

September 2009

Academic year brings new faculty and a change in leadership

With the advent of the 2009-10 academic year, the History Department welcomes two new faculty members: Sarah Phillips in the field of twentieth-century US history and Simon Rabinovitch, a specialist in modern Jewish history, both holding the rank of assistant professor. See page 4 in this newsletter for introductions to these new faculty.

The new year promises to be a busy one, with significant changes in the department:

For several years Boston University has been considering a proposal to begin a new college within the university, a kind of honors college but with differences from many other models. The Committee to Design the University Honors Program has proposed the establishment of a four-year university-wide honors program tentatively called New College, featuring a four-year curriculum incorporating freshman seminars, modular based lecture courses exploring the workings of a wide range of disciplines, a summer research experience or internship, and a keystone project. Students will pursue a concentration within Boston University's existing schools and colleges in conjunction with involvement in New College. A pilot program for the school begins this academic year; departmental participants in instruction are Professors Louis Ferleger, James Johnson, and James Schmidt. Charles Dellheim, who has chaired the History Department since 2001, has been the leader in proposing the new venture, seeing it through many discussions and debates and planning sessions; he has now been named the director of the college, with Professors James Schmidt and Andrew Cohen (of the Physics Department) as associate directors. As a result of Prof. Dellheim's appointment, he will step down from his position as chair of History at the end of the fall semester; department faculty are now in the process of formulating recommendations to the Dean of the College for the next chair (the person appointed will assume the position at the beginning of 2010).

Department faculty members are also engaged in discussions of the department's future in the areas of curriculum and staffing; as part of this process, the changes in the undergraduate and graduate curricula instituted in 2007 are being evaluated. Professor Bruce Schulman is chairing the committee charged with this evaluation.

In August the CAS Dean authorized the department, subject to budgetary approval, to launch a search for an assistant professor in the field of early modern European history; if approved, the search will be chaired by Professor Barbara Diefendorf. Ads have been placed, and applications are rolling in.

New dissertation fellowships established

A generous (and anonymous) donor has given the History Department the funds to create dissertation fellowships, designed to help graduate students who are in the final stages of completing the PhD, perhaps allowing them to forego outside jobs in order to concentrate on the thesis. The fellowships are named for the late Professor John Gagliardo, a specialist in early modern, particularly German, history; the first two recipients are David Atkinson and Katherine Jewell. Both summarize their projects below. The department extends its sincere appreciation to the donor for this very practical act of generosity.

David Atkinson, "The Burdens of Whiteness: White Supremacy, the British Empire, and the United States, 1897-1924"

Based on archival research conducted in five countries, my dissertation explores the influence of whiteness on relations among Great Britain, its dominions, and the United States. Internationally oriented proponents of white supremacy envisaged a common whiteness, which purportedly derived from the racial stock of Great Britain, and therefore included most of the white inhabitants of Britain's settler colonies, Australia, Canada, New Zealand (and to a lesser extent, South Africa), as well as the United States. Focusing on the period 1897-1924—beginning with Queen Victoria's Diamond

Those charged with special duties within the department have been announced for the 2009-10 academic year: Professor Louis Ferleger will be Director of Graduate Studies, and Professor Jonathan Zatin will be Director of Undergraduate Studies. Professor Arianne Chernock will be in charge of the Department Seminar series (the schedule for the first semester is on page 15). Other events of interest for the year: The International History Institute has planned a full program, including a series of lectures organized by Professor Andrew Bacevich around the theme of “The Short American Century, 1941-2008: Contrasting Views of the Era of American Dominance” (see page 7 for more information); the American Political History Institute will continue its Wednesday seminars (the schedule from September to January is on page 7); Professor Gordon Wood of Brown University will deliver the annual Gaspar Bacon Lecture on May 3; and, following last year’s successful event, the second graduate student conference on political history will take place at Boston University in April 2010 (more information on page 15).

in brief

EVENTS OF NOTE!

Graduate student **Beth Forrest** will deliver a paper in Barcelona in early September at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya; the title is “Variation Under Domestication: Spanish Cuisine and National Character.”... Beth also wishes to share the exciting news that she has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Liberal Arts at the CIA (no, not *that* CIA, the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y.). She has promised to write an article for the newsletter after she has gotten acclimated, and she has also assured us that she will be completing her PhD.

Professor **Jonathan Zatin** gave a talk entitled “Lessons Learned from the 1989 Revolution in Central Europe: The East German Case” at a conference on “The Post-Communist Era: Challenges and Opportunities,” which took place at Princeton University on May 11-12....A piece he wrote entitled “Monetary Policy and Political Legitimacy in the German Democratic Republic” appeared in the spring edition of *European Studies Forum*....He was also appointed to chair the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize Committee, which awards an annual prize in association with the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., to the best dissertation on German or German-American history completed at a North American university.

Professor **Andrew Bacevich** reports that his recent book, *The Limits of Power*, came out in a Chinese edition. He has also published recent essays in *World Affairs*, *Commonweal*, *The American Conservative*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

The “unwearing Darwinian Professor” **Thomas Glick** attended the International History of Science Congress in Budapest in late July, where he presented a paper on the earliest reception of Darwin in Boston in a session on “Darwinism at the Sub-national Level: Cities” and chaired two other sessions. The idea behind the urban approach is that virtually all studies in the comparative reception of Darwinism use national case studies; by changing the unit of analysis, one should get a more finely tuned picture of the social and political dynamics of reception. He also organized a “launch” of *The Reception of Charles Darwin in Europe*, his co-edited book which has two chapters on Darwinism in Hungary. The launch and reception were held at Central European University through the good offices of outgoing president Yehuda Elkana, a historian of science.

In August Professor **Bruce Schulman** participated in a roundtable discussion marking the fortieth anniversary of the Woodstock Festival that appeared on the *New York Times* website....Earlier in the summer, he moderated a forum on the Ford presidency at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. The participants included members of President Ford’s cabinet and White House staff, as well as one of the president’s children.

Graduate student **Robyn Metcalfe** reported in from Copenhagen, where she attended the World Congress on Environmental History and presented a paper, “The Victorian Environment and Urban Development in the 19th Century.”

In June Professor **James Schmidt** traveled to London for a conference on “Music and Morality” sponsored by the Institute of Musical Research and the Institute of Philosophy at the University of London, where he gave a paper that explored the role of musical compositions in the memorialization of victims of political violence (the paper is available at <http://people.bu.edu/jschmidt>). “Prior to the conference,” he reports, “I spent a few days in Bath, savoring the results of one of the eigh-



During early summer Professor James McCann (at left in photo) visited Professor Eugenio Menegon in the latter’s hometown, Castelfranco in Italy. They sit here in the town square in front of the statue of the great Renaissance painter Giorgioni. The day’s visit included a drive through the valley of the Piave, monasteries, the birthplace of Pope Pius X, and—at the village of St. Stefano—a visit to a Prosecco vineyard and winery.

teenth century's greatest bits of real estate speculation), and was also able to work in a few days at the British Library, examining the papers of the twentieth-century British composer John Foulds, whose massive and now forgotten 'World Requiem' was composed as a memorial to all of those who perished in the First World War."

In the spring Professor **Nina Silber** was elected to the Massachusetts Historical Society Board of Fellows.

During the summer Professor **Allison Blakely** presented the following two papers in the Netherlands: "Four Eighteenth-Century Portraits of Black 'Invisibility': Jacobus Capitein, Anton Amo, Abram Gannibal, and le Chevalier de Saint-George," given at the symposium "Trajectories of Emancipation: Black European Thinkers," sponsored by the Netherlands National Institute on the History and Legacy of Slavery, June 29-30 in Amsterdam; and "The Image of Surinamese in the Netherlands in European Perspective," keynote address for the 2nd Conferentie Surinaamse Amsterdammers, Amsterdam City Hall, May 29.

Graduate student **Kathryn Lamontagne** presented a paper on Kilmainham Gaol at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, on June 25-26. At the conclusion of the conference, she learned that her travel expenses would be paid in full by the American Friends of the IHR.

On July 17 Professor **Jon Roberts** delivered a plenary address on "God, Human Nature, and Religious Knowledge: The Response of American Protestant Thinkers to Darwinism, 1859-1920" at an Oxford University Conference on "Religious Responses to Darwin."

Graduate student **Katherine Hollander** was awarded Boston University's Schueler Traum Prize in Literary Translation this past spring for translations of poetry by German poet Else Lasker-Schuler.

As part of the Italian Studies Library Expansion Project, Professor Emeritus **Saul Engelbourg** has won a \$5000 grant from the Boston University Humanities Foundation for the purchase of books on Italian subjects. ◆

Dissertation Workshop introduced

This year the Department of History is offering for the first time HI 900, Dissertation Workshop. This two-credit, pass-fail course will be offered both terms and will be taught by Professor Jon Roberts. It will center on giving students an opportunity to share their dissertation chapters in a supportive, constructively critical group setting. In addition, from time to time, faculty members in the department will be invited to present written work to members of the workshop. The larger purpose of the course is to provide students with a variety of ideas and skills that will foster their entrance into the academic profession as historians. Accordingly, on weeks when pre-circulated papers are not being discussed, the class will focus on such topics as the preparation of job talks, syllabi, and lectures, the problem of generating productive class discussions, and the difficulties associated with writing a dissertation from conception to completion.

In keeping with the requirements of the graduate program introduced in 2007 (students who entered in that year were given the options of adhering to either the old or the new requirements) students are required to take this two-credit course for four semesters after passing the oral examination. Other graduate students in residence are also invited to participate in this course, either by taking it for credit (if one enrolls in the course for credit, the cost is the same as the Continuing Student Fee and the student will then need not pay that fee) or sitting in on it as informal auditors. It's also important to emphasize that according to the new requirements, even students who are not in residence (e.g., doing research for their dissertation elsewhere) are required to enroll in the course *in absentia*. Members of the Department who have participated in writing groups and other similar endeavors can attest to the usefulness of opportunities for scholarly interaction of the sort envisioned in the Dissertation Workshop.

The class will meet once every two

weeks. Currently the meeting time for the class is To Be Arranged. The first meeting of the class will take place on Monday, September 14, at 6 p.m. in Room 504 at 226 Bay State Road, and at that time the future meeting times and a schedule of topics will be determined.

Students who have questions about the course should contact Jon Roberts (roberts1@bu.edu; 617-353-2557).

DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP (cont. from page 1)

Jubilee and ending with the enactment of the Johnson-Reed Act in the United States—I demonstrate there existed only a thin veneer of transnational white brotherhood, which tended to manifest itself most vociferously in times of crisis or celebration, and facilitated only an ephemeral feeling of unity and cooperation. In fact, the fantasy of transnational whiteness was a discordant and divisive dynamic in Anglo-American-dominion relations. Ironically, I argue, the white man's burden was often his whiteness itself.

In particular, conceptions of whiteness were so ingrained and so vital to the national aspirations of the British dominions that their preservation and augmentation was perceived as crucial to their survival and continued prosperity. In turn, this led to the pursuit of policies that were fundamentally at variance with those of Great Britain, especially as manifested in exclusionary immigration policies directed against India, Japan, and China. Moreover, conceptions of American exceptionalism further complicated the quest for unity among the "Pan-Angles." Not even the intensity of a shared transnational whiteness—with all that it portended for Anglo-American-dominion relations—could penetrate this veil of exceptionalism. Significantly, the often pan-British rhetoric of racial unity also failed to take account of distinctly American conversations on race, which increasingly recognized that immigration patterns had rendered old assumptions about the primacy of the Anglo-Saxon race in the United States utterly

See DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP, page 6

Introduction to --- NEW FACULTY

The department is pleased to welcome two new assistant professors to the faculty this fall: Sarah Phillips in the field of modern US history and Simon Rabinovitch in modern Jewish history. They introduce themselves to our readers below:



Sarah Phillips

I am either triply blessed or the victim of a bizarre time warp, because this is the third time I will have introduced myself to the Department (see the entering graduate student profiles from 1996 and “Of French Horns and the New Deal” from the December 2003 issue). Because I poured out my heart in these pages six years ago I cannot bear to retrace again my personal and intellectual journey from starry-eyed musician to steely-eyed policy historian. But for those whose paths haven’t yet crossed mine I’ll provide the basic facts, and for those whose paths have been crossing mine for over a decade I’ll provide an update on how I’ve been shaped by life and work in the Big Apple.

Here is my background in brief: I was born in South Georgia to Yankee Sunbelt-migrant parents; received an undergraduate degree in music from Florida State University; and entered the PhD program at BU and cultivated interests in twentieth-century US history with a focus on agricultural, environmental, and political developments. In 2004 I finished a dissertation on the natural resource programs of the 1920s and 1930s under Bruce Schulman, Jim McCann, and Lou Ferleger—and that dissertation became a book published two years ago (*This Land, This Nation: Conservation, Rural America, and the New Deal*). I’ve spent the past five years as assistant professor at Columbia University, where I taught courses in twentieth-century American history and environmental history, and my current project examines the intersection of US farm and foreign policy since World War II. I’m delighted to return to BU to complement the Department’s existing strengths in political, environmental, and agricultural history, and I’m especially thrilled to be helping with the American Political History Institute. The most embarrassing event of my previous years at BU was when I was the TF in charge of bringing the final exams to Professor Keylor’s International Relations class and I mistakenly showed up 30 minutes after the exam had started. Psychologically marred for life, I now arrive half an hour early for every exam with copies of the final that have not left my person since they left the Xerox machine.

Before my sojourn in New York City (at 125th and Riverside Drive for those in the know, at the intersection of Harlem and the Upper West Side), my views about American cities were shaped by ignorance as well as an un-

forgivable lack of interest. When one’s attention is focused on farms and forests, flora and fauna, cities appear as the unnatural outcome of an environmentally predatory modernity. If I didn’t exactly share William Jennings Bryan’s early view of urban centers as sites of religious backsliding and fearsome cultural mongrelization, it’s safe to say (and this is a sincere and uncomfortable confession) that in some way I probably shared his agricultural fundamentalism and country parochialism. Appropriate, then, that the only job I was offered was located in Gotham.

I could continue on with a few lines about how I came, if not to love, then to respect and even delight in city life—its sights and sounds and smells, its endless culinary and artistic delights, the grand urban parks, our 17th-floor view overlooking the Hudson River, and—I’m not joking—bracing morning jogs atop a sewage treatment plant. But what I’d rather attempt to capture is how life there really was a kind of finishing school for my graduate education. At Columbia and in my neighborhood I was surrounded by people with New York City history on their minds and urban history on tap as their conceptual model and explanatory touchstone. Just to give a few examples, I knew I had some catching up to do the first month on the job when I was completely sidelined by a debate between two NYU colleagues over the differences in political ideology between Progressive-era furrier and textile unionists; when a new grad student asked me for the relevant literature on the numbers game and the effects of its legalization (as off-track betting) on New York’s black and Latino communities; and when an undergraduate asked me to arrange an interview with a prominent local leader of an anti-toxics campaign

because obviously if I were an expert on environmental politics at Columbia I must be studying the environmental justice movement. Clearly, my breezy reading of *The Power Broker* and lame jokes about getting stuck in traffic on the Cross-Bronx Expressway would go only so far.

What followed was a exhilarating five years of what felt like cramming for an oral exam in urban history—I needed to help graduate students with their first-year research projects and undergraduates with their senior theses (both of which mostly took a New York focus because of the plentiful archives nearby); I wanted to integrate New York examples into lectures and teaching in that casual, offhand way that looks like it's nothing but which really requires hours of preparation; I had to be able just to show my face in a department where a colleague's lecture class on the History of the City of New York routinely drew 500 students, many of whom eagerly awaited the night when the professor led all of them on a midnight bicycle tour on streets officially emptied by cooperative municipal authorities.

Of course I know that American urban history cannot be reduced to New York City history; New York is often the best example of some processes as well the biggest exception. But the experience completed my education and cleansed my soul of its stale country air. A bit like W.J. Bryan in his later years, I also reworked much of my political worldview (in the scholarly sense) with new infusions of labor history, in my case with questions of occupational health, urban conservation, and environmental justice. And, if at one time I assumed that top-down policy history best explained modern politics, I now have a genuine appreciation for the interaction between the mainstream and those movements too often dismissed as marginal. Not that I'm leaving the study of policy elites any time soon, but as a scholar and teacher there's now a better balance between high and low, the country and the city.

Moving back to New England completes that journey to the middle ground. There were some admirable

apartment dwellers who composted in New York with worms under their sinks. Now happily ensconced in Cambridge, I like stepping onto my small porch and taking the kitchen scraps out to the backyard compost heap, plucking a few weeds from the herbs, leaving the car parked in the driveway, and walking 10 minutes to the T. I think many of the populists might have enjoyed the same lifestyle had they been so lucky. ♦



Simon Rabinovitch

When I finished my graduate work at Brandeis University I took a postdoctoral position at the University of Florida. I was both sad to leave Boston and excited to start something new and very different. As we headed out of Boston by car, my wife Jodi recorded the trip on a video camera, narrating as we went, “goodbye apartment... goodbye favorite sandwich shop... goodbye Storrow Drive... we hope we can move back someday.” To both of our delight, that someday arrived sooner than either of us expected. After two sun-filled years at the University of Florida, we are thrilled about our move back to Boston, made even more exciting by our new travelling companion, our little daughter Zoe. Faculty may remember that during my campus visit last

January my wife was 37 weeks pregnant. For a shot at a job at BU we both deemed the trip well worthwhile, and fortunately Jodi remained pregnant until my return. As luck would have it, I received the official job offer on the day of Zoe's birth.

Though less golf is certainly a downside in returning to Boston, more hockey is plenty enough compensation. As a Canadian expatriate I feel obliged to live up to stereotypes—incidentally, all true—wherever possible. Hockey is so pervasive in Canada that when I was a student at McGill University I even played on an intramural team with another Simon Rabinovitch (of no relation). This caused referees no amount of confusion and even once led to an altercation based on a case of mistaken identity. So it is fair to say that all Simon Rabinovitches in Canada play hockey, or at least all of the Simon Rabinovitches of which I was aware. At Brandeis, where I played on their club team, the aptly named Judges, we even managed to squeeze out a New England Senior Hockey League division championship one year. The framed victory photo still adorns my living room. I had to take a two-year hiatus from playing hockey while in Florida and look forward to lacing up the skates again. I am hoping the semi-tropical air failed to damage my abilities, as they were pretty limited to begin with. While I doubt a coaching position with the Terriers is in the cards, it is my full intention as part of the acculturation process to become a rabid fan, so those people with tickets beware.

As I almost certainly was not hired for my hockey abilities, I should probably say a word or two about my work and teaching. All of my current work deals in some way with the different Jewish responses to both the challenge of secularization and the development of new European political ideologies. My dissertation focused on a movement led by Jewish intellectuals and political and social activists for national minority rights and Jewish self-government in late imperial and revolutionary Russia. These activists sought to separate the principle of national minority rights from territory, and pointed out

that Jews were equally capable of administering autonomous cultural, educational, and communal institutions as other national minorities seeking territorial autonomy. My book based on this work is provisionally entitled *Homeland Bound: Jewish Autonomism in Revolutionary Russia*. The title is meant as a double-entendre because while many Jews in this period left Russia bound for a new homeland, others felt bound to Russia, as they saw it their real homeland. In the public and scholarly imagination, Jewish disillusionment with the possibility of integration into Russian (and Polish) society led to the development of Zionism, Jewish forms of socialism, and various combinations of the two. Yet I argue in my book that it was really the turn to demands for collective rights for the Jews in the Russian empire that defined the Jewish political experience in the very late imperial and revolutionary periods, as Jewish parties and groups across the political spectrum adopted variations of autonomism.

In addition to *Homeland Bound*, I am working on two anthologies intended to broaden the range of English primary sources available to students and teachers of Jewish political and intellectual history. The first is a collection of essays dealing with the topic, encapsulated in its title, of *Diasporic Nationalism in Modern Jewish Thought*. The second is a reader called *Modern Jewish Politics: Ideologies, Identities, and the Jewish Question*, which I am editing with David Rechter, a colleague at Oxford University. For both anthologies I plan to continue to use my classes to test different texts with students. In the fall I will be teaching History of the Jews in the Modern World. In the future, I plan to offer classes on Jewish political thought, Russian and East European Jewry, Jewish cultural history, and comparative nationalism. I am also very open to suggestions from faculty and students about desired courses or team instruction. Since Jews rarely if ever lived in isolation, learning Jewish history is interdependent with learning the history of the people among whom Jews lived. In all of my classes my hope is for students to gain a greater under-

standing of the extent to which Jewish culture, thought, and society have been (and continue to be) shaped by millennia of migration and cultural exchange, and particular to my interests, by the different European societies in which Jews lived.

If you have a chance, drop by my office to say hello—I would love to be acquainted, or re-acquainted. I am also looking to enlist partners for golf and racquet-sports! For students, I am a big proponent of language training and study abroad and I am always happy to discuss some possible options for studying Russian, Yiddish, Hebrew, French, or any other language you might be considering. I look forward to getting to know everyone in the coming year. ◆

DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP (cont. from page 3)

inappropriate.

By focusing on the transnational context in which whiteness was imagined and subsequently defended, this dissertation not only addresses a historiographical lacuna, but also demonstrates how such racially motivated principles and policies ultimately undermined, alienated, and enervated even their intended beneficiaries. Furthermore, this study expands our historical understanding of key episodes in international relations history, including the Anglo-Boer War, the worldwide cruise of Theodore Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet," World War One, and the Paris Peace Conference. In so doing, this study contributes to a number of previously disparate historiographies, including the history of the British Empire, the history of international relations in general, the growing field of whiteness studies, the history of American foreign policy, and the ongoing effort to place the history of the United States in a transnational context.

Katherine Jewell, "The Southern States Industrial Council and the Transformation of the Southern Economy, 1932-1970"

In 1934, strikes rippled through tex-

tile plants throughout the South, while in Washington a new administration orchestrated dramatic new federal programs for the management of an economy in crisis. My dissertation examines how southern industrialists and businessmen developed their own understanding of New Deal intervention in their region and its effect on the South's economic development. Dire economic conditions, the growth of southern unionism, and the perceived injustice to southern traditions on the part of federal administrators shaped the political activism of the business organization through which I examine the development of these interpretations and arguments, the Southern States Industrial Council (SSIC). This organization of prominent southern businessmen, men who were much maligned in public opinion, used this position as an opportunity to develop new ideological and organizational arrangements, thus shaping how American political conservatism would unfold in the South and nation in years to come.

Furthermore, the SSIC's arguments and rationales against New Deal policies and Franklin Roosevelt's administration became key in how southern industrialists understood future economic policies and political decisions. While my dissertation begins with the National Recovery Administration and the National Labor Relations Act, the narrative expands to examine the SSIC's growing activism in freight rate "discrimination," the distribution of defense contracts during and after World War II, presidential politics in the form of the "Draft-Byrd-for-President" campaign, foreign policy, and eventually civil rights. The SSIC strengthened its relationship with political figures such as Harry Flood Byrd, the conservative Senator from Virginia, and the Council became an important source of conservative thinking on economic and political issues. Its constituency, made up primarily of small and medium sized manufacturers, resented the growing influence of large corporations in national politics and the turn towards more liberal spending pro-

See DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP, page 11

Upcoming International History Institute events: fall 2009

- Lecture Series: “The Short American Century, 1941-2008: Contrasting Views of the Era of American Dominance” (see details at right)
- Faculty Seminar: “Roger Hilsman and the Vietnam War.” Professor Gerald Protheroe, New York University. September 25. Location: Eilts Room, 154 Bay State Road. Time: 4 p.m. Students are welcome.
- Faculty Seminar: “American Aid to the French Resistance in World War II.” Professor Robert Beloit, Directeur du Laboratoire RECITS, speaking on his new book *L’Affaire Suisse*, on Allan Dulles, the OSS, and the French Resistance. October 29. Location: Eilts Room, 154 Bay State Road. Time: 4 p.m. Students are welcome.
- International Food History series: 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. Location and date TBA. Food will be served as part of the presentation. Contact: IHI@bu.edu
- Western Front Association annual conference. November 7. Location: SMG Executive Leadership Center, 4th floor, 595 Commonwealth Avenue. Time: 10 a.m.–5 p.m. A small fee will be charged. The IHI will pay this fee for any history students or IHI Fellows who wish to attend this conference on the Great War. Contact: IHI@bu.edu

Political History Seminars

Bruce Schulman, Director of the American Political History Institute, announces the fall schedule of seminars. All are held in Room 504 at 226 Bay State Road.

- ☛ September 16: Eric Rauchway, University of California, Davis: “Morrill’s Acts: Education, Migration, Reconstruction?”
- ☛ October 14: Jacco Pekelder, University of Utrecht: “The Seventies in Western Europe: Great Shifts or Small Changes?” (Special event presented by the American Political History Institute 1970s Project in cooperation with the History Department Seminar Series)
- ☛ October 21: Suzanna Reiss, University of Hawaii: “A Most Important Weapon of Economic Warfare’: WWII, Pharmaceuticals, and the Logic of International Drug Control”
- ☛ November 4: Miriam Pawel, Journalist and Alicia Patterson Foundation Fellow: “The Union of Their Dreams: Power, Hope, and Struggle in César Chávez’s United Farm Workers Movement”
- ☛ December 2: Ruth Martin, Cambridge University: “Defending the Unpopular: The Continuing Impact of Anti-Communism in the American Civil Liberties Union’s Due Process Campaign, 1967-77”
- ☛ January 27: Jonathan Soffer, NYU Polytechnic Institute: “Adapting to Neoliberalism: Ed Koch and the Rebuilding of New York City”

... the complete opportunity of leadership is ours. [We must] accept wholeheartedly our duty to exert upon the world the full impact of our influence, for such purposes as we see fit and by such means as we see fit.

— Henry R. Luce, *The American Century*, *Life* (February 7, 1941)

THE SHORT AMERICAN CENTURY
1941–2008

Contrasting Views of the Era of American Dominance

SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL HISTORY INSTITUTE, BOSTON UNIVERSITY

September 17, 2009: Matthew Connelly, Columbia University	October 8, 2009: Jeffrey Frieden, Harvard University	October 22, 2009: Eugene McCarragher, Villanova University	November 18, 2009: David Kennedy, Stanford University
December 3, 2009: Walter LaFeber, Cornell University	March 18, 2010: Emily Rosenberg, University of California Irvine	April 1, 2010: Akira Iriye, Harvard University	April 29, 2010: T. J. Jackson Lears, Rutgers University

All lectures start at 6 p.m. Open to students, faculty, and the public.
Location: The Castle, 225 Bay State Road

Boston University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. 0809-980376

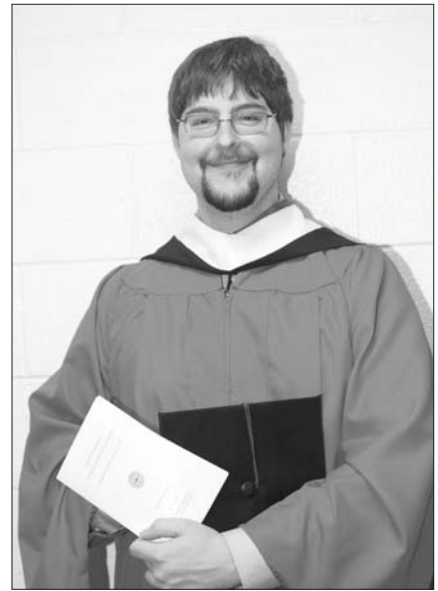
BOSTON UNIVERSITY



Stephen Henrick, winner of the Warren Ault Prize in History



Alexander Gontar, who graduated with distinction in history



Matthew Miller, recipient of the Master of Arts in history

A horizontal banner with a dark, textured background. The text "Views of Commencement" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The year "2009" is written in a large, light-colored, stylized font to the right of the main text.



The East Asian contingent: faculty members Suzanne O'Brien (Japanese history) and Eugenio Menegon (Chinese history)



Lauren Joslin, winner of the College Prize in History

The choice to major in history

BY LAUREN JOSLIN

I say this with the suspicion that it's something I share with more than a few of the students and faculty assembled here today: I like history because I like old stuff. When I was about eight I found a lead toy shaped like a farmer buried under a shrub in my backyard and I'm convinced that this discovery was my first step on the uncertain path to becoming a history major. I didn't want to deconstruct, reconstruct, theorize, or gender my find; I was satisfied identifying it as "really old" and had no desire to carbon-date it by way of proof. I was pleased to have a piece of an unfamiliar past in my hand; it was a connection with something invisible and uncanny that had miraculously become tangible. The same mysterious thrill passed through me in my sophomore year Reading History class when Professor Chernock sent us all into the Gotlieb Archives to see what we could do with real primary sources. I had read Emma Goldman's memoirs in a momentary fit of Bolshevism at age fourteen and now I was holding pieces of her life: pamphlets for a speech, newspaper clippings, some very explicit love letters. The final paper ceased to be a gloomy reminder on my calendar and became a game played with illegible correspondence and century-old hotel bills. There was no real way to lose; there were a thousand observations to make, from the minute and seemingly insignificant to the basic facts anybody could read in a biography or a Wikipedia article. I was discovering all of them for myself. That was when I finally gave up on changing my major to Linguistics.

An archive is like an abandoned attic room whose inhabitants died two

thousand or fifty or five years ago and you've got to figure out what happened. You need white gloves if you want to touch anything, but no layer of sterilized paper can protect these objects from your probing detective's eye. Yesterday's copy of the *Daily Free Press* might help your thesis just as much as a sixteenth-century washerwoman's leather shoe. I'm making history right now, if ineptly, and someday someone might peer at these notecards and puzzle at their possible implications for a dimly illuminated past era of human existence. Scholarship might be elitist, but history in its most basic form is an equalizer, a populist discipline even Emma Goldman could love. Anything is evidence and everything is allowed except a lack of curiosity and that scholarly stiffness that prevents convincingly jumping to the most distant of conclusions.

It's not a great economy in which to graduate with skills like interpreta-

tion of sources, close-reading, formulating a thesis, and late-night JSTOR searching. Still, I have no regrets about choosing history, and I hope you all feel the same—we can comfort ourselves by recalling that the outlook is at least as gloomy over at the Business Administration commencement ceremony. During the last four years I've gotten a lot of dubious responses to my major, but luckily I have the well-honed critical mind to establish these detractions firmly where they belong within my own humble microhistory. Mutual funds may come and go; history will always be around. Now we just need to convince potential employers of this, analytic ability and reading knowledge of German proudly in hand.

Congratulations and good luck to all of you, and I hope we can all hold on to the magic of scholarly discovery until we become fodder for discovery ourselves.



Professor Menegon, after attending conferences in Naples and Venice, spent three weeks (June 1-28) as a BU exchange scholar at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. During his visit he collected materials for his next project on daily life at the Qing imperial court, visited the Qing History State Compilation Project headquarters, the Institute for Qing History at Renmin University, and the Court Studies Section of the Palace Museum, inside the Forbidden City. This photograph shows him with the personnel of the Court Studies Section, after a briefing on recent research trends he had with them on June 23.

Humanities Foundation Awards

2009



Four students win Humanities Foundation awards

On May 12 the Humanities Foundation presented its annual awards to outstanding undergraduates and graduate students in the humanities (history is included in this case). The department congratulates these students.

Kathryn Brownell (first photo above) is writing a dissertation to be entitled “The Rise of the ‘Sixth Estate,’” which will explore the convergences of political practices with show business institutions, styles, and personalities over the course of the twentieth century, investigating the way that entertainment has emerged as a defining component of the American political process. “Analyzing the growing links between Hollywood and Washington,” she states, “highlights how media structures, with their celebrity figures, gradually replaced political parties as the mediators between politicians and voters—the principal vehicle for relating policies and candidates to the American voters.” Katie’s advisor is Professor Bruce Schulman.

Michael McGuire (second photo above) is writing a dissertation entitled “Comrades in War, Critics in Peace: American Non-governmental Organizations, the Reconstruction of France, and Franco-American Relations, 1914-1929,” which will examine the significance of American humanitarian aid to France during and after World War I, as channeled through non-governmental organizations (NGOs). He will explore how interaction between American NGO workers and French citizens affected foreign relations, centering on four themes: NGOs’ interactions with governments and other NGOs, NGO members’ comprehension of the French lan-

guage, the cultural dimensions of such humanitarian aid, and the legacy of American NGO aid to France. Michael’s advisor is Professor William Keylor.

Sean Link (photo 3 above) applied to Boston University in broadcast journalism, but on the way to matriculation something happened: “I no longer wanted to be a talking head, famous for his second-hand reporting of important events; instead I wanted to be a part of the action, to know that any respect and achievement on my part would also help benefit others. I had glimpsed the world of Washington, D.C., civil service, and I wanted to break in.” Furthering that goal, he held an internship this summer in Washington, and in the fall, in the BU program in Rabat, Morocco, he will resume his studies of Arabic and complete his BA in the history and international relations track, with a minor in Middle Eastern Societies.

Coincidentally, **Danielle Nahmias** (photo 4 above) begins her personal statement by asserting “My ultimate goal in life is to obtain a PhD in cultural anthropology, become a professor, and study the Arab world.... My goal is to educate Americans about the people of the Arab world and in particular Arab immigrants to the US.” Toward that end, she is pursuing a double major in history and anthropology with a minor in Muslim Studies and has been studying Arabic both at BU and in Morocco as well. Her goals? “Through my study of history, anthropology, Arab immigrants in the US, Islam, and Arabic, I hope to learn enough to help the West and Arab world understand each other better. Maybe it will be on the small scale and teaching my family the differences between Salafis (Islamic “fundamentalists”) and mainstream Muslims or perhaps, in the future, on the big scale of advising NGOs or even the US government.”

Five graduate students win travel awards

In May the departmental Graduate Studies Committee awarded fellowships to five students from the Engelbourg travel fund to help with the costs of travel connected with dissertation research. The recipients are the following:

Andrew Ballou's dissertation, "Fellowship Reverberations: The Fellowship of Reconciliation and Social Christianity, 1914-1947," written under the supervision of Professor Jon Roberts, will "analyze the discourse concerning religion, politics, labor, and international peace in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century by examining one peace organization, the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The Fellowship was important in the interwar period because its members were involved in the central reform movements of the era, including labor organizing, using nonviolent means to push for racial reconciliation in the South, and agitating for international peace. A.J. will use the award to visit the Claremont School of Theology and consult the papers of a prominent member of the Fellowship.

Under the supervision of Professor Clifford Backman, **Jolanta Komornicka** is writing a dissertation examining the role of torture in crimes of lese-majesty in France between 1350 and 1380. These crimes ostensibly came under the purview of the royal judiciary and included such offenses as treason, rape, arson, and homicide. The designation of the crime as violating the king's majesty expanded the king's authority in the realm. At a time when French kings were actively engaged in centralizing the state and when their legitimacy as monarchs was simultaneously called into question by a crisis of succession, the trials of lese-majesty took on a particular urgency and significance. Examining the use of torture, which was employed under Roman law for high crimes, "will lend insight into the development of the idea of the Crown as it sought to unite king and kingdom into a single polity." Jolanta

will travel to various archives in Paris to begin her research.

Michael McGuire is writing a dissertation under the supervision of Professor William Keylor on the significance of American non-governmental organizations in France during and after World War I, projecting the relationship between NGOs and France to an evaluation of how these organizations affected Franco-American affairs. Michael will use his travel award to visit the archives of the American Committee for Devastated France (ACDF), located in Princeton, N.J. From 1918 to 1924 this organization provided medical, dental, social, agricultural, and financial assistance to French citizens, endeavoring "to ensure the ACDF's work rarely ran against the grain of French societal norms."

Andrea Mosterman, working under the supervision of Professor Linda Heywood, is writing a dissertation to be titled "Sharing Spaces in a New World Environment: African-Dutch Contributions to North American Culture, 1626-1826." The goal of the study is "to examine the origins and development of African-Dutch practices and traditions in New York State." Dutch colonial history "had a long-lasting influence on the region's culture. Blacks and whites in these Dutch American communities shared a number of spaces: they celebrated together, worshipped together, worked together, and often times they lived together." Andrea's work will argue that exchanges and interactions between African and Dutch descendants brought about unique practices and traditions peculiar to the region. She will utilize the travel grant to visit the New York Public Library, which houses many records important to her research.

Zachary Smith is writing a dissertation entitled "From the Well of the House: The Rise of Conservative Republicans in the US House of Representatives from 1978 to 1994." In short, the project "proposes to explore how a minority of members within the minority party in the US House moved the Republican Party to majority status for the first time in half a century." He will argue that although the members lead-

ing the push to that status were conservative, their partisanship was more important than their ideology; they "were more concerned with getting the Republican Party into power than with making the party more conservative." Zack plans to examine the papers of such figures as Newt Gingrich, Dick Armey, Jack Kemp, and Tip O'Neill to trace the Republican rise to power. His travel award will assist him in visiting the various archives that house the papers of these and others in his study.

DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP (cont. from page 6)

grams in the 1950s. The SSIC's official statements criticized the moderate Republican Dwight Eisenhower, and the Council later turned towards the support of strong conservatives like Barry Goldwater. In short, the SSIC's activism from the New Deal to the 1960s helps to explain how southern businessmen traveled a path from the Democratic Party to the Republican on the basis of how they interpreted political influence on economic issues.

In researching my dissertation I traveled from the Council's records in Nashville to Birmingham and Montgomery, Auburn, Chapel Hill, Charlottesville, Virginia, and Columbia, South Carolina. The Council represented industries in the heart of the South, but in later years it expanded to enjoy a strong Sunbelt presence, with large donations from California, Arizona, and as far north as Wyoming, where its later head of publicity hosted a nationally syndicated radio broadcast. What began as a defense of southern traditions in the New Deal transitioned in the 1960s into a national issue of small industries versus large, multi-national corporations. As the South's economy diversified and grew, the SSIC's purpose as a stalwart of southern tradition weakened. In the 1970s the SSIC became the US Business and Industrial Council, which continues to lead a campaign against international free trade. ◆

New MIH issue published

The journal *Modern Intellectual History* has announced the contents of its August 2009 issue:

Research Articles

Ben Dew, "Waving a *mouchoir à la Wilkes*: Hume, Radicalism and *The North Briton*"

Robert E. Bonner, "Proslavery Extremism Goes to War: The Counterrevolutionary Confederacy and Reactionary Militarism"

Jennifer Pitts, "Liberalism and Nationality in Hamdan Khodja's Critique of Empire"

Samuel Moyn, "The Assumption by Man of His Original Fracturing: Marcel Gauchet, Gladys Swain, and the History of the Self"

Essays

Jeffrey R. Collins, "Quentin Skinner's Hobbes and the Neo-Republican Project"

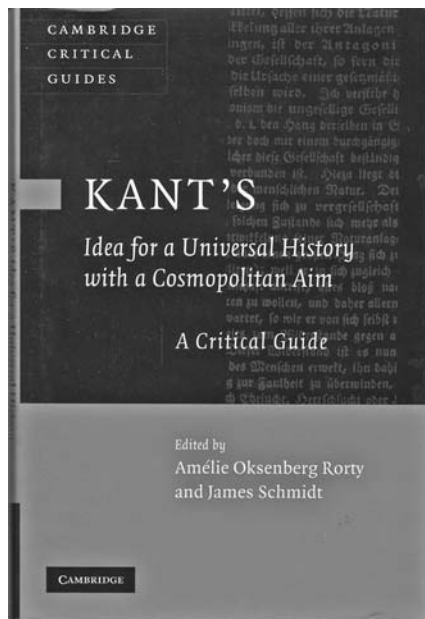
Malachi Hacohen, "The Culture of Viennese Science and the Riddle of Austrian Liberalism"

Joel Isaac, "Tangled Loops: Theory, History, and the Human Sciences in Modern America"

Review Essays

Andrew Jainchill, "Political Economy, the State, and Revolution in Eighteenth-Century France"

Laurie Maffly-Kipp, "Resurrecting Liberals: A New Age of American Spirituality"



During the summer Cambridge University Press published a "Critical Guide" to Kant's *Idea for a Universal History, with Professor James Schmidt* as co-editor.



Michael Lienesch

Bacon Lecture celebrates Darwin's birthday

BY JEFFREY STOUT

Michael Lienesch, Professor of Political Science at UNC-Chapel Hill gave the annual Gaspar Bacon Lecture on May 4th to a gathering of faculty and a few students as part of the University's celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin. The title of his lecture was "Why We're Stuck with the Scopes Trial."

Lienesch explained that he was stuck with the Scopes Trial because of his interests in intellectual history, the history of right-wing political movements, and the intersection between religion and politics. The Scopes Trial, which casts a long shadow over all these topics, has had a profound impact on American religion, first amendment law, and politics. Lienesch suggested that understanding how the Scopes Trial was viewed by the participants, the contemporary public, historians, and popularizers gives us insight into why the trial has often been depicted simplistically, and an appreciation for why a nuanced understanding of the trial can help illuminate various aspects of the history of politics, law, and religion of the 1920s.

Lienesch began by telling the narrative of the Scopes Trial, illustrating the story with pictures from the golden age of black and white photojournalism. In his lecture his primary argument was that dichromatic interpretations of the Scopes Trial, which were presented by the media at the time and later popularizers of the trial, did not sufficiently explain the historical significance of the event. The Scopes Trial was not a simple case of Southern rural traditionalism versus Northern cosmopolitan progress, fundamentalism versus modernism, religion versus science, or tyranny versus individual rights, but rather a complex discourse at a crucial point in American legal, religious, and political development. The new evidence he presented in support of his argument was gathered from the transcript of the trial.

The extent to which professional roles were negotiated and realized during the trial evidenced the complexity of the affair. In the transcript he discovered many struggles to determine how various professionals should act during the trial. The reporters were learning about the power of radio during the first broadcast of courtroom proceedings over the airwaves. The judge struggled to reconcile his dual role as elected politician and court official. The lawyers were uncertain of the case they wished to argue, and the expert witnesses called by the defense were unsure whether their testimony would be significant. For the lawyers and judge, the national attention boggled the political and legal dimensions of the trial, since good legal strategy—for instance preventing experts from giving testimony—was poor political strategy, because the public believed experts should have their say.

One memorable example Lienesch gave of a professional struggling with his role was a speech given by William Jennings Bryan, lawyer for the prosecution. By 1925 he was a famous politician, though previously a lawyer. He began a speech for the prosecution, "Friends," and then paused and apologized to the court for being unaccustomed to the language appropriate to the courtroom.

Ironically, the only straightforward part of the trial was that Scopes should be

found guilty. This, all sides believed, would give the Supreme Court a chance to weigh in on the issue of whether or not evolution should be taught in schools. All the arguments of the case were given with this end in mind, so the legal question of Scopes's guilt or innocence was overshadowed by questions of legal procedure, of constitutional law, and the state's power to control high school science curricula.

The Scopes Trial marked the end of evolution teaching for over forty years. The guilty verdict the jury delivered after only nine minutes of deliberation and the dismissal of the appeal on a technicality prevented any examination of the constitutionality of the Tennessee law. Teachers and textbook writers took note and stopped teaching and writing about evolution. It was not until *Epperson versus Arkansas* in 1968, which struck down a law prohibiting the teaching of evolution, that biology classes were again free to discuss evolution. But even then, America was stuck with the Scopes Trial, as indicated by the extensive references to it made by the Epperson judge and the continued legal battles that were reminders of their progenitor. As debates about evolution continue and the stakes remain high—the country remains evenly divided over the issue—we will remain, Lienesch contends, stuck with the Scopes Trial.

The questions after the lecture further emphasized the complexity that the trial presents to historians. Each question sought to make connections between aspects of the history of politics, law, religion, and science and some element of the trial. The first question concerned the use of a political strategy that results in an unfavorable outcome—do anti-evolutionists arguing for pluralism in science wish to embrace pluralism of religion or politics? Other questions concerned the link between Social Darwinism and evolution, and how this shaped the arguments of the

prominent lawyers in the trial. This link was Bryan's primary concern regarding the teaching of evolution. Does evolution perpetuate the philosophy that the little guy loses? Though religion was omnipresent in the lecture, it took a question about the effects the trial had on Southern religion for Lienesch to address religion and the Scopes Trial explicitly.

This brings me to my only complaint about Lienesch's lecture: he spoke about religion and its effects on the trial and the politics of the anti-evolution movement only in passing. I suspect if there had been more time this would have been the area that received more attention. A lecture on the history of Constitutional law should focus on legal and political issues. However, if the Scopes Trial was "transformative for Southern religion," as Lienesch claimed, it would have helped his argument that the Scopes Trial was a negotiation of professional roles if he had included consideration of the roles offered to religious experts in the trial. Was there a transformation in their professional roles as a result of the radio and media coverage of the Scopes Trial?

I left this lecture grateful for the opportunity to study science and religion within American history. The demands of the discipline force me to constantly look beyond scientific and religious determinism to more complex historical arguments inclusive of religion, science, law, and politics. ◆

Update on Fall 2009 Courses

Below are listed courses added to the fall schedule during the summer as well as other courses of special note:

Visiting faculty member Samuel Deese has been appointed to the Writing Program for fall 2009 and will teach a section of **CAS HI 100**, the first half of the writing sequence.

New faculty member Simon Rabinovitch will teach **CAS HI 223** ("Jews in the Modern World"). The course covers the Jewish nation in the Ottoman Empire; the social and economic effects of

European emancipation; the rise of modern antisemitism; intra-European and cross-Atlantic immigration patterns; the Holocaust; the state of Israel and modern Jewish identity.

CAS HI 276 ("Armenia from Antiquity to the Middle Ages") is a new class being offered by Professor Simon Payaslian. The course is an introduction to Armenian history from antiquity to the medieval period. Themes covered include geopolitical competition for regional hegemony, the conversion to Christianity, adoption of the Armenian alphabet, the quality of political leadership under the five kingdoms, and the national struggle for survival.

A fifth section of **CAS HI 200** ("The Historian's Craft") has been added to the schedule; the following sections remain open for enrollment: Section A2 (Louis Ferleger), Monday 3-6; Section B1 (Allison Blakely), Tuesday 1-4; Section C1 (Anna Geifman), Tuesday 2-5; Section D1 (Eugenio Menegon), Thursday 3:30-6:30.

New faculty member Sarah Phillips will teach **CAS HI 363** ("Twentieth-Century United States, 1900-1945"). The course examines industrialization; progressivism; science; religion; expansion and World War I, immigration; the women's movement; Jim Crow; the Great Depression and New Deal; World War II, politics, culture, and diplomacy.

CAS HI 376 ("American Foreign Policy Since 1945"), which is crosslisted with an international relations class, traces the course of US foreign policy since the end of World War II, with particular emphasis on the origins and conduct of the Cold War, the failure of US policy in Vietnam, the pattern of US interventionism in Latin America, and the evolution of US policy in the Middle East. It will be taught this fall by Stephen Kinzer, Professor of Journalism and Political Science, Northwestern University, and author of *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror* (2003) and *Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq* (2007).

CAS HI 378 ("History of the Civil Rights Movement") is a new course taught by visiting faculty member in African American Studies Julia Rabig. The course explores the history of the African American struggle for racial equality and democracy from the turn of the century through the 1960s. Use will be made of the most recent scholarship, memoirs, documentary films, and oral history accounts.

CAS HI 467 ("Postwar America: Issues in Political, Cultural, and Social History, 1945-1969") is another course being offered by new American historian Sarah Phillips. Topics include the Cold War, McCarthyism, fifties ideology, the War on Poverty, the civil rights movement, Vietnam, the New Left, the counterculture, the rise and decline of liberalism.

Jeffrey Stout is beginning his second year in the doctoral program and is working with Professor Jon Roberts on topics in history, religion, and science.



At left: Kate Jewell and her husband Conor Hansen welcomed their son, Leo Prichard Hansen, on May 17. Leo was born three weeks early at 7 pounds 10 ounces, 19 inches at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Leo is named for his great-grandfather, Leonardus Neggers, and his great-grandmother, Estelle Prichard Jewell. Little Leo is growing and happy, and keeping his parents on their toes!

At right: Zoe Rabinovitch was born February 10 in Gainesville, Florida. She lives in Cambridge now, and, unlike her parents and thanks to her birthplace, does so *sans visa*.

With mother Jodi and father Simon, Zoe is enjoying the MBTA's Park Street Red Line station.



Above: On July 21 at 6:23 a.m., Peter John Schmitz was born. Both Pete and momma Rebecca are doing well, feeling happy and healthy. The delivery went smoothly, and Paul is grateful to have in-laws helping Daddy get acclimated.

Paul Schmitz was a visiting assistant professor in the department last year.

THE

B **ABY** **P** **AGE**

Although, as a newsletter of hard, historical fact, we attempt to avoid distracting sentimentality and any news that might incite our normally restrained faculty to unseemly cooing and, on occasion, dissolving into baby-talk, recent—and continuing—births of historians' babies seem to demand that the newsletter add a regular feature. So here is the baby page.

Who's next?

History Department Seminars



Professor Arianne Chernock, organizer of this year's Department Seminars, announces the fall schedule. All events are held in Room 504 in the department building.

- * September 30, 12 noon: James McCann (Boston University), "Taytu's Feast: Cuisine and Culture in the New Flower, 1887"
- * October 14, 12 noon: Jacco Pekelder (University of Utrecht), "The Seventies in Western Europe: Great Shifts or Small Changes?" (co-sponsored with the American Political History Seminar)
- * November 6, 2 p.m.: David Ruderman (University of Pennsylvania), "Mysticism, Science, and Moral Cosmopolitanism in Enlightenment Jewish Thought: The Book of the Covenant of Phinehas Elijah Hurwitz (1765-1821) and Its Legacy"
- * December 9, 12 noon: Maya Jasanoff (Harvard University) "The Spirit of 1783: American Loyalists and the Re-making of the British Empire"

HISTORY MAJOR REPORT ANNOUNCED

The department has available a new "History Major Report," which is supplementary to the Boston University Degree Advice report; it summarizes a student's progress toward completion of the major and explains requirements not yet satisfied. It applies only to students who declared the major after fall 2007 and who have selected one of the eight concentration tracks; it does not consider foreign language, general education, or other non-major requirements.

Majors may request a report by going to the History website (click on "Shortcuts," then "Request Major Report") or by phoning 617-353-2551. Ordinarily major reports (in PDF form) will be e-mailed within a day. Concentrators who have not declared a track must go to Student Records in CAS B3.

2nd Annual Boston University Graduate Student American Political History Conference

"Expanding the Political:
Cultural Politics and the Politics of Culture"

April 16-17, 2010

The Boston University American Political History Institute welcomes submissions for the second annual graduate student political history conference to take place April 16 and 17, 2010. This year's conference seeks to expand and redefine traditional narratives of political history by exploring the intersection between politics and culture over the course of American history. The weekend will provide an opportunity for collaboration, debate, and discussion about the political implications of cultural expressions. The conference welcomes papers that investigate how the political process manifests itself in cultural forms, how politicians shape culture for political advancement, or how cultural structures open new arenas for political activism, redefining the meaning of politics.

We welcome papers that consider how cultural forms and representations—including religion, entertainment, sexuality, gender, morality, landscape, environment, race, or ethnicity—have influenced the political process. How have politicians incorporated cultural imagery or rhetoric to achieve political goals? How have voters used music, film, or lifestyle choices to vocalize political beliefs or choices? Paper, panel, or roundtable proposals should be submitted in the form of 200-500-word abstracts by December 1, 2009. Please e-mail paper proposals and a C.V. to gphconference@googlegroups.com.

Graduate Student Milestones

Four students received the Master of Arts in History in May:

Julie Ann Gallup
Matthew Thomas Miller
Susan Walker
Sarah Davis Westwood

Sarah Westwood has been admitted to the post-master's PhD program.

The following students passed the qualifying oral examination:

On May 5: Ellen Horrow. The examiners in the major field of American history were Professors Louis Ferleger, Brendan McConville, and Nina Silber; the examiner in the minor field of twentieth-century international relations was Professor William Keylor.

On May 8: Natalie Mettler. The ex-

aminers in the major field of African history were Professors Linda Heywood, James McCann, and Diana Wylie; the examiner in the minor field of anthropology was Professor Robert Weller.

These students had research papers approved for the degree:

Christine Axen, "Confronting Gregorian Reform: Bishop Odo in the Bayeux Tapestry"

Andrew Chatfield, "The Unsurprising Reappearance of Woodrow Wilson's Intransigence, Unwillingness to Compromise, and Crusading Zeal During the Fight for the League of Nations from His Days as President of Princeton"

Sara Georgini, "Revolutionary Anglicanism and Civil Religion in Colonial Boston, 1768-1790"

Matthew Miller, "Hastening the Fall: The Belorussian Strategic Offensive Operation and the Collapse of Army Group Center"



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BU History Major encounters African cinema

One is rarely surprised anymore at the size of our world. Yet Professor James McCann was rather astounded to be walking down Addis Ababa’s quaint and bustling Piazza area in late July and seeing the image of his undergraduate advisee Caroline Smartt (CAS ’10) featured on the large poster for the Ethiopian film “Damotra.” The poster appeared on the marquee of the Empire Cinema, an old Italian-era theater that features both western and Ethiopian films. In summer 2008 Caroline had been in Ethiopia with Prof. McCann, and one of her explorations ended up at a film shoot that featured her as a foreign visitor wrapped up in a cinematic melodrama. So her local fame came as a surprise to all, though not to those who know Caroline.

In summer ’09 Caroline was in Tanzania studying Kiswahili in Zanzibar and has not yet seen the film nor the poster featuring her image. In fall semester she will complete her essay for Distinction Work on the history of tropical disease in East Africa under Prof. McCann’s supervision.

In 2007 Caroline took on the sponsorship of six Ethiopian street children and their mothers in the town of Jimma. She and her family in Boulder, Colorado, have now supported the children for two years, and the children and mothers are doing well.