

HISTORY

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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✿ LETTER FROM THE CHAIR ✿

Welcome to the second annual *The George Washington University History Department Newsletter*. When we inaugurated this publication last year, we weren't quite sure what kind of reaction we would get. But we were enormously gratified to receive dozens of responses, not merely thanking us for keeping in touch, but letting us know about all of your exciting activities since leaving GW. Learning about the myriad impressive accomplishments of GW's History alumni, corresponding personally with so many of you, and sharing your news with my colleagues was one of the true highlights of my first year as department chairman. Every bit of that news we could fit in the following pages is presented here for your enjoyment.

I also want to express my thanks to the many of you who were inspired by the newsletter to make a gift to the department. As you will see in the columns below, we used those donations to fund some of the exciting research that necessitated travel being carried out by our undergraduate and graduate students. If you are in a position to do so, I hope that you will consider making a donation. A gift of \$1,000 can fund an important short research trip for a student writing a senior, M.A., or doctoral thesis. \$2,500 can make possible a longer-term visit to a major archive. Donations are also used to bring renowned scholars to campus to meet our students and discuss with them their path-breaking research. This coming March, Anthony Grafton of Princeton University, a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*, will be making one such visit funded by generous alumni donations. Gifts of all sizes are most welcome, small and large, as we "bundle" them to use for these activities and many others.

As I said last year, if you have questions or comments, or merely wish to begin reconnecting with the department and GW, please feel free to contact me at anbinder@gwu.edu, by phone at (202) 994-6470, or at the mailing address listed at the end of the newsletter. ✿



Tyler Anbinder
History Department Chairman

✿ FACULTY NEWS ✿

We had two major developments in the History Department faculty over the past year. First, we have hired three new full-time, tenure-track faculty members. Shira Robinson is our new assistant professor of modern Middle East history. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford and specializes in Palestinian-Israeli relations. We also hired Dan Schwartz, a Columbia Ph.D., as our new faculty member in modern Jewish history. Despite the recent birth of a second child, he is hard at work on a book that traces the shifting image of the seventeenth-century Dutch Jewish philosopher Baruch Spinoza in modern Jewish memory. Our third hire of the year is Jehangir Malegam, another Stanford graduate, who specializes in medieval European history, and especially notions of peace in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. We are pleased he has joined our peaceable kingdom! We look forward to the fresh ideas and youthful enthusiasm that our three new faculty members bring to their classes and the department.

The other big news concerning the History faculty this year involved our extraordinary success at winning major national fellowship awards. Dina Khoury received a Guggenheim Fellowship, one of academia's highest honors. She has been using the time off the award gives her to conduct interviews with Iraqi refugees and exiles from the region's 1988 and 1991 wars for her forthcoming Cambridge University Press book on "War and Remembrance in Iraq." Along with Dane Kennedy, she edited a special issue of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. Kennedy will deliver the R. L. Webb Lecture at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County this winter. His biography of explorer and author Richard Burton, *The Civilized Man*, has just come out in paperback from Harvard.



Jehangir Malegam, Shira Robinson, and Dan Schwartz are the department's newest full-time, tenure-track faculty members.



Faculty members (left to right) Shawn McHale, Gregg Brazinsky, Dina Khoury, David Silverman, and Linda Levy Peck were all recipients of prestigious national fellowships for 2007-2008.

Linda Levy Peck is another of the major award winners. She received an Andrew Mellon Fellowship from the Folger Shakespeare Library for the book she is writing on the economics and politics of marriage in Tudor-Stuart England. Our third major award winner is David Silverman, who received the American Council of Learned Societies Oscar Handlin Fellowship. Silverman was also recently featured on the History Channel's show about the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, and the History News Network recently named him one of the profession's "Top Young Professors." His book on relations between Indians and Anglos in Martha's Vineyard has just come out in paperback

Our final award winners are Elliott School faculty. Shawn McHale won a prestigious Fulbright-Hays award which will allow him to conduct research in France and Southeast Asia for his forthcoming book on the age of revolution in the Mekong Delta region in the period after World War II (Kirk Larsen has taken Shawn's place as director of GW's Sigur Center for Asian Studies). And Gregg Brazinsky was awarded a Smith Richardson Foundation Fellowship to support work on his second book, a transnational history of the Korean War. His first book, *Nation Building in South Korea: Koreans, Americans and the Making of a Democracy*, was just published by the University of North Carolina Press.

Ron Spector also has a new book out. *The New York Times* gave *In the Ruins of Empire: The Japanese Surrender and the Battle for Postwar Asia* a rave review and made it an "Editor's Choice." Ron is just back from a stint as Fulbright lecturer in Singapore. Another faculty member who has recently taught in Asia is Leo Ribuffo, who spent his last Christmas break as a visiting lecturer at Shanghai's Fudan University.

In other faculty news, Tyler Anbinder will present his research on Irish immigrants and their savings habits at the 2008 Organization of American Historians conference in New York. Tyler recently won the Hubbell Prize, given annually for the best article of the year in Civil War history, for his research on immigrants in the Civil War draft. Tyler also took 50 undergraduates on a field trip to Gettysburg this fall to follow the footsteps of Generals Longstreet, Pickett, and Meade. Tom Long likewise accompanied his students to Jamestown.

Ed Berkowitz published *A Documentary History of Social Security* with the Congressional Quarterly Press, and a paperback version of

his book on the 1970s has just appeared. Another American historian, Adele Alexander has served as a consultant for a six-part television documentary on the history of Washington, D.C. New York's Municipal Art Society on Park Avenue features an exhibition this winter about Jane Jacobs, one of the most influential voices in twentieth-century urban planning, which was curated by Chris Klemek, who joined the GW faculty in 2006.

Other faculty members are sharing their expertise with audiences outside of GW. Nemata Blyden will speak at the Year of the Atlantic World series presented by the Institute for Global Initiatives at Kennesaw State University. Tom Long participated in the biennial United States Naval History Conference at Annapolis, as did Richard Thornton. Peter Klarén is spending the year as a visiting professor of Latin American history at the University of California, Irvine. In Spring 2008, Prof. Daqing Yang will offer a new course ("The Rape of Nanjing: Truth and Memory in History") as a Dean's Seminar, drawing upon a decade's worth of research on the subject and immersing our undergraduates in issues related to the use and abuse of history.

On the European front, Hope M. Harrison did research at the German Federal Foundation last summer and spent several days in Slovenia at a European Young Leaders conference. Andrew Zimmerman, our other Germanist, has turned in to Princeton University Press his manuscript on the role of Tuskegee Institute in colonial Africa. And Marcy Norton, who specializes in the Spanish Empire of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, has her book in production at Cornell University Press; the (provisional) title is *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate*. And a new Czech translation of Hugh Agnew's *The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown* has just been published.✿

✿ GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES ✿

Our graduate students are close on the heels of the professors in terms of scholarship and publications. In the 2005-2006 academic year, they published seven articles in refereed journals, delivered papers at seventeen conferences, and produced a host of book chapters, encyclopedia entries, book reviews and newspaper articles.

A sample of the activities of our Master's students: Candice Shy Hooper, who concentrates on military history, traveled to Fort Missoula, Montana, home of the 25th Infantry (Colored), a famous African-American regiment that fought in Cuba and Puerto Rico. Raabia Shafi worked for Professor Hope Harrison on the memorialization of the Berlin Wall.

Our peripatetic Ph.D. students traveled the world: Mircea Munteanu went to London, Serbia, and Romania for his dissertation research on Romanian foreign policy. Diana Xiong worked for the Christian Broadcasting Network in its Beijing bureau and pursued research in China on Christian missions in China at the beginning of the twentieth century. Not to be outdone, Janet Kilian-Kivler journeyed to the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan where it got so cold that she needed to sleep with her laptop under the blankets for warmth. In a warmer clime, Sharon Chamberlain spent six months in Tokyo and

Manila studying the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Philippines in the aftermath of World War II. Here at home, Jennie Meade mounted an exhibition at GW's law library on the trial and execution of King Louis XVI during the French Revolution.

Bo Peery, writing a dissertation on the religious left in the Cold War, had the honor of staying with the widow of one of the theologians he writes about, interviewing her and their children, as well as his former colleagues, and conducting research in his personal papers.

With support made possible by donors to our department, Justin Pope traveled from the mosquito infested swamps in South Carolina to the more comfortable appointments of the New York Historical Society, beginning research on a series of slave insurrections that shocked colonial America in the 1730s. Thanks to another award funded in part by generous alumni donations, Stacy Lowe Bondurant went to Texas where she initiated dissertation research on early twentieth century immigration to the Lone Star State. Ph.D. student Sara Berndt crisscrossed the U.S., exploring the archives of various protestant missionaries for her dissertation on the culture of occupation in late-nineteenth century Cuba.

All of this travel does lead somewhere. Greg Domber, who defended his doctoral dissertation this fall, is now a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Stanford University, turning his dissertation on Poland's transition to democracy into a book. Jeff Burson has settled in Macon, Georgia, where he teaches at Macon State. Andrew Bell, who also marched in graduation ceremonies this past May, is teaching at the Coast Guard Academy. And another member of last year's graduating class, Will Pore, is teaching Asian history at Temple University.✿

✿ALUMNI NEWS✿

We continue to hear from alumni and urge you to keep those letters and e-mails coming. We want to keep in touch. Please write to history@gwu.edu and put "alumni news" in the subject heading.



✿UNDERGRADUATES✿

Some of you, we have discovered, have found a career in the law. Mark Luther '70 is an attorney with "a broad, general practice" just outside of Minneapolis. Bert Deixler '73, a partner at Proskauer Rose in the Los Angeles office, recently endowed a research fund for GW History majors. Benjamin Klubes '87, a partner at Skadden Arps' in D.C., fondly remembers his classes with Professors Klarén and Ribuffo. David Batty '88 is a partner at Kennedy Covington Lobdell and Hickman in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Nicole Brandi '02 graduated with honors from Emory Law School in 2005 and is now an associate with Weil, Gotshal & Manges in Dallas. Eric Haskell '02 attended Columbia Law School and is now an associate at Foley Hoag in Boston.

Some of our lawyer graduates have taken the scholarly route. Neil Richards '94 teaches First Amendment law, privacy law, and legal history at Washington University in St. Louis. He was voted Professor of the Year 2004 and has recently published an article in the prestigious *Georgetown Law Journal*.

Many of our alumni cannot escape the lure of Washington. Larry Eckhouse '07 works as a legislative assistant for federal affairs at the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. James Finnegan '07 edits publications in the Information Division at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to the United States. Christie Sharp '05 works for the Senate Energy Committee. She also does all of the committee's archiving. "So, instead of studying history," she writes, "I am now creating it!" James Dellinger '03, is the Executive Director of the "GreenWatch" and "EducationWatch" programs at the Capital Research Center.

Matt Baer '04, an analyst in the budget office of New York City's mayor, tracks education legislation. Although he was a History minor, he writes that "if I had it to do over again, I would have majored in History."

Many of our alumni hold important positions in and around the military. In 2002, Chris Miller '87 was profiled in a *New York Times Magazine* article that used his military career to highlight the new kind of Special Forces soldier in today's Army. Miller now commands the 2nd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). James Martinelli '07 works overseas for the Air Force, providing support to special operations in northern Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Tyler O'Neal '07 is employed at the Pentagon as a Confidential Assistant to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

Richard Murphy '01 enlisted in the National Guard after 9/11 and served more than a year in Iraq as a machine gunner and an MP. After he returned to the U.S. in 2004, he became active in the effort to raise awareness about the lack of body armor available to troops in Iraq and appeared on the PBS show "NOW With Bill Moyers."

GW alumni are no strangers to the mass media. Katherine Alice Quintini (now Palmucci) '94 has been working in the television industry ever since leaving GW and is now the Manager of Television

and Operations for Pace Communications of Greensboro, N.C. Robert Colgin '68 has recently produced a documentary film called "Loss of Liberty" on the 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty during the Six Day War, while Dan Friedman '92 in the process of completing a documentary film about Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

In print media, Frank DeMarco '69 founded Hampton Roads Publishing, which publishes books primarily in the "metaphysical/inspirational field." He is himself an accomplished author. Another alumni author, Rabbi James Rudin '55, has written or edited eight books since leaving GW and has recently received the Eternal Light Award of the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies in Sarasota.

We are very proud of our alumni who have used their GW education as a springboard for further study in history. Caroline Patton '06 is now in the history doctoral program at the University of Chicago. Cynthia Jeffress Little '67 got her Ph.D. in Latin American history at Temple in 1980 and has published many articles and books on women in Latin America, especially Argentina. Robert Pierce Forbes '87 received his Ph.D. in History from Yale and has just joined the faculty at the University of Connecticut at Torrington. His new book, *The Missouri Crisis and its Aftermath: Slavery and the Meaning of America*, appeared this spring from the University of North Carolina Press.

Steven Phillips '87 works as an associate professor in the History Department and director of Asian Studies at Towson University. Laurie Stoff '92, who has begun her second year as an assistant professor of history at Louisiana Tech, has just published *They Fought For The Motherland: Russia's Women Soldiers In World War I And The Revolution*. ❁



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*We apologize if we have inadvertently left anyone off this list.

GRADUATE ALUMNI

Among our M.A. students, Jessica Davis '02 joined the Peace Corps upon graduation and served in Macedonia. Ken Bailey M.A. '00 works at the Smithsonian Museum of American History as a researcher on an exhibition about William Steinway, the piano manufacturer. Kens tells us he has not yet met Jeff Brodie, Ph.D. '05, a curator at that same museum. Patrick Gallagher '06 has converted his thesis into an article which will be published this coming winter in *Vermont History*. Timothy Parsons '91 is a social historian of twentieth-century Africa at Washington University in St. Louis.

Sorry not to have more M.A. news. We want to hear more from our M.A. alumni!

Among our doctoral alumni, three work at the U.S. Naval Historical Center. Edward J. Marolda '90 is the NHC's senior historian in charge of the Histories and Archives Division. His most recent book is *Shield and Sword: The United States Navy and the Persian Gulf War*. Sarandis ("Randy") Papadopoulos '99 is a historian in NHC's Contemporary History Branch. He co-authored the official Defense Department history of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. John Sherwood '95, who also works in the Contemporary History Branch, just published *Black Sailor, White Navy: Racial Unrest in the Fleet during the Vietnam War Era*. Jeffrey Charlston '00 serves as a historian at the US Army Center of Military History with fellow GW alumnus Joseph Frechette.

David Marley '04, an assistant professor of history at Vanguard University, published *Pat Robertson: An American Life*. Brooke Speer Orr '02, an assistant professor of history at Westfield State University in Massachusetts, published an article on Mary Elizabeth Lease in *Kansas History*.

The appearance of our first newsletter inspired several of our distinguished doctoral alumni to contact us. Richard Wentz '71 just retired after a noteworthy career as a professor of religious studies at Arizona State University in 1999. Among his famous books is *Why People Do Bad Things in the Name of Religion*. After receiving his Ph.D. in History from GW twenty-five years ago, George Moffett '82 worked at the White House, for some foreign policy think tanks, as State Department correspondent and Middle East bureau chief of *The Christian Science Monitor*, and – for the past eleven years – as president of his undergraduate alma mater, Principia College. He retired from that post this past summer.✿

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We would love to include your news in our next newsletter. Please write to us at either history@gwu.edu or anbinder@gwu.edu, to let us know what you are up to. Or if you prefer non-electronic correspondence, write to Chairman, Department of History, The George Washington University, Washington DC, 20052. Your lives are our true legacy.✿

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