

Department of History Bulletin

December, 2007

Three Parties you cannot miss

December 13, 2007 the department will mark the retirements of **Herman Belz** and **Keith Olson**. The party will begin at 4PM in the Prince Georges Room of the Stamp Student Union.

December 14, 2007 is the office party at which we mark the services of the administrative staff. It starts at 12.00 noon in the Merrill Room where there will be a fine repast catered by that well-known economy grocer, Whole Foods.

And on **January 4, 2008** the Department will host a reception for Alumni, Faculty, and Friends at the Annual American Historical Association Meeting. The reception will begin at 5:30PM in the **Hampton Ballroom** at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. Over one hundred people have RSVP'd, including such alumni stalwarts as Dick Baker and Don Ritchie. If there is anyone you can think of for us to invite, please send their email address to Courtenay.

And, then, of course there is Graduation:

On **December 19**, the University will host the Fall 2007 commencement at the Comcast Center beginning at 7PM.

And our own graduation ceremony follows one day later, on **December 20**. Trumpeter Sumida will sound the voluntary at 1.00pm precisely in the Colony Ballroom of the Stamp Union. Faculty should assemble in the robing room about half an hour before. A nice turnout would be so nice.

Notable Achievements

Both **Richard Bell** and **Sabrina Baron** have been recognized as "an amazing teacher" by the sisters of Sigma Kappa Sorority with the gift of an African violet, the group's symbolic flower.

Rick also organized this year's induction ceremony for Phi Alpha Theta which was held on December 5th. There was a great turnout of existing and new members and their parents. **Julie Taddeo** gave a great talk on History and reality TV which was both informative and amusing. A great time seemed to be had by all. Three of the Phi Alpha Theta members are going to the Annual Conference which this year is being held in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Art Eckstein continues his autumn of continuous publication: newly published is a review-article, "Clandestine Agent: The Real Agnes Smedley," in *The Journal of Cold War Studies* 9 (2007), pp. 106-114. This is a review of Ruth Price's, *The Lives of Agnes Smedley* (N.Y., 2005), which is a groundbreaking work based on an examination of newly-available Soviet sources.

Katherine David-Fox presented the paper, "The Czech Catholic Modernists and the 1890s Generation" in a panel on Catholicism and modernity in East Central Europe on November 15 at the National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in New Orleans.

James Z. Gao attended the International Conference on "Peace, Resolution, and Future of Taiwan" in Washington, D.C. and presented a paper, "On Taiwan's Uncertain Status: A Perspective of International

Law and American Diplomacy” on Nov. 18, 2007. He also attended the International Conference on “Local Popular Culture and Urban History” in Chengdu, China, and presented a paper on “The Chinese Urban Revolution and Cultural Acculturation in the 1950s,” on August 15, 2007. Both papers will be published in the conference proceedings.

Saverio Giovacchini’s essay, "Soccer with the Dead," just came out in Mike Paris, ed., *Repicturing the Second World War: Representations in Film and Television* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

Jeffrey Herf has been a Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin since September 1st working on a new book on the propaganda efforts of the Nazi regime to spread its ideology to the Middle East during World War II. He has been working in the Political Archive of the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin, the Federal Archives in Berlin and the Military Archives in Freiburg and in the National Archives (formerly called the Public Record Office) in Kew Gardens in London. This research follows a surprisingly interesting summer of work in the National Archives in College Park in the files of the State Department and of the Office of Strategic Services. He will be on sabbatical and at work on this book through the coming spring and summer. In September in Washington, he delivered a lecture at the German Historical Institute on "An Age of Murder: Ideology and Terror in West Germany, 1969 to 1991." In Germany, he has delivered versions of a lecture entitled "The Jewish Enemy: Nazi Propaganda During World War II and the Holocaust in Germany and in the Middle East" at the American Academy in Berlin, the Freie Universität Berlin (twice in different contexts), the Universität Bielefeld and the Universität Bonn. He also lectured at Royal Holloway College of the University of London, as well as Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. On November 16th, he spoke in German on "Was Bedeutet Aufarbeitung der Vergangenheit in der Berliner Republik in 2007" or "What Does Coming to Terms with the Past Mean in the Berlin Republic in 2007" to the Frankfurter Romerberggespräche (the Frankfurt Romerberg Conversations). With its origins in debates that emerged following the debates of the late 1960s and early 1970s, this is an institution of public debate that is a mixture of a lecture in the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center and Politics and Prose. The willingness of several hundred citizens to spend a Friday evening and Saturday listening to intellectuals, professors, journalists and writers speak about events of the day was itself impressive evidence of vigorous debate about public affairs.

Jeffrey adds: You will be glad to learn that your teaching load is lower than that of any German professor at any university, except for those few who manage to acquire an affiliation to a research center of some sort. The situation of the German universities, and I sense this may be the case in other European countries, is grim. Ironically Alexander von Humboldt's ideal of the unity of teaching and research is more alive and well in the United States than it is in the country of its origin. He/she who is able to do much research and writing does their best to find an exit from normal burdens of the universities. The "excellence initiative" and the designation of some universities as "elite" institutions will help a bit but compared to Maryland--not just compared to Harvard or Stanford--the German universities are underfunded. This raises an interesting paradox to which I don't have an answer: Why does a society like the United States with a vigorous tradition of contempt and disdain for intellectuals spend more on its universities than do societies like Germany--or France-- which celebrate intellectuals and give them far more public respect and attention. That said, this has been an excellent and productive period in Berlin, now one of the most interesting cities in Europe.

Ken Holm delivered a paper "Shaping Islamic Caesarea" at a conference in Paris, "Continuite de l'occupation entre les periodes byzantine et abbaside au Proche-Orient (VIIe-IXe siecle) in October, 2007. In November he delivered a paper "New Perspectives on Old Data: Recovering Caesarea's Urban Plan" at the American Schools of Oriental Research conference in San Diego. The paper was part of the annual workshop on Caesarea that he has organized annually since 1988.

Hilary Jones gave a talk on her current research concerning métissage and the meaning of French citizenship in Senegal's colonial towns at a recent meeting of UMD's Driskell Center Faculty Learning Community.

Marlene Mayo served as a discussant, Friday, November 30, at George Washington University in the opening phase of a two year project on the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, Tokyo, 1946-48. She has also been elected Vice-President of the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies and will become president at the next annual conference, Rutgers University, October 2008.

Sonya Michel presented two lectures in Sydney, Australia on November 5: "Race, Gender, Sexuality and Old-Age Security in the U.S." at the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales in Sydney"; and "The Rise and Fall of the Male Breadwinner Regime," at the Women and the State Group, University of Sydney. On November 8, she presented "The Rise and Fall" lecture once again as the keynote address at a symposium on "The Living Wage and National Values: Remembering Harvester, 1907-2007" at the University of Melbourne. (The 1907 Harvester Judgment granted a living wage to all male workers in Australia, the first country to institute such a measure.) On November 21, she gave a lecture entitled "Modern Times: The Construction of the Male Breadwinner in Popular Culture and Social Policy" at the American Studies Institute at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

Leslie Rowland lectured on November 14 to Washington area high school students as part of the department's ongoing outreach program supported by the Gilder Lehrman Institute. Her topic was slaves' activism in support of emancipation during the U.S. Civil War.

Peter Wien's book, *Iraqi Arab Nationalism* is about to become available as a "paperback on demand" from <http://www.routledge.com/paperbacksdirect/>. He had an article published on October 5 in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (leading German language newspaper of Switzerland) entitled "Schiiten und Sunniten im Kampf um die Macht: Ein Blick von innen auf das Desaster im Irak," which was a review of Ali A. Allawi's book *The occupation of Iraq : Winning the War, Losing the Peace* (New Haven [Conn.]: Yale University Press, 2007). He also attended the yearly Middle East Studies Association convention that took place in Montreal from November 17-20 where he presented parts of his summer research as a paper: "A Festival of Pan-Arab Nationalism: The Funeral of Iraq's Former Prime Minister Yasin al-Hashimi in Damascus in 1937." It was part of a panel he organized under the title "'Arab Nationalism from Below': Pan-Arabism as Lived Experience in the 20th Century Middle East." In addition, he chaired and served as a discussant on a panel on "Cultural Battlefields: European Competition and Local Innovations in the Middle Eastern Territories under British and French Influence, 1920-1946."

David Sartorius delivered comments on a panel entitled "Informal Politics, Guerrillas, and Insurgency in the Late Twentieth Century" at the Third Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Student Conference held on campus at the Latin American Studies Center on October 23 and 24.

Thomas Zeller is scheduled to present a paper at the AHA meeting in January in DC: "A River with a Regional Identity: The Isar in Bavaria, 1880-1930" Friday, January 4, 9:30-11:30 A.M. Marriott, Maryland Suite A., part of the panel "Rivers of History: Perspectives on Waterways in Europe and North America" which he organized. In addition to his sterling service on the History of Science Search Committee, which he generously combined with his Kluge Fellowship, Tom also gave three papers this fall: "Landscapes of Envirotech," part of roundtable on "Common Ground? Perspectives on the Integration of STS and Environmental History Thus Far," Society for the History of Technology, 50th Anniversary Meeting, Washington, D.C., October 20, 2007; "Cultural Landscapes" (with Thomas Lekan), "Nature's History: Environmental History for the Twenty-first Century," Workshop at Temple University, Department of History, September 28-29, 2007 (The goal of the workshop was to discuss the drafts of

contributions to *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental History*. Zeller is co-author of the entry on Cultural Landscapes); and “The Politics of Landscape and Technology in Germany after 1945,” Conference on “National Traditions or International Trends? Reconsidering the Fifties and Sixties as an Orientation Period in West Germany,” University College London, Department of History, September 14-15, 2007.

Susan Malka's book [*Daring to Care: American Nursing and Second-Wave Feminism*](#) (University of Illinois Press, 2007) was released in November. *Daring to Care* examines the impact of second-wave feminism on the nursing field since the 1960s. In arguing that feminism helped to end nursing's subordination to medicine and provided nurses with greater autonomy and professional status, Susan Gelfand Malka discusses two distinct eras in nursing history.

George Majeska has been elected President of the Early Slavic Studies Association and Secretary-Treasurer of the U. S. National Committee for Byzantine Studies. Both are intentionally inter-disciplinary organizations.

Art Eckstein's Ph.D student **Paul Burton** (Ph.D. 2000) has accepted a position as Lecturer in Ancient History at the Australian National University in Canberra (the national capital). The Australian Education Network ranks ANU as the #1 university in Australia. This is a consequence of Paul's sterling publication-record since gaining the Ph.D.

The **Freedmen and Southern Society Project** has received a grant of \$134,000 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.