

Chair's Bulletin March 2008

Mary Kay Vaughan won a Guggenheim Fellowship

A donor recently bequeathed \$250,000 to the Department of History for the Graduate Program.

Congratulate **Karen Oslund and Thomas Zeller**, who are happy to announce the birth of their son Sebastian Leo, who was born on February 1, 2008.

Richard Bell served as a commentator on a panel focused on Race and Gender in the 19th century at the Mid-Atlantic Phi Alpha Theta Conference At the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis on 1 March, 2008.

Jim Gilbert presented a lecture entitled "Meet Me in St. Louis" for the Flagler Museum series on World's Fairs, held at the Museum in Palm Beach, Florida. This was the second year he participated in their annual lecture series. In March, he will present a paper to the Organization of American Historians in New York City entitled, "Emotionless Men of the 1950s: the 'John Wayne Syndrome.'" In April, he will speak at Rice University on his book, *Men In The Middle*. In May, he will take part in a Conference of the German-American Studies Organization at Krefeld, Germany. The Conference is focused on religion and American society. He will then participate in a conference at Regensburg University, followed by lectures and a two week course on writing the history of world's fairs for students at Erfurt University. His chapter, "The World's Fair as a Rhetorical Device," will appear in the forthcoming book, Martha Watson, et al, eds., *Perfecting American Society: Rhetoric Of Nineteenth Century Reform*.

Saverio Giovacchini gave a talk on the representation of African American Union soldiers in 20th century American cinema for the Gilder Lehrman Lecture Series.

David Sartorius has been appointed to the editorial collective of *Social Text*. On February 21 he gave two lectures at St. Mary's College of Maryland. He presented "Long Live Spain! Death to Autonomy! Cuban Liberalism and Slave Emancipation" for affiliates of the Latin American Studies, African and African Diaspora Studies, and Democracy Studies programs, and he spoke to a group of St. Mary's students about the history of slavery in Latin America.

George Majeska (emeritus) has been elected President of the Early Slavic Studies Association and Secretary-Treasurer of the U.S. National Committee for Byzantine Studies.

Leandro Benmergui (PhD, Latin America; Advisor: Daryle Williams) will present "Housing Development and the Alliance for Progress: Urban Renewal and Housing Policy in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires in the 1960s" at the 9th International Conference on Urban History, held in Lyon, France, August 27-30, 2008. He has won an ARHU Graduate Student Award 2008 to attend the conference.

Cory Bernat will be presenting her paper "Not Just Lunch: The Mitsitam Native Foods Cafe at the National Museum of the American Indian" at The Chesapeake Chapter of the American

Studies Association Spring conference, to be held at the University of Maryland, College Park on April 4-5, 2008.

Paula Halperin (PhD, Latin America; Advisor: Barbara Weinstein) has contributed new entries to the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*, to be published soon.

Two of 13 UMD students who presented at Saturday's Mid-Atlantic Phi Alpha Theta Conference won prizes for their scholarship. **Laura Kopp**, a graduate student, received the 2nd place prize for her paper "Teaching the Confederacy: Southern Textbooks during the American Civil War" and **Khalid Rosenbaum**, an undergraduate, won an honorable mention (4th place) for his paper "The League of Women Shoppers: How and Why the Anti-Communists Destroyed Them."

Dr. Bruce W. Eelman, an Associate Professor at Siena College in New York, recently published his first book, *Entrepreneurs in the Southern Upcountry: Commercial Culture in Spartanburg, South Carolina, 1845-1880* (Athens & London: University of Georgia Press, 2008). **Whit Ridgway** directed his dissertation.