

Chair's Bulletin
Department of History
March 2009

Notables

Michael David-Fox has won a coveted fellowship from Princeton University's Shelby Cullom Davis Center for next year. Michael will put this together with his GRB Semester Award to take the whole year off in order to complete his book on foreign visitors to Stalin's Russia. He will be in residence in Princeton in the Spring semester. Kudos and major congratulations to Michael!

David Freund's book *Colored Property* continues to win prizes! It has just been awarded its *third* prize. This time it was the Urban Affairs Association who judged it to be worthy of their biennial [Best Book Award for 2009](#). As I write this on March 6, David is off to Chicago to attend the Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting. When the Provost was informed of this honor he replied: "How do we bottle him?" which he intended in the *most* complimentary way. On February 27, David was in Baltimore at the Maryland Institute College of Art where he spoke in their "Shaping the City" series. His topic was "What Makes a City? The Politics and Culture of Modern Metropolitan Change."

Thomas Zeller is another fellowship winner. He will hold a Senior Fellowship in Garden and Landscape Studies at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library in Washington, DC, for the academic year 2009/10. Contrary to circulating reports, Tom's fellowship duties do not include digging in the vegetable patch of the Library. But Tom *was* one of five international scholars taking part in a forum published last month in *German History* on "[The Nature of German Environmental History.](#)"

Bernard Cooperman delivered a graduate seminar and a faculty lecture at the History Dept. at UVA in Charlottesville last month. His talk, "New Accounts of Old Libels—Jews, Christians and the Practice of History," dealt with recent interpretations of the blood libel.

Art Eckstein has been keeping some pretty important scholarly company lately. He gave a paper at the conference on "Empire" organized by Texas A & M University: "What is an Empire? Rome and the Greek States after 188 B.C." (Other participants included Charles Maier of Harvard and William Roger Louis of the University of Texas): Eckstein also gave a public lecture on "Herodotus, War, and the Invention of History-writing", at the Military Classics Seminar at Ft. Myers, Virginia; the seminar is now in its 50th year. He was also recently at the National Defense University where he gave a seminar on "Roman Responses to Military Defeat."

Julie Greene's book *The Canal Builders* continues to be noticed in the wider world. Amongst other places, it received a review in [Time Magazine](#) and most recently, it was reviewed in [The Economist](#). Julie also contributed an op-ed piece on immigrant detention policy to [The Huffington Post](#). And she gave an invited public lecture this week at Bucknell University titled, "Rebellions of Many Kinds: The Construction of the Panama Canal Viewed From the Bottom Up."

Jon Sumida's book, *Decoding Clausewitz*, received a glowing review from LtCol J. Alex Vohr, the Director of the School of Advanced War Fighting, Marine Corps University. In his review, Vohr states, "Dr. Sumida's discussion of military genius, decision-making during wartime, and the relationship between history and theory in military education is profound." He also suggested that the book is a "must-read for national strategists and anyone who strives to be a serious student of war."

Hilary Jones delivered a very elegant comment to the paper presented by Dr. Andrew Apter (UCLA) for the February 23, 2009 Center for Historical Studies theme seminar. The paper dealt with historical memory and ritual retrieval in the Black Atlantic World, and it occasioned one of the best discussions of the year in the Miller seminar series

John Lampe traveled to New York to participate in the February 13-14 conference on Non-Alignment and the Eastern Mediterranean, sponsored by the European and Harriman Institutes of Columbia University. He presented a paper: "Yugoslavia's Two 'Special Relationships': The Non-Aligned Movement and the United States," drawing on recent research in the Open Society Archives in Budapest.

Marlene Mayo is currently serving as president of the Mid-Atlantic Region/Association for Asian Studies. Her initiatives include a focus on undergraduate students and Asian Studies at host institutions (Villanova, 2009; Penn State, 2010) and a presidential roundtable on "Visualizing Asian Cultures" (with thanks to a summer workshop headed by Elsa Barkley Brown).

Erika Milam wrote a paper that was published as part of an edited collection just in time for Darwin's birthday! ["The Experimental Animal from the Naturalist's Point of View: Behavior and Evolution at the AMNH, 1928-1954,"](#) in *Descended from Darwin: Insights into the History of Evolutionary Studies, 1900-1970*, edited by Joe Cain and Michael Ruse (Philadelphia: PA: American Philosophical Society. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, volume 99, part 1): 157-178.

Robyn Muncy, on February 26, delivered the C. Mildred Thompson Lecture at Vassar College and taught a master class in US history. On February 16, she spoke at the kick-off event of Project Humyn, a new student association dedicated to anti-poverty projects that are green.

Marsha Rozenblit's article, "Jewish Immigrants in Vienna before the First World War," is now in *ASCHKENAS: Zeitschrift fuer Geschichte und Kultur der Juden (Tuebingen)*, vol. 17, #1 (2007), pp. 35-53.

Julie Taddeo's article, ["The Victorian Landscape of Catherine Cookson Country"](#) has just appeared in the latest issue of the *Journal of Popular Culture*.

Grace Palladino is on the program for the OAH in Seattle as commentator for a panel entitled "Race, Gender, and Antislavery Activism."

In March, **Robert Chase** was the historical consultant and filmed as the historian for the "Behind the Walls" film project, a historical documentary on the Tennessee prison system and the Walls penitentiary. In May, he will present "Jail House Attorneys, Building Tenders, and Slaves of the State: The Evolution of a Prison-Made Civil Rights Movement," at the Law and Society Association's annual conference in Denver, CO. He is also part of a round table discussion, titled "Working and Living Behind Bars: The Politics and Economics of Mass Incarceration," at the Labor and Working-Class Historical Association's conference in Chicago during May. Chase successfully defended his dissertation last month.

Dennis A. Doster presented a paper entitled "'Thank God Segregation Is Dead': The Baltimore NAACP and the Role of the African American Lawyer in the Fight Against Residential Segregation, 1910 – 1917" at "The Civil Rights Century: The NAACP at 100" conference at The Johns Hopkins University on February 7, 2009.

He was also interviewed on public radio for the show *Maryland Morning* on WYPR 88.1 FM Baltimore for the segment ["Where You Live: A History of Housing Segregation Laws in Baltimore"](#) (audiostream).

James Frusetta (2006 Ph.D), who is now completing his second year as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the College of William and Mary, has accepted the offer of a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of History at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia.

Stephen P. Johnson successfully defended his dissertation on February 20, 2009.

On March 20, **Amy Rutenberg** will present a paper, "Citizen-Civilians: Federal Manpower Policy and the Redefinition of Masculine Citizenship in the Postwar United States" at the conference "War and Identity" at The Clinton Institute for American Studies, University College Dublin in Dublin, Ireland. She will be attending thanks to a Jacob K. Goldhaber Award from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She also received the General and Mrs. Matthew B. Ridgway Military History Research Grant to conduct research this summer at the U.S. Army Military History Institute in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Upcoming

March 11: APT meeting. 4PM, Merrill Room

March 12: Miller Lecture – Saul Friedlander. 4-6PM, 6137 McKeldin Library. Reception to follow.

March 16-20: Spring Break. Department of History office closed 16th and 17th.

March 27-28: [Washington Area Seminar on History of Latin America](#) meets.

March 30: Executive Committee Meeting. 11:30AM, TLF2110

April 1: Angela Tudico defends her dissertation.

April 2: MCHOTSE Seminar. 4PM, TLF2110.