

# Chair's Bulletin

September 2008

The semester got off to a fast start. We are delighted to welcome our new faculty: Professors Greene, Roseblatt, Cañeque and Borrut, with Erika Milam to come in January. Leslie Rowland welcomes two new editors to the Freedom and Southern Society project: John McKerley and Jesse Shreier. Please take an opportunity make yourselves known to our new colleagues.

The summer was full and busy, as the following tidbits of news and information reveals. Congratulations to all, beginning with . . .

**Jon Sumida**, whose [\*Decoding Clausewitz: A New Approach to 'On War'\*](#) was issued by the University of Kansas Press this summer. Jon takes a boldly revisionist new look at Clausewitz' magnum opus which is already stirring things up in the world of military history. In addition to the scholarly attention that the book is receiving and, no doubt, will continue to receive, Jon has the added comfort of knowing that it is flying off the shelves of Amazon. Kudos and congratulations to Jon!

I am delighted to remind you that **Elsa Barkley Brown** has been awarded the 2008 College of Arts and Humanities Faculty Service Award. This award is a thoroughly appropriate recognition of the great amount of outreach work that Elsa does for the College and the departments to which she is affiliated. The award was made during the College Convocation of Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>. The Convocation also provided the opportunity for the Dean to introduce our new faculty.

In June **Sabrina Baron** was a participant in the University's Curriculum Transformation Project Summer Institute. The topic was "Visual Literacy and Diversity" and it was conducted by **Elsa Barkley Brown** and her fabulous team of graduate assistants. This institute has transformed the way Baron uses images and technology in her classroom.

**Rick Bell** is currently serving as the Mellon Research Fellow in American History at Cambridge University in the UK. In July he presented a paper titled "Werther's Children: Reading, Suicide, and Learned Behavior in Revolutionary America" to the Evidence of Reading/Reading the Evidence conference at University College London. In early September he delivered a paper titled "Saving Lives and Souls: Humane Societies and Suicide in America, 1760-1830," to the Society for the Social History of Medicine annual conference in Glasgow, UK.

**Bernard Cooperman** is on leave this fall. He received a Primo Levy Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Jewish Studies at University of Pennsylvania to work on "Commercial Organization & Communal Formation: The Invention of Pisan Jewry (1591 - 1661)."

**Art Eckstein**'s book [\*Mediterranean Anarchy, Interstate War, and the Rise of Rome\*](#) received another superlative review, this time by Walter Scheidel of Stanford University, in *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 39 (2008). The full review can be found here:

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_interdisciplinary\\_history/v039/39.1.scheidel.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_interdisciplinary_history/v039/39.1.scheidel.html) .

**Saverio Giovacchini** was scheduled to deliver a paper at the 2008 conference of IVSA (International Visual Sociology Association) in Buenos Aires. Entitled "Where the Streets Have No Name: The Geographical Politics of the Spaghetti Western" the essay argued that spaghetti westerns created a visuality and a politics of space and its uses that -- just like Pier Paolo Pasolini did in his 1963 *La Rabbia* -- connected the Roman "borgate" to the urban spaces of Third World countries which, I contended, the fictive Mexican borderlands of spaghetti recalled and reimagined. Unfortunately, Saverio was unable to leave the United States, so his paper was delivered in absentia by Professor Peter T. Lang (Texas AM).

**Kenneth Holum** completed his work on *Caesarea Reports and Studies: Excavations 1995-2007 Within the Old City and the Ancient Harbor* British Archaeological Reports, International Series (edited with Jennifer Stabler and Eduard Reinhardt) which was released in May, 2008. This is the fourth volume of reports and studies issuing from the excavation project he organized at Caesarea, Israel, with the late Avner Raban. The book contains: "The Warehouse Quarter (Area LL) and the Temple Platform (Area TP), 1996-2000 and 2002 Seasons" (coauthored with Jennifer Stabler et al.), pp. 1-39. In addition, Holum published: "Caesarea's Fortune: Ancient Statuary and the Beholder in a Late Antique City," in *The Sculptural Environment of the Roman Near East: Reflections on Culture, Ideology, and Power*, edited by Y. Z. Eliav, E. A. Friedland, and S. Herbert (Louvain: Peeters, 2008), pp. 535-54. He also finished two more chapters this summer while in the hospital.

**John Lampe** presented a draft chapter from his work-in-progress, "Embracing Democracy in the Western Balkans," to a seminar at the Economics Faculty of Zagreb University, as part of his June research trip to Croatia. He also worked on plans in Budapest for a forthcoming January workshop at the Central European University with younger scholars from Southeastern Europe. And on the home front, he once again participated as a Senior Scholar in the Wilson Center's annual Junior Scholars Training Seminar at the Wye Plantation in August. Our Department's **Tony Glocke** was chosen as one of the Junior Scholars, from the national competition.

**Sonya Michel** convened a conference entitled "Gender and the Long Postwar: The United States and the Two Germanys" at the German Historical Institute of Washington, D.C. from May 29-31. Her co-convenors were Karen Hagemann, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Corinna Unger of the GHI. The conference was co-sponsored by the GHI, the Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies, ARHU, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Two UMD graduate students, **Amy Rutenberg** and **Angela Tudico**, presented papers at the conference. Additionally, **Sonya Michel** commented on a panel on "Constructing U.S. Feminist Law in the Second Wave: Unions, Liberalism, and Philanthropy" at the 14th Berkshire Conference of Women's Historians, which was held at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, from June 12-15.

**Robyn Muncy** completed her stint at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in June. While there, she had two articles accepted for publication, one in the *Journal of Women's History* the other in the *Journal of American History*. In June, she gave a paper titled "Josephine Roche and the Social Production of Historical Obscurity" at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in Minneapolis and also moderated a session on the history of the Muller v. Oregon case at a conference sponsored by the National Consumers' League in D.C. In July, she worked with Chicago public school teachers on the history of women's citizenship in the U.S. under the auspices of a Teach American History grant. In September, she will participate in the D.C. Legal History Roundtable, commenting on a paper titled "Parades, Pickets, and Prison: Alice Paul and the Virtues of Unruly Constitutional Citizenship" at Georgetown University Law Center.

**John Parascandola's** book, titled [\*Sex, Sin, and Science: A History of Syphilis in America\*](#), was published this summer. He will discuss his book at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 2, 2008 at the [Kensington Row Book Shop](#), 3786 Howard Avenue, Kensington, MD (301-949-9416).

After spending much of the summer researching in Cuba, **David Sartorius** co-organized and attended the Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas in Tepoztlán, Mexico, July 23-30. This was a conference composed of ninety scholars from the Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, France, and the United States and focused on themes of the African diaspora, *indigenismo*, and translation.

**Jon Sumida** won an honor mention in the Edward S. Miller History Prize Competition for his article, "Expectation, Adaptation, and Resignation: British Battle Fleet Tactical Planning, August 1914 – 1916," in the *Naval War College Review* summer 2007 issue.

**Thomas Zeller's** most recent book has been published: [\*Rivers in History: Perspectives on Waterways in Europe and North America\*](#), and is now available from the University of Pittsburgh Press in its series "History of the Urban Environment." The volume, co-edited with Christof Mauch, presents selected papers from a conference which he co-organized and is being published simultaneously in hardcover and paperback. Zeller was also invited to participate in a forum entitled "The Nature of German Environmental History" by the journal *German History*, published by Oxford University Press.

**Leandro Benmergui** presented his paper, "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, organized by the European Association for Urban History. He also organized the panel "Modernizing Landscapes of Urban Poverty: Housing, Citizenship, and Popular Mobilization in the Latin American City" that was accepted by the Council on Latin American History for the next AHA meeting in New York.

**Cory Bernat** will be presenting a paper as part of a food panel at the American Studies Association 2008 Annual Meeting in Albuquerque this October. Her essay, "Nina Katchadourian's Genealogy of the Supermarket" will be published in the Fall 2008 issue of *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture* of UC Press.

**Paula Halperin** is presenting the paper "Debating Xica: The Role of the Mass Media in the Definition of Racial Relations in Brazil in the 1970s", in the 123rd annual meeting of the American Historical Association that will be held January 2–5, 2009 in New York City. The session she is participating in will be on Sunday, January 4, 2009: 11:30 AM-1:30 PM in the Sheraton New York, Central Park West. It is called "The Public Sphere in Twentieth-Century Latin American Politics" and is organized by **Mary Kay Vaughan** with commentary by Pablo Picatto, Columbia University. Additionally, Halperin has written several entries on Brazilian film, literature, and culture in the 2nd Edition of the Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture, edited by Thomson Gale in 2007.

A panel including **Katarina Keane** (PhD, US; advisor: Leslie Rowland) has been accepted by the program committee for the 2009 meeting of the Organization for American Historians. The panel topic is "Struggles for Economic Justice in the Post-1960s American South." Kate will present a paper entitled "'Let Your Sisterhood Be Your Sustenance': Southern Women's Organizations and the Fight for Economic Justice in the 1970s."

**Andrew Kellett** has accepted, and started, a full-time instructor position for the 2008-09 academic year in the Department of History at Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland. He is teaching courses in Western Civilization, US History, and the History of Popular Music. His paper, "I'm a Man: The Impact of Blues Masculinity on British Rock Musicians, 1958-1975," has been accepted for presentation at the North American Conference on British Studies' national conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, in October 2008. Also, his paper "Occidentalism: Perceptions of America and Americans in European Thought and Culture Since the Victorian Era," has been accepted for presentation at the Mid-Atlantic World History Association's national conference in October 2008.

**Laura Kopp** (HiLS 2009) and Jeffrey Starr (UMD Alum 2004) became engaged on Antietam Battlefield on May 4, 2008 (in the marital, not the martial, sense)! They will be married in Catonsville, MD on July 11, 2009.

In June, **Charles Reed** gave a paper titled "Respectable Subjects of the Queen: Royal Tours of Southern Africa and Imperial Citizenship, 1860-1901" at a conference at the University of Huddersfield, UK, called "Britishness, Identity, and Citizenship: A View from Abroad."

**Amy Rutenberg** presented a paper entitled "Service by Other Means: Changing Perceptions of Military Service and Masculinity, 1940-1973," at the Gender and the Long Postwar Conference at the German Historical Institute in May.

**Pete Daniel**, one of our distinguished alums (PhD,1970) and current Curator in the History of Technology of the National Museum of American History (Washington, DC), has the honor of serving as President of the Organization of American Historians for 2008-09.

**Jennifer Kinniff** (HiLS, Russia & Former Soviet Union, 2008; Advisor: Michael David-Fox) has accepted the position of Public Services and Outreach Librarian for Special Collections at George Washington University (Washington, DC).

**Donald Ritchie** (PhD, US, 1975; Advisor: H. Samuel Merrill), Associate Historian of the United States Senate Historical Office (Washington, DC), is co-chair of the Program Committee for the 2009 annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, to be held in late March in Seattle, WA.

### Upcoming Events

The **Orientation for New History Majors** is taking place September 18, 2008 beginning at 3:00PM in the TLF2110. Immediately following will be the **Welcome Back Reception for Undergraduate History Majors** in the Merrill Room beginning at 3:45.

The Department of History **Departmental Meeting** has been re-scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2008 in TLF2110 beginning at 4PM.

The First **Executive Committee** meeting will be held September 25, 2008 in the Merrill Room beginning at 2PM.

October 2, 2008, The Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies will host a talk: **Beth Linker**, (University of Pennsylvania) "Flat Feet and Draft Dodging: The Making of Disability in World War I America" beginning at 12:30 PM in 1140 Plant Science Building (Hornbake Plaza). Pizza and soft drinks will be served.

On the same day, Maryland Colloquium on the History of Technology Science and Environment will present a seminar: **Beth Linker (University of Pennsylvania)** *Limb Lab: Technological Experimentation in Prosthetic Design for World War I Amputee Soldiers* at 4PM in TLF2110.

**Dr. Gullickson**, with The President's Commission on Disability Issues, has organized a talk for 4PM, October 6, 2008 in the Merrill Room: Robert McRuer (GWU) "[Disability Studies and Queer Studies: The Intersection.](#)"

The **Fall 2008 Comprehensive Examinations** have been scheduled:

The four-hour M.A. Non-Thesis, Ph.D. General, Minor Field, and Language Exams will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2008. The three-hour Ph.D. Special Field Exam will be held on Friday, October 17, 2008. Ph.D. oral examinations are held within two weeks of the Special Field exam.

Students intending to take any of these examinations should complete the attached registration form and return to Jodi Hall no later than Wednesday, September 17. The form requires that the advisor confirm the student's eligibility and preparation for the examination(s).