

## Chair's Bulletin

### September 2009 Edition

On Saturday, July 11, 2009, our friend and colleague, **Jeanne Rutenburg**, passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer. We mourn her passing and send our best wishes to her long-time partner and spouse, Art. A public memorial service is planned Thursday, September 24, 2009 in the Memorial Chapel beginning at 3:30PM to commemorate and celebrate her life. All faculty and students are invited to attend.

Welcome to our new faculty: **Michael Ross**, previously of Tulane University and **Mikhail Dolbilov**, previously of European University of St. Petersburg.

We would like to thank **Art Eckstein** for stepping up to take over this year as Interim Director of the Miller Center for Historical Studies. We shall only be able to run a skeleton program this year, but the Board has recommended that we concentrate on the large public events that we mount each year. The first of these will be the Alumni Lecture, which will be held in November and will be delivered by Sam Walker.

**Richard Bell's** article, 'The Double Guilt of Dueling: The Stain of Suicide in Anti-Dueling Rhetoric in the Early Republic,' was published in the *Journal of the Early Republic* 29:3 (Fall 2009): 383-410.

**Antoine Borrut** presented a paper entitled "Ciel et histoire: astronomes, théologiens et la fabrique de l'histoire islamique" at the seminar "Ecrire l'histoire des premiers siècles de l'Islam" at the University of Paris - La Sorbonne, on June 3. An expanded version of this paper will be presented on September 21 at the Catholic University of America, under the title "Heaven and History: Astronomers, Theologians and the Making of Islamic History."

The eighteenth volume of the series *Studies and Text in Jewish History and Culture* edited by **Berny Cooperman** appeared this summer. The volume, entitled "Issues in the Acquisition and Teaching of Hebrew," is the product of a conference organized on campus some years ago and its publication and distribution is part of an effort to connect university-level research to teaching methodologies in grade schools and high schools. Five other volumes are currently in various stages of editing and production. Berny also delivered two invited papers at international conferences this summer: "Kabbalistic Enthusiasms of a Rabbi for Hire. The Sermons of Isaac di Lattes" at the University of Haifa conference: Hebraic Aspects of the Renaissance: Sources and Encounters (May 11-13, 2009) and "Achieving Individual Excellence: Isaac di Lattes and Judah Moscato on Spiritual and Intellectual Perfection" at the conference "'Uomo sagace'. Rabbi Yehudah Moscato e la cultura ebraica del Rinascimento" sponsored by the Universität Halle and the Archivio di Stato of Mantua (July 5-7, 2009). In addition, he presented on "Technology, Preservation, and Freedom of Expression. Isaac de Lattes as Printer in Sixteenth-Century Italy," at the Sixth Annual Early Modern Workshop, this year devoted to "Reading across Cultures: The Jewish Book and Its Readers in the Early Modern Period" and held at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard University (August 23-25, 2009). Best of all, he was able to work for a week on the records of the sixteenth-century Jewish notaries in Rome, crucial sources for the history of the Jews in the city before the institution of the ghetto. The recently refurbished Archivio storico capitolino (<http://www.archiviocapitolino.it/>) reading room where these are stored was officially closed, but thanks to the extraordinary kindness of its staff and especially Dott.essa Anna Maria La Pica, he was able to work for many hours each day. If any grad students or colleagues are looking for a research project in Rome or would like information about the rich holdings of this archive, located in the Oratorio dei Filippini in the Piazza della Chiesa Nuova, he'd be glad to offer advice.

**Michael David-Fox** published "When Extremes Touch: Soviet Courtship of German Far-Right Intellectuals on the Eve of the Nazi Revolution" (in German) in *Osteuropa* 59, 7-8 (2009), a special issue on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hitler-Stalin Pact. He also published "Entangled Histories in the Age of Extremes," the introduction to the summer 2009 special theme issue of *Kritika*, "Enmity and Fascination: Russia and Germany as Entangled Histories, 1914-1945," a volume based on the 2007 conference he organized in Berlin. In June 2009, David-Fox co-organized a lively conference at the European University in St. Petersburg on "Models on the Margins: Russia, Ottoman Empire, and Spain." On his way to

Russia, he gave lectures at the Humboldt University in Berlin and the University of Bremen on "Stalinist Fabians and Stalinist Westernizers: The Fellow-Travelers Revisited." *Kritika Historical Studies*, the book series of which he is editor, was just awarded a contract from Pittsburgh University Press.

**Art Eckstein** has published "Ancient 'International Law', the Aetolian League, and the Ritual of Unconditional Surrender to Rome: A Realist View," in *International History Review* 31 (2009), pp. 253-267. The article is part of a colloquy on whether international law existed in the Greco-Roman world.

In June, **David Freund** co-designed and led a week-long Teaching American History Seminar entitled "Postwar America: Civil Rights, the Sixties, and the Rise of Conservatism (1945-1995)" for middle and high school teachers in the Greencastle-Antrim School District in Greencastle, PA. From September 25 until January 10, 2010, his contribution on "Federal Mortgage Discrimination" will appear in the "Arsenal of Exclusion/Inclusion: The American Way of Living," an exhibit at the 2009 International Architecture Biennale in Rotterdam (at the Netherlands Architecture Institute). The piece has also been selected for publication this fall in Daniel D'Oca, et. al., eds., *Open City: Designing Coexistence* (Rotterdam, NAI Publishers). On October 6, here in College Park, he is leading a day-long Seminar for Teachers on "Race and Rights in the Modern U.S."

**Julie Greene** spoke about the research and writing of her book, *The Canal Builders: Making America's Empire at the Panama Canal*, at several venues over the summer, including at a symposium on the West Indian diaspora held during Brooklyn's Caribbean-American Festival in June, and at the AFL-CIO in July.

**Jeffrey Herf** put the final touches on his forthcoming book, *Nazi Propaganda for the Arab World*. The work will be published by Yale University Press in December. In early August, he delivered a talk entitled "'The Jews Kindled this War in the Interest of Zionism': Nazi Germany's Propaganda in the Middle East" at the 15th World Congress of Jewish Studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. "Nazi Germany Propaganda Aimed at Arabs and Muslims During World War II and the Holocaust: Old Themes, New Archival Findings" an article that draws on the research for the book will be published in the fall issue of *Central European History*. This coming Winter, the *Vierteljahrshefte fuer Zeitgeschichte* (Quarterly Journal of Contemporary History) in Munich will publish German translations of documents from this research project with the title (in German) "Documentation of Nazi Arabic Language Radio Broadcasts: Transcripts from the American Embassy in Cairo of 'Axis Broadcasts in Arabic.'" On October 15th, he will deliver the Tobias Lecture at the Center for Jewish Studies Fall 2009 Jewish Heritage Lecture Series where he will also discuss his recent work on Nazi propaganda aimed at North Africa and the Middle East during World War II and the Holocaust. His article, "Post-Totalitarian Narratives in Germany: Reflections on Two Dictatorships after 1945 and 1989," has been published in Anatoly M. Khazanov and Stanley G. Payne, eds., *Perpetrators, Accomplices and Victims in Twentieth Century Politics: Reckoning with the Past* (London: Routledge, 2009), pp. 2-27. His essay, "What is Old and What is New in the Terrorism of Islamic Fundamentalism," originally delivered on a panel in Francis Scott Key Hall on October 8, 2001 and then published in *Partisan Review* in winter 2002, has been reprinted in Murray Baumgarten, Peter Kenez and Bruce Thompson, eds., *Varieties of Antisemitism: History, Ideology and Discourse* (University of Delaware Press, 2009) 370-376. His article, "The Totalitarian Present: Why the West Consistently Underplays the Power of Bad Ideas," appears in *The American Interest*, Vol. V, No. 1 (September-October, 2009), pp. 31-36.

**Hilary Jones'** review of *Locality, Mobility and Nation: Periurban Colonialism in Togo's Eweland 1900-1960* by Benjamin Lawrance appeared in the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* v. 10, n.1 Spring 2009.

**John Lampe** started his summer with stops in Bulgaria and Macedonia. In Sofia, he met with the local historian and also the translator working on the book project for CEU Press, *Battling over the Balkans: Questions and Controversies*, being assembled around excerpts from recent work by younger historians in the region. In Skopje, he turned to his other book project, *Embracing Democracy in the Western Balkans: From Post-Conflict Struggles toward European Integration*. Among the useful meetings on the effects of the current financial crisis was a round-table luncheon discussion hosted by

US Ambassador Philip Reeker. Then in August, after keeping his record of attendance as a Senior Scholar unbroken at the Wilson Center's 22nd annual Junior Scholars Training Seminar, held in Seattle, he spent some valuable days on Vancouver Island working with his co-author Lenard Cohen, the political scientist and not the singer, to close in on completing the manuscript for *Embracing Democracy*.

**Paul Landau** will be one of three editors of the African Historical Review (formerly published by the University of South Africa in Pretoria as Kleio), now a Taylor and Francis journal, beginning this year.

**Robyn Muncy's** essay, "Coal-Fired Reforms: Social Citizenship, Dissident Miners, and the Great Society," was published in the June 2009 issue of the JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY. In July, she conducted a workshop for Chicago public school teachers under a TAH grant and was interviewed for a PBS documentary, "Fire at the Triangle," to be aired in the American Experience series in 2011.

**Karin Roseblatt** gave a paper titled "Race, Modernization, and the Early Cold War in US Latin American Studies" at the Latin American Studies Association, XXVIII International Congress, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 11- 14 June 2009. She also served her first year on the AHA's Joan Kelly Memorial Prize Committee for a book in the field of Women's and Gender History.

**Leslie Rowland** reports the award of two new grants to the Freedmen and Southern Society Project: \$171,800 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and \$126,200 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In making its award, the NEH designated the FSSP a "We the People" project, part of a special initiative in American history and culture that cuts across all of the Endowment's programs. She also has been named chair of the 2011 Vincent P. DeSantis Prize committee. The DeSantis Prize is awarded biennially by the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era to the best first book on any aspect of U.S. history in the period 1865-1917.

**David Sartorius** traveled to Rio de Janeiro in June and presented "Travel, Passports, and the Boundaries of Race in Nineteenth-Century Cuba" at the Latin American Studies Association congress. He also gave an invited lecture at the Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro in Nova Iguaçu entitled "Meus Vassalhos: Milicias de Côr Cubanas e os Fines do Imperio Espanhol [My Vassals: Militias of Color in Cuba and the Ends of Spanish Empire]." Afterwards, faculty and graduate students at the university discussed his article on the same topic. He also traveled to Tepoztlán, Mexico in July to attend the conference he organizes annually, the Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas. There he presented "Revolution Will Be an Aspirin the Size of the Sun," a version of an article about the recent history of intellectual interest in revolution that will be appearing this fall in *Social Text*. He will be a commentator at the upcoming Latin American Labor History Conference at Duke University in early October.

**Peter Wien** spent five weeks during June and July 2009 as a summer fellow at the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies (Zentrum Moderner Orient, ZMO) in Berlin. The Office of International Programs supported his trip with an International Travel Grant. The ZMO is an independent, government funded humanities research institute that is the cutting edge of Modern Oriental Studies in Germany. During his stay, Peter worked in the Centre's library and archival collections.

**Stephen Brush** has had his latest book published: *Choosing Selection: The Revival of Natural Selection in Anglo-American Evolutionary Biology, 1930-1970* (American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 2009)

**Katarina Keane** (PhD, US; advisor Leslie Rowland) gave a paper at the Eighth Southern Conference on Women's History, a triennial conference sponsored by the Southern Association for Women Historians on June 6, 2009. The title of her paper was "Those Are Sisters: Southern Women's Campaigns for Economic Justice, 1965-1975."

**Andrew Kellett** will be presenting my paper, "Born In Chicago: Paul Butterfield and 'Sibling Rivalry' on the Trans-Atlantic Blues Scene," at the "Trans-Atlantic Routes of American Roots Music" conference. The conference is being held on September 12, at the University of Worcester, Worcestershire, Great Britain.

**Angela A. Kurtz**, former UMD graduate student and Jim Harris's *very* last doctoral advisee (just to jog memories), has published an article, "God, not Caesar: Revisiting National Socialism as 'Political Religion,'" in the June, 2009 issue of the journal *History of European Ideas*. She is currently working on another article on the history of the philosophy of pessimism and hopes to publish her book *Rise of the Cult of Will*, based on her previous doctoral work, in the course of the next year.

**Michael Soracoe** will present a paper in the program of the annual Northeast Conference on British Studies. The conference will take place this year on the campus of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, from roughly 3:30 pm on Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> until 5:30 pm on Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>.