

## Chair's Bulletin

### March 2007

Pride of place in this issue of the Chair's Bulletin must go to former Chair of the Department (1976-1986) and emeritus Professor, **Emory Evans**. Emory's book, "Topping People": The Rise and Decline of Virginia's Old Political Elite 1680-1790 has been accepted for publication by the University of Virginia Press. This is a hefty chunk of mid-Atlantic history. It is increasingly unusual in the academic world to find anyone willing to undertake this kind of ambitious research project. But those who know Emory Evans know that he is defined by two qualities: integrity and dogged commitment. It is the second of these that are now on display. As he will admit, this project has been long in the making. It is now done. And in the doing it is a reminder that scholarship sometimes does take a long time; that the production of knowledge can remain an artisanal process of careful, painstaking (not to mention, at times, painful) crafting.

**Art Eckstein's** new book, Rome Enters the Greek East: From Anarchy to Hierarchy in the Hellenistic Mediterranean, 230-170 B.C., is now headed towards production and will be published by Blackwell Publishers (Oxford) in May of this year. Arthur did a true two-for-one-fer. *Rome Enters the Greek East* is essentially the second volume of the analysis that he began in *Mediterranean Anarchy*. And he is not finished yet. There is a final volume in the works that will carry the development of empire in the Greek East (employing political science theory) from 170 B.C. Art is setting a terrifying pace of scholarly output for those of the older generation!

**Richard Bell's** essays on 'Molly Pitcher' and 'Benjamin Banneker' were recently published in Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War edited by Richard Ryerson (Macmillan: Detroit, in 2006); along with his essays on 'Suicide' and '1741 New York Plot' in Encyclopedia of Slave Resistance and Rebellions edited by Junius P. Rodriguez (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2007).

**Robert Freidel** will speak on Museums as Places for "Thinking in Time" at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences on May 23, 2007.

**Saverio Giovacchini** will deliver a commentary on the panel "Myth Memory and American Freedom" at the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Minneapolis to take place on March 30th, 2007.

**Jeffrey Herf's** has been honored by a Fellowship at the American Academy in Berlin. He will be on leave for the coming fall semester (2007). Whilst there he will work on his new project, tentatively titled, "Nazism, fascism and radical Islam: Lineages, Comparisons and Differences." Out of this will come what he describes as "a modest size book on the subject either by January or August, 2008."

**Hilary Jones** was awarded a GRB for summer 2007 to work on her book project called: "Ambiguous Citizens: Metis Identity and Urban Politics in Colonial Senegal." She will be working on a literature review of critical race theory and plans to write the introduction for the project. Also, a course that she will teach next fall, called African Women's History is Life Stories, has been approved as part of the Driskell Center curriculum development initiative for 2007-2008 based on the theme "Sites of Memory/Acts of Resistance." Participation includes a modest grant for course development.

A two-day seminar proposed by **Leslie Rowland** on "Slavery, Freedom, and the American Civil War" has been selected by the College of Arts and Humanities for its 2007-08 series of Seminars for Teachers.

**Jon Sumida** continues to bring his knowledge of military thought and history to places that need to listen. He has been invited to be a featured speaker at the Symposium: "Towards A Theory of Spacepower, The Influence of Spacepower on History and Implications for the Future" sponsored by the Institute for National Strategic Studies on April 25-26, 2007. He is also invited to the conference on "Making of U.S. Grand Strategy: The End of the Cold War and its Legacies" in Beijing on November 19-21, 2007.

**Julie Taddeo** will be presenting a paper at the American Cultural Association's annual meeting in Boston in early April on "Constructions of British Masculinity in the Historical Fiction of Catherine Cookson."

**Thomas Zeller's** monograph Driving Germany: The Landscape of the German Autobahn, 1930-1970 was published in February by Berghahn Books. Tom has also signed a contract with University of Pittsburgh Press for the co-edited volume Rivers of History: Perspectives on Waterways in Europe and North America. Publication is expected for late 2007. On March 3, he gave a paper on his current research project, "Consuming Landscapes," at an international conference in Berlin/Germany. The conference, entitled "New Ways into a New Europe," discussed ways to integrate the history of transportation and mobility into European history; it was organized by professors from three German universities. The opening panel of the conference featured the German Secretary of Transportation.

**Andrew Kellett** has been offered a place in the Mellon/Columbia British History summer seminar that will be run by Susan Pedersen. Andrew competed for one of twelve places in this seminar which aims to bring together a cohort of British History graduate students to help them prepare for teaching a field that has been undergoing significant change over the past few years.

There is nothing better that we like than to see the backs of our graduate students. That is when they move on to real jobs and real life. So, congratulations to Ph.D **Max Grivno** (advisor, Leslie Rowland). Max has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Southern Mississippi. The appointment begins in August.

Alumni Guangqiu Xu's new book, Congress and the U.S-China Relationship, 1949-1979, (Univ. of Akron Press) was recently released.

And finally, but hardly least, I would remind you that the **Third Annual Undergraduate History Conference** sponsored by the online undergraduate history journal, *Janus*, will be held on Thursday, March 29, 4-6 pm in 2110 Taliaferro. All students who submitted papers for the conference/competition will present short synopses of their work. The best three papers (peer reviewed) will be awarded prizes, and the papers will be published in *Janus*. This is an important opportunity for our undergraduates to showcase their talents. Please make every effort to make time for the conference in your busy schedules.