

**Chair's Bulletin**  
**Final 2006-2007 Edition - May**

In last month's Bulletin, I omitted to mention that our long standing lecturer **Jeanne Rutenburg** had just published a co-authored review article titled, "The Return of the Fall of Rome," from *International History Review* 29 (2007): pp. 109-122. This article had been lurking in my briefcase for some time in my vain attempt to find time to read it, thus it had slipped out of the pile of items for mention in the Bulletin. I am happy to redeem that absence now.

**Marlene Mayo** would like to tell members of the Department about an upcoming conference here in October. The Department of History is helping to finance the annual meeting of the Mid Atlantic Region-Association for Asian Studies Conference, October 26-28, Student Union. Dr. Mayo is co-conference manager and serving on the MAR-AAS board to help make the event happen (the Board will meet here on May 19, Merrill Conference Room, for local arrangements). There will be a K-12 outreach day, followed by a day and a half of panels on topics relating to East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Also, Marlene Mayo and the Prange Collection staff are planning a Prange and East Asia Collection Day in conjunction with the Asian Studies Conference at Maryland. The curator is more than willing to help plan an afternoon or a day before the conference to introduce the Department to the archival collection and to the general vernacular collection. New members of the Department may not know that the Center for Historical Studies and McKeldin Libraries co-sponsor an annual international competition for two grants to use the collections (the Modern Japan Research Award). The competition has been held every year since about 2001; each award is worth \$1500.00. I might add that at long last the Collections are being run well by a terrific team.

The **Freedmen & Southern Society Project** (directed by **Leslie Rowland**) has been awarded a \$170,000 NEH grant (over a 3-year period). Given how fiercely competitive the Scholarly Editions Program has become, this is an extraordinary outcome.

**Rick Bell** had been awarded two prestigious fellowships for next year. He won a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in American History awarded by the University of Cambridge, Faculty of History. He will spend part of the calendar year 2008 in residence at Cambridge, advancing his manuscript 'Do Not Despair: Suicide, Property and Power in the Newly United States.' In addition, he was awarded a research fellowship at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA. Rick also deserves our best wishes for another reason: he will marry Dr. Monica Catherine Lewis on 2 June 2007 in Cambridge, MA.

**Rick Bell and Leslie Rowland** recently delivered engaging and widely lauded talks on, respectively, Revolutionary America and the Era of Civil War to educators in Harford County, MD. These talks – to be followed by a week-long summer series and another pair in the fall, also staffed by colleagues in U.S. history – extend the Department's role in a federally-funded Teaching American History grant in Harford Co. into a fourth year. This project is ably managed for the Department, along with several other outreach initiatives, by **David Sicilia**.

**Ken Holum** received an \$1800 travel grant from International Programs for work on Caesarea reports. He also received a Shelby White-Leon Levy Grant for \$90,000 over three years for the Caesarea project. These are grants to archaeological projects that have completed excavations and are preparing the publication. Most of the grant will pay for preparation of drawings and catalogues of pottery, coins, glass, architectural sculpture, animal bones, and environmental data from the Roman, Early Islamic, and Crusader periods. Ken was also recently elected Chair Elect of the University Senate which means he will ascend to the Chair in May of next year.

John Lampe presented a lecture on "Reinterpreting the Modern Balkans: A Long European 20th Century" for the Modern Greek Studies Association at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on April 13. On May 1, he addressed a State Department Seminar on Human Capital at George Washington University on "Human Capital and Development Dilemmas: the Western Balkans as Eastern Europe". He leaves on

May 22 for his latest research trip to the beloved Balkans, this time for 10 days to Sarajevo and Banja Luka

Canada's Historic Sites and Monuments Board, a federal agency, requested that **Dr. Lisa R. Mar** advise on whether a Chinese Canadian leader in her book, Foon Sien Wong, would be eligible for designation as a "person of national significance."

**Robyn Muncy** was interviewed for an article that appeared in the *Baltimore Sun*, May 6, 2007. The article, "[Madame President?](#)", is about the possibility of a woman becoming president.

On April 20, 2007 **Keith Olson** presented a paper on "Eisenhower Revisionism" at the 2007 Conference of the British Association for American Studies which was held at the University of Leicester, UK.

**Jon Sumida's** work continues to gain wide public attention as part of ongoing debates about military strategy in this uncertain age as well as debates about more purely historical matters. He will deliver two public lectures this month: "Clausewitz and the Absolute War" at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio on May 23 and "Structure of Naval Technical Transformation in the Age of Fisher" at the Air Force Colloquium, Human Factors Laboratory on May 24.

**Peter Wien** has received a grant from the International Travel Fund of the Office of International Programs for his research trip to Syria this summer. Peter and his family will spend the summer in Damascus and France.

**Thomas Zeller** has published a book chapter, "'National Character' and International Styles: Iconic Roads in Germany and the United States, 1930-1970," in: Gijs Mom and Laurent Tissot (eds.), *Road History. Planning, Building and Use* (Neuchâtel: Editions Alphil, 2007), 77-86. And we have just received in the office the English version of his book, *Driving Germany: The Landscape of the German Autobahn, 1930-1970* (Berg, 2007).

On June 1, **Betsy Mendelsohn** who has worked for us as a lecturer in the History of Science and Technology will begin directing the College Park Scholars and University Certificate Programs in Science, Technology and Society. She will continue to be an adjunct lecturer in the History Department as needed.

**Angela Tudico** has won a Mary Savage Snouffer Fellowship for 2007-08. She will spend the year writing her dissertation, which is titled "'They're Bringing Home Japanese Brides': Japanese War Brides in the United States, 1945-1960."

**Mark Hagerott**, a PhD student working with **Jon Sumida**, has been awarded a prestigious Hayes Fellowship by the Naval Historical Center for his dissertation research, the subject of which is naval officer education in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with special attention focused on the degradation of the formal curriculum by overemphasis on engineering at the expense of social sciences and humanities during the cold war.

**Tina Ligon** (Ph.D. student, US history; advisor, Leslie Rowland) is the 2007 recipient of the Graduate Student Award of the President's Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues. President Mote presented the award to her at a ceremony on May 8.

It is a pleasure to announce that **Jonathan White** has edited and published [A Philadelphia Perspective. The Civil War Diary of Sydney George Fisher](#) (Fordham University Press, 2007). Jonathan is a Ph.D student studying with Herman Belz.

Please remember to check out the Graduate Student News and Notables for the latest information of the accomplishments of our graduate students and alumni. [Link to News and Notables](#).