

Chair's Bulletin: the December 2006 edition.

This will be the final Bulletin in 2006. It has been a busy and eventful year. But it is nice to report that we end the year with a veritable flood of faculty accomplishments. As your Chair it is my Holiday wish—I do not say prayer—that 2007 be blessed with an even more impressive list of achievements!

Things to Note:

It is with regret that I report the imminent resignation of **Fabian Faccio**. Fabian has been with us for three years, serving as the administrative assistant to the Associate Chair. Fabian was at risk of becoming an old timer in the office. He has decided to avoid that fate by taking a job in the Office of International Affairs. We thank him for his willing service and cheerful mien. And we wish him well in his new position.

On a more cheerful note, let me remind you all of the **Office Party on December 13th**. We shall gather in the Merrill Room, or the corridor outside, to mark the holiday season. In particular, we shall give collective thanks and recognition to the office staff whose own work and loyalty makes our work possible. Please plan to attend.

Commencement fast approaches. The University Commencement ceremonies will be held on December 20th at 7.00pm. The **History Department Commencement Ceremony** will be on December 21st at 1.00pm in the Colony Ballroom of the Stamp Union. **Barbara Weinstein** will be the speaker at our ceremonies. In the next few days, I shall be circulating a request for volunteers to attend our ceremony.

I am pleased to invite requests for funds to support instructional technology in the classroom. As you may recall, the College has been expanding its support of classroom technology for some years now. Two new classrooms have been recently equipped with video and computer capability. And the latest round of **Instructional Technology grants** are now announced. In order to compete for one of these grants, please submit a proposal to the Department describing how you want to use technology in your teaching. I will ask the Executive Committee to rank them before sending them down to the College selection committee. You are encouraged to contact Academic Computing Services (by phone at extension 5-2116 or by email atkav@umd.edu) for assistance in developing your proposal in order to include accurate cost information for appropriate hardware and software. For full details please point your browser to: <http://www.history.umd.edu/Internal/techfund.html> **Requests are due at Courtenay's desk Thursday, December 21, 2006 no later than 2PM.**

[The Digital History Reader](#) is a new online resource for teaching that utilizes modules designed for introductory level survey courses at colleges and universities and advanced history courses at the secondary level. The Site is made up of two components: "United States History," which provides materials covering important themes and issues in United States history from the colonial era to the present, and "Modern Europe in a Global Context," which provides materials exploring links between European and world history in the late nineteenth and twentieth century. The Digital History Reader can be

used to integrate digital and multimedia materials into the classroom. For a brochure, please stop by the History Department Office.

Faculty Activities

I am delighted to report that **Don Sutherland** recently received a contract from Cambridge University Press for publication his manuscript, *Terror in Aubagne: Lynching, Law, and Justice during the French Revolution*. Congratulations to Don for what one reader described as a “major new study of violence and terror during the French Revolution by one of the world’s foremost specialists on the subject.”

At the recent American Schools of Oriental Research meeting **Ken Holum** received the "P.E. MacAllister Field Archaeology Award 2006 in recognition of outstanding career contributions to the discipline of ancient Near Eastern archaeology." ASOR is the international scholarly organization of archaeologists and historians who work in the Middle East.

Madeline Zilfi has two chapters in *The Cambridge History of Turkey—the Later Ottoman Empire, 1603-1839* edited by Suraiya Faroqhi and just published by Cambridge University Press. Her contributions to this prestigious publication are “Muslim Women in the Early Modern Era,” and “The Ottoman Ulema.” Madeline also delivered a paper, “Middle Eastern Slavery and Its Historiography—Ottoman Slavery and World History,” at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in Boston on November 18th.

Whit Ridgway was recently interviewed for a teaching module on the Bill of Rights for a project that brings commentary on primary sources in American History into the Virginia public schools.

Andrea Goldman organized and presented a paper at an international symposium entitled "*Peony Pavilion* in Context: Kun Opera and Cultural Performance from Ming to Modern Times." The symposium was hosted by the University of California, Berkeley, September 14-17, and it was held in conjunction with the U.S. premiere of a cross-straits, collaborative production of the late Ming drama, *The Peony Pavilion*. Andrea has also been invited to give a talk at the Harvard China Humanities Seminar on February 12, 2007.

Rick Bell was the invited speaker at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture at the College of William and Mary on 10 October 2006, presenting a paper titled 'Werther's Children: Reading and Suicide in the New Nation.'

Richard Price was part of a panel discussion at the North American Conference on British Studies at Boston, November 17th-19th which discussed a new book by Bernard Porter titled, *The Absence Minded Imperialists. What the British Thought of their Empire.*

Lisa R. Mar presented a paper titled “‘Fixing Knowledge’: Ethnic Leaders’ Management of the Chicago School of Sociology” at a panel titled “Brokering Power and Identity in Asian America” at the American Studies Association Conference in Oakland, California on October 14, 2006.

Peter Wein attended the Middle East Studies Association meeting in Boston from November 18 to 21, and presented a paper on "Social Discipline as a historical paradigm in Modern Middle Eastern History".

Jim Gilbert has received a Senior Scholar Fulbright appointment to teach two months at the University of Erfurt in Germany beginning in May, 2007. He will also participate in an international seminar (also at Erfurt) on masculinity in post-war America, the subject of his book *MEN IN THE MIDDLE*.

Two of our faculty will receive Semester GRB awards next academic year. **Ira Berlin** will be off in the fall to work on “Passages, Movement and Place and the Making of African American Life.” And **Philip Soergel** will be also be away from teaching in the Fall semester to work on his project on “Miracles and the Protestant Imagination.”

Cambridge University Press will publish the revised manuscript of **Michael Peterson's** dissertation on the engineers and scientists working at the Nazi's Peenumunde missile complex.

The Third Annual Janus Undergraduate History Conference is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 4-6 in 2110 TLF. Please put this date on your schedule and encourage your students to submit their papers to Janus.