

## Chair's Bulletin October 2007

### Gatherings:

The Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies series, *Difficult Pasts: Method and Memory* got off to a great start with Luisa Passerini's inaugural seminar on "The Italian '68." This was the occasion for those of that generation in our Department to contextualize their own historical experience. Passerini hails from the University of Turin and is a leading specialist on oral history and in the history of gender, social movements, and the emotions. She has worked a long on the history of memory and her paper was entitled "The Italian 68: Site of Memory, Site of Oblivion." Very astute and intelligent comments came from Dr. Martin Klimke, a fellow at the German Historical Institute of Washington, D.C. Professor Passerini gave a second paper the following day at a transnational seminar co-sponsored by CHS, the department's European and Latin American caucuses, and the Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies. This paper was entitled "An Italian-German Jewish Couple in the 1930s and 1940s, in Europe and Latin America: A Microhistory in a Wider Context," and **Mary Kay Vaughan** served as commentator.

The Department was pleased to welcome back **Manning Marable**, Professor of Public Affairs, Political Science, History and African American Studies at Columbia University, to give the fourth annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture on September 26. The author of dozens of books and articles, Prof. Marable received his Ph.D. in History from Maryland in 1976. He gave a captivating talk "Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention." which drew from his current work on the Black Muslim leader. Before the lecture, Prof. Marable also met with graduate students to share his reminiscences of UMD and his work as a historian and pioneer in African American Studies over the years.

The Neorealism Conference was a lot of work but a huge success. There was a great exchange of ideas between people of different disciplines such as History, Literature, Film Studies, and Cultural Studies. Turnout was high and included non-academics and graduate and undergraduate students as well as professors. As one of the first conferences of its kind, the transnational focus of the conference and the discussions were refreshing. Kudos for this (from this Department) must go to Saverio Giovacchini and Paula Halperin and to the help they received from our support personnel, particularly Catalina Toala.

### Upcoming:

The 36th annual conference of the Mid-Atlantic Region/Association for Asian Studies Conference (MAR/AAS), will be held October 26-28, at the Stamp Student Union. Flyers have been posted but so much is happening you might want to check out the full program: <http://www.maraas.org>. Activities will cover South Asia and Southeast East Asia as well as Inner Asia and East Asia. Sponsors include the Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies and the Department of History. Keynote speaker is the distinguished scholar of China, Elizabeth Perry, Rosovsky Professor of Government, Harvard University, and president of the national Association for Asian Studies.

MAR-AAS is grateful for strong support from Maryland History faculty and students. **James Gao** has organized a panel on Chinese religion which includes graduate students; **Andrea**

**Goldman** will be flying back from UCLA to act as discussant. Doctoral student **Robert Peterson** has acted as staff associate in helping to handle pre-registration. **Marlene Mayo** has organized a panel on Japan, war, and memory; participants include Paula Harrell. **Ron Lilley** has joined a panel on Korean, Chinese, and Japanese visual culture. **Sonya Michel** will chair a transnational panel on gender, ethnicity, and class. **Lisa Mar** is assisting with Asian American panel participants. Since this is a conference, registration is required, but fees have been waived for undergraduates and reduced for graduate students. We hope that many of you and your students might like to attend.

**Bernie Cooperman** and the Louis L. Kaplan Chair of Jewish History bring you “Immigrant Dreams/Israeli Realities,” Three Films on Conflicted Identities at the Hoff Theater, Adele Stamp Student Union. The first film, Thursday November 1, 2007. 7 pm is “Dear Mr Waldman” מכתבים מאמריקה (Israel 2006). Written and directed by Hanan Peled. Hebrew with English sub-titles. 86 min. 35 mm. Hanan Peled, the writer and director, will speak after the film.

#### **Notable and Noteworthy:**

**Jon Sumida**'s long anticipated book, *Engaging the Clausewitzian Mind*, is now scheduled to be published by University Press of Kansas in 2008. From all accounts, it promises to have quite an impact, since Jon challenges some of the most strongly held assumptions about Clausewitz and his theories. Watch this space, and duck for cover.

In August the **Freedmen and Southern Society Project** received notice that it has been designated a National Endowment for the Humanities "We the People" project. According to the award letter from Bruce Cole, chairman of the NEH, "The goal of the 'We the People' initiative is to encourage and strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture through the support of projects that explore significant events and themes in our nation's history and culture and that advance knowledge of the principles that define America."

**Sabrina Baron** co-edited the book “*Agent of Change*” *Print Culture Studies after Elizabeth Eisenstein* which was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in July 2007. There will be an event to officially launch the book at the Library of Congress, Center for the Book, on Nov. 2, 1-4 pm. Please see [http://www.wcupa.edu/academics/sch\\_cas.eng/wagpcs.htm](http://www.wcupa.edu/academics/sch_cas.eng/wagpcs.htm) for more information. Dr. Baron is also serving as chair of the University Senate's Elections, Representation, and Governance Committee this year. If anyone has anything they feel that committee should address, she would be happy to hear about it.

**Ira Berlin** was selected for the Notable Author List of the Maryland Author Award 2007.

**Arthur Eckstein**'s chapter, “Intra-Greek Balancing, the Mediterranean Crisis of c. 201-200 BCE, and the Rise of Rome,” appeared in the newly released *Balance of Power in World History*, edited by Stuart Kaufman, Richard Little, and William C. Wohlforth (Palgrave Macmillan 2007). Arthur also contributed to “Testing Balance-of-Power Theory in World History” appearing in *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 13, No. 2, 155-185 (2007). You can also access it online at: <http://ejt.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/13/2/155>

**Robert Friedel's** new book, *A Culture of Improvement: Technology and the Western Millennium*, continues to receive favorable notice. It was featured, along with its author, in an article published Aug 16, 2007, in the Washington Times entitled, "Making Progress" which is something we all like to do.

**Marsha Rozenblit** gave a paper, "Jewish Immigrants in Vienna before the First World War," at a conference, "New Lands: The Migration of Central European Jews, 1850-1920," sponsored by the Institut fuer Geschichte der Juden in Oesterreich (Institute for the History of the Jews in Austria), Vienna, Austria, July 2007.

Congratulations to **Julie Taddeo** who has just received a book contract from the University Press of Kentucky for an edited collection of essays on "Reality TV as Film and History", with a projected publication date of Fall 2008.

**Peter Wien** attended the German Orientalist Convention (Deutscher Orientalistentag) in Freiburg, Germany September 24 to 27, and presented a paper there. The following chapter of Peter's recently appeared: "L'émergence d'un nouveau modèle de jeunesse dans les années 1930 en Irak: perspectives sur les questions de masculinité et de conflit générationnel," in Jeunesses des sociétés arabes: Par-delà les promesses et les menaces, ed. Mounia Bennani-Chraïbi and Iman Farag (Cairo: CEDEJ, and Montreuil: Éditions Aux lieux d'être, 2007), 93-120.