

# BULLETIN

September 2007  
Department of History

## WELCOME

Welcome back to all faculty after what I hope was a renewing and refreshing summer. I want to issue a particularly hearty welcome to our three new faculty members of the Department of History: David Freund, David Sartorius, and Janna Wasilewski.

Also welcome to the 25 new graduate students and (we are told) the 94 new undergraduate majors to the Department.

It may have been summertime, but from all accounts our faculty were extremely busy. This office has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments by members of the Department. I hope we have gotten them all, but if not, let us know and we will include them in the next bulletin. .

## Notable Achievements

Let us begin with noting the publication in the late spring by MIT of **Robert Friedel's** latest book, [\*Culture of Improvement: Technology and the Western Millennium\*](#). This book is the product of many years study and reflection by Robert on the history and dynamics of technological innovation Western history. It is an impressive achievement which has been wonderfully produced by MIT Press. We are delighted to note that it instantly received widespread media attention, including reviews in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. Robert also co-authored an article "Possibility thinking: lessons from breakthrough engineering," in Journal of Business Strategy, 28, 4 (2007).

It is entirely fitting, too, that just as he joined our Department, the University of Chicago Press published **David Freund's** [\*Colored Property: State Policy and White Racial Politics in Suburban America\*](#) in their Historical Studies of Urban America series. David was interviewed about the book and the legacy of residential segregation in modern America by Jack Lessenberry for Michigan Public Radio (broadcast on August 2). And in October, he will present research for his new book project in Portland, Maine, at The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Planning History (Society for American City and Regional Planning History). The paper is entitled "A New Deal for Metropolitan America: The State and Post-War Economic Development."

**Art Eckstein** (who I think of as The Indefatigable) presented a paper, "Polybius, Thucydides and International Systems Theory," at an international conference at the University of Liverpool, held July 18-21: "Polybius, 1957-2007." Art was one of a distinguished group of faculty from little known institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge, Trinity University Dublin, McGill, Gottingen, the Sorbonne, and the University of California. I understand there were frequent references to the "Eckstein thesis" of international relations in the Roman world. It is expected that the papers given at the conference will be published in a volume dedicated to the great classical scholar Frank W. Walbank. He also co-authored an article published in [\*European Journal of International Relations\*](#): "Testing Balance of Power Theory in World History."

The second volume of Art's study of the international relations system of the Roman Empire is on its way from Blackwell Publishers.

**Jon Sumida** published a lengthy article "Expectation, Adaptation and Resignation. British Battle Fleet Tactical Planning, August 1914-April 1916," in [\*Naval War College Review\*](#), 60,3 (Summer 2007) which

added to Jon's many contributions to the story of Britain's naval planning and execution of strategy during the First World War.

**Thomas Zeller** is now of course an associate professor, but he is also a Research Fellow at the John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress for the fall semester and is on research leave the second semester. Tom has added to his already distinguished publication list, an article entitled "[Thomas Zeller on August Sander's Rhine Landscapes](#)," *Environmental History*, 12 (2007).

**The Samuel Gompers Papers** project proudly announces publication of Volume 10: The American Federation of Labor and the Great War, 1917-18. Volume 10 follows Gompers to the highpoint of his career, when wartime demands put a premium on all-out production and opened new opportunities for the labor movement. Focusing on the AFL's pragmatic pledge to support the war effort, and Gompers' emergence as a national policymaker, it covers a period of intense debate over the meaning of patriotism, the limits of individual freedom, and the value of democracy. Primary documents chart the evolution of a new relation with the federal government and the rise of labor-adjustment boards that supported the eight-hour day, equal pay for equal work, and labor's right to organize. And they chronicle Gompers' wartime trip to Europe to bolster morale and his ongoing efforts to strengthen international labor ties. Other highlights include the Bisbee deportations, the stockyards labor organizing campaign, the IWW's free-speech movement, the Tom Mooney case, the Bolshevik Revolution, the Saint Louis Race Riot, and Gompers' controversial agreement to forgo labor's fight for the "closed" union shop for the duration of the war. To read the introduction, browse the index, or order the volume, please visit our website <http://www.history.umd.edu/Gompers/index.htm>

Peter Albert and Grace Palladino, Coeditors, The Samuel Gompers Papers

**Ken Holum** received an award from the Shelby White-Leon Levy Program for Archeological Publications, Harvard University, for the preparation of his Final Report of the Caesarea excavations that Ken led for so long.

From Aug. 19–21, the History Department and the Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies hosted this year's meeting of the **Early Modern Jewish History Workshop**. This annual workshop brings together scholars to discuss a range of primary sources selected around a specific theme in Early Modern History. All primary sources are posted online, and the discussions are videotaped, edited, and also posted. Professor Paula Findlen of Stanford University introduced this year's workshop focusing on Material Culture and Consumption. Professor Bernard Cooperman is one of the Workshop founders and organized this year's meeting. For further information on this year's, and previous, workshops, see <http://www.earlymodern.org>.

**Bernard Cooperman** also organized an international conference devoted to "Jews and Muslims in the World of Islam" which met on our campus, August 26-28<sup>th</sup>. In addition to Berny, other members of the Department participated in this meeting, including Hayim Lapin, Madeline Zilfi and Peter Wien. The Conference was a joint effort between the Dahan Center of Bar-Ilan University (Israel) and the Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies, and it brought together more than fifty scholars from Israel, Morocco, England, France, and the U.S. to treat a broad range of themes in areas of comparative religion and literature, medieval philosophy and theology, urban studies, political science, ethnography and sociology, musical and architectural history. Geographic focus ranged from Australia to Spain, the Ottoman Empire, North Africa, Yemen, and modern Israel. The conference also featured a concert of Iranian music by local artist Roya Bahrami co-sponsored by the university's Persian Studies Center.

**Richard Bell** received grants from the Center for Teaching Excellence and the ARHU Dean's Office to support the development of a new winter-term study abroad course to the UK that will focus on the history of the British Empire. Richard will be on leave from January for the year. He is the recipient of a prestigious Mellon Fellowship at the University of Cambridge, and a scarcely less prestigious Fellowship

from the American Antiquarian Society. In May he delivered a paper titled "In Extremis: The Visual Rhetoric of Slave Suicide" to the American Literature Association. A second paper was delivered titled "Escaping the Hangman: Suicide and Capital Punishment in Early America" to the Social Change Workshop at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville on June 24th.

And talking of prestigious awards, this summer, **Clare Lyons** received the James H. Broussard Best First Book Prize for *Sex Among the Rabble: An Intimate History of Gender and Power in the Age of Revolution* from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). This is an appropriate recognition of the importance of Claire's work. Her essay "[Mapping an Atlantic Sexual Culture](#)" also appeared in a new anthology on the history of sexuality, *Long Before Stonewall: Histories of Same-Sex Sexuality in Early America*, ed. Tom Foster (NYU Press 2007).

More prestige was awarded to **Hilary Jones** who has been invited to participate in the Bellagio conference, "Finding the African Voice: Narratives of Slavery and Enslavement," sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation. The conference will be held at the Rockefeller Foundation's center in Bellagio, Italy from Sept. 24 to Sept. 28, 2007. The title of her paper is, "Reconstituting a West African Slave Community: The Fugitive Slave Report and the Protestant Mission of Saint Louis, Senegal, 1879-1906."

**John Lampe** visited Bosnia for a number of interviews and was in Vancouver with his co-author Lenard Cohen to continue work on their book project, "Embracing Democracy in the Western Balkans: From Post-Conflict Struggles Toward European Integration". He was part of a group who briefed the new American Ambassador to Serbia, Cameron Munter. In August, he joined other senior colleagues in attending the 20th annual Junior Scholars Training Seminar, convened at the Wye Plantation by the East European Studies program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the American Council of Learned Societies. First held in 1988 on his initiative as Director of East European Studies, the event has now brought together some 350 advanced graduate students in all relevant fields, a large majority of whom have stayed in the profession. Current Department students Rinna Kullaa and Philip Lyon attended this year.

**Lisa Mar** gave a paper "Beyond Being Others: Chinese Canadians' Transpacific Resistance to Exclusion," to a conference, "Refracting Pacific Canada" in Vancouver. She won high praise of that paper which she has been asked to publish in the Sing Tao Daily, a Hong Kong-based Chinese language newspaper chain. The paper will translate their recording of her public lecture into Chinese. Sing Tao Daily is a leading Chinese language paper in both Canada and America. Information about Sing Tao Daily: <http://www.singtaousa.com/media/heritage.html>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sing\\_Tao\\_Daily](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sing_Tao_Daily)

This summer five of our colleagues – **Sonya Michel, Robyn Muncy, Ira Berlin, David Sicilia, and Elsa Barkley Brown** – led workshops on aspects of Progressive Era U.S. history for K-12 teachers in the Harford County Public Schools as part of one of best outreach projects the Department has organized in recent years. It was the fourth and final year of the Department's participation in a Teaching American History grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. **Keith Olson** will lead the final workshop in September. Thanks are due to **David Sicilia** for his leadership role in this outreach effort.

**David Sicilia** was also busy on the academic conference front. He presented three conference papers this summer: "Narrativity in History and Management Studies," in a symposium on The Dynamics of Firm and Industry Evolution: Historians' Perspectives at the Academy of Management in Philadelphia; "Entrepreneurship and Social Change in the United States: Dynamic Stages, Historical Lessons" at the Shibusawa North America Seminar in St. Louis; and "Toward a Dynamic Model of American Entrepreneurship" at the Business History Conference in Cleveland. He also was featured in the Aug. 20 edition of *Washington Technology* magazine in "Know Your History and Know Your Business: A Conversation with David Sicilia."

**Sonya Michel** presented a paper entitled "Family Policies and Variations of Welfare States" at a conference on "Getting Beyond the Nordic Model" in Helsinki on August 23. The conference was part of a project on the Nordic Welfare State--Historical Foundations and Future Challenges," sponsored by the Nordic Centre of Excellence; Michel is a member of the project's advisory board.

Over the summer **Peter Wien** had a successful trip to libraries and archives in Damascus, Syria, and the French Diplomatic Archives in Nantes. The GRB and OIP international travel fund supported the trip generously. In the meantime, the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) has awarded him with a travel grant to participate in the German Orientalist Convention in Freiburg, in late September.

Stephen Brush has been busy in his retirement. He recently published "How Ideas Become Knowledge: The light-quantum hypothesis 1905-1935" in the *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences* (Vol 37, no. 2). Also published was "Predictivism and the periodic table" in *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* (vol 38, no. 2).

**Marsha Rozenblit** is now Director of Jewish Studies whilst Hayim Lapin serves out his fellowship at UPenn.

Department of History alumnus **C. Ashley Ellefson** (PhD 1963) recently published William Bladen of Annapolis, 1673?-1718 in the Archives of Maryland series.

Max Grivno (Ph.D. 2007; advisor, Rowland) assumed his new position as assistant professor at the University of Southern Mississippi in late August. The temperatures in Hattiesburg are hot, he reports, and the bugs are big.

Alumnus **Patrick Maney** (PhD 1976) was named Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston College. More details can be found at the [Boston College Website](#).

**Mary Montgomery** (PhD, 2003, K. Olson): Accepted appointment as Dean of Students and Academic Studies at Beijing International Studies Education Academy.

**Abby Sexton**, an undergraduate Honors student in History, has won an Honors Thesis Summer Research Grant of \$500 from the Miller Center for Historical Studies for her senior thesis, "Civil War Memory in Westerns, 1929-1960." Art Eckstein is her advisor.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dean James Harris will be hosting a Faculty and Staff Convocation on September 11, 2007 from 3:30-5PM in the Gildenhorn Recital Hall at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. This is your opportunity to meet colleagues throughout the College of Arts and Humanities.

The Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies schedule is now online: <http://www.history.umd.edu/HistoryCenter/schedule.htm> . The theme this year is "Facing Difficult Pasts: History and Memory. The first speaker will be Luisa Passerini, University of Turin: "The Italian '68: A Site of Memory, A Site of Oblivion." September 17, 2007 TLF2110, 4PM – 6PM.

Dr. Luisa Passerini will also speak on September 18, 2007: "An Italian-German Jewish Couple in the 1930s and 1940s, in Europe and Latin America: A Microhistory in a Wider Context" TLF2110, 3:30 - 8:30. The commentator will be Mary Kay Vaughan, Department of History, University of Maryland.

The 4th Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture will be held Wednesday, September 26, 2007 in Nyumburu Cultural Center, Multipurpose Room, 7:30. Speaking will be Manning Marable, Columbia University: "Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention."

Thursday and Friday, October 4 and 5, a conference that Saverio Giovacchini and Paula Halperin have organized on the subject of "Neorealism: examining the history and politics of a transnational cultural movement" will be held in the Multipurpose Room of St. Mary's Hall. More details are forthcoming.

It is once again time for the submission of GRB applications. The Semester Applications are due in the Department of History Office no later than noon October 5, 2007. For more information, please check the webpage <http://www.history.umd.edu/Internal/2008GRB.html> or contact Courtenay Lanier.