

# Chair's Bulletin

## November 2006

Colleagues:

I am pleased to send along to you the November edition of the Chair's Bulletin. By the tradition originally established by John Lampe, the Bulletin is supposed to be bi-weekly. Obviously we have fallen a bit short of that standard lately. Our excuse is the pressure of work in the office, and particularly the way that Courtenay has been swamped under a never ending deluge of paper associated with our many searches. So, these Bulletins are more likely to be "Occasional" rather than appearing like clockwork on a two weekly schedule. As will be evident from the plethora of activities detailed below, there is certainly enough activity in the Department to warrant a bi-weekly production.

But first, I want to announce an important development for those of you (and I am pleased to note, an increasing number) who have integrated technology into your classroom presentations.

### **UM Collaborates with Blackboard to Offer a Single, Campus-wide Teaching and Learning System**

The University of Maryland, in partnership with Blackboard Inc., is launching the university's first single, campus-wide family of integrated applications for teaching, learning, and knowledge sharing. I have never used Blackboard. I know that it has been used for some years now in other Universities. GW, for example, have had it for several years. Currently the University uses WebCt as the basic management system for building web based courses. But over the next several months we shall transition from WebCT to Blackboard, the both systems running in parallel until the end of the Spring 2007 semester. Visit <http://elms.umd.edu> for more information.

I am a great fan of using the new technologies to enhance our class room presentations, since I began to use PowerPoint presentations, and then graduate to a couple of web based courses. The College provides technical assistance for any of you that need it to tech-up your courses.

### **Faculty Achievements**

Marlene Mayo chaired a Program titled, "Culture, Literature, Science, & Technology: Research Using Prange Collection Resources" held on September 21, 2006 at McKeldin Library.

Dr. Jon Sumida's work continues to attract attention; indeed, so much so that he almost needs an issue of the Bulletin to himself. His publications and arguments about naval fire control were recently the subject of a book by an engineer-turned historian named John Brooks. Jon replied to Dr. Brooks' critique in a long article in The Journal of Military History (October, 2005) and Dr. Brooks replied in the January 2006 issue of the same journal.

Jon has also been active in other areas since his return from a stint at the Marine Corps University at Quantico. Since July of this year, he has given five invited addresses to military history groups and military and strategic think tank seminars. For example, he was a panelist for the forum, "Back to the Future: Sir John Fisher's Naval Revolution and the Future of the US Fleet" at the USNaval Institute Joint Warfare Atlantic Conference and Exposition held October 4-5, 2006 in Virginia Beach, VA. He presented a paper "The Traditional Tenets of Maritime Strategic Thought and their Relevance for the Future" for the conference on the future of maritime in the era of globalization at the Center for Naval Analyses, Alexandria, VA on October 25, 2006. He has been invited to contribute a chapter "Landpower, Seapower, and Spacepower" for a National Defense University volume on spacepower theory, as well as make a presentation to the Center for Space and Defense Studies Forum in Colorado Springs in January 2007. In addition, he has recently joined the Department of the Army Historical Advisory Council.

Sonya Michel presented a keynote lecture at a conference on "Women and Families in the Welfare Systems: Europe and the United States Compared" at the University of Trieste, on October 16. Her paper was entitled "Maternalism as a Useful Category of Analysis? Explaining Welfare State Development in Europe and North America." Sonya will also present a paper entitled "The Politics of Maternity, the Family, and the Role of Women in the Development of the American Welfare State" at a conference on "Family, Work, and Welfare, Past and Present," at the Institute for Arts and Humanities at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, on November 11, 2006.

Richard Price was in London the first week of October, principally to give a paper at the University of London's Institute of Historical Research. His article, "One Big Thing, Britain, its Empire and their Imperial Culture," was published in the Journal of British Studies (July 2006).

Art Eckstein has been invited to a two day symposium sponsored by the Departments of Classics and History at the University of Toronto in March for a two-day discussion of his new book "Mediterranean Anarchy, Interstate War, and the Rise of Rome."

Kelly Ryan presented a paper at the Social Science History Association Meeting in Minneapolis this past weekend. Her paper was titled "The Sexual Sinners of Massachusetts, 1740-1785."

Maryland's History Department was well represented at the The XII Conference of Mexican Historians of Mexico and North America that took place in Vancouver Oct. 4-7. Linda Noel presented a paper on the historical origins of the Mexican temporary worker concept in a panel on 20th century Mexican immigration to the United States. Pablo Acuahuil presented a paper on Mexican cultural agents' negotiation and use of cultural diplomacy in the formation of UNESCO and Cold War Pan-American politics. Susan Eineigel's paper concerned performances of middle class identity in Mexico City during the chaotic years of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920) and the first decade of post-revolutionary state formation (1920-1930) and Mary Kay Vaughan gave a paper on childhood in Mexico City's poor neighborhoods from 1943 to 1960.

At the beginning of August Daryle Williams took part in an AHA workshop titled "Promoting Progress." It was part of a welcome AHA initiative to bring Directors of Graduate Studies together to discuss common problems such as as dealing with administrations, moving

graduate students toward their degrees, preparing graduate students for future employment, and managing the relationships between professors and teaching assistants. The results can be found at their <http://www.historians.org/Perspectives/issues/2006/0610/0610gra1.cfm>

## **Around the Department**

The bookshelves in the Merrill Room are undergoing some reorganization. A section will be devoted to Sam Merrill's publications. We have added an Alumni Shelf to the bookcases in the Merrill Room. This is an opportunity to present the many and increasing number of books produced by our alumni. A recent addition is Senate Historian and Maryland alum Richard Baker's 200 Notable Days. Senate Stories 1782-2002. There are over fifty books on the shelves. In addition, there is now a separate section where the Honors Theses are shelved.

Talking of Alums, we had a very successful Annual Alumni Lecture on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Pete Daniel, of the National Museum of American History, spoke about the class of the sixties. This was organized by the alumni committee with the assistance of the Miller Center. It was an occasion made all the nicer because it was graced by the presence of some Emeriti such as Lou Harlan, Wayne Cole, Emory Evans and George Callcott.

Appearing in the fall 2006 list of the University of North Carolina Press is *Slavery and Politics in the Early American Republic*, by Matthew Mason (Ph.D. 2002). The book is a revised version of Mason's dissertation, which was completed under the direction of Ira Berlin.

Under the expert guidance of Courtenay Lanier and with the assistance of other experts such as Daryle Williams, Darlene King, and Jodi Hall, the History Area Web pages continue to grow and become more sophisticated.

On 16 October Ray Van Dam gave the second seminar in the Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center's series "The Power of Belief: Religion in History." Professor Van Dam presented a paper entitled "Roman Emperors and Christian Orthodoxy in the Early Fourth Century." Commentary was provided by Professor Ken Holum. Attendance was good and discussion was at a high level.

Maryland Colloquium on the History of Technology holds a speaker series that meets once per month in the Merrill Room. On November 2, 2006, Chihyung Jeon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology read his paper, "A Road to Modernization and Unification: the Construction of the Kyungbu Highway in South Korea." December's talk will be Zachary Schrag, "Silent Gatlings and Blank Cartridges: Gilded Age Attempts at Non-Lethal Riot Control" 2120FSK 4PM.

Data gathering and entry for the first phase of the National Research Council survey of departments and Universities has been completed. Stand ready to receive individual surveys from the NRC for faculty to complete.

Jeanie Rutenburg elected to Executive Committee as the representative of the Lecturers.

Now that the Medieval Search is closing, and Courtenay is struggling out from under the over one hundred applications for that position and the Latin American searches are also closing next week paper is flooding in for the US History search which does not close until next month.

Don't forget that on Monday, December 4 the Miller Center seminar will feature Barbara Savage of the University of Pennsylvania. Her paper is titled "The Politics of African American Religion" and Al Moss from the Department will be the commentator.

On Monday, November 20, Saverio Giovacchini will present "Mr. Kitzmiller Goes to Cinecittà: Race, Exceptionalism and the History of Neorealismo" at the UM.  
Commentator: Caroline Eades, Assistant Professor of French, University of Maryland

Book Adoptions were due October 15, 2006 for the Spring 2007 Semester. Darlene continues to send out reminders to the stragglers. Please get your book adoptions in as soon as possible!

December 20 the University of Maryland will hold the Main Commencement Ceremony 7:00 p.m. at The Comcast Center. The Department of History's Commencement will be held December 21, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. Stamp Student Union, Colony Ballroom. Please add the dates to your calendar!

**And finally, don't forget to change your University Password.**