

# Chair's Bulletin

September 2006

Welcome to the new academic year. And a special welcome to our new faculty and staff: Jodi Hall, our new assistant in the office of the Directors of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies; Hilary Jones, our new Assistant Professor in African History; Rick Bell, our new Assistant Professor in Early American History; and Peter Wien, our new Assistant Professor in Middle East History.

The new academic year opened with highly successful orientation sessions and receptions for graduate and undergraduate students, organized by Daryle Williams and Elsa Barkley Brown. Thanks to both of them for their hard work. Thanks, too, to Julie Taddeo for her participation in the undergraduate orientation. Julie, you will recall, is serving as our coordinator of internships.

As you will see, our faculty have begun the new year with a splendid array of publications and other scholarly activities. The following have come to our attention:

## Program News

The Freedmen and Southern Society Project (Leslie Rowland, director) has received a \$77,000 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

## Faculty News

Elsa Barkley Brown's article, "'What Has Happened Here': The Politics of Difference in Women's History and Feminist Politics," appears in *The Feminist History Reader*, ed. Sue Morgan (Routledge, 2006), a collection of the key articles that have shaped feminist historiography over the past thirty years.

Saverio Giovacchini convened a panel titled "Screening Blackness on an International Stage" at the national meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Washington, D.C. He also presented the paper, "Across the Atlantic: The Career of John Kitzmiller." In a roundtable on "Cinema: National, Transnational, and Global Culture" at the national meeting of the American Historical Association in Philadelphia, Dr. Giovacchini presented a paper titled "Nation, Autochthony, Exceptionalism: The Mixed Origins and Turbulent Existence of Neorealism."

Grace Palladino's first book, *Another Civil War: Labor, Capital and the State in the Anthracite Regions of Pennsylvania, 1840-1867* (with a new introduction) was recently reissued by Fordham University Press.

Lindley Darden, an Affiliate in the Department of History who teaches history of modern biology, had a research appointment for the month of June 2006 at the Centre Cavailles for History and Philosophy of Science at l'Ecole Normale Superieure in Paris. Also in

June, her book, *Reasoning in Biological Discoveries: Mechanisms, Interfield Relations, and Anomaly Resolution*, was published by Cambridge University Press. In July, she was a keynote speaker at the Future Directions in Biology Studies, sponsored by the International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Indiana University. She is a Distinguished Scholar/Teacher for 2006-2007 and will present a lecture, "Getting it Wrong, Then Getting It Right: Science as an Error-Correcting Process," in 1400 Marie Mount Hall on Wednesday, October 25 at 4pm, with a reception following in the Maryland Room.

James Gilbert is going to give a lecture at the Freer Gallery, "Visions of America, Visions of Asia: World Expos and Cinema at the Turn of the Twentieth Century", Meyer Auditorium, November 4.

Robert Friedel has an appointment this year as a Batten Institute Fellow at the Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia. The fellowship addresses the potential uses of history in understanding issues of entrepreneurship, innovation, and business generally.

Robert Friedel is listed as an Amicus Curiae for a Supreme Court brief filed in late August, in which a group of legal and technological historians have entered the case of KSR International Co. vs. Teleflex Inc. and Technology Holding Co., arguing that the Supreme Court needs to uphold the historical standards for technological creativity that have been compromised by decisions of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Peter Wien has submitted numerous articles for publication including: "Iraq," chapter for *Nations and Nationalisms in Global Perspective: An Encyclopedia of Origins, Development, and Contemporary Transitions*, ed. Guntram Herb and Dave Kaplan, forthcoming with ABC-CLIO; "Iraq," article for the *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism since 1450*, ed. by Jenai Mynatt, Benjamin Fortna et al., forthcoming in 2006; "Africa North of the Sahara (1830 to the present day)," chronological overview, and "Sefrou", article for *The City and Urban Life*, an Encyclopedia published by M.E. Sharpe, forthcoming in 2006; "Who is "liberal" in 1930s Iraq? Wavering opinions in a nascent public sphere," paper for the conference *The roots of liberal thought in the Eastern Mediterranean*, Erlangen, July 2005, submitted for publication in a conference volume.

Michael David-Fox has received Mellon Foundation support (\$10,000) for the next Kritika workshop, to be held in May or June 2007 in Berlin.

Thomas Zeller has a book accepted for publication: *The World Beyond the Windshield: Driving and the Experience of Landscape in 20th Century Europe and America* (coedited with Christof Mauch, under contract with Ohio University Press, forthcoming 2007.) Dr. Zeller presented the following papers: "A River with a Regional Identity: The Isar in Bavaria, 1880-1930," International Conference on Rivers and Civilization: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Major River Systems, University of Wisconsin, La

Crosse, June 27, 2006; "Die Herstellung von Landschaft durch Straßen in Deutschland, Großbritannien und den USA," Arbeitskreis Verkehrsgeschichte der Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte: Geschichte der Straße. Bau, Nutzung, Raumschließung von Fernstraßen, ("The Production of Landscape through Roads: Germany, Great Britain, and the USA," Working Group on the History of Transportation, [German] Society for Business History, Conference on "The History of the Road. Construction, Usage, Spatial Aspects of Long-Distance Roads,") Cologne, Germany, May 12, 2006; "Constructing a Consumable Landscape: The Blue Ridge Parkway, 1930-1950," American Society for Environmental History, St. Paul, Minnesota, March 31, 2006. Dr. Zeller is also a Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Transport History (Manchester University Press), April 2006-?.

Bernard Cooperman gave an invited paper entitled "Gli inizi della comunità ebraica di Livorno: esiliati da Pisa" at the seminar sponsored by the Centro Interdipartimentale di Studi Ebraici e il Dipartimento di Storia dell'Università degli Studi di Pisa. He also published "Ethnicity and Institution Building among Jews in Early Modern Rome" in Association for Jewish Studies Review 30, 2006. Dr. Bernard was an organizer of the Early Modern Jewish History Workshop held this year at Wesleyan University.

Julie Taddeo's recent activities include Guest Editor and Contributor, two forthcoming issues of *Film & History: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Film and Television Studies*, 2006-07.

### **Graduate Student News**

Katarina (Kate) Keane has received a research award from the Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library at Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Robert Chase put together a panel on "Prisoner Rights as Civil Rights" for the Western History Association's 2006 meeting this coming October. Along with three papers on prison rights in California's prisons, he will present "Invisible Economy Under Chained Hands: The Internal Prison Economy and the Struggle for Prisoner Rights in Texas, 1962-1990." Also, he received the New York State Archives' Larry Hackman Research Residency Grant for 2006-2007.

Leandro Benmergui (PhD, Latin America; Advisor: Daryle Williams) is presenting "The Production of Knowledge about Urban Poverty in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, 1948-1968" at the Urban History Association Third Biennial Conference, to be held October 19-22, 2006 at Arizona State University

Leandro Benmergui (PhD, Latin America; Advisor: Daryle Williams) presented "The Threatened City: The Spatial Representation of Buenos Peronism in David Viñas's *Los años despiadados* and Beatriz Guido's *La Caída*" at ILASSA XXVI Student Conference on Latin America, held February 9-11, 2006, at The University of Texas at Austin

Paula Halperin, (PhD, Latin America; Advisor: Barbara Weinstein) presented "From

Ganga Zumba to Xica da Silva. Cinema Novo and the Creation of a New Brazilian National Project in the Era of AI-5” at XXVI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, held March 15-18, 2006 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Paula Halperin, (PhD, Latin America; Advisor: Barbara Weinstein) presented “Vernacular Modernism or Avant-Garde? Language and aesthetics in the Brazilian Cinema -1960s and 1970s” at the [Second Latin American and Caribbean Graduate Student Conference](#), held May 4-5, 2006, at the University of Maryland

### **Alumni News**

Marc Elrich was one of the four winners for the Democratic party nominees for at-large seats on the Montgomery County Council. He polled the second highest returns: 41,680 votes (since the county is so heavily Democratic, this means virtual certainty of election in the November general election) He was a grad student in American history from 1978-82 and studied under Rob Wright, Ira Berlin, and Marie Perinbam. He went on to receive his Master's degree from Johns Hopkins in Fifth Column Studies.