LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the annual The George Washington University History Department Newsletter. Sharing the impressive accomplishments of GW’s History alumni is one of our goals in sending out the newsletter. Letting you know about our current activities—new faculty, the activities of those who taught when you were a student, and bringing you up to date on our graduate students—is another of our goals. I hope you enjoy this newsletter as much as the earlier ones and we look forward to you getting back to us.

We appreciate very much that many of you who were inspired by previous newsletters made a gift to the department. As you will see in the columns below, we used those donations to fund some of the exciting research that necessitated travel being carried out by our undergraduate and graduate students. If you are in a position to do so, I hope that you will consider making a donation. A gift of $1,000 can fund an important short research trip for a student writing a senior, M.A., or doctoral thesis. $2,500 can make possible a longer-term visit to a major archive. In any case, gifts of all sizes are most welcome, small and large, as we “bundle” them to use for these activities and many others.

Donations are also used to bring renowned scholars to campus to meet our students and to discuss with them and the public their path-breaking research. This past March, one of the country’s leading authorities on Brazil, Barbara Weinstein, Professor of History at New York University, gave the Kayser Lecture. She spoke on the construction of national identities in Brazilian history. On March 30, 2011, Linda Colley, Shelby M.C. Davis 1958 Professor of History at Princeton University, will deliver the Kayser Lecture. Her lecture will reflect her current research and is entitled, “Britain, Written Constitutions, and World History.” Please check the department’s website for the time and place of the lecture.

If you have questions or comments, or merely wish to begin reconnecting with the department and GW, please feel free to contact me at whbecker@gwu.edu, by phone at (202) 994-6052, or at the mailing address listed at the end of the newsletter. We are also on Facebook.

With best wishes.

William H. Becker

FACULTY NEWS

Teaching courses to undergraduate and graduate students, running the history department and helping to run the university are only parts of what historians do at The George Washington University. They also published books and articles, conduct research in archives around the world, deliver lectures to colleagues in the U.S. and abroad, and contribute to education and intellectual life on campus and beyond.

The 2009–2010 academic year was one in which GW historians finished a lot of books. The University of Virginia Press brought out Adele Logan Alexander’s latest book, Parallel Worlds: The Remarkable Gibbs-Hunts and the Enduring (In)significance of Melanin, the dual biography of an African American couple who defied race and gender restrictions in the early twentieth century to become significant internationalists. Eisenhower and the Cold War Economy, coauthored by department chair Bill Becker, will appear in 2011 from the Johns Hopkins University Press. Ed Berkowitz saw his latest book, Mass Appeal: The Formative Age of Movies, Radio and TV, through the final stages of production at Cambridge University Press, where it appeared this October. One of our newest colleagues, Erin D. Chapman, spent the past academic year as a fellow at Princeton University, where she completed the manuscript for her first book, Prove It On Me: New Negroes, Sex and Popular Culture in the 1920s.

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The first thing historians do when they finish one book is start the next one. This past year was thus as rich in new projects as it was bountiful in completed ones. Submitting an article to the Journal of American History, the top journal for U.S. historians, en passant, Tyler Anbinder continues at full speed on his book about immigrant life in New York
City from the first Dutch settlers to the present. Winning a fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Gregg Brazinsky continued work on his book on competition between China and the United States in the Third World. Dane Kennedy won a fellowship at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle, North Carolina, where he is spending this year working on a book about British exploration in Africa and Australia. Cynthia Harrison has begun a new project on the Beatles and 1960s culture. She includes participant observation at an August concert by one of the remaining members of the Fab Four. Scarecrow Press signed up Peter Klaren to produce a full-scale historical dictionary of Peru. A search for the “shepherd’s point of view” for a book on the history of human-animal interactions occupied Marcy Norton’s research in Spain this summer, and the quest continues during her year-long fellowship at the Huntington Library in Los Angeles. A collection of community meeting minutes penned by Indians in the late eighteenth century that had been rotting on a front porch in Wisconsin was only the latest archival coup by David Silverman for his new book project on Indians and firearms in early America. One of our specialists in modern Jewish history, Daniel Schwartz, has begun work on a study of the ghetto that traces its history as a word, concept, metaphor, and place. One of our newest colleagues, Jisoo Kim, is at work on a book titled Emotional Justice: Gender, Status, and Legal Subjects in the Petitioning Culture of Choson Korea, 1392–1910. A Fulbright Fellowship took Hope Harrison to Berlin, where she continued research on a book examining the evolution of the Berlin Wall as a site of memory since the fall of the Wall in 1989.

The smaller, more focused formats of the article, column, or single chapter is also central to the literary life of the department, and it is impossible to note all the articles and reviews published in this brief newsletter. The New Cambridge History of Islam included a chapter by Muriel Atkin on “Central Asia and the Caucasus from the First World War.” Diplomatic History will soon publish “Ambassador Hayes and the Spanish Haven From Hitler” by Emmet Kennedy. Jenna Weissman Joselit marked the tenth anniversary of her monthly column for The Forward newspaper, “The Wonders of America” and published review essays in the New Republic and elsewhere.

Historians at GW do not confine their teaching and lecturing to their campus or to students and fellows scholars alone. Eric Arnesen appeared on C-SPAN Book Notes discussing T.J. Stiles’s book biography of Cornelius Vanderbilt with the author. The heightened interest in Social Security and other social programs have led to a spate of public appearances by social policy expert Ed Berkowtiz, including a keynote address on Capitol Hill for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Social Security Act and appearances on C-SPAN and PBS. Allida Black coordinated a global women’s human rights summit at the International Labour Organization and the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. She also briefed members of the U.S. Congress and the parliaments of Argentina, Albania, Macedonia, and The Netherlands on the historical underpinnings in their own country of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall meant that Hope Harrison was in high demand in Germany this year, where she gave numerous lectures and a radio interview. Jim Hershberg traveled to Hangzhou, China, to lecture on a secret 1965 debate in the British foreign office over whether Mao Zedong’s China was “dangerous” or a “paper dragon.” At the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, Ben Hopkins organized an international conference on Afghanistan and its frontiers. The World Congress for Middle East Studies in Barcelona, Spain, included a lecture by Dina Khoury on the place of the Ottoman Empire in the historiography of the twentieth century Middle East. Ed McCord has lectured to scholars on warlordism and imperialism in China and offered overviews of Chinese history in training programs for military officers, high school teachers, counterintelligence analysts, and foreign service officers. Linda Levy Peck gave the Mellon Lecture in the Humanities at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Her lecture was “The Three Sisters: Marriage, Money, Mobility and Agency in late Seventeenth and early Eighteenth Century England.” The State Department brought Leo Ribuffo to give a lunchtime lecture on President Jimmy Carter’s foreign policy. Ronald Spector spent the academic year as a visiting professor at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis. The University of Tokyo is the location this year of Daqing Yang’s courses on historical reconciliation and dialogue.

GW historians have also participated in unconventional ways in the ‘conventional’ education of undergraduate students. Tom Long has spent a busy fall semester as the new undergraduate advisor, working on opening new communication channels to our majors and revamping the advising process. Our Phi Chi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta has had an active fall, with a workshop, three movie nights, a guided tour of the Navy Museum, and the induction of twelve new members to the national history honor society. Chris Klemek’s service as a faculty in residence at George Washington drew the attention of the Washington Post, which profiled him this September. And all of our faculty continue the always joyful and sometimes arduous work of teaching undergraduate and graduate students about the past, how to research and write about it, and how to draw lessons from it. This fall Nemata Blyden is teaching a GW course entitled “The Era of African Independence” at the Smithsonian Museum of African Art. The course focuses on the end of the colonial period in Africa, with attention to the 17 countries which gained their independence in 1960 and are currently commemorating 50 years of independence. Nemata also found time to present papers at the Race Ethnicity and Place conference, and at a conference organized by The Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS) in Johannesburg, South Africa. At the First Federal Congress Project a mystery unfolds as the book, Lost Rights: The Misadventures of an American Relic, by David Howard begins in the offices of the First Federal Congress Project (FFCP). FFCP editors were asked to authenticate a document that might be one of the 14 originals of the Amendments to the Constitution proposed by the First Federal Congress, now commonly referred to as the Bill of Rights. FFCP’s Director, Charlene Bickford, told the visitors that they were almost certainly in possession of a stolen document. Thus began the FFCP’s involvement in the story of North Carolina’s original of the Bill of Rights. Howard’s book relates a tangled story of theft, intrigue and deception, which began during the Civil War. It is a true mystery story with lots of twists and turns.

This year the department welcomed a class of seven new Ph.D. students. Along with their veteran graduate colleagues, all of our current graduate students are continuing the tradition of scholarship, academic achievement, and scholarly activity. As usual, our graduate students have kept busy doing research, traveling the globe to present at conferences, winning prestigious grants and fellowships, and finding interesting jobs.

As part of the Department’s research colloquium Andrea O’Brien, Ph.D. Candidate, presented a paper titled, “Buying the Peace with Powdered Milk and Canned Meat: U.S. Food Policy in Occupied Germany, 1945-1949,” which examined how food was used as a political weapon by the allied countries that occupied Germany, and how the U.S. tried to “win
the peace” by feeding German stomachs. Mary McPartland presented a paper titled “The British Roots of Farm Hall” at the Tri-University History Conference in mid-October. The conference was held at the University of Waterloo (Ontario). With support from a History department travel grant, Mary also did two months of overseas research this summer—one month in Berlin and one month in and near London. Bell Clement presented her paper, “A Foundation Myth for Washington, D.C.” as part of a two-session panel dealing with narrative and the construction of urban identity, at the Fifth Biennial Urban History Association Conference, October 2010.

Lindsay Moore was presented with the NACBS-Huntington award for two months study at the Huntington at the annual reception at the North American Conference on British Studies conference in Baltimore, this November, while Julia Sittmann received the FQRSC Dissertation Fellowship (Fonds Quebecois de la recherche sur la societe et la culture) —Quebec’s major granting agency for the humanities (it’s their answer to the U.S. Fulbright). It’s a three-year renewable scholarship (2010–2013). Brian Lawatch received travel grants from the Eisenhower Foundation and the GW History department to conduct research at the Eisenhower Presidential Library. Natalie Deibel was awarded the PEO Scholar Award for Doctoral Students, a $15,000 award, which will allow her to research in the U.K. for 6 months. The PEO is an honor sorority and philanthropic award exclusively for female academics in higher education. While researching in London, she will be presenting a paper in February at the Institute of Historical Research’s Sport and Leisure History Seminar. Sara Berndt started a job at the Historian’s Office in the State Department this fall. Her job title is Historian. Sara writes, “Isn’t that lovely and relevant?” Indeed it is. She will be working on FRUS (the Foreign Relations of the United States series). Sara also presented a paper at LASA (Latin American Studies Association) in Toronto, Canada in October.

**UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI**

Our undergraduates continue to send us news of their achievements, and the various careers they have entered. If their achievements before they graduate are anything to go by, they are destined for great things.

The undergraduate history prizes and awards were announced at the department’s reception for graduating seniors on May 15. Zachary L. Baum, Ilana Goldfus and Tayler LoFquist received the Gardiner G. Hubbard Memorial Prize for excellence in American history. Warner Butkus, Christopher Colley, and Anne E. Dobberteen were chosen for the Jesse Fant Evans Prize (outstanding senior in a Contemporary History course). The Charles Clinton Swisher Prize (student with the best essay in Medieval History) went to Pollaidh Major, while Davis Woodruff was chosen for the Carl Forman Scholarship of the Society of Mayflower Descendants (junior with the best achievement in Seventeenth-Century American History). The Deixler/Swain Awards for Best Thesis went to Christopher Colley and Abby Whalen for History 199, while Swetha Ramaswamy captured the prize for History 191. Zachary Baum, Lindsey Bowles, Christopher Colley, Saranicle Duaban, Dionna Fry, Ilana Goldfus, and Bryan Rochelle received honorable mention for their History 191 theses.

Our alumni continue to enter the field of politics, the law, public life, and academia. Several of our graduates are also published authors.

A recent article quoted New Jersey State Senator Bill Baroni (B.A. 94) saying, “You could probably drop me into GW now, and I would still be able to walk backwards across the campus” Baroni came to GW interested in political science, but chose a history major after taking “amazing” history courses taught by the likes of professor Richard Stott. Baroni recently assumed the position of deputy executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Liz Campbell (B.A. ’02) was recently hired as a Research Associate at Morgan, Angel & Associates, a legal/historical research firm in Dupont Circle. Wesley J. Reisser (B.A. ’04) graduated from UCLA in June with a Ph.D. in Geography. Wesley’s dissertation “From a World of Empires to a World of Nation-States: America at the Paris Peace Conference,” focused on the border proposals that the U.S. brought to the World War I peace conference in 1919. He also gave the student commencement address. He is now teaching at GW part time in the Geography department and working on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and human rights issues in the UN, both at the Department of State.

Patrick Charles (B.A. ’05) refers to himself as “one busy bee”, and with reason. He had seven articles picked up for publication, five of which are forthcoming this fall. His 2009 book The Second Amendment: The Intent and Its Interpretation by the States and the Supreme Court (2009), and an amicus brief he wrote, joined by 20 historians and scholars, was cited by Justice Breyer in the Supreme Court opinion McDonald v. City of Chicago. Three of his other articles are before the Supreme Court in the case Flores-Villar v. United States. The articles were the basis of an amicus curiae brief by the Immigration Reform Law Institute. Patrick has also done Encyclopedia Britannica entries on Gun Control and the Second Amendment. He has a job too! Patrick will be taking a position as an historian for the Air Force in Mildenhall, U.K. this December.

Artemy Kalinovsky (B.A. ’05) went on to earn his Ph.D. and an M.A. from the London School of Economics in International History. He is the author of A Long Goodbye: The Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan (Harvard University Press, 2011), and co-editor with Sergey Radchenko, of The End of the Cold War and the Third World (Routledge: 2011) His other publications include “Soviet Decision-making during the War in Afghanistan, from Intervention to Withdrawal,” Journal of Cold War Studies (Fall 2009) and “Politics, Diplomacy and the Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan: From National Reconciliation to the Geneva Accords,” Cold War History 8:3 (August 2008). He has also written for Foreign Policy, National Journal, and Neoamericanist. This year, he joined the faculty of the University of Amsterdam. David Houpt (B.A. ’05) is beginning his second year at CUNY Graduate Center working on his Ph.D. in Early American political history. David has an M.A. in history from George Mason University. His article, “Securing a Legacy: The Publication of James Madison’s Notes from the Constitution Convention,” appeared in volume 118 of the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.

**GRADUATE ALUMNI**

Former Masters and Ph.D. students also prove themselves to be eclectic and diverse individuals. Our recent graduates are thriving in the world of academia, assuming positions on college campuses all over the country, and presenting papers at conferences.

William Pore (Ph.D. 07) is now an associate professor at Pusan National University in Korea. Gregory Bush (M.A. ’72) went on to get his Ph.D. from Columbia University, and has taught at the University of Miami since 1983. He is director of the Institute for Public History, a founder of the Florida Moving Image Archive and author of several books on Miami History as well as the history of public relations. Gregory has recently become interested in the problem of the erosion of public space.
in America’s cities and has been involved with the Urban Environment League of Greater Miami (www.uel.org), and has started an organization called Nature Links for young adults with developmental difficulties. (www.naturelinks.org) Amy Stempler (M.A. ’07) just submitted an article on Kiev (extracted from her thesis) to the peer-reviewed Judaica Librarianship. Since working at College of Staten Island, she has become immersed in learning about, and working, with the Jewish community of Staten Island, and hopes to write a mobility study connecting the Jewish communities of New Jersey and Staten Island as a result of the bridges.

Howard Edgar Moore (Ph.D. ’00) is Managing Director of LEADD a Duke Divinity School Leadership Education program that manages and executes the school’s non-degree education programs (seminars, continuing ed., etc.). He does a lot of work for the Clergy Health Initiative and teaches a class in the M.Div. curriculum to seminarians. Malgorzatta Gnoinska (Ph.D. 09) has a tenure-track teaching job in the history department at Troy University in Alabama. She does 20th-century European and Asian history. Joshua Wright (M.A. 02) finished his Ph.D. in History this summer at Howard University, and was hired into a tenure-track position in the History department at University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Jason Roberts (Ph.D. ’08) was appointed Assistant Professor of History and Political Science at Quincy Community College in Massachusetts. Kristen Gwinn (Ph.D. ’08) is a visiting scholar in the History department at Northwestern University. She has contributed to the Encyclopedia of Activism and Social Justice and was an editorial fellow for The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers: The Human Rights Years: 1945–48, Vol. I. This November, the University of Illinois Press will publish her, Emily Greene Balch: The Long Road to Internationalism. Kristen’s dissertation was the basis for this biography of Balch, who was a Progressive Era reformer, co-founder of the Women’s League for International Peace and Freedom, 1946 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, and contemporary of Jane Addams. In exploring Balch’s personality and career, Kristen examines her decades as a Wellesley College academic and lifetime as a peace activist, which ultimately resulted in her dismissal from Wellesley.

Candice Hooper (M.A. ’08) presented a paper this fall at the Southern Historical Association conference.

Other alumni are also publishing, while showing their commitment to service.

Christopher Bright (M.Phil. ’03 and Ph.D. ’06) was recently elected as alumni trustee at GW. A specialist on American foreign policy Christopher now serves as an advisor to Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) on national security matters pending before the Oversight and Government reform Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. He also served as the Commonwealth’s assistant secretary of commerce and trade in Virginia. Christopher’s revised published dissertation will be out soon.

Andrew McIlwaine Bell (Ph.D. ’06) had his book, Mosquito Soldiers: Malaria, Yellow Fever, and the Course of the American Civil War, published by the LSU press. The book is based on his GW history Ph.D. dissertation. Looking at mosquito-borne diseases, Bell reinterprets familiar Civil War battles and events from an epidemiological standpoint, providing a fascinating medical perspective on the war.

The Department this year welcomed new faculty, and saw a long-time member take on a new and challenging role.

Suzanne Mariko Miller (Ph.D. Stanford) is a historian of medieval Europe, with broad research interests in the intersection of politics and cultural production, the construction of authority, and cross-cultural encounter. Her current research has focused on colonial endeavor and foreign rule within the medieval Mediterranean. Her dissertation, “Venice in the East Adriatic: Experiences and Experiments in Colonial Rule in Dalmatia and Istria, c. 1150–1358,” examines the city-republic’s varied attempts to win the submission of the coastal Croats through warfare, civic administration and invented traditions. Suzanne is the author of “Letters from the Front(ier): Venetian Rectors in Dalmatia On the Brink of War (1355)” in Medioevo Adriatico 1 (2007). She is currently revising her dissertation for publication.

This fall, long-time lecturer in the department, C. Thomas Long (Ph.D. The George Washington University) assumed the position of Assistant Professor, and Undergraduate Advisor, a task that has kept him very busy, working with undergraduate History majors. Tom conducts research on the military and legal interactions between Britain and America through 1815. He is currently investigating the activities and influence of Admiral George Montagu, Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, and James and Richard Barron during the American Revolution through their participation in the naval campaign in the Chesapeake. He also continues to investigate the impact of federalism on American life through the federal regulation of economic activity. He is the co-author of “Enhancing the Value of the Thrift Franchise: A Possible Solution for the Dilemma of the FSLIC,” 37 Catholic U. L. Rev. 385–464 (1988), along with William J. Schilling and Carol R. Van Cleeve.

Jack Tannous (Ph.D. Princeton) is interested in the religious and cultural history of the late antique and early medieval Middle East. He studied History, Arabic, Philosophy and Middle Eastern studies at the University of Texas at Austin for his B.A., and completed an M.Phil. in Eastern Christian Studies at Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar. He completed his Ph.D. in History at Princeton. His dissertation deals with the question of the Byzantine ‘Dark Age’ and the nature of early Islamic society when viewed from the perspective of the Aramaic-speaking Christian population of the Middle East. He is interested in offering classes that combine Byzantine, Eastern Christian, and Islamic history. Jack comes to us as part of a new relationship between The History department and Dumbarton Oaks to have one of its three-year post-doctoral students teach a course in the GW History department each semester of the appointment. He is currently offering an introductory course on Byzantium and next semester will offer a course “Christianity Along the Silk Road.”
**FACULTY PROFILE: ANDREW ZIMMERMAN**

A historian of Germany in Africa? What was he doing there? In the case of Andrew Zimmerman, researching his recently published book, *Alabama in Africa: Booker T. Washington, the German Empire, and the Globalization of the New South* (Princeton University Press). In 1901, the Tuskegee Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington sent an expedition to the German colony of Togo in West Africa, with the purpose of transforming the region into a cotton economy similar to that of the post-Reconstruction American South. The book explores the politics of labor, sexuality, and race behind this endeavor, and the economic, political, and intellectual links connecting Germany, Africa, and the southern United States. Andrew traveled to Togo and Tanzania to research the history of these former German colonies in the national archives in the capital cities. One of his discoveries in Africa was how much the colonial archives leave out that historians can still discover if they are willing to travel. Many buildings, roads, and other structures from the German period and before still survive. In some cases there are individuals with family stories from the German times. Andrew also learned much from his colleagues in history departments in Lome and Dar es Salaam. They and their students had been researching the history of their countries intensively and many had been conducting oral history interviews for decades. Even better than the colonial archives in many cases were the theses written by African graduate students available only at the history departments in Africa. On a less scholarly side: in Togo Andrew learned to eat fufu and sauce with his hand, and discovered that he loved it. He’s glad that in Washington D.C., there are restaurants where he can eat fufu whenever he likes.

**HOW YOUR DONATION CAN HELP**

Gifts to the Department of History allow us to provide support for faculty and student research and travel, graduate student fellowships, and academic enrichment activities including guest speakers, visiting faculty, and symposia. Each gift, no matter how large or small, makes a positive impact on our educational mission and furthers our standing as a vibrant department serving the Columbian College, the Elliott School and the greater community of The George Washington University.

You can make your gift to the Department in a number of ways:

- Securely online at [www.gwu.edu/give2gw](http://www.gwu.edu/give2gw). Just choose “other” under designation and type in the name of the department.
- By mailing your check, made out to The George Washington University and with the name of the department in the memo line, to:
  The George Washington University,
  2100 M Street NW, Suite 310,
  Washington, DC  20052
- By phone by calling the GW Annual Fund at 1-800-789-2611.

With deep gratitude, we wish to acknowledge some of those who have been our benefactors this past year.

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*We apologize if we have inadvertently left anyone off this list*
The department continues its tradition of engaging scholars from around the world, exposing our students to a wealth of historical knowledge, and making history.

In the spring, Professor Barbara Weinstein of New York University delivered the 2010 Kayser Lecture "From Indian Enslaver to Symbol of Progress: the Brazilian Bandeirante". The Elmer Louis Kayser Lecture was established in 2001 with the creation of an endowment by members of the class of 1951, led by Tad Lindner, in honor of their fiftieth reunion and GW’s longtime dean of students, historian Elmer L. Kayser. Kayser got both his B.A. and M.A. from GW, and received his Ph.D. in history from Columbia in 1932. He was a Professor of History for many years at GW and dean of students from 1930 to 1962. Linda Colley, Shelby M.C. Davis 1958 Professor of History at Princeton University will deliver the Kayser Lecture in March 2011.

This fall Professor Amy S. Greenberg of The Pennsylvania State University gave a talk entitled "Who’s Afraid of a Little Empire: Imperialism in 1840’s America," while a leading scholar of the transatlantic slave trade, Joseph Inikori, Professor of History at the University of Rochester will give a talk entitled “Transatlantic Slaving, Colonialism, and Mutually Exclusive and Antagonistic Identities in Sub Saharan Africa.”