
History From The Hill

Newsletter of the History Department at Tufts University

September/October 2000

Volume VII Issue I

What's News in East Hall

The department welcomes two new faculty members, Professors John Herron and Sung-Yoon Lee, who have joined the department for the current academic year.

Sung-Yoon Lee is serving at Tufts as Visiting Assistant Professor in History and Adjunct Assistant Professor of International Politics at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He is also a Research Associate at the Korea Institute, Harvard University. This past spring, he taught a course on Korea at Bowdoin College, the first of its kind to be offered at Bowdoin. This semester,

Professor Lee is teaching History 42--Modern Korean and History 192--The US and Europe in the North Pacific.

Visiting Assistant Professor **John Herron** is teaching two new courses this semester, History 88--The American West and History 197--Western Environmental History. His areas of interest include the social history of the American West and the intersections between the natural world and American culture. Watch for our November edition when we will offer profiles of both Professor Herron and Professor Lee.

Professor **Jose Alvarez-Junco**

is organizing a conference that will run November 3-4, 2000 entitled *On the 25th Anniversary of General Franco's Death: Rethinking the Spanish Civil War*, which is set to coincide with an exhibit that opened in the Aidekman Arts Center on October 19 called *Shouts from the Wall: Posters and Photographs Brought Back from the Spanish Civil War by American Volunteers*. For more information contact the History Department or email us at **History From The Hill** at dproct01@emerald.tufts.edu.

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History Department Awards

At its annual awards celebration held on May 20, 2000, the Department of History handed out several prizes. Sophomore Katherine Levitt was awarded the Albert H. Imlah European History Prize in recognition of her extraordinary work in History 10 & 11. Graduating Senior Seth Blackburg won the Albert H. Imlah Excellence in History Prize recognizing his achievements throughout his career at Tufts in the study of history. The Russell E. Miller History Prize was awarded to graduating senior Aisha Barbour. The prize is given to an undergraduate who has demonstrated exceptional ability and "an eagerness to explore problems of historical analysis and interpretation." Cambra Stern was the recipient of the Daughters of the Revolution Prize for her outstanding work in American History and Matthew Crawford was awarded the Vida H. Allen Prize for excellence in his senior honors thesis. Congratulations to all the recipients and to the professors who guided and encouraged them in their studies!



Left to right--Vida H. Allen Prize recipient Matthew Crawford and Professor Pierre-Henri Laurent



Left to right--Professor Virginia Drachman congratulates Russell E. Miller Prize recipient Aisha Barbour.



Cambra Stern proudly holds her Daughters of the Revolution Award plaque

Perspectives

The *Perspectives* feature attempts to provide various responses to the question every historian and student of history must eventually face. What is history? In this series, department faculty, graduate students and undergraduate history majors will be asked to share their views and outlooks on history and the historical process. In this issue, Professor **Jeanne Penvenne** offers her perspective on history.

The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians The Big Berks and the Little Berks

Tufts University History Department Faculty has many important distinctions, but one is unusual. Not only do we have two historians who hail from the Berkshire Mountains of Western Massachusetts, we have two historians from the same town, Lenox Massachusetts. If I stand at the Penvenne family gravesite at the Church on the Hill in Lenox and look just beyond the knoll where a lovely marble kneeler graces the resting place of the Boston Symphony Orchestra's legendary Serge Koussevitzky, I can see the Brooke family gravesite. So now you know the Tufts History Department's secret Berkshire Connection.

We have a Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, founded in 1930, instead of a Berkshire Conference of Men Historians, because in the 1930s most historians were men and the comparatively few women in the profession felt isolated and excluded from the existing "old boys" networks. Women were allowed to join the American Historical Association, but felt themselves excluded from the social and "networking" opportunities that connected research interests and led historians to employment, grants and publishing opportunities. About twenty women from New England and New York responded by forming The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, which quickly became the quintessential "old girls" network for historians.

Since 1935 the group has held an informal annual social and intellectual retreat for women historians, whether professionals or independent scholars, somewhere in the Berkshires or Upper New York State. Women gather to play, hike, converse and focus on a specific intellectual agenda. This annual retreat is now known as "The Little Berks," because since 1973 the group has sponsored The Berkshire Conference on the History of Women known as "The Big Berks." The "Big Berks" is a professional historical conference held every three years and is open to historians, graduate students and independent scholars. It is now one of the country's best-known, well-attended, regularly scheduled conferences on women's history, women's studies and feminist scholarship. The Conference also cosponsors grants for graduate study and awards two annual "Berkshire Prizes," one for the best book and one for the best scholarly article written by a woman. You can learn a great deal about the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians by logging into their web site: <http://www-berks.aas.duke.edu/>

My first experience with the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians was in June of 1999 when I was presented a paper entitled, "His Story and Her Story - A Tale of Two Cities? Lourenço Marques, Mozambique in the Colonial Era" as part of a "Big Berks" panel entitled "Women in the City - Women of the City: Breaking Boundaries between Women's and Urban History." It was my first experience at a fairly large professional conference where the vast majority of conferees were white women, and the obvious depth of interest was in United States and European History. I was also annoyed that the panel chair lifted my proposed book title for her panel title — so much for female solidarity.

I was subsequently invited by the Berkshire Conference President, Prof. Margaret Hunt of Amherst College, to be one of the keynoters for the "Little Berks" held at the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge Massachusetts in May, 2000. Our topic was "Gender Studies, Area Studies, and the New History." My fellow panelists were Kariann Yokota of Yale University and Deborah Levenson-Estrada of Boston College. The panel took place after we had all enjoyed an excellent meal complemented by fine wines. Whether it was the topic, the food, the wine, the company, or any combination of those, a lively discussion followed and carried on well into the night. We all enjoyed the warm early summer evening breeze on the comfortable front porch of the Red Lion Inn.

Although these conferences were markedly less diverse than the African Studies Association and Middle East Studies Association conferences with which I am much more familiar, two other aspects of these conferences were refreshingly welcome: the extent to which independent scholars and graduate students were drawn into fuller participation, and the leadership's sincere efforts to engage contending knowledge systems and perspectives. Women historians from all around the world have a great deal to learn from and about each other. The process will be exponentially more fruitful if it develops the atmosphere of friendship and mutual respect that the Berkshire Conference strives to achieve.

In closing, it is the respect for contending knowledge systems, global perspectives and the tenet that historians of all periods, perspectives and regions can teach and learn from one another that makes the Tufts History Department such an exciting and welcoming place.

History From The Hill Staff

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Profiles

Professor Beatrice F. Manz

Beatrice F. Manz joined Tufts in 1985 as Assistant Professor of History and was promoted in 1991 to Associate Professor. Professor Manz received her BA in History from Harvard University, her MA in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Michigan and her PhD in Inner Asian and Altaic Studies from Harvard. Her areas of specialization include the Middle East and Central Asia with particular attention to the Iranian world. Her current research interests center around the history of the steppe nomads and their interaction with settled peoples.

In a field of history where publication is often a long and arduous task, Professor Manz has been quite prolific. In 1989 she published *The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane* (Cambridge University Press) which was issued in paperback in 1990 and in Canto edition in 1999. Also in 1999 it was translated into Persian, with translations into Russian and Turkish currently underway. She has edited several volumes of collected articles including *Studies on Chinese and Islamic Central Asia--Collected Articles of Joseph Fletcher* (Variorum Reprints, 1995) and *Central Asia in Historical Perspective* (Westview Press, Olin Critical Series, 1994). She has also written articles for numerous journals including *Mythes historiques du monde musulman* (special issue of *Revue du monde musulman et de la Mediterranee*), *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, *Iranian Studies*, *The Russian Review*, *Journal of Turkish Studies*, *Asian Art*, *Central Asiatic Journal*, and, *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*. Professor Manz has also published pieces in the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, *Encyclopedia Iranica*, *The Dictionary of Art*, and *The Encyclopaedia of Asian History*. Professor Manz has also composed articles for the National Council on Eurasian and East European Research in 1999 and 2000. She currently has an article entitled, "Family and Ruler in Timurid Historiography" forthcoming in *Festschrift* for Yuri Bregel, an article entitled, "Women in Timurid Dynastic Politics" which is forthcoming in a volume on the history of Women in Iran edited by Guity Nashat, an article in preparation entitled, "Multi-national Empires and the Formation of Identities" and is working on a second book, tentatively titled *Government and Society under the Timurid Dynasty*.

Professor Manz has received numerous academic honors and grants throughout her career including a grant from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, a Tufts Faculty Research Award, NEH and ACLS Fellowships for Post-doctoral research, an American Research Institute in Turkey Fellowship, an IREX: ACLS- Academy of Sciences exchange to the USSR grant, an ACLS Fellowship for Recent Recipients of PhDs, a post-doctoral fellowship from the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Russian Research Center at Harvard, an IREX Developmental Fellowship, a Middle East Studies Association Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences, a Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities and a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship.

Professionally, Professor Manz has served on the fellowship and nominating committees for the American Research Institute in Turkey, as a board member of the Society for Iranian Studies, as an affiliate of the Davis Center for Russian Studies and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard, and as an outside reviewer for the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, SUNY Press, Blackwell Publishers, the NEH, and the Central European University Press. In 1991, 1992, 1996 and 1999 she served as Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of History in conjunction with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Russian Research Center at Harvard University.

At Tufts, Professor Manz has taught a large number of courses including History 63--*History of Iran*, History 64--*The Mongol Empire*, History 69--*Medieval Islamic History*, and special topic courses which have included *Introduction to the Religion of Islam*, *Nationalism and Ethnic Relations in Modern Central Asia*, *Literature and Social Change in the Middle East*, *Women and Family in Islam*, *From Empires to Countries* and *The Great Multinational Empires and their Legacy*.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Professor Manz has worked in various university and departmental capacities including faculty advisor for the History Department Newsletter, serving as a member of the Tenure and Promotion Committee, and most recently, she was chosen as Director of the new interdisciplinary major in Middle East Studies.

Beatrice Manz is well-known to all as a talented and approachable teacher and a highly respected researcher. Her integrity, intellect and professionalism make her an indispensable member of the Department of History at Tufts. Professor Manz is currently teaching History 63--*History of Iran* and History 184--*Literature and Social Change in the Middle East*. For the spring semester, she will be offering two new courses, History 68--*The World of Islam*, a survey course dealing with the rise and spread of Islam, and *The Great Multinational Empires and their Legacy* which had been previously taught only as a research seminar, but this spring will be taught as a regular course.

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Professor **Reed Ueda** is the chief consulting historian for the new Dreams of Freedom museum of immigration history that opened in downtown Boston on August 1, 2000. The museum, which honors the immigrant past and present in this region, is a \$3 million project of the International Institute of Boston. It is located at 1 Milk Street, the birthplace of Benjamin Franklin. Professor Ueda is chair of an advisory council of scholars from area colleges and universities who served as content experts on the exhibits.

Past & Present 2000

Past & Present, the Graduate Student History Society, was formed in 1998 by several committed graduate students with strong support from the History Department and the Graduate Student Council in an effort to meet several objectives:

1. Create a forum for history graduate students to discuss their views, ideas and concerns regarding the graduate program in History. Of particular concern over the years have been issues such as section size and work load for TAs, resources for the MA and PhD programs, and the need and desire for increased graduate-student input within the department.
2. Sponsor events which would be of interest to history graduate students as well as the graduate community at large and the undergraduates.
3. Demonstrate the importance of the graduate program in history to the entire department by highlighting the contributions history grad students make to undergraduate education within the department as well as to the intellectual climate of the department.
4. Create a definitive presence on the Graduate Student Council for history graduate students.

Over the last two years, we have had success in all of these endeavors and have continued to launch new initiatives including a film series (historical films followed by a discussion lead by a member of the department), a lecture series (devoted to exploring the relationship of history to other disciplines—last year we sponsored talks by an archaeologist and an art historian) and a research journal (which combines both undergraduate and graduate research papers) the second volume of which is scheduled to go to press at the end of the month.

We have been recognized on several occasions by the Graduate Student Council as one of the most active and successful graduate student organizations in recent memory. In the spring of 1999, the cofounders of *Past & Present* were recognized with the first annual Guertin Award for Graduate Student Leadership.

This semester we are pleased to launch *Past & Present 2000*. The film series kicked off on October 5 with something a bit out of the ordinary. For the month of October, *Past & Present* is examining the **History of Horror** beginning with Bela Lugosi's *Dracula* and Karloff's *The Bride of Frankenstein* which were presented on October 5, followed by *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* and *The Fall of the House of Usher* on October 12, *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Shining* on October 19, and wrapping up on October 26 with a soon to be announced line up. All movies begin at 7:00 PM in Braker 001.

Following our **History of Horror** month, proceeding in the footsteps of *Past & Present* tradition, Professor George Marcopoulos will commence our shift back to standard film series material in November with films of Trotsky taken by Christy Moustakis, followed by Professor Gerald Gill who will present *Since You Went Away* later in the month. *The History And.....Lecture Series* will kick off in early November with a lecture entitled **Imperial Christ—Perceptions of Authority in Early Medieval Europe** which will examine perceptions of power through both textual sources and the use of illuminated manuscripts and mosaics. The lecture will be presented by a History MA candidate. In addition, we are hoping to schedule a trip to the Worcester Museum to view the current exhibit of artwork from Antioch in late November. Visit our web page for our updated calendar at www.historyonthehill.homestead.com.

Acknowledgments

History From The Hill wishes to thank Department Administrator Annette Lazzara and Staff Assistant Judy Farrington for their continued assistance and support in producing and distributing this newsletter. Thanks also to all the department faculty who contributed notes and news including Reed Ueda, Sung-Yoon Lee, John Herron, Jeanne Penvenne and Marina Diaz-Cristobal.

Special thanks to Jeanne Penvenne for taking on the **Perspectives** feature this time around and for serving as our resident photographer, and to Department Secretary Mary-Ann Kazanjian for her assistance with proofreading and editing. The editor would also like to thank Diana Stockwell for her steadfast assistance.

Historical Trivia

Correctly identify the picture below and answer the trivia question to win! Answers can be left in the **History From The Hill** mailbox in East 014 or emailed to dproct01@emerald.tufts.edu

1. What member (staff, professor, graduate student) of the History Department is a direct descendent of one of those executed during the Salem witch hysteria of 1692?

2. Who is this person?

