

HISTORY FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

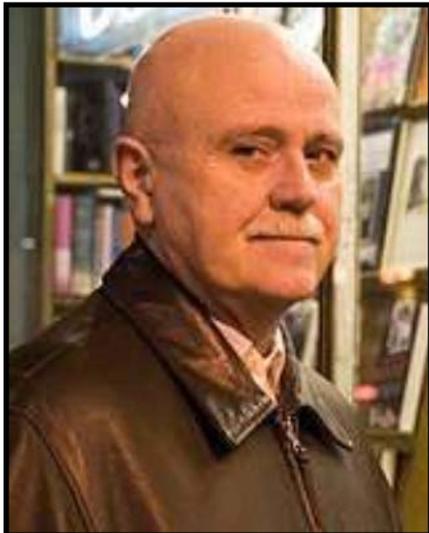
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FROM THE CHAIR

BY HOWARD L MALCHOW

I am privileged to chair a department that plays an important keystone role at the center of the humanities and social sciences at Tufts. The first thing you should do if you have not done so already is check out our department web-site at [ase](http://ase.tufts.edu/history/).



Howard L. Malchow

tufts.edu/history/, where you will find useful information about major requirements, faculty, course descriptions, and—uniquely among departments at Tufts—lists of courses we intend to offer semester by semester for the next three years to help you plan your undergraduate career.

Rebuilding and renewal is of course an ongoing process for any vital department. This is enabled first through a constant evaluation of how we serve our undergraduate majors and non-majors and our graduate students, not only through the formal course evaluations but through informal dialogue between faculty and students. I encourage you to deepen your contact with your advisors throughout the year.

Departments renew themselves with the fresh perspectives and curriculum that new faculty bring. History is fortunate this fall to welcome two new full-time members of our faculty: Professor Peniel Joseph, modern U.S. and African-American, and Assistant Professor Elizabeth Foster, modern France and France in the world.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN EAST HALL

Back in the Department

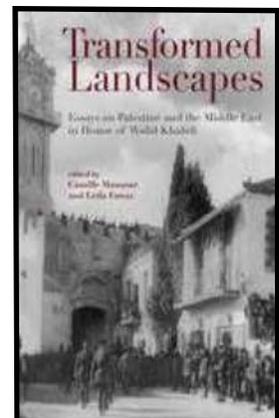
Professor **Reed Ueda** returns from a sabbatical leave last year. He worked on a book on citizenship and nationality of U.S. immigrants (under contract with Cambridge University Press), co-authored with Irene Bloemraad of the University of California-Berkeley Sociology Department. Professor Ueda also completed an article to be included in a book on political incorporation to be published by Oxford University Press and another article for a book on young immigrants to be published by Palgrave Macmillan. He is on an advisory committee to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for the planning of an international conference on ethnic minority groups.

Publications

Transformed Landscapes: Essays on Palestine and the Middle East in Honor of Walid Khalidi. Co-editors, Leila Fawaz & Camille Mansour. Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2008.

This collection of essays edited by Professor **Leila Fawaz** addresses, from varying perspectives, issues that have preoccupied Middle East scholars as well as twentieth-century Arab intellectuals: debates and struggles from the modern history of the Arab East that foreshadow those occurring today, the Ottoman legacy and its assessment over time, Palestinian Arab dynamics resulting from the cataclysm of the Palestine war, and their linkage with

the everlasting imperial intervention. The volume is dedicated to Walid Khalidi, one of the most influential Palestinian intellectuals of the second half of the twentieth century, whose impact has been felt in scholarship, institution building, and politics.



DIGITAL HISTORY

Jeanne Marie Penvenne, Associate Professor of History writes about the innovations in digital history and her new course for the fall.



Photo, mit.edu

This fall, Professor Penvenne will teach a foundation seminar on African historiography, theory and methods that will focus largely on digital and film sources from Geographic Information Systems potential to digital archive collections.

It is tempting to think that today's historians have it very easy. Some of them still work in freezing cold or stinking hot archives with ridiculous bureaucratic rules about paper and pencils only, and access to a set number of documents per day, and have to navigate completely unorganized archives. I began my career working week after week in a filthy attic in a municipal building in Mozambique's capital,

curve is a challenge our students must also anticipate.

This semester, for the first time, I will teach a foundation seminar on African historiography, theory and methods that will focus largely on digital and film sources from Geographic Information Systems potential to digital archive collections. We will consider theory and methods regarding historian's use of photography and material culture, we certainly will not give up on the written word. We will just be reading the words and seeing the images on a screen. We will also explore specific micro-film and microfiche collections – and that may well make us all wish we were just sitting down with a proper book.

Although there are still exponentially more digital resources for scholars of North America and Europe than for Africa, the advent of digitized periodicals, newspapers, archival documents

one hand, their potential expansion seems to be as vast as our creative imaginations, but on the other hand, we are still sorting out just how some of these materials might be used, and just to assess their authority. What are the ethical implications or methodological protocols for using chat room conversations, or confiscated emails as scholarly evidence? What about Youtube postings? What counts as a valid or convincing source? Librarians and scholars do not necessarily agree on protocols or assessment, but new sources will clearly generate new protocols and methodologies.

Ethical considerations arise for Africanists because once again knowledge and resources from and about Africa will be more available outside the continent than inside. Web protocols for African materials encourage deleting bells and whistles because problems with narrow bandwidth on the continent make using heavy files impossibly slow. Furthermore many African universities can not update their servers, hardware and software frequently to take advantage of the most recent global digital production. How should activists address the enduring digital divide?

The cutting edge is always moving, and people do not joke about it

“Tufts students may find it difficult to imagine a world before the digital search function. It is hard to imagine how many months of donkey labor a keyword search now saves.”

taking care neither to fall through rotten ceiling boards under my feet nor to set the boxes of documents under the holes in the roof over my head. I descended from the attic daily looking like a very happy chimney sweep – loving every minute, but I'm not sure that beats working at a clean computer terminal.

Tufts students may find it difficult to imagine a world before the digital search function. It is hard to imagine how many months of donkey labor a keyword search now saves. We are truly in a brave new world, and I'm all for it. Keeping up with the exponentially advancing and changing technology is its own worthy challenge. Although only the elders among us may recall what a large floppy disc looks like and shudder to think what might still be on it, keeping ahead of the technological

and ephemera has been a great boon for Africanists. African archival collections are more limited, and despite having Boston University, an African Documents Deposit Library, in our neighborhood, connecting Tufts students to significant collections of primary source material has always posed a challenge. The recent development of the Mellon Foundation funded ALUKA digital archive's "Struggles for Freedom in Southern Africa" collection and Michigan State University's "African Activist Archive Project," put primary sources within reach of our students. In the past decade scores of such collections have come online.

For those of us with the technological capacity to tap into them, the scope of digital materials is enormous. On

being a bloody edge for nothing. Many, many challenges remain. They include debugging websites, navigating archives without getting into an eddy or dead end, and, as with hard copy sources, just sorting through the huge amount of information to identify what is actually helpful. I'm excited about diving into this semester, and I hope that my students will greatly enhance the paths I have set out in the syllabus, but I temper my enthusiasm, recalling how often I have promised myself that the next time I had what I thought was a great idea I would hold my breath until I forgot it.

FACULTY PROFILE:

DAVID EKBLADH

For someone invested in international issues a university whose faculty, students, and institutional culture turn on the world it would be hard not to find Tufts a great place to teach. Growing up in North Carolina I would have never thought that I would so thoroughly enjoy New England. My family bounced around, from a sojourn to Jamaica in the Caribbean to a series of towns across the mid-Atlantic. We had family abroad, which kept us aware of the wider world, but in high school I took an opportunity,

opened up by Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, to go on a short but eye-opening exchange to the Soviet Union. Inspired by this experience, I went to college in Washington, DC. History quickly crowded out other interests as I learned that so much in so many areas of life require a historical view. Early interest in European history did not survive my junior year study-abroad in Vienna. In 1993 in a post-

Cold War Central Europe, it was hard not to see the influence of the United States. Its raw diplomatic, political, and cultural presence altered my intellectual horizons. I turned to international affairs and particularly the role of the United States in the world.

After graduation, I worked for a bit, but could not shake a desire to get at the historical roots of some of the issues to which I had been exposed. I applied to doctoral programs in history and somehow got into Columbia University. It was a fantastic place to do history, with a galaxy of superstars on its faculty and (to me at least) dazzling institutional resources. The political science driven Institute of War and Peace Studies and the East Asian Institute came to be homes away from the history department. As my dissertation research increasingly focused on the role of development in how the U.S. engaged the world, I found these collected parts added up to a stimulating, interdisciplinary whole.

Although I went to New York for Columbia, I stayed at Columbia because of New York. The City itself was an object lesson in opportunity. Some of the best parts of my education occurred outside Morningside Heights. This went beyond the thicket of libraries, universities, museums, and institutes the City nurtured, where a hungry graduate student could graze. Early on, I stumbled into an incomparable position with the Carnegie Corporation of



Photo courtesy of David Ekbladh

New York, a major foundation. Altogether, Carnegie offered me supremely interesting and intellectually invigorating work. During my time there I found that many of those grappling with policy problems often craved research that could provide vital perspective on those issues. Needless to say, Carnegie reshaped my own scholarship. Governments tend to dominate tales of international affairs in scholarship and the press but New York affirmed a view that global life is shaped by a diverse spectrum of institutions, ideas, and individuals.

This perspective was driven home as I spent two years working with the Tokyo Foundation on a global research grant program. It was also a base element of my dissertation that I completed in 2003. Following that I spent a short stint with a United Nations educational program, which gave the opportunity to work in Costa Rica with a set of cosmopolitan colleagues.

A generous bit of funding allowed me to pursue my own research for a year at the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington. SAIS was a terrific spot, dramatically demonstrating how close the connection between scholarship and policy can be (for good or ill). In 2006, after spending two years teaching in Washington, I took a postdoctoral fellowship with International Security Studies at Yale University.

Following an intense year in New Haven and eager to wrap up the book that is the coin of the academic realm, I took a fellowship at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge. I was almost literally down the street when Tufts called me for an interview in November 2007. The department and the university could not have made a better impression. The faculty blended intensity and intellectual acumen with an openness and generosity that is all too rare in the academy. The

campus itself was a great advertisement. A few minutes of unstructured time during my interview allowed me to stumble onto the top of Tisch Library and discover the panorama that hooks so many. With such impressions etched still on my mind other professional opportunities paled and then dropped away when Tufts offered me an assistant professorship a few weeks later.

Before I started at Tufts in fall 2008, I completed book manuscript (and started a second), *The Great American Mission: Modernization and the Construction of an American World Order*, which will be published by Princeton University Press at the beginning of 2010. The book explores how development ideas were utilized by the United States in the twentieth century to confront other ideological challengers while extending its own influence around

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the world.

After a year here, I can say Tufts has done a remarkable thing, it surpassed those high expectations planted during my interview. The institution's international orientation suits my personal interests and orientation well.

The faculty has continued to impress, both as scholars and as colleagues. What is more,

the university community a whole goes beyond idle promises and cultivates an atmosphere of collegiality. By this, I do not mean just professional pleasantries but an atmosphere of support that is refreshing and beneficial for a junior faculty member like myself.

Then there are the students. During years researching and writing I always had an urge to get back into the classroom. Often, teaching and research are viewed as separate even adversarial parts of the scholar's portfolio. However, Tufts

my first year I was constantly and pleasantly surprised that the Jumbos' grasp of subject matter were often ahead of where my experiences at other schools had led me to believe the typical undergraduate would be. I have been rather disarmed to find that

"In my first year I was constantly and pleasantly surprised that the Jumbos' grasp of subject matter were often ahead of where my experiences at other schools had led me to believe the typical undergraduate would be"

Tufts students invite me to coffee at the Tower Café, just to chat about world issues.

is proving to be the ideal spot to indulge my philosophy that teaching is often the best tonic for research and vice versa. Getting back to teaching at Tufts was that much more enjoyable because students are already so well primed on global issues. In

Add to all this that Tufts is in the midst of the critical mass of scholarly activity that is the Boston area and New England's ample charms and you can count me eager continue my work on the Hill.

Chair

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Fortunately we have also been able to bring to Tufts Dr. Tsong-han Lee to offer two courses this year in Chinese history. I urge you to get to know these scholars and their areas of expertise.

Finally, I recommend that those of you with a special interest in History join our History Society. Just ask at the Department Office. The History Society is a chance for you to participate in the department beyond your course work, get to know faculty and help plan undergraduate events. The Society also offers the chance to participate in the production of an impressive journal, The Tufts Historical Review, that publishes annually the best work of our majors.

I look forward to working with you all in a challenging new year.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Max A. Felker-Kantor, (LA'06,) is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Southern California. His recent seminar paper will be published by the University of California Press next year. The essay title is "Fighting the Segregation Amendment: Black and Mexican American Responses to Proposition 14 in Los Angeles," and the collection focuses on Latino / African/American Relations. His Tufts senior honors thesis, "Freedom Means a House to Live In: The Black Struggle for Equal Housing Opportunities in Greater Boston, 1948 – 1968," won the Vida Allen Prize for an outstanding thesis.

David J. Proctor, (LA'94, GS'01), received an award for Outstanding Graduate Student Contribution to Undergraduate Education from the Graduate Student Council at the Graduate Awards ceremony in

May 2009. David was nominated by several undergraduates and was granted the award by the Graduate Student Council based upon his ongoing commitment to undergraduate teaching. From one of his nomination letters: "David's lectures were always engaging and dynamic. His ardent care for his students and their understanding of the material was definitely evident during lectures. There is no doubt that his courses were some of the best that I have taken at Tufts University. Not only did I learn an incredible amount of information, but I also learned a lot about what I could achieve. David took the time to read over drafts and helped me develop my own writing style. He expanded my horizon of the ancient world and gave me confidence in my ability as an academic."

2009 DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

The annual departmental awards went to the following exceptional students: **Benjamin Smith**, (LA'10), and **Jan McCreary**, (LA'11) were awarded the **Imlah European History Prize** which recognizes distinguished work in the history of Western civilization; **Olivia Chiang**, (LA'09), received the **Imlah Excellence in History Prize** which is awarded to a senior in recognition of outstanding achievement in History; **Sarah Mass**, (LA'09), and **Benjamin Sacks**, (LA'10) were the recipients of the **Russell**

Miller Prize which is awarded to an undergraduate or undergraduates of exceptional ability whose participation in advanced history courses has demonstrated an eagerness to explore problems of historical analysis and interpretation; and **Rebecca Sokol**, (LA'09), was awarded **The Daughters of the Revolution Prize** which recognizes a student who has shown a marked interest in American colonial history as well as excellence in

scholarship. In addition, **Sarah Mass** was the recipient of the **2009 Vida Allen Prize** for her exceptional thesis which was written under the supervision of Professors Howard Malchow, Ayesha Jalal, Ruth Ann Harris (Boston College, Department of History). Her thesis was entitled, "Black' Strangers in the White Rose County: Pakistanis, Irish, and the Shaping of Multiethnic West Yorkshire, 1845-1985"

THESIS EXCHANGE 2009

The Thesis Exchange was held on April 29th, 2009. The group had more than a score of thesis writers this year from many disciplines and programs, eight thesis writers were history majors and history faculty directed eleven theses. This group includes history students and international relations students.

Olivia Chiang, (LA'09), History, worked with Professors Steven Marrone, Heather Curtis, and Andrew McClellan. Her thesis was entitled, "Mourning in America: The Assassination of Ambassador Adolph Dubs and the Deterioration of U.S.-Soviet-Afghan Relations"

Rachell Dolin, (LA'09), History and Political Science, worked with Professors Beatrice Manz, David Edbladh, and Andrew Hess. Her thesis was entitled, "Primitivist Power Plays: The Role of Robert Estienne's Temple Illustrations in the Creation of English Worship Space, 1560-1711."

Daniel Glassman, (LA'09), History, worked with Professors Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, Eva Hoffman, Jeanne Penvenne. His thesis was entitled, "The Littoral Difference: Examining the Malabar

and Swahili Coasts during the Islamic Golden Age?"

Jason Hill, (LA'09), History, worked with Professors Jeanne Penvenne, Howard Malchow, Pearl Robinson. His thesis was entitled, "Mid-Air Collision: The Relationship between Civil Aviation and East African Unity."

Sarah Mass, (LA'09), History, worked with Professors Howard Malchow, Ayesha Jalal, Ruth Ann Harris (Boston College, Department of History). Her thesis was entitled, "Black' Strangers in the White Rose County: Pakistanis, Irish, and the Shaping of Multiethnic West Yorkshire, 1845-1985"

Martha Simms, (LA'09), History and German Studies, worked with Professors Kris Manjapra, Daniel Mulholland, Bernhard Martin. Her thesis was entitled, "From Bonfires to Burschenschaften: the Role of Students in Germany's Early National Development."



2009 Thesis Exchange Participants

Eric Stahl, (LA'09), also wrote a thesis, entitled, "Doomed from the Start: A New Perspective on the Malayan Insurgency," under the direction of Professor Gary Leupp.

In recognition of her commitment and hard work for the International Relations program, Professor **Jeanne Penvenne** was honored by International Relations with the award "IR Outstanding Faculty Service Award 2009."

JUMPSTART CORP MEMBER KATHRYN MATTERN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD

Kathryn Mattern, who graduated from Tufts last month, is glad that she devoted her four undergraduate years working for Jumpstart, a national non-profit organization working towards the day that every child in America enters school prepared to succeed. "When I started as a freshman, it just sounded like a fun job," the History major with a Child Development minor recounted. "Looking back, Jumpstart was just as enjoyable as I hoped it would be, but it was also more fulfilling than I could have ever imagined." Her enthusiasm for the organization hasn't

gone unnoticed.

Recently, Mattern was honored with the Spirit of Service Award. Sponsored by Jumpstart and the American Eagle Foundation, the prestigious national award is given to only ten Jumpstart Corps members a year. The award, started in 2004, recognizes Corps members who have demonstrated a high level of commitment and leadership as a role model to their peers. Tufts Jumpstart has been represented among the recipients award every year since the award was introduced. Beth Bauer, Director of Jumpstart at Tufts, praised

Mattern for her devotion to public service. "College students have a lot on their plates. Living on their own, managing schoolwork, maintaining a social life and paying for school doesn't leave much time for public service," she said. "But there are the few extraordinary students who make engaging with their community a priority. Kathryn Mattern is one of those students."

Article adapted from published article at www.tufts.edu.

HISTORY FROM THE HILL STAFF

Editor: David J. Proctor

Undergraduate Editor: Natalie Polito

Faculty Advisor: Ina Baghdiantz-McCabe

<http://ase.tufts.edu/pandp/historyhill>

TUFTS HISTORICAL REVIEW UPDATE

BY BENJAMIN SACKS

Since the establishment of the *Tufts Historical Review* in 2007, the Journal has enjoyed phenomenal growth. The editorial board solicited nationally for submissions relevant to the Spring 2009 theme, "Governance." A tremendous success, the *Tufts Historical Review* received forty submissions, from seventeen colleges and universities in the United States and the United Kingdom, including American, Columbia, Georgetown, George Washington, Gonzaga, Harvard, Indiana, Northwestern, Oxford, Tufts, and Yale universities, and the universities

of California at Los Angeles, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico, San Diego, and Virginia. Additionally, several of these institutions, along with the Library of Congress, now subscribe to the *Tufts Historical Review*. The Journal achieved advertising agreements with the *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* and *International Security*, and now has a presence on the Internet: www.tuftshistoricalreview.org.

Most visibly, however, was the introduction of the annual *Tufts Historical Review* lecture. With support from the Department of History, the Tufts History

Society, the Office of the President, the Dean of Arts, Sciences, & Engineering, and the Department of Political Science, the *Tufts Historical Review* hosted renowned historian Gordon S. Wood, the Alvo O. Way University Professor at Brown University (and Tufts Class of 1955). Professor Wood, who received the Pulitzer Prize in 1993, spoke to a packed audience on "Monarchism and Republicanism in the Early United States." We are indeed looking forward to another exciting year!

SACKS RECEIVES BORGHESANI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Benjamin J. Sacks, a 2009 recipient of the Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Scholarship for international study, conducted extensive field research in the United Kingdom. His research focused on the cartographic history of British and French imperialism in the West Indies (c. 1600-1800). Mr. Sacks spent two months working at the British

Library, the Royal Geographical Society, the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, and the Royal Commonwealth Library at the Cambridge University Library, where he had the opportunity to explore extraordinarily rare maps, letters, and manuscripts. Professors Felipe Fernandez-Armesto and Howard Malchow provided extensive support, and Mr. Sacks was also

able to consult with Dr. Peter Barber, the director of maps at the British Library, Dr. Jon Davis, director of the Mile End Group, and Dr. Robert Tombs, professor of history at Cambridge University and author of *That Sweet Enemy: The French and British from the Sun King to the Present*.

JOIN THE HISTORY SOCIETY!

Do you harbor a love of history that extends beyond the classroom? Look no further than the undergraduate History Society! Back and ready for action in the 2009-2010 school year, the History Society will lead discussions, sponsor

a film series, and organize various trips throughout the year. Be sure to visit the History Society booth at the Activities Fair on September 14th for more information. The first general meeting of the year will be held in late September. If you have any

questions or want to know more, please contact Society President Katie Brush at katherine.brush@tufts.edu or David Proctor at david.proctor@tufts.edu.

NEW FACES IN EAST HALL

Elizabeth Foster, Assistant Professor of History

Elizabeth Foster received her Ph.D. in 2006 in History from Princeton University. She comes to Tufts from Bates College where she was an Assistant Professor from 2007-2009, and previously taught in the Directed Studies Program at the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University. Elizabeth's research interests include modern France, France in the world, and colonial West Africa. She is currently working on a book manuscript entitled *Faith in the Empire: Church State and Colonial Rule in French Senegal, 1880-1940*. Of her several articles, published and forthcoming, the most recent is "An Ambiguous

Monument: Dakar's Colonial Cathedral of the Souvenir Africain," published in the journal *French Historical Studies*. The Department of History is pleased to welcome Professor Foster to Tufts.

Peniel Joseph, Professor of History

Peniel Joseph comes to Tufts from Brandeis University where he was an Associate Professor of History and African and Afro-American Studies. He received his Ph.D. in American History from Temple University. His research interests include African-American history, race relations, intellectual history, civil rights, and the Black Power Movement. He has received numerous awards, most recently

the Charles Warren Center Fellowship for the Study of North American History at Harvard University in 2008. Peniel is the author of many publications; his book *Waiting 'till the Midnight Hour: a Narrative History of Black Power in America* (Henry Hold, NY, 2006) received the W.E.B. Du Bois Book Award. He has an additional edited book forthcoming in 2009, *Race and Democracy in the Post Civil Rights Era: From Black Power to Barack Obama*. He also sits on the Editorial Board of several academic journals, including *Transformations in Higher Education: The Engaged Scholar*. The Department of History is pleased to welcome Professor Joseph to Tufts.