

# History From The Hill

Newsletter of the History Department at Tufts University

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Volume VII Issue III

## What's News in East Hall

**Beatrice Manz** was in the Islamic Republic of Iran from Feb. 12-17 to attend a symposium, "The Iranian World and Turan, at which she gave a paper entitled, "Turanian Amirs and Iranian Viziers under the Timurids." It was the first time Professor Manz had returned to Iran since a visit prior to the Revolution of 1979, and she was glad to get back even if for only four days. According to Professor Manz, Tehran is about twice the size it used to be, but is still very recognizable.

The new Middle East Studies program under the direction of **Beatrice Manz** has been very active this year. The program is sponsoring a film series called "Film and Feast Series," in which two films have been shown so far, one from Iran, and one from Tunisia. The series will continue with an Israeli and an Armenian film in the next months. The program also brought Prof. Ervand Abrahamian from Baruch College and Graduate Center in CUNY to campus on

Feb. 21 speaking about "Human Rights and Islam," to celebrate the program's first year.

Professor **Steve Marrone's** latest book, The Light of Thy Countenance: Science and Knowledge of God in the Thirteenth Century (2 vols. Brill: Leiden/Boston, 2001) was recently released by Brill. The work deals with "the development of scholastic argumentation in thirteenth-century Europe. It traces the rise of a formal model of science and resulting accommodations in traditional attitudes towards human cognition, especially with regard to the role of divine illumination."

Department Lecturer **Deina Abdelkader** recently published Social Justice in Islam (International Institute of Islamic Thought, 2000).

Former history (and biology) major **Matthew Crawford** (LA'00), who won the first Vida Allen award last year for his senior honors thesis on conceptions of monstrosity in early modern science and culture (as well as for his 3.96

GPA!), just got admitted, with fellowship support, to the Ph.D. programs in the History of Science at University of Washington, UC San Diego, and UC Davis, and is going through the agonizing, but sweet, process of visiting their campuses and deciding which offer to accept.

Recent PhD graduate **Chitralekhka Zutshi** GS'00 has been offered and has accepted a tenure-track position in the History department at the College of William and Mary.

Visiting Assistant Professor **John Herron** has been offered a tenure-track position at the University of San Diego.

The Classics Department has announced two appointments for the next academic year which will impact History. Visiting Lecturer **Peter Der Manuelian** will offer one course each semester next year dealing with Egyptian history and archaeology. Visiting Assistant Professor **Jacqueline Carlon** will continue to offer courses on Roman history while Dennis Trout remains on leave.

## Penvenne Receives Leibner Award

Professor Jeanne Marie Penvenne has recently been named this year's recipient of the highly prestigious **Lillian and Joseph Leibner Award for Distinguished Teaching and Advising**. Professor Penvenne is only the third member of the History Department to be so honored. The award recognizes faculty who have shown outstanding devotion to students, both in the classroom and as an advisor.

Jeanne Marie Penvenne first came to Tufts as a Visiting Assistant Professor in 1986-87 and returned in the same position in 1990-91. She officially joined the department in 1993 as Assistant Professor, receiving tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in 1997. In 1999, Penvenne was awarded the Lerman Neubauer Prize which is given to that instructor whom graduating seniors have noted on their senior survey as having had the most positive influence on them, both within and outside the classroom.

Professor Penvenne has also been named Scholar in Residence at the Tufts European Center, Talloires, France for Summer 2001. Penvenne will use her time in France to recover her facility with French and strengthen her relationship with French scholars who work on Portuguese-speaking Africa. Since 1996 Penvenne has been a member of the board of editors and part of the comite de lecture et du conseil scientifique for the journal *Lusotopie*, published annually by scholars of Portuguese speaking Africa at the Center for the Study of Black Africa at Bordeaux. This lively group of French scholars hosts an annual conference and publishes the proceedings and other contributions in *Lusotopie*.

Penvenne will also use this opportunity to explore the archives of the Mission Suisse in nearby Lausanne, Switzerland. Swiss Presbyterians were an important evangelical and medical presence in Southern Mozambique from the late nineteenth century. Several scholars have made excellent use of the Swiss archives for the intellectual and social history of Mozambique.

Professor Penvenne will be teaching *Hst 150--Race, Class and Power in South Africa* and *Hst 151--Africa and the Diaspora to the Americas* this fall. Look for a full profile of Professor Penvenne in our May issue.

# World History Made in Washington

by *Ina Baghdiantz McCabe*

The splendid setting of the painted murals at the Library of Congress framed nine panel discussions held by 27 historians as they explored the latest trends in researching history that transcends the nation-state. Save for one panel, trend and trendy were never confused. The conference co-directed by Jerry Bentley, otherwise known as Mr. World History, and by Renata Bloomenthal whose work on women needs no introduction. The call for papers had wielded a massive response of over 200 proposals by both senior and junior historians interested in putting their work in the global context of world history and eager to meet with colleagues from different fields. Unfortunately, only about one in ten was accepted. The conference was about teaching history beyond the nation-state and about redefining regions and fields; the task was to challenge received ideas. The discussants of the panels, who were from community colleges across the United States, summarized and analyzed the papers presented. All papers were distributed in advance and read before the conference by all participants. There was no reading of papers at the conference. Each participant had a few minutes to remind the others of his work. The rest of a two-hour panel was devoted to discussion and a summary made by a community-college professor. There were nine panels and the conference took four days, with three intense days of 9 to 6 discussions with a break for a sandwich in a brown bag. Sponsored by the Ford Foundation and organized by the American Historical Association and the Library of Congress, the conference was entitled "Interactions: Regional Studies, Global Processes and Historical Analysis."

Most regions were represented, although Latin Americanists were represented by one person alone, and Africanists by three. There was a fair mix of Americanists, Europeanists, and historians writing on Asia, with the fields of Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia well represented. Some keynote speakers were the stars of their fields: Colin Palmer of Princeton University spoke about the African-American diaspora. Chris Bayly of Oxford University opened the day devoted to studies beyond the nation-state by a brilliant synthetic approach that was as much about clear methodology as it was about innovative ideas and approaches. On the third day Kären Wigen of Duke University, whose *Myth of Contienents* has taken academe by storm, pulled all the ideas expressed at the conference together in a tour de force possible only for the most talented in our profession. At the conference, our city of Boston, the intellectual capital of the United States, was more heavily represented than any other locality; Boston University, Boston College and Harvard were represented by a historian each, and Notheastern by two. The Tufts History Department was represented by two members, Dean **Leila Fawaz**, who opened and chaired a panel on cultural exchanges, and **Ina Baghdiantz McCabe** who spoke on European merchant networks and Armenian and Jewish trade diaspora, on the panel devoted to history beyond the nation-state.

Tufts, however, was present in a third way, significant enough to the students in our history department to be mentioned here. In the hotel lobby, Colin Palmer of Princeton, whose affiliation seemed at first to have little to do with Boston, asked that his regards be sent to the History Department and modestly said: "Will they remember my name? I am Colin Palmer and I studied with Professors **Pierre Laurent** and with **Linda Schaffer** in the late sixties." Several participants took the occasion to take a tour of the holdings of the Library of Congress with the librarian in charge of Africa and the Middle East, L. Avdoyan. The librarian has been helpful to some Tufts students this year, some who have visited the Library of Congress. Among students who have taken advantage of this collection this year for their senior honors thesis is Adrian Willairat who is working on nationalism in the former Yugoslavia. Seniors working on serious research projects should remember that the Library of Congress has vast resources, some of which can be accessed on-line. This intense working conference was highly innovative and the discussions were both fruitful and congenial. The entire proceedings will be posted on a web-site which is under construction. It was cybercast from the Library of Congress to institutions nationwide. As soon as the web site is available, the address will be posted in the newsletter.

## *A View from the Hill--Editor's Notebook*

Tufts has lived with the current block schedule for about 30 years now. It has been primped, pruned and added to in one way or another to meet the specific needs of various departments. Recently, however, Vice President Bernstein announced plans to examine moving Tufts to a new schedule to address a variety of issues including congestion, confusion, classroom utilization and maintenance, and compatibility of Tufts' schedule with those of other institutions. The reaction to this decision has been slow to take shape but has recently begun to build, especially in light of the recent call for simulations of Spring 2001 and Fall 2001 courses using the new scheduling algorithm. The Educational Policy Committee (EPC) has been dealing with the scheduling issue since April of 2000 and this past fall, made significant contributions to the process by highlighting the need to involve department schedulers, both faculty and students, in the process. Attempts were made to broaden the base of input through a series of forums held during the first two weeks in March. These forums allowed students, faculty and staff to be more fully briefed on the suggested change. These forums also provided more detailed insight and a more in-depth explanation of the evidence that has led to this call for change. One issue which still remains unresolved, however, is whether faculty will be allowed to vote up or down on a new schedule. The ramifications of that decision will be far more important in the long run than a change in our tried-and-true block schedule.

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## Perspectives

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**Booker T. and W.E.B.**  
by Dudley Randall

(Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois)

"It seems to me," said Booker T.,  
"It shows a mighty lot of cheek  
To study chemistry and Greek  
When Mister Charlie needs a hand  
To hoe the cotton on his land,  
And when Miss Ann looks for a cook,  
Why stick your nose inside a book?"

"I don't agree," said W. E. B.  
"If I should have the drive to seek  
Knowledge of chemistry or Greek,  
I'll do it. Charles and Miss can look  
Another place for hand or cook.  
Some men rejoice in skill of hand,  
And some in cultivating land,  
But there are others who maintain  
The right to cultivate the brain."

"It seems to me," said Booker T.,  
"That all you folks have missed the boat  
Who shout about the right to vote,  
And spend vain days and sleepless nights  
In uproar over civil rights.  
Just keep your mouths shut, do not grouse,  
But work, and save, and buy a house."

"I don't agree," said W. E. B.,  
"For what can property avail  
If dignity and justice fail?  
Unless you help to make the laws,  
They'll steal your house with trumped-up clause.  
A rope's as tight, a fire as hot,  
No matter how much cash you've got.  
Speak soft, and try your little plan,  
But as for me, I'll be a man."

"It seems to me," said Booker T.—

"I don't agree,"  
Said W. E. B.

**What About Me:**  
**In Response to the Distinguished Gentlemen**  
by Gerald R. Gill

(Ida B. Wells-Barnett)

"What About Me," said Ida B.  
Each of you talks about your plan,  
but all you do is talk man-to-man.  
You don't give note to all the race,  
as if we women are to stay in place.  
You want us to show motherly care,  
stay out of men's work, if we dare.

"What About Me," said Ida B.  
I've been active throughout my life,  
doing more than being Ferdinand's wife.  
I've taken stands against segregation,  
I support all types of education.  
I wrote lynching's a horrible crime  
while the two of you bided your time.

"What About Me," said Ida B.  
I've worked with people from all races,  
though some say I lack social graces.  
I don't grovel or lower my head,  
I work for justice and rights instead.  
If I upset people, that's my cross to bear,  
I only want for our people what's just and fair.

"What About Me," said Ida B.  
Like the two of you, I take my stand,  
there are multiple ways to the Promised Land,  
By economics, civil rights, and the vote,  
with suffrage for women and men, please note.  
I don't see the need to compromise,  
I don't simply lead, I organize.

"What About Me," said Ida B.

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*Dudley Randall* was an internationally respected American poet and founder in 1965 of Broadside Press through which he published his own poetry and that of other talented African-American writers up to his death on August 5, 2000. The first work Broadside published was Randall's "Ballad of Birmingham," a tribute to four black girls killed in a church bombing in 1963. The poem brought Randall international recognition and focused attention on the ongoing struggle in the South for civil rights.

*Gerald R. Gill* is Associate Professor of History at Tufts University and the recipient of several awards for outstanding teaching. Professor Gill composed this poem in response to Randall's, providing a third perspective.

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# Foundation Seminars & New Courses for Fall 2001

## Foundation Seminars (High Demand)

### *HST 01BM--MEN, WOMEN AND PATRIARCHY IN THE MIDDLE EAST*

This will be an examination of the women and family in the history of the Middle East in the Islamic period. We will examine tribal systems and compound households in both the medieval and modern periods. One central concern is how an extended patriarchal family structure affects both men and women. We will also spend time on Islamic law and its relation to family issues. The Qur'an and the hadith (traditions about the Prophet) contain rich material on women and family, and there are other available primary sources for both the medieval and modern period. There are also quite a few accessible secondary studies, so I think that there will be no difficulty finding material which allows discussion of both the use of primary sources and historiographical issues.

**Professor Manz Z1**

### *HST 01MS--AMERICA'S VIETNAM: FACT, FICTION AND FILM*

This seminar will study, in comparative perspective, how the Vietnam War was reported and imagined in American films and novels at the time it was being fought and subsequently. We will study some of the contemporary historical debates, novels and films (feature and documentary) and compare them to the evolving retrospective view of the war.

**Professor Sherwin B2 & Tuesday 7:00-8:30 in Tisch Library**

### *HST 01HWW--ORDINARY/EXTRAORDINARY EUROPEANS, 1550-1789*

Some of the most important historical writing of the past thirty years has focused on the lives of extraordinary Europeans---peasant farmers, urban artisans, folk healers, outlaws and criminals. Examining several of these lives in depth, we will ask the following kinds of questions: What is the relationship between autobiography, biography and scholarly historiography? How does the historian use primary materials in research? How do differences of gender, class, age, and

sexual orientation enter into the historical record? How does social history complement political, military and economic history? How accurately have modern filmmakers represented the lives of early modern Europeans? Students will analyze a number of biographies of figures from the period, work in teams on a group project, develop library research skills and write five to seven page papers.

**Professor Solomon Z3**

### *HST 01DM--FALL OF COMMUNISM*

Between 1989 and 1991, the shape of Eastern Europe and of the world was transformed by the disappearance of the Communist Party dictatorships that had been in place. The course will consider the causes for the failure of those regimes and the consequences of their societies.

**Professor Mulholland B3**

## New Courses or Courses Not Recently Taught

### *HST 42GL--RELIGION IN ASIA*

(Cross-listed with Religion)

Religion in ancient Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley; among Indo-Iranian peoples. The Vedas; Brahministic philosophical speculation; Zoroastrianism and Mithraism in Persia. Origins and development of Judaism. Jainism and Buddhism; diffusion of Buddhism throughout Asia. Christianity and its development in southwest Asia; Christian Gnosticism in Syria; Nestorian Christianity. Chinese religion; Daoism and Confucianism. Buddhism in China, Korea and Japan. Japanese prehistoric religion; Shint? and the ruling family cult. Neo-Confucianism and religious eclecticism. Islam, its diffusion, and interaction with other belief systems in Asia. The Kyoto school of philosophical Zen. Twentieth-century Marxist critiques of religion in India, China and Japan.

**Professor Leupp Z4**

### *HST 42YL-- KOREA IN THE EAST ASIAN WORLD*

Traditional Korea, from pre-modern times to the arrival of the Atlantic World in the late nineteenth century, Korea's transition from tribal society to

civil monarchy, the founding of new dynasties and evolving relations with China and Japan, the role of Buddhism and Confucianism.

**Professor Lee D3**

### *HST 151--AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA TO THE AMERICAS*

The roots of African origin populations in the Americas. Introduction to major West African political and social groups and their involvement in the Atlantic system; exploration of the historical demography of African Diaspora to the Americas. Themes include the changing nature of slavery and dependent labor; the development of Afro-Caribbean, Afro Brazilian, and Afro-Latino cultures; Pan-Africanist history; contemporary bonds among Africans and people of African origin in the Americas.

**Professor Penvenne 8-3+**

### *HST 191--GREEKS AND BARBARIANS: THE GREEK DISCOVERY OF THE WORLD*

"Among Greeks and Barbarians" was one way of referring to the entire world, comprising, from the Greek point of view, those who speak and act "like us" and those who don't. Due to both the circumstances of geography and the need for resources, the ancient Greeks were compelled to interact with other peoples. These cross-cultural encounters were both unsettling and stimulating, leading to the Greeks' discovery of themselves—the formulation of a Greek "cultural identity"—and to expanding knowledge of the wider world. In this course we will trace the Greeks' contacts and conflicts with other peoples of the ancient world. While the cast of characters will include Cretans, Trojans, Phoenicians, Egyptians, and Romans, it will center on the seminal, two-century-long encounter of the Greek city-states with the mighty Persian Empire. We will read the accounts of Greek poets, historians, explorers, and playwrights; examine documents from the Persian Empire; and view images of an-

*See Courses  
continued on page 5*

## Courses

*continued from page 5*

cient artifacts and sites such as Athens, Persepolis, and Alexandria. Students who take the course at the 100-level will be required to complete a research project.

**Professor Hirsch**

A3+

### **HST 195PD--THE GIZA PYRAMIDS**

The pyramids and “mastaba” tombs at Giza (ca. 2500 BC), probably the most famous archaeological site in the world, still pose major questions about the development of ancient Egyptian history, monumental architecture, chronology, art, religion and language. The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, excavated the site between 1905 and 1942 and is currently involved in the Giza Archives Project, which aims to convert its massive archival expedition records into an integrated research tool for the Internet. This seminar course will examine aspects of the site in its historical and archaeological context with illustrated lectures and visits to the MFA galleries. Part of the course will also focus on the modern technological challenges and opportunities facing archaeologists today in processing excavation records. Students will prepare seminar presentations on various Giza topics and will also submit a final paper. Active participation in the Giza Archives Project is also a possibility.

**Professor Der Manuelian**

W4

*(Occasional Wed night substitutions for trips to the MFA)*

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## The AHA Comes to Boston

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The Tufts University History Department was well represented at this January’s meeting of the American Historical Association in Boston.

Professors **Gerald Gill**, **Pierre-Henri Laurent**, **John Brooke** and **Reed Ueda** were all members of the Local Arrangements Committee for the AHA conference. Professor Laurent also chaired a panel entitled “Resurgent Europe: The Origins of the European Integration Movement, 1945-60,” and Professor Gill presented his paper “Using Documentary Films to Teach the History of Social Movements” for the session entitled “Teaching the History of the U.S. Protest Movements in a Conservative Era.

Several other current and former members of the department also participated, including Dean **Leila Fawaz**, who served on the panel “Virtue and Necessity: The Place of Post-Tenure Review in the Profession.” Department associate **John Rogers** presented his paper “Colonial Categories of Knowledge in South Asia: A View from Sri Lanka” at the session “New Perspectives in South Asian History: View from the Peripheries,” which also included a paper presentation from recent Tufts PhD graduate Professor **Chitrlekha Zutshi** entitled “Reform, Revival, and Resistance: Religion as Contested Site in the Kashr Valley.”

A former visiting department member, Stefan Rinke presented his paper “Monuments and the Politics of Memory in the Post-Independence Americas, 1794-1885” for the session on “Creating Identities in the Americas: Symbolic Narratives of the North and South in Comparative Perspective.”

In addition, Professor **Virginia Drachman’s** daughter, **Abigail Drachman-Jones**, presented a paper entitled “‘Like the old New England village’: A Cultural Story of Levittown,” at the session which dealt with “Reading the Past: A History of Slam.”

Lastly, many current and former Tufts History Department graduate students were in attendance, including Anita Gombos, Neeti Belliappa, Christina Szoke, Ted Hutchinson and others.

All in all, an impressive showing by the Tufts History Department at a major conference.

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## Acknowledgements

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We would like to thank Professors Gill, Laurent, Manz, Penvenne, Marrone, Sherwin and Solomon for providing news for this issue. An additional thank you to Gerald Gill for taking on the Perspectives piece this time around and to all those who cooperated with the newsletter photographer!

### History From The Hill Staff

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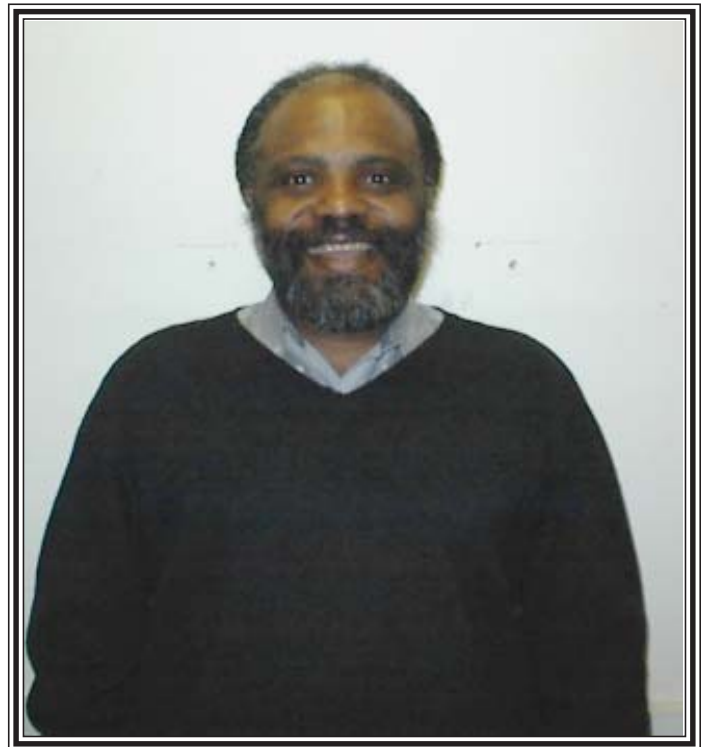
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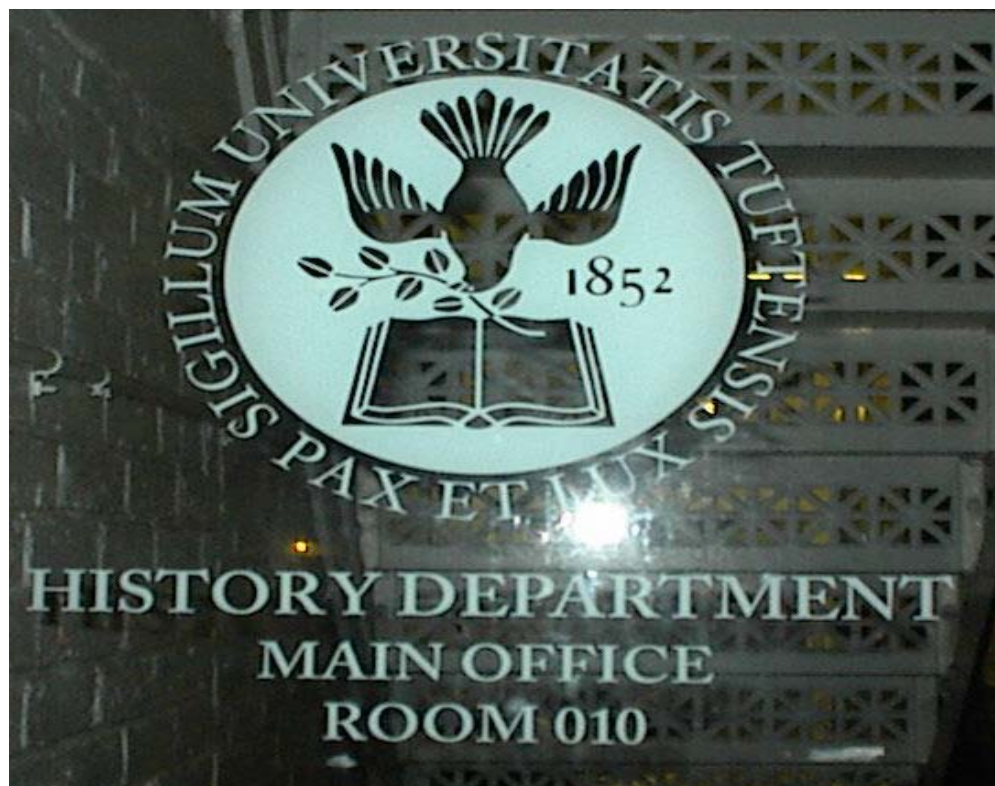
*East Hall Gallery*



Graduate Student Anita Gombos



Deputy Department Chair--Professor Gerald R. Gill



*Due to technical difficulties, the photos of Professors Manz, Malchow and Penvenne that were originally slated for this issue will appear in our May issue.*