

HISTORY FROM THE HILL

VOLUME XII, ISSUE I FALL 2005

FROM THE CHAIR

BY VIRGINIA DRACHMAN

Welcome back to Tufts. I hope you each had a restful and productive summer.

As we begin our fall semester, I would like to mention a few new developments in the department.

First, I am delighted to welcome Professor Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, who will hold the position of the Prince of Asturias Chair in Spanish Culture and Civilization. Prof. Fernandez-Armesto comes to us from the University of London, where he served as Professor of Global Environmental History and Professor of History and Geography at Queen Mary, and the Director of the Programme in Global History at the Institute of Historical Research. His many books, which in-

clude the best-selling *Millennium* (1995), *Civilizations* (2000) and *Food* (2001), have been translated into over 20 different languages. A future issue of the History newsletter will introduce Prof. Fernandez-Armesto in more detail. In the meantime, we heartily welcome him to Tufts.

I would also like to welcome Dale Edwyna Smith and Fathi El-Shihibi, who will be Lecturers in the History Department for this 05/06 academic year. Prof. Smith received her doctoral degree in the History of American Civilization from Harvard University in 1993. She comes to us from Roger Williams University where she was a Visiting Assistant Professor of History and American Studies. At Tufts, she



Virginia Drachman

will teach courses in Early American history.

Prof. El-Shihibi received his doctoral degree from Boston University in 1993. He comes to us from Northeastern University and will teach courses at Tufts on the Middle East.

I am delighted to welcome back from their leaves Professors Howard

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WHAT'S NEWS IN EAST HALL

Professor **Ina Baghdiantz McCabe** returns from sabbatic leave having spent the year researching, writing and doing a lot of editing including co-editing nineteen articles by historians Jonathan Israël, Anthony Reid,

William Clarence Gervase-Smith and many other colleagues on *Diaspora networks*. This interdisciplinary book, *Diaspora and Entrepreneurial Networks 1600-2000* (eds. Baghdiantz McCabe, Ina; Gelina Harlaftis, Ionna Minoglu, edi-

tors. (Berg, Oxford, 2005). has just appeared in England and is also published by Pelgrave in the United States. She will also be hosting a series of talks on Diaspora networks at Tufts, the first of which will be on Greek

shipping diaspora networks in the Mediterranean, given by Professor Gelina Harlaftis on October 5th, 5 p.m. on the seventh floor of Cabot.

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THE NEW FACES OF HISTORY

Professor Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, Prince of Asturias Chair in Spanish Culture and Civilization

Professor Fernandez-Armesto comes to Tufts from the University of London, where he has served as Professor of Global Environmental History and Professor of History and Geography at Queen Mary, and the Director of the Programme in Global History at the Institute of Historical Research. He is also a member of the Faculty of Modern History at the University of Oxford. His many academic honors include the Caird Medal, the John Carter Brown Gold Medal, a Fellowship

of the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Study, the Union Pacific Visiting Professorship (University of Minnesota), and membership of the Faculties of the World Economic Forum and the European Technology Forum. His books, which include the bestselling *Millennium* (1995), *Civilizations* (2000) and *Food* (2001), have been translated into over 20 different languages. His broadcasting credits include writing and presenting Channel 4's *Confessions of an Arms Dealer* and BBC2's *Henry V*, and contributing to BBC2's TONY award-winning series *Armada*. He also worked on *Millennium*, a ten-part BBC / CNN series based on his book, and

regularly presents BBC Radio 4's current affairs programme, *Analysis*. He is Joint Editor-in-Chief of the Malaspina Project of the Hakluyt Society, a large international collaborative work involving scholars from eight countries, among several other editorial positions. He also organizes numerous symposia and exhibitions, including events for Charterhouse, the Hakluyt Society, the Institute of Historical Research, the Instituto Cervantes, the Bodleian Library and the British Council.

Lecturer Dr. Dale Edwynna Smith

Dr. Smith obtained her doctoral degree in the History of American

Civilization from Harvard University in 1993. Her scholarly work joins history, literature, and cultural criticism to examine questions such as: is race "real" and what are some of the ways race has influenced the creation of American identity, the evolution of American culture, and the idea of progress? Most recently she has served as Visiting Assistant Professor of History and American Studies at Roger Williams University. She has also taught at St. Louis University, Washington University, College of the Holy Cross, and Suffolk University. She is the author of *The Slaves of Liberty: Freedom in Amite County, Mississippi, 1820-1968*.

CIVIL WAR LETTERS

At the beginning of July, Max Felker-Kantor, a Tufts University student, stepped into the Gilder Lehrman Collection's vault in New York City and viewed letters written by Laurens Wolcott, a soldier from Illinois who fought in the Civil War. He was the first person ever to study these documents. Felker-Kantor, a Salt Lake City, Utah native, is one of fifteen Gilder Lehrman History Scholars selected from more than 300 undergraduate applicants nationwide. The scholars studied at Columbia University for six weeks in a program that combines historical research, seminars with eminent historians, and behind-the-scenes tours of

rare archives in New York City. Each scholar had the opportunity to produce original research resulting from his or her work.

During the program, each scholar researched the Civil War correspondence of a soldier from one of fifteen states. He or she prepared an inventory of the collection for use by future scholars and then prepared pamphlets to be used for high school classes focusing on local history. Each pamphlet has an introductory essay about the soldier, where he came from, and how the home front remained important during the war.

Applicants to the scholarship program this year represented 186 col-

leges and universities across the United States. This year's scholars hail from some of the top colleges and universities in the country, including Yale University, Rutgers University, Cornell University, State University of New York at Oneonta, Princeton University, Grinnell College and the University of Chicago.

"These are the brightest young historians in America," said Professor James G. Basker, president of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, which sponsors the program. "We see them as a kind of Rhodes Scholar among history majors. We hope this spurs them all to consider careers as scholarly histori-

ans in the future."

Now in its third year, the Gilder Lehrman History Scholars Program has included students who have gone on to history graduate programs at Columbia University, the University of Michigan, and the University of North Carolina. Many are working for history research organizations. One is a winner of the renowned Marshall Scholarship. Another was recently awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

In addition to the fifteen Gilder Lehrman History Scholars, forty-five finalists recently took part in a one-week compressed ver-

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WHAT'S NEWS

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Professor **Gerald Gill** gave a presentation on the history of school desegregation in Boston and the history of METCO at the Conference of METCO Directors in December. In February he gave a presentation on the Civil Rights Movement to a delegation of reporters and academics from the Slovak Republic sponsored by World Boston. He also gave a presentation to a group of Boston High School teachers on the 1963 March on Washington. In March he was interviewed for the WGBH program "Beyond Black and White," an examination of race in Boston's increasingly diverse public schools. He was a panel moderator at the "Paul Robeson Conference" at Lafayette College in April. In July he was interviewed for two prospective documentary films, one on Freedom Summer 1964 and the other on Racial Violence in the South.

He was a member of the planning committee for the forthcoming exhibit "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation" to be on display in Tisch Library beginning in October. He is also a member of the planning committee for the program "Power and Protest: The Civil Rights Movement in Boston, 1960-1968" to be held in the fall of 2006.

Professor **Jeanne Marie Penvenne** will be returning to Tufts this semester after a year of teaching, lecturing, and writing in Mozambique on a Fulbright Award. She established and taught a new course on African historiography while acting as Visiting Professor of African history in Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), Mozambique's national university. Despite limited high-speed internet connections at the university, Professor Penvenne hopes to retain a voice at the school via web-based collaboration, especially concerning UEM's Masters and Doctorate-level education.

In addition to her teaching accomplishments, Professor Penvenne gave several lectures including two keynote addresses at international conferences held in Maputo as well as lectures on the history of Mozambique at the US Embassy and the Office of the Peace Corps.

With a book manuscript in hand and her chapter in Twentieth Century Settlers published in June 2005, Professor Penvenne has much to show for her work abroad.

Professor **Martin J. Sherwin's** latest book, American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer (Knopf, 2005), was released this past April to rave reviews from the *Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Time* magazine and a host of others. The culmination of almost 30 years of work, American Prometheus examines the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer literally from "cradle to grave." With co-author Kai Bird (who joined the project in its later stages), Sherwin has composed a work that, as Janet Maslin of *The New York Times* put it in her April 25, 2005 review, "aligns its subject's most critical decisions with both his early education and his ultimate unraveling. It succeeds in deeply fathoming his most damaging, self-contradictory behavior. "American Prometheus" is a thorough examination and synthesis. . ."

Professor **Reed Ueda** returns from leave as a Research Associate at the Harvard Center for American Political Studies where he worked on the New Americans Project with Mary C. Waters and Helen Marrow of the Harvard Sociology Department.

He also finished his term as Advisory Editor to the New Dictionary of the History of Ideas, published by Charles Scribner's Sons. This six-volume compendium is an update of the classic Dictionary of the History of Ideas (edited by Philip Wiener, Felix Gilbert, Isaiah Berlin et al) published by Scribner's in 1973.

Professor Ueda is now an Associate of the New Global History Initiative organized by Bruce Mazlish of MIT and Akira Iriye of Harvard.

A VIEW FROM THE HILL—EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

History from the Hill is looking for new graduate and undergraduate editors! If you are interested, please contact David Proctor at david.proctor@tufts.edu or by phone at x73213.

I am also pleased to announce that we have added an archives section to the newsletter website. You can now view issues reaching back to 1999.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to this edition of the newsletter: Professors Drachman, Marcopoulos, Baghdiantz McCabe, Penvenne, Sherwin and Ueda. A special thank-you to Professor Gerald Gill for supplying the bulk of our alumni updates and to Sameera Qureshi who served as Assistant Editor of this edition. .

As always, the production of the newsletter would not be possible without the able assistance of History Department Secretary and Newsletter Copy Editor, Mary-Ann Kazanjian.

2005 HISTORY AWARDS

Each year, the Department of History awards a series of prizes to deserving Tufts undergraduates. Here are the prizes that were awarded in spring 2005 and their recipients.

The **Albert H. Imlah European History Prize** is presented for distinguished work in the history of Western civilization. The History Department awarded the 2005 Imlah European History Prize to **Kristen Manzillo** (LA '07) and **Laurin Miller** (LA '05).

The **Albert H. Imlah Excellence in History Prize** is awarded to a senior by the History De-

partment in recognition of outstanding achievement in History. This year's recipient of the Imlah Excellence in History Prize was **Kiril Johnson** (LA '05).

The **Russell E. Miller History Prize** is awarded to an undergraduate of exceptional ability whose participation in advanced history courses has demonstrated an eagerness to explore problems of historical analysis and interpretation. The History Department presented the 2005 Miller History Prize to **Phillip A. Hummel** (LA '05).

The **Prospect Hill Chapter, Daughters of**

the **Revolution Prize Scholarship** is awarded on recommendation of the History Department to a student demonstrating marked interest in American colonial history as well as excellence in scholarship. This year's Daughter of the Revolution Prize Scholarship was awarded to **Geoffrey Downs** (LA '05).

The **Vida H. Allen Prize** is awarded annually to the undergraduate History major who is judged to have written the best honors thesis during that academic year. The recipient of the 2005 Vida H. Allen Prize was **Sunil Pu-**

rushotham (LA '05).

His thesis was entitled "Labor, Empire, and Indians in Trinidad: A History of the Indian Indentured Labor system and the Indo-Trinidadian People, 1845-1917."

The History Department congratulates all the 2005 prize recipients and compliment them all on their hard work and outstanding performance.

Well done!

ALUMNI NEWS

Thom Amdur (LA '03) is Associate director at the National Housing and Rehabilitation Association in Washington, D.C.

Dr. **Nicole Brodsky**, (LA '93) finished a documentary film, "Sage," a study of the lives and activities of a group of elderly residents of Boston. The film premiered at the Boston Public Library in February 2005.

Amy Cronin (LA '04) is currently a high school coach of a volleyball team in Seattle.

Heather B. Decker (LA '05) will be the site coordinator for National Student Partnerships located in Davis

Square. She will oversee Tufts volunteers who advise low-income or homeless people in finding jobs, housing and health care.

Dr. John Dizgun (LA '94) was hired as an assistant professor at Western Kentucky University, where he teaches courses in Latin American History.

Mary Doyle (LA '03) and **Kim Fox** (LA '02) received masters degrees from the Education Management and Policy Program at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Mary had an article published, "From Desegregation to Resegregation: Public Schools in Norfolk, Virginia, 1954-2002," in the Winter-Spring 2005 issue of the Journal of

African American History. Mary Doyle also co-authored an op-ed piece on New York City public school performance on city and state Math and English Language Arts exams. She has accepted employment as the Pilot Schools Program Developer at the Center for Collaborative Education.

Fatimah Fanusie (GS '01) has completed her coursework for her Ph.D. at Howard University. She is currently in India doing research on her dissertation topic, "Fard Muhammad in Historical Context: An Islamic Thread in The American Religious and Cultural Quilt."

Rebecca Frank (LA '05) was accepted into the Teach for America Program and will be teach-

ing in New York City.

Hilary Green (GS '03) is starting the Ph.D. program in Post-Civil War Southern History at the University of North Carolina.

Gwynne Langley (GS '04) is starting the Ph.D. program in Nineteenth-Twentieth Century Labor History at University of Illinois-Chicago Circle.

David Lieberman (LA '05) is starting law school at the University of Pennsylvania.

Erin Lindsay (LA '04) is a marketing analyst at Vocus, Inc. in Lanham, MD.

Cyndi Lobel, (LA '92) is teaching courses in American History at Connecticut College.

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CIVIL WAR SUMMER: INTERNSHIP AT THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MIDDLETOWN, CT

The average internship is a six-to-nine week summer program, a “crash course” in a field that the intern finds interesting. Though they usually have some hands-on interaction with the professionals in their fields, interns are often given the “dirty work” of the business. They are required to do the photocopying, entering of data and writing of reports, or, as in my case, the cataloging of cannon balls and the labeling of rusting Revolutionary and Civil War era swords.

I guess that qualification would indicate that my summer was spent in a little more than an average internship. My six-week “crash course” in my field was an introduction to the running of a small museum: I was one of two student interns for the Middlesex County Historical Society in Middletown, Connecticut. Like many historical societies, the Middlesex County Historical Society struggles for every penny of its funding. There is only one staff member, and the Historical Society has only limited resources for maintaining the collection, organizing, cataloging, and presenting exhibits.

Therefore, the traditional role of the intern is expanded significantly. My primary project was the outlining of a multimedia presentation using the words of Civil War soldiers. The words of these soldiers, gathered from the Society’s collection of Civil War era letters, was to be juxtaposed over images of artifacts of the period in a design that is to become part of the future expansion of the Society’s permanent Civil War exhibit. Though I had other projects, including an extensive project involving the cataloging of the Society’s military collection, it was with this project that I became most engrossed.

The extensive Civil War letters collection contains letters written by soldiers fighting for both the North and the South, from all social classes and walks of life. Some letters were even written by wives of these soldiers. Though the origin of these letters and how they arrived at the Historical Society is often unknown, they provide a fascinating glimpse into the life of an American in the 1860s. The letters allow an idea of the sentiments of the individual, both at home and on the battlefield, far more than a dry historical account can ever allow. I found that reading the letters allowed me a greater understanding than I ever would have dreamed possible of the life of the individuals involved, from the Hospital Steward poet to the uneducated, struggling farm family. These letters form an often unexplored, yet deeply important part of the history of the United States of America.

My time at the Historical Society taught me much about American history. It also taught me some of the important challenges that those seeking to maintain a connection with it face. In America’s march forward, it has, unfortunately, destroyed much of its past. Few groups are willing to advocate for the preservation of historic sights and even fewer of that of historic artifacts. Much of the pieces that form America’s history are housed in small museums and local historical societies. Sadly, many are literally disappearing forever from the puzzle as they crumble from lack of maintenance – often because there simply is not enough funding to maintain them and preserve them for the future. Historians in this country, especially those working within small museums and collections, will have to face a continuing challenge if they want to be able to preserve the artifacts that form so much of our history. Hopefully, it is one that they will recognize and meet fully.



Bryna O'Sullivan

HISTORY FROM THE HILL

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CHAIR

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Malchow, Ina McCabe, Jeanne Penvenne, Martin Sherwin, and Reed Ueda. We are happy to have them all back in East Hall. I wish the best to Profs. Ayesha Jalal and George Marcopoulos as they embark on their leaves this fall. I extend best wishes to Professors Evan Haefeli and Awad Halabi as they begin their new positions at Columbia University and Wright State University respectively. And I offer a warm welcome to our new group of graduate students.

Finally, as I embark on my second year as Chair of the History Department, I do so with gratitude to four people: Prof. Gerald Gill, Deputy Chair; Annette Lazzara, Department Administrator; Margaret Casey, Staff Assistant; and Mary Ann Kazanjian, Secretary. As the business of the new academic year begins, I would like to express my deep appreciation to them for all their help.

CIVIL WAR

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sion of the program. These finalists met with eminent scholars, as well as history professionals outside academia, and visited important archives and museums across New York City.

Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History promotes the study and love of American history. Increasingly national and international in scope, the Institute targets audiences ranging from students to scholars to the general public. It creates history-centered schools and academic research centers, organizes seminars and enrichment programs for educators, produces print and electronic publications and traveling exhibitions, and sponsors lectures by eminent historians. The Institute also funds awards including the Lincoln, Frederick Douglass and George Washington Book Prizes and offers fellowships for scholars to work in history archives, including the Gilder Lehrman Collection, which includes more than 60,000 American historical documents.

ALUMNI

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Ajay Malhotra (LA '03) is a first-year student at the University of Southern California School of Medicine.

Elisa Martinez (LA '02) completed her first year in the MPH Program at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Her adviser is **Michael Yudell** (LA '90). Both Elisa and Michael were departmental advisees of Gerald Gill.

Sydney McKinney (LA '05) is starting the Ph.D. program in Public Health at Columbia University.

Christopher Mitchell (LA '02) is working at Adventis, a consulting firm in Boston.

Carlos Montalvan (LA '04) received his MAT degree from Tufts and will begin teaching high school American History in Lawrence, MA.

David Naumec (GS '04) is working as an Archives Aide at the National Archives and Records Administration in Waltham. In addition, he is working as a Research consultant at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Ledyard, Connecticut.

Ethan Pollock (LA '91) is an assistant professor in the History Department of Syracuse University where he teaches courses in Russian History and the History of Science

Amy Rutenberg (LA '99) is starting the Ph.D.

program in Twentieth Century American History at the University of Maryland. Amy has had an article published, "Tufts University's Involvement in Public School Desegregation in Boston, Massachusetts, 1960-1980" in the Winter-Spring 2005 issue of the Journal of African American History.

Adam Schurle (LA '05) spent the summer working for a non-profit group called the Fund For Public Interest Research. This fall, Adam will be moving to New Orleans to direct an office there.

Robert Sierakowski (LA '05) is starting the Ph.D. program in Latin American History at UCLA.

Jonathan Stein (LA '03) received a master's degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in Public Policy. Both Jon and **Phillip Hummel** (LA '05) will be starting Law School at Syracuse University.

Sahmra Stevenson-Smith (LA '05) is working in the Washington, D.C. office of Representative John Larson, Democrat of Connecticut.

Sarah Suponski (GS '05) is the administrative assistant to the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Laura Wulach (LA '04) is teaching English to adults and children in Santiago, Chile.