

# HISTORY FROM THE HILL

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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 already, is check out our department web-site at [ase.tufts.edu/history/](http://ase.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 the informal dialogue available 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 curricula that new faculty bring. History is fortunate this fall to welcome two new full-time members of our faculty: Assistant Professor **Kris Manjapra**, modern South Asia, and Assistant Professor **David Ekbladh**, America in the World. I urge you to get to know them and their special areas of interest. Prof. Manjapra is a scholar of, especially, South Asian cosmopolitanism, while Prof. Ekbladh is working on aspects of



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twentieth-century American “developmental” foreign policy.

Sadly we shall this year also lose two members of the department, colleagues who have enriched both History and the university community. Professor **Ya-Pei Kuo** has resigned to take a position at the Univer-

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## WHAT'S NEWS IN EAST HALL

Professor **Reed Ueda** will be a Research Associate at the Center for American Political Studies at Harvard University during the 2008-9 academic year.

Professor **Beatrice F. Manz**'s newest book, entitled *Power, Politics and Religion in Timurid Iran* (Cambridge University

Press, 2007), received the Houshang Pourshariati Iranian Studies Book Award from the Middle East Studies Association.

Professor **Leila Fawaz** was chosen in April 2008 as a Carnegie Scholar by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. “The Carnegie Scholars program was established by Vartan Gre-

gorian in 1999 to provide financial and intellectual support to writers, analysts and thinkers addressing some of the most critical research questions of our time. By identifying and investing in some of the brightest and most innovative contemporary thinkers, Carnegie Corporation seeks to inform its own programs

as well as to advance and diffuse knowledge that will uplift our nation and humanity. Since 2005, the program has supported scholars whose work seeks to promote American understanding of Islam as a religion,

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## THE NEW FACES OF HISTORY

### Assistant Professor David Ekbladh

David Ekbladh comes to Tufts from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, where he has been a Visiting Scholar for the past year. He received his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in History, all from Columbia University. He has been affiliated with the Humanities Center at Harvard and was awarded the John M. Olin Postdoctoral Fellowship in International Security Studies at Yale University. He has published several articles and is currently working on a book project, tentatively titled *The Great American Mission: Development and the Construction of an American World Order, 1914 to the Present*. David's teaching interests include U.S. foreign relations, the Cold War, history and international affairs in the Asia-Pacific, and international conflict prevention. He has taught courses at Yale University, American University, and

Johns Hopkins University. The Department of History welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

### Assistant Professor Kris Manjappa,

Kris Manjappa received his Ph.D. in History from Harvard University, as well as his A.M. and A.B. His fields of specialization include modern intellectual history, modern South Asia, modern Germany, and world history. He has been awarded numerous fellowships, including a UCLA Mellon Postdoc in the Humanities in 2007. He has a book forthcoming entitled *Cosmopolitan Thought Zones: New approaches to South Asian Intellectual History*. His teaching experience includes courses on cosmopolitanism, South Asian intellectual history, and German history. The Department of History welcomes him as Assistant Professor.

## TUFTS HISTORICAL REVIEW

The inaugural issue of the first-ever Tufts undergraduate History journal was (we proclaim humbly) a great success. Despite huge obstacles of under-funding, cynicism, and low interest, the Tufts Historical Review was successfully published in May 2008 - and featured our university's very own, very skilled historians. This issue included five academic articles handpicked and edited by the journal's Executive Board. These fine historians were also responsible for the culture section, reviewing a museum exhibition, movie, lecture, book and even a Tufts department! It was an honor working with the Board, and I wish them all the success for the coming year. For next year's Executive Board, in the words of Emerson - "hitch your wagon to the stars"!

BY SHREYA MAITRA & BENJAMIN SACKS

The Editorial Board is delighted to announce that pivotal steps toward the future success and development of the Tufts Historical Review are already underway. The Journal is currently under review with the Library of Congress for ISSN certification, a move necessary for the increased distribution of the Tufts Historical Review. The Journal is currently under review for inclusion with the library collections at Harvard, Columbia, Cornell, Georgetown, the University of Vermont, the University of New Hampshire, the College of William & Mary, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. We are also planning to create a formal website for the Tufts Historical Review, and add new members to the staff! An exciting year is in store for 2008-2009 indeed!

## HISTORY SOCIETY UPDATE

The undergraduate History Society is back in action for the 2008-2008 academic year.. In addition to working on the second edition of the *Tufts Historical Review*, the History Society will also sponsor a film series and various trips throughout the year. The first general

meeting will be announced shortly. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Society President Elizabeth Metzger at [elizabeth.metzger@tufts.edu](mailto:elizabeth.metzger@tufts.edu) or David Proctor at [david.proctor@tufts.edu](mailto:david.proctor@tufts.edu).

## NOTEBOOK

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Assistant Editor-in-Chief Benjamin Sacks, (LA'09), along with a talented committee including Matt Sobin, (LA'08), Jessica Waters, (LA'08), Claire Cooley, (LA'10), and Nicholas Russell, (GS'12), worked diligently throughout the year and produced an outstanding publication. Benjamin and Shreya are even now beginning to lay the groundwork for a second volume.

As the 2008-09 year begins, I am struck by how very lucky so many of us are to work and learn at Tufts. We truly do have some of the most talented and caring faculty along with students who are not only exceptional young scholars, but exceptional people. As we continue to grow as a university, we must not lose site of the unique student-faculty/staff synergy that has developed here, a relationship based on a shared intellectual curiosity, mutual respect and a real concern for each other.

## 2008 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 2008 and their recipients.

The **Albert H. Imlah European History Prize** is presented for distinguished work in the history of Western civilization. The year's prize was awarded to **Anthony Caccavo**, (LA'08), and **Susan Allegretti**, (LA'09).

The **Albert H. Imlah Excellence in History Prize** is awarded to a senior in recognition of outstanding achievement in History. This year's recipients of the Imlah Excel-

lence in History Prize were **Bryna O'Sullivan**, (LA'08), and **Hannah Shawn**, (LA'08)

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 2008 Miller History Prize was presented to **Alexander Birkhold**, (LA'08).

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 prize scholarship was awarded to **Jennifer Scherck**, (LA'08)

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.

This year's recipient was **Alexander Birkhold**, (LA'08). In his thesis, "Apathie order Aktion," Alex explored the reaction of German immigrants in the nineteenth-century United States to patterns of assimilation and

nativism. His research focused on German-language writings by German immigrants in order to reconstruct views and debate from within the immigrant community. The scope of Alex's research involved investigating anti-German nativism and German immigrant response in a wide area including Minnesota, Maryland, Texas, Louisiana, and Kentucky. He found that from the early nineteenth century, German immigrants tended to move from an assimilationist to a cultural pluralist stance which by the turn of the century became affected by nationalism.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Alexander Grosinger**, (LA'08), has enrolled this fall in the Tufts University Premedical Post Baccalaureate Program.

**Bryna O'Sullivan**, (LA'08), is a first-year PhD student in the Department of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research while at UNC will focus on African-American participation in the military of the Civil War with an emphasis on the Confederacy.

**Meredith Pickett**, (LA'08), is the press assistant for Senator Byron Dorgan, D-ND. She loves her job and is very

much enjoying being a part of the history that is being made every day in the US Capitol. She finds it a very exciting and interesting place to work.

Just a week after graduation, **Jessica Waters**, (LA'08), began work as an Editorial Assistant specializing in non-fiction at Bantam Dell, a division of Random House. Though initially bewildered by the chaos of the working world, Jessica continues to work her way through the publishing industry's apprentice system. She finds her job quite delightful, and on any given day may be found picking out book-covers, writing up market-

ing plans, drafting contracts, or reading book proposals. Soon enough she will be able to acquire her own manuscripts and edit them on her own. The whole process, she says, is an education in itself, and her superiors are quite pleased with the breadth of her knowledge, especially in history and political science. The predominance of English majors creates just such a lacuna, and Ms. Waters is happy to fill it. She is currently editing a one volume history of the Tudor reign. There could hardly be a better fit.

**Jillian Harrison**, (LA'06), is currently in her second year at Duke Law

School.

**Kate Sadlosky**, (LA'06) currently serves as Assistant Program Officer at The International Republican Institute, managing three programs -- a political party program in Mexico, a civil society program in Mexico, and a regional think tank program in Mexico and Honduras. Every few months she travels to the region for budgetary and programmatic oversight. Because of her familiarity with the region, she is often consulted for other programs, particularly those dealing with Colombia and Venezuela.

## MEET ALISHA RANKIN—FACULTY PROFILE

*In the style of newsletters past, **History from the Hill** has opted to run a faculty profile of Professor Rankin. We asked Assistant Professor Alisha Rankin to tell us a bit about herself and her first year at Tufts.*

I feel extremely privileged to have joined the history faculty at Tufts. When I visited for my job interview on a frigid day in February 2006, I was immediately struck by the friendliness of the department and by the lovely setting of the campus. Having done my bachelor's degree at Wellesley College and my Ph.D. at Harvard University, the Boston area still feels like home to me, and it is wonderful to return—despite those chilly February days!

If you had told me the first time I watched the Beelzebubs perform at Wellesley back in 1992 that I would end up teaching history at Tufts, I would have thought you were mad. Entering college, I wanted to be a novelist. Strangely enough, though, I kept accidentally taking history classes instead of writing classes, and I finally gave in and declared myself a history major. (It's a good thing, because I would have been a very bad novelist.) I spent my junior year abroad in Konstanz, Germany, where I had a fascinating class on early modern social history. Back at Wellesley, I took a senior seminar on women and medicine in medieval Europe. These two courses helped cement what would become my main research interest: gender and medicine in early modern Germany.

Leaving Wellesley, I received a one-year Fulbright fellowship for study in Munich, and I thought I might want to go to graduate school after that—but one of my favorite professors gave me some sage words of advice, which I always repeat to students who come talk to me about doing a Ph.D.: “Just because you've always been a student,” he said, “doesn't mean you always have to be. Think about taking some time off and doing something different.” I did just that—I stayed in Germany for a total of three years, working part-time at a bank and trying out different career ideas. In the end, though, I decided that history was what I really loved doing.

I was lucky enough to be accepted in the History of Science Ph. D. program at Harvard, where I hit upon a question that intrigued me. Numerous books on the history of medicine noted that women provided a great deal of medical care within the household in early modern Europe, but nowhere were any details given. Was this true? I wondered. And if so, what sort of healing did they do? As it turned out, there was a wealth of sources on exactly this topic waiting to be mined in several archives in Germany. The state archive and university library in Dresden both held enormous amounts of information about the medical activities of Electress Anna of Saxony (1532-85), and the University of Heidelberg informed me that they owned nearly 200 sixteenth-century medical recipe collections, many with references to women. At these places and others, I soon realized that a number of very elite noblewomen became quite famous for their medicine. This topic became the focus of my dissertation and of my first book, Paracea's Daughters: Noblewomen and the Art of Healing in Early Modern Germany, which I finished just this summer.

I come to you most recently from England, where I had a research fellowship at Trinity College, part of the University of Cambridge. Academic culture in Cambridge, I quickly learned, is a whole different world from colleges and universities in the United States. As a Fellow of Trinity, I had a host of unusual privileges. My mail got delivered to my office every day by a porter wearing a bowler hat. A special key let me into all sorts of secret places, including a bowling green along the river and a rickety, winding staircase up to the roof of the Wren Library. I also had the right to eat at “high table,” a small dais in the ornate dining hall overlooking the tables where the undergraduates and graduate students eat. Dinner at high table was a three-course affair involving gongs, Latin prayers, and black academic gowns. Think Harry Potter without the wands.

As fascinating and intellectually stimulating as my experience in Cambridge was, I decided to apply for the job at Tufts as soon as I saw the ad. The idea of working at Tufts immediately appealed to me; it seemed like the perfect combination of a liberal arts college and a research university. In my years at Wellesley, I loved the small classes full of discussion, and I was excited by the idea of being able to teach in a similar style here. I also liked the prospect of being able to teach in all of my three areas of interest: early modern history, gender studies, and the history of medicine and science. Tufts' commitment to research has been impressive in recent years, and every historian at Cambridge I told about the job commented on the history department's prestigious reputation. What impressed me equally as much when I interviewed was the affable and collegial feel to the place. I was thrilled



**Assistant Professor Alisha Rankin**

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## RANKIN

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when I got the job.

My optimism about Tufts only strengthened once I arrived this January. It is a very dynamic, interesting place to be, not least because of the excellent students. I also find Tufts' global focus exciting, and it will certainly affect the way I teach my history of science and history of public health classes in the future. Most importantly, people here—faculty, staff, and students alike—are just as friendly and supportive as my first impression indicated.

During my two-and-a-half years at Cambridge, I was surprised by how much I missed teaching. I did some lectures and thesis advising, but it wasn't the same as having my own classes. In that sense it really wasn't that painful to leave my fellowship a year and a half early. For me, teaching is crucial to good academic research. In every course I've taught, students have asked questions that made me think about a problem or a topic in a different way. I am particularly looking forward to the two classes I am teaching this fall, because they fit into two of my main areas of research. My next book will focus on gender, the body, and illness, and I am sure that students' perceptions in my seminar on the history of the body and sexuality will give me new insight in ways to think about that project. I am also teaching a survey class on health and healing in medieval and early modern Europe, which has been my main research interest since graduate school.

If teaching helps stimulate my approach to research, it seems only fair for me to use my experience as a researcher to make my teaching more interesting. In particular, I tend to use primary sources to get students to "think themselves into" past eras—to understand not only what people thought and did, but why. As much as possible, I have students work with some archival sources, which often give a very different perspective on history than printed works. In my mind, history is much more about solving puzzles than it is about knowing names and dates, and the more students can develop these analytical tools, the better.

I also like to give students a feel for what the sources we use actually looked like in their original form. In my thematic course this past spring on the family in early modern Europe, I brought the class to Houghton Library at Harvard to see (and touch) some of the rare books from which we had read texts in the course, and I will repeat that experience with my seminar this fall. As students in both of my classes this fall will discover, I also teach students how to read sixteenth- and seventeenth-century typefaces. There are so many early printed books scanned in online these days, it really opens up the kinds of primary sources students can access if they learn a couple of tricks about reading them.

My impression of Tufts' students so far is very positive. I taught only one class this past spring, but my students were inquisitive and diligent. The high quality of the students is one of the reasons I wanted to come to Tufts, and I am very pleased that I haven't been let down.

In short, although I have been at Tufts only one semester so far, I feel at home in the history department already. I truly enjoy my job, which is a lucky and rare thing! Tufts is a wonderful place to work, and I very much look forward to the coming year.

## CHAIR

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sity of Leiden in the Netherlands and Professor **Felipe Armesto-Fernandez**, our distinguished Asturias Chair in Hispanic Civilization, must return to Britain after the fall semester. Fortunately we have been able to bring to Tufts a promising young scholar, **Tsong-han Lee**, from Harvard to offer two courses this year in Chinese history. Other part-time faculty who will offer courses this year to help us maintain the breadth of our curriculum include **Colleen Worrell** in African American and **Sharam Shadbash** in Middle Eastern history. I urge you to make use of the unique opportunity these interesting scholars offer us this fall and next spring.

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, to get to know faculty and to help plan undergraduate events. Last year the society launched an impressive journal to publish the best work of our majors.

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

### HISTORY FROM THE HILL

*NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY*

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## WHAT'S NEWS

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the characteristics of Muslim societies, in general, and those of American Muslim communities, in particular.” ([http://www.carnegie.org/sub/news/2008\\_scholars.html](http://www.carnegie.org/sub/news/2008_scholars.html)). Professor Fawaz’s project is entitled *The Experience of War: Muslims in the Middle East and South Asia, 1914-1920* and will examine the globalizing influences of the First World War on Islamic identities.

Professor **Ayesha Jalal’s** book entitled Partisans of Allah: Jihad of South Asia was published in the spring of 2008 by Harvard University Press.

Professor **Benjamin Carp** is spending this academic year on sabbatical working on his manuscript on the Boston Tea Party for Yale University Press. His first book, Rebels Rising: Cities and the American Revolution, (Oxford University Press, 2007) has been scheduled for paperback publication in 2009.

Professor **Ina Baghdiantz-McCabe’s** book, Orientalism in Early Modern France: Eurasian Trade, Exoticism and the Ancien Regime (Berg, Oxford), was published in spring 2008. In addition, Professor Baghdiantz-McCabe was the recipient of the Faculty Research Awards Committee's Distinguished Scholarship Award in May 2008.

A committee including Professors **Baghdiantz-McCabe, Carp** and **Ueda** was formed to organize a series to honor the memory of Professor Gerald R. Gill. They organized, with the support of the Provost and the Fares Center, the Gill Lecture Series in fall 2007 composed of three lectures. Three promising young scholars in the field of African American history presented scholarly papers on fields ranging from “Discourses on Black Criminality in the Making of the Segregated Urban North” (Khalil Muhammad), “Journeymen: Race, Boxing, and the Transnational World of Jack Johnson” (Theresa Rundstedtler), to “The Beginning of the Long Civil Rights Movement with ‘Plenty of Opposition’” (Leslie Brown). The events were well attended by students and faculty from across the university community.

The department is pleased to welcome back from leave Professors **Virginia Drachman, Ayesha Jalal, Beatrice Manz, Jeanne Penvenne** and **Peter Winn**.

## A VIEW FROM THE HILL—EDITOR’S NOTEBOOK

I want to take this opportunity to offer my sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to this edition of *History from the Hill*. Thanks go to Professors Malchow, Baghdiantz-McCabe, Carp, Fawaz, Rankin and Ueda as well as Department Administrator Annette Lazzara. Thank you also to our alumni and current students for sharing their information and ideas. Perhaps most importantly, a very big thank-you to our intrepid copy editor, Mary-Ann Hagopian.

As this new academic year dawns, *History from the Hill* celebrates its 15th anniversary. We were one of the very first departmental newsletters to be published at Tufts and our success has been emulated by many others over the years. I myself have been involved with this newsletter for 12 of those 15 years. Looking back over previous issues these last few weeks, two things stood out clearly to me, the exceptional nature of the department faculty and the outstanding ability of our students. Both of those elements were perhaps no more clearly presented than in the events of the 2007-2008 academic year. We began that year with such profound sadness following the death of beloved professor, scholar, friend and colleague, Gerald R. Gill. Our collective grief as a department and community was tempered by the realization of just how much this extraordinary individual had contributed to the lives of so many at Tufts and beyond. His students, some of whom had already begun to work with him on research papers and theses, became more and more determined as the fall 2007 semester commenced, to complete their

work, not only for themselves, but as a tribute to Professor Gill and his belief in them. To see them persevere throughout the year and complete their respective projects was truly impressive. Their commitment to their research was combined with a desire to honor the faith that Professor Gill had had in each of them.

In addition, a pet project of Professor Gill was the regeneration of the undergraduate History Society. He had been a force of encouragement to the society for years, but he had hoped, even when he was to be on sabbatical in the fall of 2007, to help facilitate the growth and stabilization of the History Society in 2007-08. Once again, his students made sure that that desire became a reality. Led by two of his advisees, Bryna O’Sullivan, (LA’08) and Meredith Pickett, (LA’08), the History Society was brought back to life stronger than it had been in years. The society organized a series of trips including a guided walk along the Freedom Trail in Boston and a visit to the Royall House right here in Medford. The society also coordinated a successful film series and a Trivial Pursuit night. Membership remained solid throughout the academic year and the new President for 2008-09, Elizabeth Metzger, (LA’11), along with Vice-President Adam Evans, (LA’11), are prepared to surpass the successes 2007-08.

The History Society also formed a subcommittee of students who were determined to publish a new and highly professional research journal. Subcommittee chair and Editor-in-Chief Shreya Maitra, (LA’09), and

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