

# NEWS



## *of the History Department at Boston University*

September 2008

### **New academic year begins**

The 2008-09 academic year opens with a substantial number of faculty on leave, several full-time replacements for those instructors, one new tenure-track appointee, and one faculty search.

Those on leave this year are Brooke Blower (full year), Charles Capper (full year), Arianne Chernock (full year), Barbara Diefendorf (spring semester), Anna Geifman (fall), Thomas Glick (spring), Bruce Schulman (full year), Jonathan Zatlin (full year). Heléna Tóth will replace Jonathan Zatlin; Paul Schmitz will replace Bruce Schulman; Samuel Deese will teach courses in American political history instead of the anticipated hire in US history (that search is still in progress).

Suzanne O'Brien, a specialist in modern Japanese history, is the department's newest member; this year she will teach the Japanese lecture course, a colloquium in Japanese history, a section of HI 200, and a new lecture course on the Samurai.

The department has received authorization (pending budgetary approval) to search for a scholar in modern Jewish history at the assistant-professor level. Advertisements have been placed, and visits to campus are expected to take place early in the new year. Professor Thomas Glick is chairing this search.

Professor Nina Silber has been named Director of Graduate Studies for 2008-09, and Professor Cathal Nolan will serve as Director of Undergraduate Studies; Professor Louis Ferleger will chair the Curriculum Committee. ♦

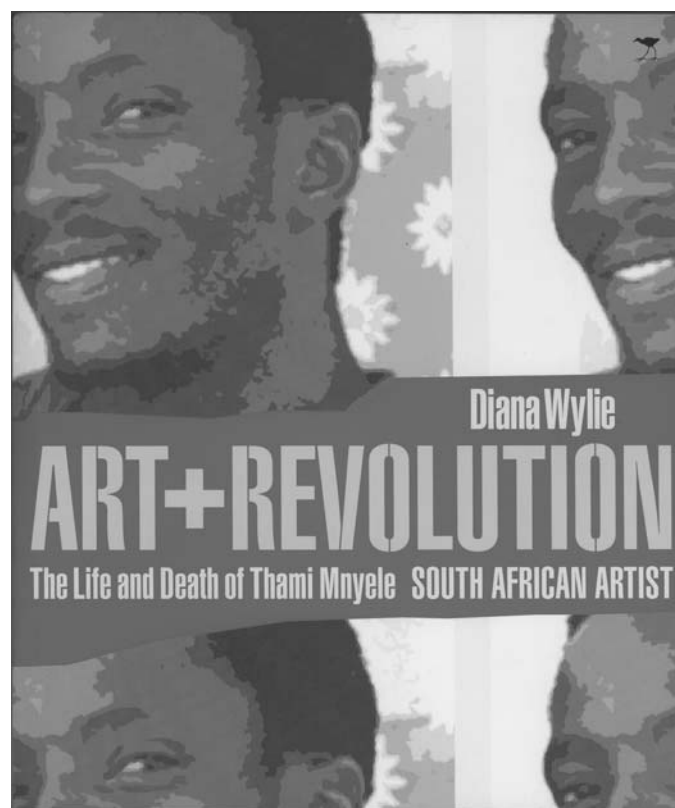
### **Diana Wylie authors work on South African artist**

Jacana Media of South Africa has recently published Professor Diana Wylie's newest book, *Art and Revolution: The Life and Death of Thami Mnyele, South African Artist*. We are pleased to reprint part of the Preface to the work:

**I**t began for me in an art museum in Africa. I was in Gaborone, Botswana, at lunchtime on a summer day in 1980 and the archives where I was researching my first book had just closed. With time on my hands, I wandered into the Botswana National Museum and Art Gallery. A one-man show was hanging on its walls. As I walked through the gallery, I saw images that brought me close to tears. The pictures showed me, better than words, how it felt to have a lid pressing down on your hopes and dreams. The drawings didn't shout. They weren't adorned with sentiment. They made statements that obviously came from deep inside the artist. 'Ah, yes,' I said to myself, 'now I see.'

Weeks later I met the artist, Thami Mnyele, whose story I tell in this book, and we became friends for a while. Five years later, when he died, I wrote down everything I could remember him having said. It seemed the only way to hold on to a remarkably sensitive man who had the talent to change the way people look at things. I was struck by the disparity between our fates. Born the same year as I, he died just weeks before I began my first long-term academic job, teaching African history at Yale University. I couldn't help comparing my trajectory with his: it was upsetting and humbling to come face to face with my relative privilege.

Hard times twisted, distorted, and broke up the story of Thami's life. Documents were lost and destroyed. Much valuable information was never recorded in the first place, and



memories are fading. The times did not always permit the sharing of confidences. Fearing that silence could lead to popular ignorance and finally to indifference and alienation, I have written this book.

That this account is fragmented is part of the story. Until I realised this truth, my difficulties in research made me anxious that I wouldn't be able to draw accurately even the major outlines of the man's life. Then I began to understand that the silences and the distortions in fact revealed the extreme insecurity that led Thami to make his political choices.

I never interviewed Thami. We simply talked: I never posed questions for purposes of constructing his life story. A private and reticent person, he did not mean to be the subject of a book. He might well have agreed with critic Janet Malcolm that biography is inescapably trivial because it cannot capture the kernel of a man; it cannot record a person's complexity as well as fiction can.

I have nevertheless soldiered on, partly because Thami's life strikes me as emblematic of his times. His story shows how varied are the causes and consequences of political commitment. We delude ourselves if we imagine we can understand the engine of social movements without investigating the private lives that drive them. Per-

sonal goals cannot but be bound up with political ones. Stories that stress one realm to the exclusion of the other fail to capture how decisions are really made and play out.

Paradoxes necessarily emerge when the personal is given its due. We might recognise when apparently political acts had personal roots and when a decent man belied his ideals. An honest and full-bodied biography makes it harder to subscribe to a simple definition of the hero. When a hero is a martyr, mythology is likely to flourish.

Few conventional sources like letters and diaries were available to help me tell the story of Thami Mnye. The national archives contain only two references to the Mnyeles: the documents pertaining to his parents' divorce in 1950, and an embargoed dossier on his half-brother, David, who was arrested in 1976. The schools Thami attended in Makapanstad and Natal kept no records of his work. In fact, his secondary school moved out of the buildings where he studied; they are now occupied by an entirely different institution. I was reduced to photographing a plaque on the wall and researching the school's history in the state archives. I found the texts Thami was likely to have studied at school by visiting a nearly derelict building owned by the Department of Education in Pretoria; unused and unvisited, the building houses a library of dust-covered books revealing how the world was authoritatively presented to a child in the 1950s. I drove to Rorke's Drift, his art school in rural Natal, only to find the place stripped clean of records.

The written record proved thin right through to the end of Thami's life. In 2003 I applied to the Department of Defence, Centre for Military Intelligence, for permission to read the files produced by military officials planning, executing, and reflecting on the raid that killed him. Nearly two years later, after my request had risen through the queue of documents whose declassification was requested, I paid to receive 889 pages of 'masked' documents. (The names of all participants were concealed.) Very little in those pages bears on the raid itself. The police archive is

equally unrevealing. Thami's former comrade, Tim Williams, now deputy national commissioner of police, found that all relevant police files had been destroyed before he began working there in 1994. Former comrades launched a similar effort to find art appropriated by the security police, but came up with nothing.

\* \* \* \* \*

The pictures drawn by Thami helped me tell his story. In conjunction with interviews, they opened the door on a man who was a player in key movements that were not simply trying to change, but actually to transform South African society.

Thami's work, however, is hard to find and it is not always well cared for. The staff at the National Museum and Art Gallery in Gaborone ripped the left side of 'Things fall apart' when removing it from its frame—a sign, perhaps, that the work doesn't have much popular resonance in a country where refugees were often seen as a problem. Insect holes and fungus afflict two other Mnye drawings stored there. Johannesburg's Standard Bank employees recently discovered and put in storage the 1976 version of 'Things fall apart', after years of not knowing the bank owned the drawing. The security police confiscated some of his work over the years, but they destroyed large sections of their archives. Short of cash, Thami's mother sold to an art dealer the drawing entitled 'There goes a man sad and deep in sorrow, like a river underground'; the only art remaining in her home is a faded reproduction of a seascape.

Thami's art can best be seen in the homes of his friends. Sometimes he gave them work to bring back to South Africa for safekeeping. At other times he sold drawings for low prices as a sign of friendship. The pictures are lovingly, though not publicly, preserved behind glass. They are dispersed around the globe, and can be found as far afield as Birmingham (England), Barcelona, Boston, London, Newry (Northern Ireland), and Stockholm.

How often did I use my imagination

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*Items of interest for publication and changes of address should be sent to the editor.*

to reconstruct the past? I tried to limit severely any flights of fancy. A careful reader will note when I have inserted hedging words like ‘probably’ to suggest a lack of hard data. (One example of this technique is in chapter 6 when I write that Mnyele was ‘probably’ of two minds about the fire-bombing of Sam Buti’s library.)

I did not use my imagination, but my professional training as a historian, to write the Afterword. I wanted to end the book with a statement of what the story of Thami’s life and death might mean, seen from a broad historical and artistic perspective and a vantage point two decades after his death. That summing-up chapter reflects a deep appreciation of Thami’s efforts to live honorably in punishing times. Writing it, I gained new appreciation of the dilemmas facing revolutionaries who must make leaps of faith that their actions will bring about a better world. At the same time, I understood better than ever before that, if they are to land anywhere near their goal, those leaps must be tempered with a dispassionate understanding of the strange and terrible workings of history. ♦



### Tenure and promotion for Jonathan Zatlin

In May, Jonathan Zatlin learned that he has been awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor, effective September 1. A specialist in modern German history, he is the author of *The Currency of Socialism: Money and Political Culture in East Germany* (Cambridge University Press). He holds a Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies during the 2008-09 academic year; he will use the fellowship to work on his new project, “Jews and Money: Economic Change and Cultural Anxiety in Germany, 1870-1990.”



Professor **Simon Payaslian** visited Armenia and Karabagh for research for two weeks, July 10-24. He met with a number of government officials, members of parliament, university faculty, and political activists.... He is currently working on a number of projects for publication, including the Armenian diasporan communities in the west and their relations with Armenia, an economic history of Armenia, and Armenian nationalism and literature in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.... Payaslian gave a day-long lecture at the Genocide and Human Rights University Program of the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at the University of Toronto, July 30. The summer program was sponsored by the Zoryan Institute of Toronto.

Professor **Allison Blakely** presented a paper entitled “Black Identity in France in a European Perspective” at a conference called “France Noire—Black France: The History, Poetics, and Politics of Blackness,” held June 6-7 at Columbia University’s Institute for Scholars at Reid Hall in Paris.

In July and August Professor **James McCann** took part in an online “Conversation” of the *American Historical Review* on the topic of environmental history. This program included five scholars invited by the *AHR* editor to discuss the emerging field of environmental history. Those invited to participate included Peter Perdue (Yale), Richard Hoffman (Toronto), Nancy Langston (Wisconsin), and Liz Sedrez (California, Long Beach). The exchange will be published in the fall by the *AHR*.... McCann also appeared on National Public Radio’s program “Here and Now” to discuss the issue of the international food price crisis and its impact on Ethiopia’s current famine condition.... McCann spent two

months in Ethiopia conducting field interviews with farmers and malaria field staff for his current book project, “Landscapes of Food, Landscapes of Disease,” which will reconstruct the agro-ecological history of a single village in southwest Ethiopia.... This summer he organized a mini-workshop on “Gender Knowledge and Disease Habitat” (funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and BU’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program) that included two Boston University undergraduates and women from the village of Waktola in southwest Ethiopia.... Also in August, Professor McCann gave an interview on BBC/PRI’s program “The World” concerning the role of maize (corn) in the global economy and its growing role in African economies—especially in the southern African country of Malawi.

Professor **Nina Silber** chaired and commented at a panel on Civil War veterans at the Society of Civil War Historians meeting in Philadelphia in June.... The following month she lectured in Marblehead, Mass., on women and the Civil War at a workshop for secondary-school teachers for the “Using Essex History” project.

Professor Emeritus **Fred Leventhal’s** essay “Promoting the Anglo-American Alliance in Wartime, 1939-1943” appeared in *Projections of Britain in the United States of America, Australia and New Zealand: 1900-1950*, published by the Centre for British Studies of the University of Adelaide. The volume includes papers delivered at a symposium in March 2004 on “Images of Britain in the United States and the South Pacific 1900-1950” that was organized to mark Leventhal’s tenure as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Adelaide.... In August he was in Washington, D.C., serving on a National Endowment for the Humanities selection panel on fellowships in European history.... Fred and Jean Leventhal will be living in London from mid-September to mid-December 2008, optimistically trying to stretch their budget despite the weakness of the American dollar.

Professor **Charles Capper** reports: In late June and early July I was in Dublin and London. In Dublin Cristina



Giorcelli and I presented our book *Margaret Fuller: Transatlantic Crossings in a Revolutionary Age* (2007) at the Italian Cultural Institute, after which we stayed as guests at the Lucan House, the residence of the Italian Embassy. In London I attended meetings of the Editorial Board of *Modern Intellectual History*.... In July I delivered a lecture titled "How Anti-Slavery Redefined the Idea of American Democracy" in Orlando Patterson's series, "Key Moments in American Freedom," sponsored by The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Harvard University.... I was also made an Honorary Member of the Boston Authors' Club and was inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Historians.... This summer I was awarded a Summer Term Curriculum Development Award to develop a new course on the Transcendentalist movement.

Professor **Clifford Backman** summarizes his summer: I enjoyed a busy summer of teaching, working around the house (landscaping, putting up a fence, and some painting), playing with our sons, and discovering the TV show "30 Rock"—which is hilarious. I tried to use my academic brain cells a bit too: I reviewed two books, completed a book chapter on James II of Aragon, worked on my critical edition of Humbert of Romans, and began serious study of Russian (so far I've made it through a dual-language anthology of short stories by Pushkin, Gogol, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Babel; and I'll try to read Lermontov before Christmas). This fall, in addition to my usual medieval courses, I'll return to teaching in MET on Monday nights. My graduate seminar (aka "You haven't done enough Latin!") will meet on Wednesdays, and I'll be directing about a half-dozen independent studies and/or honors theses. So there's enough work to keep me out of trouble.

Professor **Betty Anderson** reports three publications (two articles and a chapter in an edited volume): "Voices of Protest: The Struggle over Freedom at the American University of Beirut (AUB)," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*; "Liberal Education at the American University

of Beirut (AUB): Protest, Protestantism, and the Meaning of Freedom," in *Liberal Thought in the Eastern Mediterranean* (edited by Christoph Schumann); and "September 1970 and the Palestinian Issue: A Case Study of Student Politicization at the American University of Beirut (AUB)," *Civil Wars*.

In June Professor **Louis Ferleger** traveled to Australia to present a paper entitled "Room for Improvement, But No Room for Progress: The Material Basis of the Economic and Social Transformation of Middle Georgia, 1880-1910" at a conference on "Consumption, Markets, and Culture" held at the University of Sydney.

Graduate student **Michael McGuire** has received the Belle Skinner Fellowship from Vassar College for the summer and fall of 2008; the award has enabled him to continue research on his dissertation topic.

Professors **Linda Heywood** and **John Thornton** traveled to Veracruz, Mexico, from June 7 to 14 in order to participate in a conference, "Diáspora, nación y diferencia. Poblaciones de origine africano en México y Centroamérica," where they presented their paper "The Central African Contribution to Mexico and Central America." They visited the ruins at Zempoala and the community of Mandinga.... After returning from Mexico they were off to Angola, where they stayed July 20-27. "Our principal goal was research," they report, "and we did work in both the archives of Luanda (Arquivo Nacional de Angola and Arquivo da Câmara Municipal de Luanda) and undertook field work in Luanda and Malange." Professor Heywood was successful in her attempt to have Angolans respond to her written questionnaire dealing with Queen Njinga and hopes to use the information in her book project on Queen Njinga, "Memory, History and Nation." While in Angola Heywood and Thornton gave two public presentations in Portuguese on behalf of the US Embassy, the first a workshop for high school students at Casa de Juventude in Viana on July 17 and then, on the 19th at the Universidade Agostinho Neto, "Angola e o Mundo Atlântico." In both of these events they

made presentations on their new book and on the connections between Angola and the present-day United States.... When they returned from Angola, they were off to York University in York, Ontario, Canada, for a conference, "Carnival, 'A People's Art', and 'Taking Back the Streets,'" held July 31 to August 3 and sponsored by York and the University of Toronto. They gave a joint paper, "Public Performance in Angola and Brazil: The Central African Roots of Carnival."... Following their return from Canada, they left for another research trip (August 8-16), this time to the University of the West Indies in Mona (suburban Kingston), Jamaica. "We made no public presentations and did not go to the beach as the good beaches are on the other side of the island. We were, in fact, serious all the time. We worked at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies and the Special Collections of the Mona Library." Professor Heywood took the opportunity to consult many of the available local publications, while Professor Thornton did research on 17th-century Jamaica as well as on the Moravian mission in Jamaica at the National Archives, Spanish Town.

The late Professor **Robert Bruce** continues to draw praise even months after his death. George E. Brooks, Professor Emeritus at Indiana University, wrote this summer: "I enthusiastically endorse Jack Battick's testimonial published in the May 2008 History News. Concerned about Professor Bruce's declining health, I sent him a print-out copy of 'Samuel Hodges' [an article written by Professor Brooks] several months before he died and before the paper was published in *International Journal of African Historical Studies* with my tribute. Professor Bruce was unfailingly helpful to me and other Boston University students. I was fortunate to have him serve on my dissertation committee, and after I completed my PhD and moved to Indiana University we corresponded on topics of mutual interest and regularly exchanged Christmas cards. Robert Bruce was a very special person." ♦



Jean Dunlavy

## Jean Dunlavy defends dissertation on women veterans of Vietnam

On May 9 Jean Dunlavy successfully defended her dissertation entitled “A Band of Sisters: Vietnam Veterans’ Organization for Rights and Recognition, 1965-1995.” Her first reader was Professor Bruce Schulman, and the second was Professor Thomas Whalen of the College of General Studies at Boston University; other members of the committee were Professors Andrew Bacevich, Cheryl Boots (of the College of General Studies), and Nina Silber. We are pleased to reprint the abstract of the thesis:

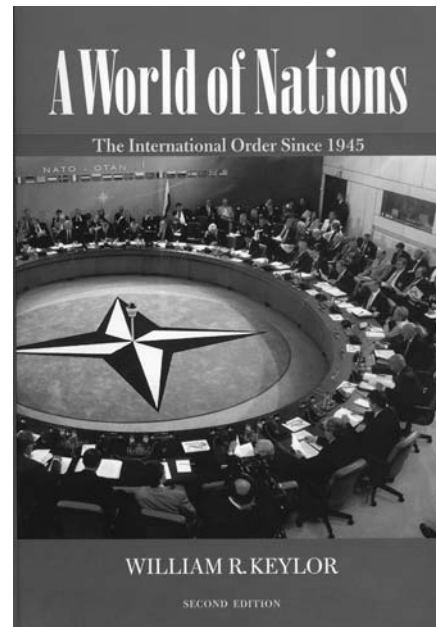
**I**n the 1980s and 1990s, American women veterans of the Vietnam war sparked a social movement that asserted the claims of women veterans to government benefits, to respect within the national veteran community, and to public acknowledgment of women’s military service. Vietnam women veterans built their case for recognition by making their war stories public, asserting their presence in veteran organizations and memorial-

ization projects, and lobbying government agencies to address women veterans’ needs.

These veterans did not come to their advocacy from feminist activism. They were, however, part of a generation of women and men transformed by second-wave feminism’s egalitarian gender outlook in the 1970s. As a result, women veterans and others by the 1980s began to rethink a tenacious cultural notion of gender disparity: that men alone had the responsibility and the capacity for military service and therefore had a superior claim to the respect and the debt of the nation as veteran-citizens.

The conservative movement in the 1980s sought in significant ways to limit women’s military roles and roll back the agenda of feminist activists, but conservatives’ embrace of patriotism, particularly in the military realm, opened a window for women veterans to assert their claims in a way that feminism did not, since significant strands of feminism espoused antimilitarism. Whereas Americans in earlier decades understood military participation as an appropriate expression of patriotism for men but as deviant behavior for women, Vietnam women veterans persuaded the nation to incorporate women’s military service into a national vision of patriotic action.

Doubts about military women’s capacity to function in war were easily fed in the years between the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War, when the government downplayed women’s presence in combat. Vietnam women veterans’ accounts of their war service challenged these doubts by demonstrating that women had already proven themselves in combat zones. Their organizing efforts spurred other women veterans to activism and encouraged wider public awareness of women’s significance to the American military. In these ways, Vietnam women veterans helped lay the groundwork for public acceptance of women’s expanding roles in the military by the 1990s. ♦



## William Keylor publishes revised edition of international history volume

Oxford University Press has published a new edition of Professor William Keylor’s *A World of Nations: The International Order Since 1945*. Below we reprint a section of the Preface to the volume:

### Theoretical Underpinnings

A word is in order about the theoretical assumptions underlying this work. The time has long since passed when the historian could claim the ability, as the German scholar Leopold von Ranke famously did in the early nineteenth century, to tell the story of the past “as it really happened,” without the intrusion of theory. Whether we admit it or not, all scholars approach their subject with a set of theoretical assumptions that shape their work. My own work has been shaped by the substantial body of scholarship on international relations theory that has been produced by political scientists over the years. The four most influential of these theories have been Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, and Social

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# Views of Commencement 2008



*Professor Bruce Schulman with Annalisa Amicangelo, long-time student staff member in the department office.*



*Graduate Charles Pollack (left) with his mother, brother, and father; this fall Charlie enters the departmental master's program.*



*Professors Brooke Blower, Jon Roberts, and Arianne Chernock enjoy refreshments before the convocation begins.*



*Professors Betty Anderson and Eugenio Menegon with Andrew Naramore, who spent all four of his years at BU as a member of the departmental staff.*



*Andrew Shapira, double-major in History and English and winner of the College Prize for Excellence in History (see next page for the text of his speech). Andrew plans to teach English abroad for a few years and then pursue a career in publishing or journalism.*



*Professor Clifford Backman, PhD recipient Brenda Gardenour, and Professor Thomas Glick. The pharmacist's coat was a graduation gift commemorating Brenda's new job as Assistant Professor of History at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy.*



## “Whom will you believe—Christ or Dr. Briggs?”

BY ANDREW SHAPIRA

This was the question posed by an elder of the Presbyterian Church during one of the most famous heresy trials in American history. The alleged heretic was Charles Augustus Briggs, the scholar and theologian widely credited with introducing the revolutionary study known as biblical criticism to the United States.

Despite his notoriety, Briggs was only one of many 19th-century scholars who began to shed new light on an ancient and sacred text. For millennia Jews and Christians had taken for granted certain facts about the Bible: that Moses was the author of the five books of the Torah, for instance, or that the Gospel of John was set down by an apostle of Jesus. It therefore came as a great shock when Briggs and his fellow critics declared that these were not facts, after all, but merely unreliable traditions about the origins of Scripture. This holiest of books, they argued, was composed by fallible men, men defined by their historical circumstances, not by an infallible God or His chosen prophets.

Needless to say, the implications of this line of thought were enormous. To many who heard and read Briggs's 1891 address, “The Authority of Holy Scripture,” it seemed he was trying to undermine the Bible itself, and thereby strike at the heart of the Christian religion. Thus the question posed by one Thomas MacDougall during the debate in the Presbyterian General Assembly over Briggs's heresy in 1893: “Whom will you believe—Christ or Dr. Briggs?”

Perhaps this was a little melodra-

matic of Mr. MacDougall; it certainly obscures the depth of Briggs's religious convictions. Throughout his life, Charles Briggs searched for a middle ground between criticism and Christianity. For him these two concepts were not mutually exclusive—far from it. A meaningful and lasting faith, he felt, could only be achieved by a rational and historically accurate understanding of the authors who mediated between God and humanity. Briggs was a reader of the Bible informed by both religion and history—a man who believed in both the truth emanating from God and the truth to be derived from the study of the past.

We are all heirs to Charles Augustus Briggs. Regardless of whether we agree with his conclusions or share his convictions, we may look back on him today as an exemplary practitioner of historical inquiry. His method was characterized not by a dogmatic faith in the value of history, but by a respect for history as one of many ways of knowing. He placed history in the context of theology, of science, of literature—of all the means by which humanity gains insight about the world.

This sort of contextual thinking is precisely what defines a liberal arts education, and more specifically our study of history at Boston University. While we graduates are fortunate to have studied under a wonderful faculty in the History Department, we are equally fortunate to have attended a college that stresses engagement with a broad range of disciplines to complement our individual areas of interest.

Many of you have dual concentrations in History and other disciplines; the rest of you have devoted yourselves more particularly to this department. Whatever your path, you surely recognize that your education here has not been about studying history merely for the sake of history. Rather, history is useful to us insofar as it sheds light on some other aspect of human knowledge and experience.

I can certainly say that history has informed my own education at BU in too many ways to count. As a freshman and sophomore in the Core Curriculum, I traced the evolution of Western

civilization from the epic of Gilgamesh, a product of ancient Mesopotamia, through Plato, Dante, Shakespeare, all the way up to modern artists like Walt Whitman and Jane Austen. In a purely aesthetic sense, these authors are as meaningful in one era as in any other. But to truly appreciate them—as Charles Briggs believed about the authors of the Bible—it is necessary to understand something of the historical circumstances in which they wrote. Perhaps more than any of the other disciplines in the liberal arts, literature and history are inextricably intertwined.

By pursuing a double major in History and English, I've come to appreciate the value of this intellectual relationship. While I don't have time today to discuss all the ways in which one discipline has illuminated the other for me, I will conclude with one telling example. This past semester, I wrote a paper on Henry James's *The Bostonians* for my class on 19th-century American fiction. The paper was about James's use of religious discourse, and my argument was that James reveals the emptiness of such discourse by applying it to each of the novel's three main characters.

Not until a few weeks later did I begin to think of the novel in historical terms—and in that regard, another class of mine, Professor Jon Roberts's Religion and American Culture, came in very handy. In Professor Roberts's colloquium we discussed the changing religious dynamic in America in the late 19th century, a time when the theory of evolution, the nascent Social Gospel movement, and biblical criticism were challenging traditional attitudes towards religion. Perhaps, I thought, James's novel is a reflection of his culture's unease over these challenges.

It is a thesis that needs further exploration. The point here is that I was able to make the connection between my English class and Professor Roberts's colloquium by considering the novel's historical context. It seems appropriate, then, that Professor Roberts's class is where I first heard the name of Charles Augustus Briggs, for in making that connection, I felt I was, in some sense, following in Briggs's footsteps. ♦

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*Andrew Shapira, winner of the College Prize for History, gave this talk at the departmental convocation on May 18. The winner of the Warren Ault Prize in History was Michelle Mann, who was in France and unable to be at commencement.*

Constructivism. While I have gained many valuable insights from all four of these theoretical traditions, I have found in the tenets of the Realist school the most accurate portrayal of how nations have related to one another throughout modern history.

Realism is based on several critical assumptions about the nature of international relations. The first is the primacy of the nation-state as the most important actor on the world stage. The second is the recognition of power as the principal attribute of the nation-state as it interacts with other states. Power comes in three major forms: political, cultural, economic (all three often lumped together as “soft power”), and military. The ultimate power of a state is its capacity to employ physical force—culminating in war—in pursuit of its national interests. The third axiom of Realist theory is the inevitability of competition and occasionally conflict among nations as they seek to enhance their security by exercising their power in the hostile and threatening environment of the world beyond their boundaries. For most of human history the state did not possess the unmitigated power that it does today. Warlords, tribal chiefs, religious leaders, and other local or regional authorities controlled (or attempted to control) the territory they occupied. The concept of the nation state as the repository of sovereignty is a relatively recent phenomenon, dating from the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648. Once the nation-state replaced other forms of political authority, the concept (and theory) of international relations was born. At the heart of Realist theory is the clear distinction between the domestic political system and the international political system. Within a particular country, the state enjoys a monopoly on the legitimate use of coercion—such as the right to tax its citizens or compel them to obey its laws—and physical force—such as the right to arrest, imprison, and execute people for offenses that it proscribes. But outside the boundaries of a state, there is no authority to enforce laws or preserve order. There is,

instead, a condition of anarchy. In light of this lawless and inhospitable international environment, Realism regards the instinct for self-preservation (which often spills over into a drive for power over others) as a basic trait of human nature that is rooted in biological theory.

The decades covered in this book offer numerous examples of human behavior that confirm the bleak and pessimistic postulates of Realist theory. During much of this period the world lived under the shadow of nuclear war: Two sovereign states, the United States and the Soviet Union, developed the means of annihilating tens of millions of people in a brief nuclear exchange and openly advertised their willingness to do so. While nuclear weapons have never been used since the atomic bombardment of Japan in 1945, many lethal conflicts were waged with conventional weapons that took the lives of millions of people. With the end of the Cold War and the removal of the nuclear sword of Damocles that had hung over humanity for so many decades, optimists envisioned the possibility of a “New World Order” of peace and tranquility. But in the twenty-first century terrorism, and the response to terrorism, replaced the ideological confrontation of the Cold War years. For some, this new form of conflict spelled the death knell of Realist theory, indeed of the Westphalian system itself, since the new threat to world order came not from an aggressive nation-state but from transnational groups without a national territory of their own. According to this analysis, the nation-state is in the process of being superseded by movements and organizations that transcend borders. In the Epilogue I indicate why I believe that this judgment is premature.

Having identified myself with the Realist tradition, a critical qualification is in order. To affirm the primacy of the nation-state, the centrality of power (in all of its aspects), and the reality of competition and conflict among the nations of the world does not denote approval of this situation. On the contrary, my personal preference would be for an international order far different

from the one that exists, the one that is portrayed by the theorists in the Realist tradition. The failure of the governments of the world after 1945 to overcome their reluctance to sacrifice national sovereignty in the interests of constructing a durable world order of peace and security is perhaps the greatest tragedy in the history of international relations in modern times. Like his former boss Woodrow Wilson at the end of World War I, President Franklin D. Roosevelt entertained the fond hope toward the end of World War II that the international community would learn the terrible lessons of the recent past and forge a new type of international relations based on cooperation and collective security rather than on competition and rival power blocs. The reversion of the world’s nations to the old system of competitive arms races, military alliances, and the waging of war in pursuit of narrow national interests is cause for great regret, disappointment, and even despair. But it is a reality that must not be denied, especially by people (such as myself) who would like to live long enough to see the triumph of a different way of organizing the world. ♦



On June 9 Anna Isabella Chernock Mulliken was born, 6 lbs., 8 oz., 19 inches tall. Mother (Professor Chernock) and daughter are both doing fine, and Anna is looking forward to meeting all in the department.



## Three students win humanities awards

In May three students from the History Department won awards from the Boston University Humanities Foundation.

**Bob Black** won a graduate student prize. He is currently writing a dissertation titled “The Whig in *Swallow Barn*: The Political Culture of John Pendleton Kennedy.” Kennedy was a novelist, a Whig politician serving in the House of Representatives, and member of Millard Fillmore’s cabinet. Following completion of his doctorate, Bob hopes to teach at the college or university level.

**Lauren Joslin** won an undergraduate humanities prize. Having just completed a semester at Oxford University, she intends to turn her fascination with history into a job as an archivist; her primary fields of interest are the late medieval and early Reformation periods, with a particular focus on spirituality.

**Jillian Primiano**, the other undergraduate award winner, has been interested in history since her freshman year, particularly in the aspects of history that have been disregarded or unnoticed. Among her adventures she has taught at an orphanage and worked at a rehab center for children in Vietnam, and last spring she studied in Shanghai, learning Chinese and asking questions about Chinese attitudes toward communism and Westernism.



Winner of a graduate Humanities Foundation award, Bob Black. The other recipients, Lauren Joslin and Jillian Primiano, were studying abroad at the time of the award ceremony in May.

## Diana Wylie appointed to distinguished professorship

Professor Diana Wylie has been appointed the National Endowment for the Humanities Distinguished



Teaching Professor for the years 2008-2011. The professorship, established in 1993 with a challenge grant that matched funds from alumni and friends of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the Division of General Education, recognizes excellence in teaching by a prominent teacher-scholar who is associated with the Core Curriculum, and it funds undergraduate enrichment programs in the humanities.

Professor Wylie is the second historian to be thus honored; previous holders of the title have been William Vance (English), Christopher Ricks (English), James Johnson (History), David Eckel (Religion), and Christopher Martin (English).

The Distinguished Teaching Professor was chosen by a process that entailed nomination, vetting by a dean’s committee, and finally an interview with the CAS dean, who made the appointment.

Wylie outlines some of her plans: “I’ve already begun contacting guest speakers (like Jonathan Shay, who wrote *Odysseus in America*, though he hasn’t answered yet), buying concert tickets—to a Cervantes-era concert, to Don Giovanni (opera), to Beethoven at the Boston Symphony Orchestra—as well as tickets to, say, Anna Devereaux Smith’s play on the body which will be performed in September at the American Repertory Theatre. I’m also inviting the Alloy Orchestra to perform during a showing of the silent film ‘Phantom of the Opera’ in the Tsai auditorium in November.” She sums up with typical enthusiasm: “I love doing this!”

## Graduate Student Milestones

In May, Tessa Gordon passed the language examination in French.

These students passed foreign language requirements through coursework in spring 2008:

Seth Blumenthal: *Spanish*  
Jonathan Koefoed: *German*  
Jolanta Komornicka: *Italian*

The following students passed the qualifying oral examination for the PhD:

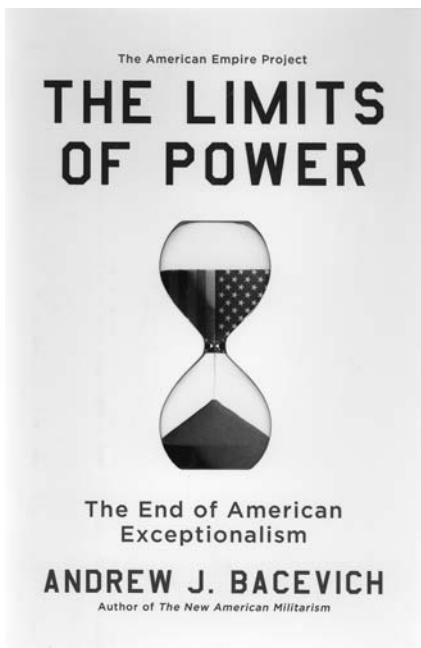
On April 25: Andrew J. Ballou. Examiners in the major field of American history were Professors Brendan McConville, Jon Roberts, and Bruce Schulman; examiner in the minor field of international relations, 1900-1950, was Professor William Keylor.

On April 30: Seth Blumenthal. Examiners in the major field of American history were Professors Jon Roberts, Bruce Schulman, and Nina Silber; examiner in the minor field of twentieth-century German history was Professor Jonathan Zatlin.

These students had their dissertation prospectus approved:

Kathryn Brownell: “The Rise of the ‘Sixth Estate’: The Influence of Hollywood Celebrities in American Politics.” The first reader will be Professor Bruce Schulman, and the second will be Professor Julian Zelizer of Princeton University.

Robyn Metcalfe: “The Removal of the Smithfield Live Cattle Market in Nineteenth-Century London, 1820 to 1870.” The first reader will be Professor Louis Ferleger, and the second will be Professor Harriet Ritvo of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



## Andrew Bacevich authors book on American exceptionalism

Metropolitan Books has recently published Professor Andrew Bacevich's *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*. Below we reprint a section of the Introduction: "War Without Exits":

**F**or the United States, the passing of the Cold War yielded neither a "peace dividend" nor anything remotely resembling peace. Instead, what was hailed as a historic victory gave way almost immediately to renewed unrest and conflict. By the time the East-West standoff that some historians had termed the "Long Peace" ended in 1991, the United States had already embarked upon a decade of unprecedented interventionism. In the years that followed, Americans became inured to reports of U.S. forces going into action—fighting in Panama and the Persian Gulf, occupying Bosnia and Haiti, lambasting Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Sudan from the air. Yet all of these turned out to be mere preliminaries. In 2001 came the main event, an open-ended global war on terror, soon known in some quarters as the "Long

War."

\* \* \* \* \*

How exactly did the end of the Long Peace so quickly yield the Long War? Seeing themselves as a peaceful people, Americans remain wedded to the conviction that the conflicts in which they find themselves embroiled are not of their own making. The global war on terror is no exception. Certain of our own benign intentions, we reflexively assign responsibility for war to others, typically malignant Hitler-like figures inexplicably bent on denying us the peace that is our fondest wish. This book challenges that supposition. It argues that the actions of Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden, however malevolent, cannot explain why the United States today finds itself enmeshed in seemingly never-ending conflict. Although critics of U.S. foreign policy, and especially of the Iraq War, have already advanced a variety of alternative explanations—variously fingering President Bush, members of his inner circle, jingoistic neo-conservatives, greedy oil executives, or even the Israel lobby—it also finds those explanations inadequate. Certainly, the president and his advisers, along with neocons always looking for opportunities to flex American military muscle, bear considerable culpability for our current predicament. Yet to charge them with primary responsibility is to credit them with undeserved historical significance. It's the equivalent of blaming Herbert Hoover for the Great Depression or of attributing McCarthyism entirely to the antics of Senator Joseph McCarthy.

The impulses that have landed us in a war of no exits and no deadlines come from within. Foreign policy has, for decades, provided an outward manifestation of American domestic ambitions, urges, and fears. In our own time, it has increasingly become an expression of domestic dysfunction—an attempt to manage or defer coming to terms with contradictions besetting the American way of life. Those contradictions have found their ultimate expression in the perpetual state of war afflicting the

United States today. Gauging their implications requires that we acknowledge their source: They reflect the accumulated detritus of freedom, the by-products of our frantic pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.

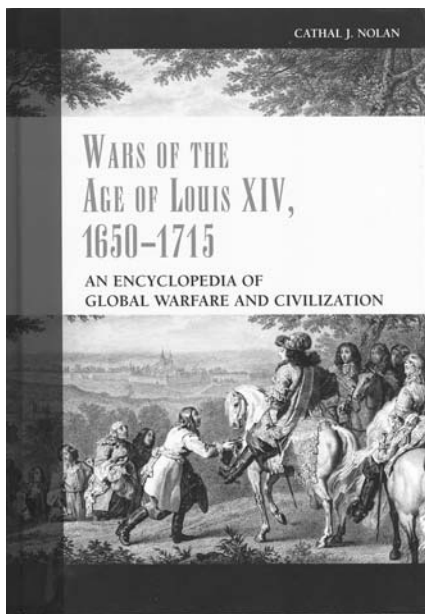
Freedom is the altar at which Americans worship, whatever their nominal religious persuasion. "No one sings odes to liberty as the final end of life with greater fervor than Americans," the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr once observed. Yet even as they celebrate freedom, Americans exempt the object of their veneration from critical examination. In our public discourse, freedom is not so much a word or even a value as an incantation, its very mention enough to stifle doubt and terminate all debate.

*The Limits of Power* will suggest that this heedless worship of freedom has been a mixed blessing. ♦

## Graduate students win travel awards

In May four graduate students won departmental grants to support travel for dissertation research, with funding primarily from the Engelbourg Travel Fellowship. Their names and dissertation topics are listed below:

- Anne Blaschke: "Manhood, Feminism, and Sports: Gendered Racial Protest at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games"
- Kathryn Brownell: "The Rise of the 'Sixth Estate': The Influence of Hollywood Celebrities in American Politics"
- Katherine Jewell: "The Southern States Industrial Council and the Transformation of the Southern Economy, 1932-1970"
- William McCoy plans a dissertation dealing with the work of an American mission operating in the British colony in Swaziland that treated leprous patients.



## Cathal Nolan authors new volume of encyclopedia

During the summer Greenwood Press published the latest volume in Professor Cathal Nolan's *Encyclopedia of Global Warfare and Civilization*. We are pleased to reprint a section of the Introduction to this work:

**T**he conflicts covered in this encyclopedia, *Wars of the Age of Louis XIV, 1650-1715*, were more complex in forms of military and social organization than the European Wars of Religion that preceded them, the conditions of which are discussed and detailed in my earlier two-volume work, *The Age of Wars of Religion, 1000-1650* (Greenwood, 2006). The wars of the era of France's Louis XIV, the "Sun King," were also different in key ways from conflicts that followed, which will be dealt with in subsequent volumes in the Greenwood Encyclopedias of Modern World War series. Battles and sieges during the exceptionally long reign of Louis XIV (1643-1715) were marked mostly by indecision, notwithstanding the reputation subsequently accruing to John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, for reintroducing the desire for decisive battle to early 18th-century

European warfare. The wars of this age were, like nearly all wars fought since early modern times, decided mainly by attrition leading to economic, political, fiscal, and, in some cases, even moral exhaustion. With few exceptions, military operations were carried out by armies at a pedestrian pace, with clashes occurring at highly predictable locations along well-trodden and heavily fortified frontiers. Initially, armies were unguided by grand strategy or attempts at strategic or operational turning movements. They focused instead on gaining or defending control of key river crossings guarded by great lines of fortresses and garrisoned towns. Military roads, magazines, and other supply systems improved markedly in some countries but remained rudimentary to nonexistent beyond most frontiers, where the majority of fighting actually occurred. That meant, as it had in prior eras and despite strenuous efforts at modernizing reform by absolutist monarchs during this period, that military supply, along with war finance, was not that far advanced beyond the debilitating 16th-century practice of enforcing "contributions" from occupied territories. The success or failure of a campaign also still depended to a high degree on vagaries of weather, while far more casualties resulted from disease than from combat. That was especially the case for unfortunate garrisons in tropical overseas stations, but it was also true within disease-ridden siege camps and crowded and embattled towns in Europe.

None of these severe limitations on capability stopped ambitious rulers from seeking strategic direction of military conflicts on a continental and, eventually, a global scale. The expanding scale of operations was a feature that emerged progressively over this period to become something genuinely new, compared to earlier Wars of Religion. Worldwide trade and naval wars strained to maximum degrees the scanty resources and organizational capabilities of still-limited states and overtaxed societies. Grand strategy, once it appeared, also faltered under the strain of battlefield command-and-control limitations that bordered on

the merely illusory, in spite of a new and ultimately universal emphasis on hard drill of professional troops. Campaigns and battles seldom decided long-term, worldwide conflicts. As a result, wars among the major powers were most often inconclusive, as well as almost always protracted. As one war named and numbered by later historians ended in a transient treaty marking little more than an exhausted pause, another would begin. Often, only minor shuffling altered the membership of large opposing alliances, as warfare resumed after a mutually agreed break used by each side mainly to recover and rearm. These wars were decided, insofar as they ever were decided, mainly by political and military attrition attended by fiscal and moral exhaustion—or they were interrupted by an accident of royal birth or death leading to a renewed outbreak of diplomacy. The opposite was also true: sustaining peace depended to a high degree on continuing royal health or the survival of some sickly prince or king, most famously—but not uniquely—Carlos II of Spain (r. 1665-1700). Complex issues of succession of Bourbon or Habsburg were the daily stuff of high European politics at all times, and the bane of the lives of masses of peasants swept away by ebbing and waning tides of peace and the maelstrom of war. ♦

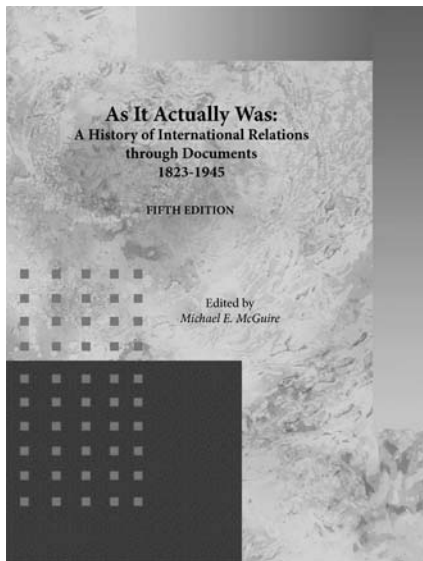
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## New students enter graduate program

This fall eight students are entering the graduate program: one in the master's, the rest in the doctoral (four post-bachelor's, three post-master's). Four students are in the American field, two in European, and two in African. Five hold fellowships that pay all tuition and a stipend. Although eight is one of the smallest number of entering students on record (the average is approximately 13), without doubt 2008 sees the highest percentage of students with full aid packages.

In next month's newsletter the new students will introduce themselves.





## Michael McGuire edits course reader

McGraw-Hill Publishers has released the fifth edition of the course reader (used in HI/IR 349) edited by graduate student Michael McGuire: *As It Actually Was: A History of International Relations through Documents, 1823-1945*. We reprint a section of Chapter I: "Alliances and Empires: The Foundation of the Twentieth Century":

**T**he acquisition of imperial territories and the cultivation of powerful coalitions did not commence with the twentieth century. Since governments learned of distant lands filled with great riches and run by weaker rulers, their leaders began to lay claim to far-flung empires. Equally antiquated was the forging of alliances, either to gain greater power, or to defend against invading hordes.

The difference between the international affairs of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and those of their predecessors, lay in nations' methods and motivations as they developed alliances and built empires. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the Industrial Revolution had begun in nearly every European country, as well as a few important non-European nations such as the United States and Japan. The rapid production, transportation, and

consumption of industrialized states made imperial holdings and powerful allies a vital component of national security. American economist Charles A. Conant noted that an empire guaranteed a nation access to scarce raw materials, tariff-free markets for products, and investment opportunities for banks and businesses. As empires increased in scope, and as coal- and oil-burning technology bound imperial possessions increasingly together, it became vital to possess refueling stations for one's merchant fleet, and a strong, fast navy to preserve one's trade and territories, as observed by Captain Alfred T. Mahan of the U.S. Navy. A powerful navy and its requisite refueling stations could in turn reduce the authority exercised by other nations, and thereby enlarge one's own stature. However, Marxist radicals like V. I. Lenin insisted that imperial competition among the Great Powers had led to the outbreak of European-wide war, and would ultimately doom capitalism.

New social concepts provided additional motivations for empire among many of the Great Powers of Europe. The pseudo-scientific teachings of "Social Darwinism" compelled many states to increase their colonial holdings, as important leaders within each state, such as British diamond magnate Cecil Rhodes and Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany, believed a larger colonial empire would somehow ensure political prestige among nations of equal stature, and augment such status among those they regarded as inferior. Additionally, European elites developed the somewhat amorphous concept of the "white man's burden"—a paternal duty imposed on European nations to shepherd their African and Asian subjects toward "civilized" behavior. Finally, Europe's Catholics and Protestants cultivated a self-imposed obligation to convert these new dominions to the Christian faith, a maxim repeatedly stated by renowned British missionary Dr. David Livingstone. For these reasons, Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Russia, and later Japan and the United States all laid claim to swaths of the Eastern Hemisphere. ♦



## HISTORY OF THE CIA

Symposium Sponsored by the International History Institute

Two panels will discuss major themes in the history of the Agency. Participants and panelists include historians, journalists, and former CIA and other national security personnel, including:

Joel Rosenthal, President, Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs

Elbridge A. Colby, former staff member in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and now adjunct staff member at the RAND Corporation

Arthur Hulnik and Joseph Wippel from the BU International Relations Department

Co-sponsored by the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs

Friday, September 26, 1-5 p.m.

Room 412,  
School of Management,  
595 Commonwealth Avenue

Free and open to the public

Reception will follow



## International Symposium: The Legacy of the First Republic of Armenia (1918-1921)

Saturday, September 27, 2008

*The First Armenian Republic emerged out of the destruction of the Ottoman and Russian empires in the Great War but was quickly annexed to the Soviet empire. Noted and leading historians of Armenia will present talks on different aspects of the Republic and its legacy and will take questions from the public.*

The symposium is sponsored by the Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature, Boston University

Co-sponsored by  
International History Institute, Boston University  
Department of History, Boston University  
Department of International Relations, Boston University  
National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Belmont, MA

Program Chair: Professor William R. Keylor. Director, International History Institute

### Session I, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Simon Payaslian (Boston University)  
Opening Remarks

Erik Goldstein (Boston University)  
“Great Britain and the Re-emergence of Armenian Statehood”

Ara Sanjian (University of Michigan–Dearborn)  
“Continuing the All-Russian Revolution of February 1917: The Challenge of Land Reform”

Victoria Rowe (University of Greenwich, United Kingdom)  
“Women as Political Actors in the First Republic of Armenia and in the Creation of International Networks of Refugee Relief, 1918-1925”

### Session II, 1:00—3:30 p.m.

Benjamin F. Alexander (Towson University, Maryland)  
“The Thousand-day Republic and the Assassination of Archbishop Tourian”

Razmik Panossian (Montreal, Canada)  
“The Impact of the First Republic on Armenian Identity in the 20th Century”

Robert Krikorian (George Washington University)  
“The Legacy of the First Independent Republic of Armenia and the Collapse of Soviet Power”

Location: School of Management Auditorium, Room 105, 595 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston University

Free and open to the public



Linda Heywood

## Linda Heywood named director of African American Studies

This summer Professor of History Linda Heywood was appointed to a three-year term as the new director of the African American Studies Program. She follows Professor Ronald Richardson, who had been director since 2000. Professor Heywood speaks of her plans for the future of the program:

During my tenure as Director, we will continue our focus on the global dimensions of the African American experience. To this effect the program will continue its collaboration with the various departments and programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. I intend to work with the Director of the American and New England Studies Program to pursue the plans that my predecessor, Dr. Ronald Richardson, started for the development of a joint PhD Program in American Studies and African American Studies. I will also meet with colleagues from the School of Education to discuss ideas about developing new courses that will cater to the needs of their students.

The African American Studies Program will continue to sponsor several public programs and conferences. In addition to its regular public lectures (every first and third Tuesday of the month), plans are underway to put on a one-day seminar during spring 2009 on African Americans in Boston and to sponsor a two-day international conference on African Americans and American Foreign Policy in the spring of 2010.

# Stephen Pitti delivers Gaspar Bacon Lecture

BY JONATHAN KOEFOED

On May 5 Stephen Pitti delivered the Department of History's annual Gaspar Bacon Lecture. Pitti is Professor of History and American Studies at Yale University and the Director of the Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Program. Professor Pitti, an expert on Latino history and comparative civil rights, is the author of *The Devil in Silicon Valley: Race, Mexican Americans, and Northern California*. His current research seeks to articulate a more comprehensive and contextualized understanding of the famous labor rights activist César Chávez, and in the Bacon Lecture Pitti particularly underscored the religious nature of Chávez's work in the founding of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW).

Pitti began at the end so to speak, reflecting on the "politics of death" at Chávez's funeral and beyond. The service itself articulated the religious grammar that Pitti argued had characterized the UFW movement from the beginning. During the homily, Chávez's death was compared directly to that of Christ; though tragic, it would sow the seeds of a stronger church. Recognizing the significance of Chávez, religious leaders came from all over the country, including many who were at odds with the leader's politics. In the aftermath of his death, Chávez's followers began applying titles such as "martyr" and "prophet" to him, affec-

tionately calling him "our Martin Luther King." Finally, Pitti pointed out that to this day Chávez's grave is considered by many to be a sacred site for presenting prayers and petitions in the vein of Chávez's legacy.

Far from being surprised by all of this, Pitti argued that this is precisely what should be expected once one properly understands the religious history of Chávez and his movement. Pitti pointed out that many mistakenly assume the radicalism of the UFW to be coterminous with that of the fairly secular cultural revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Though the UFW gained countercultural allies during this period, Pitti argued that the UFW's crucible moment came in the late 1950s and early 1960s. As such, Pitti insisted that the *liberation theology* emerging from Latin America and its apparent affirmation at the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church must be seen as a primary catalyst in Chávez's radicalism.

Indeed it was a parish priest who first inspired Chávez to think in the animating categories of personhood and social justice. In an environment where employers often viewed and treated workers as farm implements, faith provided the categories for resistance. Thus,

Chávez articulated the God-given dignity of all people, the example of Christ's suffering, and a powerful "spirit" that united all workers in their struggle for recognition. In language lifted from Vatican II, Chávez stressed the "preferential option for the poor," and while on a spiritual retreat he drafted the UFW constitution. Pitti insisted that, steeped in this religious grammar, the early UFW meetings—full of singing and joining hands—often resembled religious services in ways not seen in previous Latino civil rights movements.

In addition to the Catholic foundations of the UFW, Chávez guided the movement in an intentionally ecumenical way. In later years he worked more extensively with Jewish groups and Quakers, and even hung a Star of David in his headquarters. In 1968, he organized a fast for peace in which he successfully brought in many more religious people by emphasizing the need for penance in the country. He also avidly imbibed the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, and by the end of his life Chávez actively practiced yoga.

Pitti concluded his lecture by arguing that the religious nature of Chávez

See BACON LECTURE, page 15



Department chair Charles Dellheim, Bacon Lecturer Stephen Pitti, and Paul Schmitz (who has been a friend of Professor Pitti's since high school and who is teaching for the department this academic year)

Jonathan Koefoed is entering his second year in the post-master's PhD program. He received his BA from Arizona State and his MA from St. Louis University. His advisor in the graduate program is Professor Charles Capper.





Suzanne O'Brien

*Introduction to New Faculty*

## A native returns

**S**uzanne O'Brien grew up just 30 miles from BU in Hanover, Mass., and only learned to pronounce the letter "R" when she heeded the call to "Go West, young (wo)man!" to attend university in California. After receiving her BA in Japanese history from Stanford University, she headed still farther west to what would become her second home—Tokyo. There she studied Japanese language and culture for several years, endured endless hours of karaoke, and perfected her sushi-rolling technique. New York's parks, salsa clubs, and museums provided much-needed distractions over the next few years of graduate school in Japanese history at Columbia University, where she earned her PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures with a specialization in modern Japanese history. She is the author of book chapters and a translation relating to the movement for redress by victims of the imperial Japanese military during World War II, and has published articles on 18th- and 19th-century Japanese cultural history.

After a five-year stint teaching Asian history at a Jesuit university in LA, she has finally returned to her native land

*The newsletter invites all new faculty members to introduce themselves to our readers, and so we are pleased to present the contribution of the latest appointee, Assistant Professor Suzanne O'Brien. Her office is Room 203 in the main history building; her e-mail address is sgobrien@bu.edu.*

and anticipates losing her Rs again within the next six months. Her academic interests include comparative social and cultural history, theories of gender and embodiment, and contemporary popular culture. She looks forward to the publication of her first book on changes in daily life across the 19th century in Japan and is eager to move on her new research project focusing on decolonization and masculine identity in postwar Japan. She is plotting a samurai film festival for the spring semester and hopes to draw a wide range of students into Japanese studies.

Her extracurricular pursuits include salsa dancing, fencing, and cooking, and she is impatiently awaiting the opening of the ski season. ♦

*BACON LECTURE (cont. from page 14)*

and the UFW is highlighted by the varied responses it provoked. Growers certainly recognized the leader as a quasi-religious figure and unsuccessfully fought back, trying to paint him as unspiritual. At times Chávez came under fire from previously allied Catholics who felt his ecumenism went too far theologically. He also experienced criticism from many in the secular labor movement who were uncomfortable with his religiosity. However, in the end he won the support of many key religious figures such as Coretta Scott King, Dorothy Day, the Pope, and even the fiery and conservative Pentecostal leader Oral Roberts (who was an initial opponent). Pitti closed his lecture by conceding that while Chávez became less orthodox throughout his spiritual life, he became, if anything, more religious. People came to him for special healing prayer, and Chávez in his own writings experimented with the idea of a highly mystical mind religion that Pitti suggested might even signify a kind of messianic complex. However one interprets this latter evidence, Pitti insisted that Chávez and the UFW movement must be seen in part as a religious phenomenon. ♦

## Greig Scholarship recipients announced

In July ten history concentrators learned they had received a tuition scholarship for 2008-09 from the Herbert and Mary Greig fund; each award was for either full or half tuition.

The Greig award was created to encourage study and research in the area of American history and to encourage high academic achievement in the subject of the civic responsibilities of citizens of the United States. The donor of the funding is Marcia Carey Becker.

These are the winners of this year's Greig Scholarship:

- Marta Kyra Bakas
- Jeffrey David Chatterton
- Megan Christine Filoon
- Amanda B. Johnson
- Janet Elizabeth Kay
- Reesa Miles
- Ruth Anne Morris
- Kyle Patrick Pronko
- Shari Lisa Rabin
- Lauren Williams

## Majors Expo to be held on September 11

At the Majors Expo, held in the George Sherman Union, various departments will host tables at which faculty and students already majors can discuss the concentration with those still undeclared and at which printed information can be handed out. Last year some 465 students attended. Professor Cathal Nolan will be in charge of this year's event, to be held between 1 and 5 p.m. on September 11.

Any history concentrators interested in participating should e-mail Professor Nolan (cnolan@bu.edu).

Department of History  
Boston University  
226 Bay State Road  
Boston, MA 02215



The USS *Lionfish* is an early World War II submarine that made a number of war patrols in the Pacific. The shot is looking up the escape hatch, in the mess just in front of the engine room and aft torpedo tubes.

The last Sunday of the spring 2008 semester saw Professor Cathal Nolan's students from his HI 537 class (History of World War II) on a field trip to Battleship Cove in Fall River, Mass. All enjoyed casual commentary and historical explanations by Professor Nolan. Students toured the battleship USS *Massachusetts*, Destroyer *Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.*, the Balao-class submarine USS *Lionfish*, and the East German corvette *Hiddensee*. Students marveled over a miniature World War II-era Japanese motorboat whose exact purpose is still unknown, tried out the sleeping quarters in the *Lionfish*, and envisioned themselves as gunners on the *Big Mamie*. One graduating senior stated, "This was my dream as a little boy—to be on a battleship." "This was one of the best field trips I've ever taken at BU," stated Jana Sico ('08). After a semester learning about the most important battles of the Second World War, students greatly appreciated linking their studies to these massive naval artifacts.

The photos on this page were taken by Genevieve Nolan.



The USS *Massachusetts* is a World War II battleship that saw action in the Mediterranean (against the French) and in the Pacific (against the Japanese). The shot looks from the prow at the superstructure and at the 15" guns of the main turret.