

# history

NEWSLETTER

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BROWN

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# history

NEWSLETTER

## A Word from the Chair

Since I became chair of the History Department in the 2002–2003 academic year, I have reported annually on the departure of long-time colleagues, the arrival of new faculty, and the department's efforts to rethink its intellectual mission. Rather than offer another tightly focused, one-year's glimpse at the activities of the past year, I thought it might interesting to present a more holistic overview of the changes that have taken place during the first decade of this new millennium.

Since 2000, we have bid farewell to a dozen colleagues, most of whom have retired, a couple of whom have moved to other universities. The contributions of this cohort to the department, the university, and the profession has been enormous. Needless to write, we miss their presence, and we wish them well. As sad as the departure of colleagues always is, it also is a truism of life that each loss represents an opportunity for renewal and rebirth. Since the calendar turned over to the new century, the Brown History Department has hired nine new faculty (Deborah Cohen, Elliott Gorn, James Green, Ethan Pollock, Seth Rockman, Robert Self, Naoko Shibusawa, Mark Swislocki, and Vazira Zamindar) in such different areas as twentieth-century U.S., modern Chinese, Latin American, Russian, and South Asian history. In addition, the directors of two centers (Evelyn Hu-DeHart of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and Michael Steinberg of the Cogut Humanities Center) are historians and have officially joined our department. Beyond that, three additional faculty home-based elsewhere (Caroline Castiglione, Matt Garcia and Steve Lubar) have assumed voting appointments in the History Department.

As the department has added new faculty, it also has reoriented its intellectual directions. Two planning documents generated after extended department discussion noted that the historical profession has begun to move away from a traditional focus on nation building to incorporate units of analysis that extend beyond the nation state, such as empires, ecologies, diasporas, and borderlands. As it adds new faculty positions and makes new appointments, the department has decided to emphasize such transcultural and transnational perspectives. The purpose here is not to supplant the Department's traditional areas of excellence, but, rather, to reinforce and reinvigorate them. Put somewhat differently, by making transnational modes of analysis a signature feature of the Department, we hope to merge new appointments with our established strengths in a way that will turn a very strong department into one of the most exciting history programs in the U.S.

Cover image: Tubac, Arizona, in 1864, from J. Ross Browne, *Adventures in the Apache Country* (1869). A former Mexican presidio (fort), Tubac came under American control in 1854 following the ratification of the Gadsden Treaty. This agreement transferred much of the northern Mexican state of Sonora to the United States, relocating the U.S.-Mexico border from the Gila River to a few miles south of Tubac. Originally just a few scattered stone monuments that exercised little control over the flow of peoples and goods in the region, the border has undergone a series of radical transformations in the century and a half since the Gadsden Treaty. It is now home to several rapidly growing cities (most notably Nogales, founded in 1884, which sits astride the U.S.-Mexico boundary) as well as the focus of a recent, intense debate over immigration controls, including the building a seven-hundred-mile long wall that would fence Tubac off from its former Sonoran homeland.

As part of its intellectual redirection, the History Department also has revised its undergraduate curriculum and graduate programs. In regard to the B.A. concentration, the faculty decided to replace the old requirements, which were constructed around the nation-state experience in the U.S., Europe, and East Asia, with a broader program (ten courses instead of eight) that would encourage students to immerse themselves in a greater variety of international perspectives and transcultural topics. The changes at the graduate level have been designed to provide a more solidly based seminar experience that introduces students to a variety of methodological and topical approaches, ranging from microhistory to foodways and comparative modernities.

Even while navigating these changes, the History Department has maintained its traditional standards of excellence. Typically nearly three thousand students annually enroll in our courses, and the undergraduate concentration remains one of the most popular on campus. Students completing the rigorous Honors Program have received numerous awards, and several have published their essays. On the graduate level, applications to the Ph.D. and M.A. continue to run at a high volume; those admitted come from leading universities from both here and abroad; and the Ph.D. graduates have taken teaching positions at a variety of colleges and universities while Masters graduates have pursued teaching, business, and legal careers. The faculty, for its part, continue to receive a healthy share of prestigious research fellowships, and their publications have won numerous awards.

As dramatic and exciting as the first-half of the decade has been, the department faces a continued mix of loss set against renewal and growth in the years ahead. As part of President Simmons' Academic Initiatives Program, the Department will be adding four new positions; in African American history, Native American and Early European Contacts, the Atlantic World, and West Africa and the African Diaspora. We also have two vacant positions to staff, and as many as four of our number will reach normal retirement age in the not very distant future. "Ceaselessly the rivers flows," wrote a Japanese poet at the end of the tumultuous twelfth century, "and yet the water is never the same, while in the still pools the shifting foam gathers and is gone, never staying for a moment. Even so is man and his habitation." Inevitably, it seems, the fate of the History Department is to embrace change with the goal of promoting continued excellence.

Best regards.  
James L. McClain

## New Faculty



### CAROLINE CASTIGLIONE

is assistant professor of History and Italian Studies at Brown. Her recently published book *Patrons and Adversaries: Nobles*

*and Villagers in Italian Politics, 1640-1760* (Oxford, 2005) won the Marraro Prize from the Society for Italian Historical Studies. She is currently working on a book about aristocratic women who battled their families in the law courts and public sphere of early modern Rome. Both studies relate to her interest in how subaltern groups used judicial means and the strategies of adversarial literacy to broaden received beliefs about their rights in society and in the family. She gave an invited lecture at the international conference “Statebuilding from Below,” in Ascona, Switzerland (2005) and also presented her research at the Renaissance Society of America Conference (2006). During her first year at Brown she especially enjoyed teaching a freshman seminar on judicial evidence as a historical source and a graduate course on microhistory.

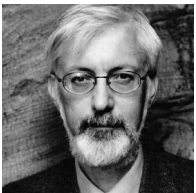


**MATT GARCIA** (Ph.D., 1997, Claremont Graduate School; 20th Century United States; Chicano/Latino History). Associate Professor,

Department of American Civilization, Ethnic Studies and History at Brown University. Interim Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in American, Brown University, 2005–2006. Author of *A World of Its Own: Race, Labor, and Citrus in the Making of Greater Los Angeles, 1900–1970* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2001; Co-winner, best book, biannual award, Oral History Association, 2003;

Honorable Mention, John Hope Franklin Prize for best book, American Studies Association, 2003; Honorable Mention, Lora Romero Prize for best first book, American Studies Association, 2003). Co-editor with Angharad Valdivia of *Geographies of Latinidad: Mapping Latino Studies for the Twenty-First Century* (Duke University Press, forthcoming). Select articles include: “Intraethnic Conflict and the Bracero Program during World War II” in Vicki Ruiz and Donna Gabaccia (Eds.) *American Dreaming, Global Realities: Rethinking U.S. Immigration History* (University of Illinois Press, forthcoming); “Cain contra Abel: Courtship, Masculinities, and Citizenship in Southern California, 1942–1964,” in James Campbell, Matthew Guterl, and Robert Lee (Eds.) *Race, Nation, and Empire in American History* (University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming); “The ‘Chicano’ Dance Hall: Remapping Public Space in Post-World War II Greater Los Angeles” in *Sound Identities* (1999), “Intercultural Relations and Popular Culture in the San Gabriel Valley: Padua Hills Theatre and El Monte’s American Legion Stadium” in *California Politics & Policy* (1998), “Memories of El Monte: Intercultural Dance Halls in Post-World War II Greater Los Angeles” in *Generations of Youth* (1998), “Chicana/o History in a Changing Discipline” in *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations* (1996), and “Just Put on that Padua Hills’ Smile”: The Padua Hills Theatre and The Mexican Players, 1931–1974” in *California History* (1995). Research interests include Chicano/Latino identity and community formation, race and ethnicity in the U.S., labor history, Latina/o education, American popular culture, and urban/suburbanization. Garcia’s current project entitled *The California South: Race, Labor and Justice on the California Border, 1900–1980* explores the formation of agricultural empires in the California

desert and the exploitation of natural resources and Mexican labor that made it possible. *The California South* will highlight several competing and, at times, complementary traditions in Mexican American community organizing, including those practiced by: United Farm Workers, Mexican American Political Association, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlán, and La Raza Unida Party as well as previously unacknowledged organizations such as the Community Committee for Alternatives in Education and the Tri-Valley Chicano Caucus. A preview of this work can be found at [www.brown.edu/coachella](http://www.brown.edu/coachella).



**STEVEN LUBAR**, a professor in the department of American Civilization, joins the department this year with a one-quarter-time appointment. Prof.

Lubar is director of the John Nicholas Brown Center, the university's center for the public humanities. His focus this past year has been the new M.A. program in Public Humanities. The first class of nine students completed its first year with a wide range of practicums. The Center also ran many programs last year, with co-sponsors including the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, and the History Department, and looks forward to more lectures and workshops this year. This year, Steven will teach both public humanities courses and an undergraduate survey of the history of American technology. Recent work includes popular articles and talks on early 19th-century invention and the use of images in industry, presentations on the history and future of museums, and consulting on a variety of exhibits and museum projects.



**MICHAEL P. STEINBERG** is the Barnaby Conrad and Mary Critchfield Keeney Professor of History, Director of the Cogut Center for the

Humanities, and Professor of Music at Brown University. He also serves as Associate Editor of *The Musical Quarterly* and *The Opera Quarterly*. He was a member of the Cornell University Department of History between 1988 and 2005. Educated at Princeton University and the University of Chicago, he has been a visiting professor at these two schools as well as at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris and National Tsing-hua University in Taiwan. His main research interests include the cultural history of modern Germany and Austria with particular attention to German Jewish intellectual history and the cultural history of music. He has written and lectured widely on these topics for the New York Times and at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Bard Music Festival, and the Salzburg Festival. He has received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation as well as the Berlin Prize from the American Academy, Berlin. He is the author of studies of Hermann Broch, Aby Warburg, and Walter Benjamin, of *Austria as Theater and Ideology: The Meaning of the Salzburg Festival* (Cornell University Press, 2000), of which the German edition (*Ursprung und Ideologie der Salzburger Festspiele*; Anton Pustet Verlag, 2000) won Austria's Victor Adler Staatspreis in 2001. A book called *Listening to Reason: Culture, Subjectivity*, and 19th-Century Music appeared with Princeton University Press in early 2004; *Reading Charlotte Salomon*, co-edited with

## New Faculty continued

Monica Bohm-Duchen, appeared with Cornell University Press in early 2006; *Judaism Musical and Unmusical* is forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press.



**VAZIRA FAZILA-  
YACOOBALI ZAMINDAR**

joined the faculty in the spring of 2006 as assistant professor of South Asian history, and

taught the survey Making of Modern South Asia during the semester. It has been a significant international move for her and her family, but they are slowly enjoying getting to know Providence and the Brown community. She is presently working on completing her manuscript, recently retitled *The Long Partition: Making New Nations in Divided South Asia*, for Columbia University Press. She will then return to her second project on the colonial history of archaeology, and an edited volume entitled *Heritage in Other Histories: The Politics of Placing the Past in the Muslim World*, is forthcoming from Routledge, UK.

Department of History Brown University presents

**The 25th William F. Church Memorial Lecture**

**“The Kittens Have Opened Their Eyes”:**

**Popular Science and Political Protest in 16th Century Italy**

**William Eamon** · Regents Professor of History, New Mexico State University

**Thursday, October 27, 2005**

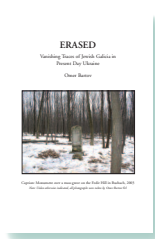
**4:30 p.m., Wilson 102**



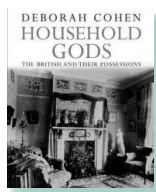
**BROWN**

The lecture concerns the emergence of popular scientific literature in 16th century Italy and, more generally, some of the ways in which printing influenced political change. The talk will focus on the 16th century surgeon Leonardo Fioravanti (the subject of my most recent book) and how his books, ideas, and literary style were appropriated in various radical political movements.

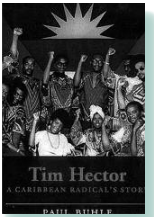
## Faculty Books 2005–2006



Erased: Vanishing Traces of Jewish Galicia in Present Day Ukraine" (Princeton, Univ. Press, 2007). And the accompanying book jacket



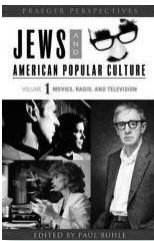
Deborah Cohen, Household Gods: The British and their Possessions 1830–1945 (Yale Univ. Press, 2006).



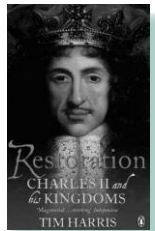
Paul Buhle, Tim Hector: A Caribbean Radical's Story (Univ. Press of Miss., pbk. 2006).



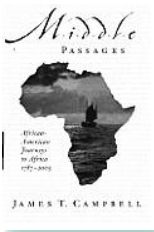
Stephen Graubard, Command of Office: How War, Secrecy and Deception Transformed the Presidency from Theodore Roosevelt to George W. Bush (BasicBooks pbk 2006).



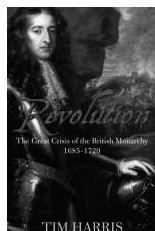
Paul Buhle, Jews and American Popular Culture, 3 volumes (Praeger/Greenwood, 2006).



Tim Harris, Restoration: Charles II and His Kingdoms 1660–1685 (Penguin, 2005; pbk 2006).

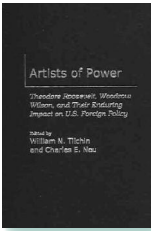


James Campbell, Middle Passages: African American Journeys to Africa, 1787–2005 (New York: Penguin Press, 2006).



Tim Harris, Revolution: The Great Crisis of the British Monarchy, 1685–1720 (Penguin, 2006).

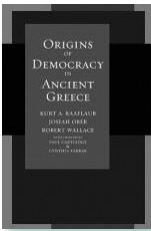
## Faculty Books 2005–2006



William N. Tilchin and Charles E. Neu, eds., *Artists of Power: Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Their Enduring Impact on U.S. Foreign Policy* (Westport, CT: Praeger Security International, 2006).



Michael Steinberg, *Listening to Reason: Culture, Subjectivity, and 19th Century Music* (pbk Princeton Univ. Press, 2006).



Kurt Raaflaub, Josiah Ober, and Robert W. Wallace, eds., *Origins of Democracy in Ancient Greece* (Berkeley and LA: Univ. of CA Press, 2007).



Michael Steinberg and Monica Bohm-Duchen, eds., *Reading Charlotte Salomon*, (Cornell Univ. Press, 2006).



Kurt Raaflaub, *War and Peace in the Ancient World* (Malden MA and Oxford: Blackwell, 2007).



Gordon Wood, *Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different* (Penguin, 2006).



Naoko Shibusawa, *America's Geisha Ally: Re-Imagining the Japanese Enemy* (Harvard, 2006).



## Faculty Activities

**ENGIN AKARLI** was a research fellow at the Islamic Legal Studies Program of Harvard Law School. He spent much of his time deepening and expanding his work on Ottoman legal history. He also taught an advanced seminar on the same subject at Harvard. Based on his seminar notes, he wrote the chapter on the Ottoman Empire in the forthcoming *Oxford Encyclopedia of Legal History*.

This was a very busy year. In the fall 2005 semester **OMER BARTOV** taught his lecture class on Modern Genocide and Other Crimes against Humanity, with some 200 students and a group of very dedicated and eventually totally exhausted TAs. Professor Bartov also conducted a Modern Germany Reading seminar with a large bunch of graduate students. Sessions often went way past the scheduled time, and we had to boost our energies with lots of pizza and coffee, but at least thoroughly enjoyed our meetings. In the spring 2006 semester Professor Bartov taught a lecture class on Modern Germany, which was thankfully of a more modest size. In the course of the semester Professor Bartov learned to use PowerPoint in lectures and found that the hunt for appropriate images can be as time-consuming but also as rewarding as more conventional preparations of lectures. Professor Bartov also conducted an undergraduate seminar on War, Culture, and Society in the Age of Total War. Not surprisingly, discussions often included the current war in Iraq and international terrorism. As for Bartov's own research, he continued working on the history of the town of Buczacz in Eastern Galicia as well as the Borderlands project at the Watson Institute. The most surprising discovery this year, however, was that quite unintentionally Professor Bartov ended up writing a short book which started off as an introduction for another collection of essays, expanded into a book chapter, and ended up as a

book-sized essay on travels in time and space in Western Ukraine/Eastern Galicia. The book, which will also have some 50 images, will be published next year with Princeton University Press under the title: *Erased: Vanishing Traces of Jewish Galicia in Present Day Ukraine*.

**MARI JO BUHLE** continues to work on a college-level textbook on U.S. women's history, to be published by Prentice-Hall. The Concise History of Woman Suffrage, co-edited with Paul Buhle, was recently reprinted with a new introduction. This past spring she gave a round-table presentation on teaching the U.S. history survey at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians; and presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians. She continues to research and teach in the history of the behavioral sciences as well as the history of U.S. women and gender.

**HOWARD CHUDACOFF** put finishing touches on his new book on the history of children's play in the United States, due to be published in 2007. Related to that project, he gave presentations at two invitation-only conferences, one at the University of California Berkeley and the other at the University of Houston, that brought together selected historians and other social scientists to discuss mutual interests in the study of children. During the academic year, in addition to his teaching and advising, Howard participated in the recertification of Brown's athletic program by the NCAA, serving on the steering committee and as co-chair of one of the subcommittees. He also began work on revising his chapter of the text *A People and a Nation*, to be published in its eighth edition in 2007.

## Faculty Activities continued

**DEBORAH COHEN** finished her book, *Household Gods: The British and their Possessions, 1830-1945*, which will be published by Yale University Press this fall.

**DOUGLAS COPE** is currently working on a study of Mexico City's "informal economy" in the eighteenth century. In March he presented some of his research at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (Harvard University). He also wrote the concluding chapter for a volume of essays on race and identity in colonial Latin America.

**RICHARD DAVIS** is spending the 2006-07 in Hong Kong, teaching at Lingnan University. He split the early summer between Taipei and Shanghai before settling in Hong Kong for the year. His manuscript, "Emperor and Bard: A Biography of Zhuangzong" is out for readings at the University of Hawaii Press. He is also writing a new introduction for an abridged paperback version of "*Historical Records of the Five Dynasties*," which Columbia University Press plans to publish in 2008 as complement to the long version published in 2004.

**CAROLYN J. DEAN'S** most recent book, *The Fragility of Empathy after the Holocaust*, was published by Cornell University Press in late 2004. She also published "Recent French Discourses on Stalinism, Nazism and 'Exorbitant' Jewish Memory" in *History & Memory*, a review essay of Berel Lang's work on Post-Holocaust in History and Theory, and has an essay forthcoming: "Against Grandiloquence: Jewish Memory and 'Victim Culture.'" She has taken temporary leave from the Department to serve as Associate Dean of the Faculty.

**ABBOTT GLEASON** will keynote a conference sponsored by the Political Science Department of the University of Bologna this November. The subject is "transitions to democracy in Europe after 1945." He will team teach a course on Modern Russian Culture this fall at Brown. Gleason was honored by his graduate students with a conference on March 24 and 25 entitled "Place, Space and Power in Modern Russian History." He is completing work on his memoirs and continues to edit *The Blackwell's Companion to Russian History*.

**MARY GLUCK** is currently researching a book on "The Function of the Jewish Joke in Late Nineteenth-Century Budapest". She has received a Faculty Fellowship from the Cogut Humanities Center to work on the project during the fall of 2006. She has also begun a collaborative research project with Lajos Csaszi on the impact of globalization on urban culture. They are completing an article on "The Cow Parades of Boston and Budapest", which compares the different ways citizens and tourists reacted to these popular art installations that were set up in both cities during the summer of 2006.

**ELLIOTT GORN** was in residence at the Huntington Library in Los Angeles 2005-2006, where he worked on a book to be called "*Dillinger's Ghost*." In the 2006-2007 academic year, he will continue to teach in the history department, but will also chair the American Civilization department.

In the 2005 History Newsletter **STEPHEN GRAUBARD** wrote mostly of his book, published in the United States by Basic Books in 2004 as *Command of Office, How War, Secrecy and Deception Transformed the Presidency from Theodore Roosevelt to George W. Bush*, and in the United Kingdom by Allen Lane as *The Presidents: The Transformation of the Presidency from Theodore Roosevelt to George W. Bush*. The British hard-cover edition sold out quickly, and the paperback edition, published by Penguin, is doing exceedingly well. In last year's Newsletter Graubard spoke of his next project as being an intellectual history of Great Britain and the United States since 1900. The success of this recent book on what is essentially an American topic—the book is scheduled to be translated soon into Chinese and Hungarian—persuaded him to change the emphasis of the new book. It will now deal only with the United States and is tentatively entitled “*Waging War and Pursuing Peace: The Long American Twentieth Century*.” Unlike Eric Hobsbawm who argues that the twentieth century was short, essentially lasting from 1914 to 1991—which Graubard believes correctly describes the situation in Europe—this book will argue that the twentieth century for the United States was long, that it began with the accession of Theodore Roosevelt following the assassination of McKinley, and that it continues to this day. President George W. Bush, while pretending to be a great innovator, resembles many of his less illustrious predecessors in the twentieth century, and is surrounded by men—there are only a few token women in his entourage—whose opinions about the world were shaped by their service under Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan. Chief concern will be not only with those public officials responsible for policy in these years but also with those who supported or resisted them—in short,

journalists, scholars, diplomats, writers, businessmen, members of Congress, and others, including representatives of ethnic and racial groups who often intruded, providing ideas and recommendations. In the last year, Stephen Graubard has lectured at Harvard and New York University, and done a certain amount of public speaking, mostly for charitable organizations that have asked him to expand on his recent book. Graubard expects to do more lecturing of this kind both in the United States and in the European Union in the coming year.

In addition to teaching courses on Brazilian history, this year Latin American history Professor **JAMES N. GREEN** organized two conferences at Brown co-sponsored by the History Department. In the fall, 165 experts on Brazil gathered for a three-day conference on the Future of Brazilian Studies in the United States. Green co-authored a national report based on the conference proceedings that will be circulated among academics, foundations, and Latin American Studies centers. In the spring, Green organized a conference to honor Professor Emeritus Thomas E. Skidmore, who has donated a 5,000 volume collection to the Brown Libraries and endowed a scholarship for graduate students in Brazilian history. Green also co-edited *Frescos Tropicos*, a collection of Brazilian primary source about male homosexuality in twentieth-century Brazil. As Director of the Center for Latin American Studies, he also wrote a successful Department of Education Title VI grant for Undergraduate Latin American Areas Resource Centers that will bring \$854,000.00 to Brown over the next four years to enhance and enrich Latin American Studies at the university.

## Faculty Activities continued

**TIM HARRIS'S** *Revolution: The Great Crisis of the British Monarchy, 1685–1720* (Penguin) appeared in January 2006, as did the paperback version of *Restoration: Charles II and His Kingdoms, 1660–1685* (also with Penguin). He has written articles on Restoration Ireland, the court whores of Charles II's reign, British political thought, and early modern English popular culture, and given talks in London, both Cambridges, and Denver. His edition of the Roger Morrice Entering Book (a diary from the 1680s) is now in proofs and will appear in 2007, and he has signed a contract with Oxford University Press to write a book on *The Stuart Kings in an Age of Revolutions*. He will be a visiting fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C. for the academic year 2006–7, where he will be working on a cultural history of prejudice in early modern England. He would love to hear from former students now living in the D.C. area.

**PATRICIA HERLIHY**, Professor Emerita, decided to retire from retirement by accepting the first Louise Wyant College Professorship at Emmanuel College in Boston to begin September 2006. After living twenty years in Providence, she moved to Cambridge to be closer to her children and grandchildren. In July 2005 she presented a paper, "Eugene Schuyler and the Making of the Bulgarian Constitution of 1876," at the International Congress of Slavic Studies in Berlin. The paper is in press as a book chapter with Brill Press. In August she lectured on a Brown University Alumni trip on the Volga that went from St. Petersburg to Moscow. Based on all her field trips to Russia, she published "Revenue and Revelry on Tap: The Russian Tavern," ed. Mack Holt, *Alcohol, A Social and Cultural History*, Berg Publishers, Oxford, 2006. Professor Herlihy taught a senior seminar, *An American Diplomat in*

*Nineteenth Century Eastern Europe*, in the spring for the History Department. There were no trips for her during the spring or summer of 2006, however, as she had a bad break in her shoulder and spent a month in hospitals in Providence. Just before her accident, she presented a paper in April at the Watson Institute for International Studies, "The Russian Demographic Disaster and its Impact on Women." In March she took part in the Conference in Honor of Abbott Gleason at the Watson Institute by presenting a paper, "Eugene Schuyler in Central Asia."

**EVELYN HU-DEHART** was on leave from Brown during 2005–06. Professor Hu-DeHart began her leave as Brown's exchange scholar at Keio University in Tokyo from June to September. During this time, she lectured at various universities in Tokyo (U. Tokyo, Ochanomizu Women's University, Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto), presented papers at 5 conferences and 3 universities in Australia (U. Melbourne, La Trobe University, U. Western Australia); keynoted a conference in Singapore on "Maritime Asia" to commemorate the 600th anniversary of Chinese Muslim Admiral Zheng He's last Treasure Fleet; lectured in Surabaya, Indonesia, and traveled the Chinese Silk Road from Xian through Xinjiang to the Kazakh border. From October through May, Professor Hu-DeHart served as the Distinguished Freeman Visiting Professor of Asian/Asian American Studies at Wesleyan University in neighboring Connecticut. Hong Kong University Press published Professor Hu-DeHart's volume on voluntary associations in the Chinese Diaspora. All in all, it was a wonderful and productive year, but Professor Hu-DeHart is ready to return to her colleagues and students at Brown.

**NANCY JACOBS** was involved in two curricular projects over the past year, both for the introductory lecture course “Twentieth-Century Africa”. The first was the *Animated Atlas of Africa History* (AAAH), now completed and publicly available at [www.brown.edu/aaah](http://www.brown.edu/aaah). The second is a collection of readings developed primarily for her own teaching, but intended for eventual publication as a sourcebook. This wide range of first-hand accounts on colonial and post-colonial Africa has been selected to humanize and complicate textbook narratives. Thanks to support from the Dean of the College Office, she has worked with three UTRA students over the past year to complete the AAAH, identify new readings and edit them for classroom use.

In addition to this curricular work, she is engaged in research on the relations between people and birds in sub-Saharan Africa. During a spring sabbatical leave in South Africa and Zambia she investigated local birdlore, the history of research collaborations between expatriate ornithologists and African assistants, and contemporary avi-tourism. Her first article on this subject appeared in the July 2006 issue of the journal, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. During the past year she presented papers on this work at the African Studies Association annual conference, the University of Pretoria and the University of Cape Town.

**KARL JACOBY** was on leave this past year, thanks to a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. Other than speaking at Yale University’s Lamar Center for the Study of Borderlands and Frontiers and serving on panels at the Organization of American Historians and American Studies Association annual meetings, he devoted most of the 2005–6 academic year to

finishing up his current book manuscript on history and memory in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

**RHETT S. JONES** just published “Dreams, Nightmares, and Realities: Afro-American Studies at Brown University, 1969–1986” in Lewis and Jane Gordon (Eds.), *A Companion to African-American Studies* (Blackwell); “Orphans of the Americas: Why the Existence of Zambo Societies Has been Denied” in *Journal of African American Studies*; “Psyche and Society in the Slave Construction of Race” in *Western Journal of Black Studies*; and (with George Houston Bass), “Rites and Reason: A Theatre that Lets the People Speak” in *Langston Hughes Review*. Now in press are “Black Resistance in the Americas before Blackness” in the *Journal of Black Studies*; “Civilization and Its Discontents: Black Life in the Eighteenth Century Cities of British North America” in an anthology on blacks in cities; “Geography and the Slave Creation of Blackness in the Americas” in *The Griot*; “History of Afro-Indian History” for an introductory Africana Studies reader; “Malcolm X’s Normative Leadership” for an anthology on Afro-American leadership; “Methodology and Meaning: The Sociology of Malcolm X” in an anthology on Malcolm X; and “Pan-Africanism as Sub-Africanity in the United States” in an anthology on Pan-Africanism. Jones continues as a Contributing Editor to *Black Masks*, as a Contributing Writer to the *Pepper Bird Magazine*, and on the editorial boards of *Ethnic Studies and Western Journal of Black Studies*. He will begin service on the editorial board of *The Griot* in February, 2007. In 2006 he received the George T. Downing Education Award from the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society.

## Faculty Activities continued

The postdoctoral fellows in the Advanced Studies Fellowship Program at Brown, directed by **CARL KAESTLE**, have completed a volume of essays entitled *To Educate a Nation: Federal and National Strategies of School Reform*, which will be published by the University Press of Kansas. The volume combines historical and political science approaches to the study of federalism and policy making in education. At the Organization of American Historians' meeting in Washington, D.C. last spring, Kaestle chaired a session with papers by three young scholars studying the educational history of African Americans. The session was held at Howard University. A luncheon followed, attended by Jacqueline Jones (Brandeis University). Veterans of the Brown History Department will remember Jackie from her two-year stint as a Luce Visiting Professor. Jones was a major professor at Brandeis for two of the participants in the Howard OAH session, and Kaestle was Jones's major professor at Wisconsin, all of which, he says, made him feel "very connected and very ancient." He takes heart from his wife's story about Agatha Christie. Married to an archaeologist, Christie said that the nice thing about such a husband was that the older you were, the more interested in you he became.

**BURR LITCHFIELD** continues to be active in his retirement house at Westport, Mass. This year he finished a book: *Florence Ducal Capital, 1530–1650*. It traces the transition from the civil society of the Florentine Renaissance Republic to the court society of the Medici Grand Duchy as seen through the prism of the city's changing urban social geography, a topic not much studied for Florence. The book is being published in two editions: on paper by Penn State Press, and online by the American Council of Learned Societies History E-book Project. Thus when it appears

next spring you will be able to read it online through the Brown library's subscription to the ACLS project. The book is accompanied by a new web site: *Florentine Renaissance Resources: Online Gazetteer of Sixteenth-Century Florence* that permits the user to locate ca. 750 items interactively on the Buonsignori 1584/94 "bird's eye view" map of Florence. The web site was programmed by the Brown Scholarly Technology Group and is already available. You can view it at:

[www.stg.brown.edu/projects/florentine\\_gazetteer/](http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/florentine_gazetteer/)

**DIMITRIS LIVANIOS** devoted last year to the completion of two books, and research for a third. In particular, he completed the revision of his Oxford doctoral thesis, under the title *Britain and the Struggle for Macedonia, 1939–1949*, which he then submitted to Oxford University Press for publication in the series Oxford Historical Monographs. Their official answer is still awaited, but some first indications from his Consulting Editor in the Press have been extremely positive and encouraging. He also completed the edition of a collection of British documents on Macedonia, entitled: *London-Skopje: British Documents on the Macedonian Question, 1924–1949*. This is a companion volume to his thesis, and it will also be submitted to a British publisher. In addition to these projects, he has started collecting primary materials for a third book, provisionally entitled *The Emergence of Russophobia in the Near East: The Greek Case, 1853–1913*, in which he will explore Greek reactions to and perceptions of Russian foreign policy in the Balkans, Ottoman Syria and Palestine. He also taught four courses on the Balkans, and was once again pleased to see that one of his pupils donated funds to the University in appreciation of his teaching. Other sources of pleasure were his service as concentration advisor, and the reading

of three interesting Honours theses. Finally, a highlight of the year was his appointment as a Faculty Fellow for the Vartan Gregorian Quad and the Graduate Centre in the Spring Semester (replacing Nancy Jacobs).

**BRYCE LYON** published the article “The Failed Campaign in Flanders of Edward I in 1297: A Case Study of Efficient Logistics and Inadequate Military Planning,” in *Handelingen der Maatschappij voor Geschiedenis en Oudheidkunde to Gent*, LIX (2005), 31–42. Professor Lyon has also written a short history of the Middle Ages entitled *The Middle Ages in One Hundred Pages*. It will be published in the coming year. The Commission Royale d’histoire de Belgique has established the Bryce and Mary Lyon Prize to be awarded annually for the best article or book published by the Commission.

In fall 2005 **MAUD MANDEL** was the Edwin and Shirley Seave Faculty Fellow at Brown University’s Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women. This year’s Pembroke seminar considered the multiple languages used to fashion the image and meaning of victimization in different historical and cultural contexts, a theme central to Mandel’s current book project, *Beyond Antisemitism: Muslims and Jews in Contemporary France*. In the spring semester, Mandel was awarded a faculty fellowship at the Cogut Center for the Humanities where she presented a paper, “Re-thinking Jewish/Muslim Relations in Contemporary France: A Focus on 1967.” In addition, Mandel presented a paper, “Rethinking Antisemitism: Jewish and Muslim Relations in Contemporary France,” at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting in January 2006.

During intersession, **JAMES L. MCCLAIN** visited Seoul to give a series of talks in conjunction with the Publication of his latest book. He then visited Keiō University, where he continued research on his book, *Tokyo Modern: The Significance of the Middle Class in Twentieth-century Japan*.

For the past year, **TONY MOLHO** continued his teaching at the European University Institute, offering seminars on the history of the Mediterranean, and the comparative history of the seas. In autumn 2005, he gave up the Department Headship, and assumed the responsibility of the newly created Chair of Mediterranean Studies. During this past year, he published an article on late medieval Italian fiscal systems (in a collective volume brought out by the French Ministry of Public Finance), and the first volume of his collected papers (published in Rome by Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura). He also sent to press a collective volume (co-edited with Diogo Curto and Nicky Koniordos) entitled *Finding Europe: Discourses on Margins, Communities, Images from the 14th to the 18th Centuries* and finished an article, to be published in the Festschrift in honour of his friend Richard Trexler, entitled *Exile and the Values of Western Civilization*, German Jewish Historians and American Studies on the Renaissance. During the year, he gave a number of lectures, among which the two he enjoyed most were at Yale University (in February) on Crossing Boundaries—Questioning Authority, Some Mediterranean Stories, and at the Gennadeios Library in Athens (in June), entitled Merchants and Discoveries. At Yale he had the very great pleasure of catching up with David Underdown and Susan Amusen, and seeing again Francesca Trivellato. The Brown History connection was very much in evidence in New Haven!

## Faculty Activities continued

**TARA NUMMEDAL** was on leave this past year with a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She used the time to complete her book manuscript, *The Battle for Alchemical Authority in the Holy Roman Empire*, which will appear in Fall 2007. She presented work from this book, which centers on the problem of alchemical fraud in early modern Europe, at the University of Warwick in England and the University of Kansas. In addition, she joined the Executive Committee of the International Society for Paracelsus Studies and joined colleagues at the Chemical Heritage Foundation and the Philadelphia Museum of Art in planning an exhibit on art and alchemy, “Fortune and Folly: Images of Alchemy in Northern European Art.”

**JAMES PATTERSON'S** book, *Restless Giant: The United States from Watergate to Bush v. Gore* (Oxford University Press) appeared in September 2005. It is a volume in the Oxford History of the United States series. A highlight of the past year was a conference in May 2006 at Cambridge University concerning my teaching and writing. Organized by former graduate students (Josh Zeitz, Alan Petigny, and Jim Sparrow), it attracted many other former students as well as scholars of modern United States history. In addition to John, Alan, and Jim, the former students who attended—and gave excellent papers—were Robert Flegler, Steve Gillon, Andrew Huebner, Woody Register, Dan Williams, and David Witwer.

**KURT A. RAAFLAUB** published an updated and expanded edition of a volume he edited first in 1986, *Social Struggles in Archaic Rome: New Perspectives on the Conflict of the Orders* (Malden MA and Oxford: Blackwell, 2005). A volume he is editing, resulting from a lecture series

and colloquium the Program in Ancient Studies organized three years ago, will be published later this year: *War and Peace in the Ancient World* (also Blackwell) comprising 20 chapters ranging from early China and India to West Asia and the Mediterranean (including Israel and the early Islamic World) to the Americas before the Spanish conquest. He also published a number of articles, including “Tragedy and the City” (together with Classics Prof. Deborah Boedeker) and “Epic and History.” As Director of the Program in Ancient Studies, Raaflaub led a seminar and organized lectures and a large conference (co-sponsored by the History Department, among others) on “Geography, Ethnography, and Perspectives of the World from Antiquity to the Renaissance.” The proceedings of this conference, too, will be published. For the coming academic year he is planning, together with Classics Prof. David Konstan, a conference on “Epic and history, ancient and medieval” (Dec. 1–3, 2006). He taught an advanced Latin course on the civil war experience in Rome (which will eventually result in a commentary on Julius Caesar’s own report on the civil war he fought against Pompey) and a lecture/discussion course on early Greek political thinking (this too will feed into a book). Outside of Brown, Raaflaub lectured widely, participated in various conferences, lectured in summer institutes for high school teachers, and taught a week-long summer seminar for college teachers at NYU on “Conditions for democracy from ancient Mesopotamia to modern Iraq.”

In 2005–6, **AMY G. REMENSNYDER** served for a third year as History’s Director of Graduate Studies. She taught courses ranging from the “Theory and Practice of History” to “Medieval Iberia: Land of Three Cultures,” and had the honor of giving the Faculty Address at the Brown’s



Mid-Year Completion Ceremony. She continues to work on her book about the Virgin Mary in medieval Spain and colonial Mexico.

**JOAN RICHARDS** published several articles on the logic, religion and worldview of Augustus and Sophia De Morgan, and has completed half of the manuscript for her book-length study of the Fren/De Morgan family. This fall she will be teaching her lecture course “The Roots of Modern Science”, and a new Freshman seminar entitled “The Measure of All Things.” In the spring she will again be teaching History 2.

**SETH ROCKMAN'S** recent publications include “Class and the History of Working People in the Early Republic” in *Journal of the Early Republic*, volume 25 (winter 2005), and “The Unfree Origins of American Capitalism” in *The Economy of Early America: Historical Perspectives and New Directions* (2006). Essays are forthcoming in *Journal of Urban History* and *Maryland Historical Magazine*. In May 2006, Rockman received the first annual Joseph Arnold Memorial Prize in Baltimore History from the Baltimore City Historical Society. Between January and May 2007, Rockman will be in residence at the American Antiquarian Society as a NEH Long-term Fellow to begin work on “Self-Made and Slave Made: Capitalism, Slavery, and the Rise of the American Economy.”

**DONALD G. ROHR** completed the editing of travel diaries and published them with an introduction under the title “The Young John Carter Brown in Europe.”

This year **ROBERT SELF** continued research and writing related to his current book project on the politics of gender and sexuality in the U.S. in the 1960s and 1970s. He completed an article entitled “Sex and the City: Men and the Politics of Sexual

Liberalism in Los Angeles, 1960–1984,” for the journal *Gender and History*, based on research he did while a fellow at the Huntington Library in Los Angeles. In the fall, he was invited to present this new work at the University of Michigan, where he also gave a graduate seminar on his first book, *American Babylon*. In the summer, he and a Brown undergraduate researcher worked on the politics of abortion law and rape law reform in the 1960s and 1970s, the politics of women's health, and the effects of Title IX on women's athletics. Professionally, Prof. Self assumed duties as co-chair of the 2007 program committee for the Organization of American Historians (OAH) annual conference in Minneapolis and completed a year on the program committee for the Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) annual conference. At Brown, he developed a new lecture course entitled “Twentieth-century American Political Movements” and won a Wriston Fellowship to develop another course on American citizenship. At the end of the academic year his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure was approved by the Brown President and members of the Corporation.

Since she spent her first year on leave, **NAOKO SHIBUSAWA** became fully immersed in the Brown community this past year. She acted as a freshman adviser, mentored graduate students, taught four courses—three of which were completely new—and served on the department's academic priorities committee. During the fall semester, she was invited to give talks at the University of Connecticut-Storrs, Wesleyan University, and Northwestern University. This spring, she gave papers at the annual meetings of the Organization of American Historians in Washington, DC, and the Association of Asian

## Faculty Activities continued

Studies in San Francisco. At the beginning of the summer, she participated in a workshop on new work in international history at Temple University. In the meantime, she finished all work necessary for her book, *America's Geisha Ally*, to be published later this fall by Harvard University Press.

**KERRY SMITH** continues to work on a book about the social and cultural histories of the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. He spoke on that topic in Singapore at a conference on disasters in East Asia, and helped arrange for the donation of a privately held collection of photographs of the earthquake to the Rockefeller library. Images from the Dana and Vera Reynolds Collection can be seen here: <http://dl.lib.brown.edu/kanto/>. He also led a group of Brown travellers on a study trip to Japan in the spring.

**MARK SWISLOCKI** divided his time between new course development, including a new graduate reading seminar on Food Studies, and writing his book, *Culinary Nostalgia: Food and Cultural Memory in Shanghai*. He presented papers from this book at the international symposium, "Popular Culture and Social China in Modern China," held in Shanghai in December 2005, and at the 2006 Association for Asian Studies annual convention.

**MICHAEL VORENBERG** published three essays during the year: a study of the Reconstruction-era Supreme Court in Houghton Mifflin's new guide to the Court; an analysis of slave emancipation in an overview of the Civil War titled *A Struggle for a Vast Future*; and an article on civil rights law in a special issue of the journal *Civil War History*. He gave a number of talks at various venues on such topics as Abraham Lincoln, War Powers, and the impact of the Civil War on American Citizenship.

The past year has been rather quiet. In August and September, **LEA WILLIAMS** was "working" on Russian icebreakers in the Arctic and even made two trips to the North Pole (he may not be the oldest person to get there, but belongs to a small group of aging victims of wanderlust). In April and May, he was doing his usual shipboard lecturing on three trips around Japan. A little writing continues to be done.

**GORDON WOOD** was on leave during the fall term of 2005–06. In the spring term he taught his lecture course on the early Republic and his undergraduate course on the practice of history. In May of 2006 he published *Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different* (Penguin). During the course of the academic year he presented lectures at the University of Maine at Farmington, Brown University on Constitution Day, the New York Historical Society, Vienna, Salzburg, Istanbul, to Connecticut judges at Old Saybrook, Roger Williams University, to Federal District Court judges at Key West, University of London, the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Rancho Mirage Library in California, the Huntington Library, the North Kingston Library, the Lionel Trilling Lecture at Columbia, Brown campaign kickoffs at Boston and Washington, California State at Channel Islands, school teachers at Deerfield, MA, Federal District Judges at Tucson, legal conference at Columbia Law School, Colonial Williamsburg, Washington DC, Charlottesville, DC Circuit Judges at Farmington PA, and Pennsylvania judges in DC. He also wrote several reviews for the *New York Times*, the *New York Review of Books*, and *The New Republic*.

## Prizes

**Clarkson Collins** “for best paper dealing with the American Merchant Marine or Navy” for men in the junior or senior class.

**NATAN ZEICHNER**, for the paper “Identity Construction in the Maritime Atlantic World”

**Gaspee Chapter DAR** “woman student who presents the best paper written as a class assignment in an American history course.”

**CASSAUNDR A COULTER** for paper the “Art Imitating Life: Representations of Interracial Relationships in American Cinema”—Keren McGinity

**ANYA GOLDSTEIN** for the paper “U.S. Slavery: A Sexual Political Economy”

**SUZANNE SMITH** for the paper “The Slavery of Their Wants”

**KATE BRANDT** for the paper “The Rape of Nanjing American Discourse: From Front Page to ‘Oblivion and Back Again”

**Marjorie Harris Weiss** “outstanding undergraduate woman majoring in History.”

**MEHTAB BRAR** for “Second Generation South Asian Perspectives on Modern Arranged Marriage”

**DANA GOLDSTEIN** for her work on Paris and Modernity

**JENNIFER LAMBE** for her work on Modern Brazil

**The David Herlihy Prize to the** “best student in Medieval or Renaissance History”

**TARA LANG** for the paper “Italian Renaissance Clothing: The New Meaning of the Phrase ‘Fashion Victim”

**Samuel C. Lamport in International Understanding with an emphasis on cooperation and tolerance.**

**CONSTANTINE HAGHIGHI** for the paper “A Proper View of History: Yasukuni Shrine in East Asia”

**OH-YOON KIM** for the paper “The Untouchable Authentic and the Accessible Simulation: A History of Atomic-Bomb Witness in Japan and the United States”

**JUSTIN GLAVIS-BLOOM** for the paper “Unwitting C.I.A. Complicity: American Media Coverage of the Iranian Coup”

**BRIAN CORCORAN** for the paper “Mezi zprávou a pravdou—Between Information and Truth: Havel’s Intellectual Education”

**The Claiborne Pell Medal for excellence in U.S. history**

**PEILING LI** for distinguished course work and her honors thesis, “Desertion and Disunity: The North Encounters the Civil War”

## PhDs Awarded

2005–2006

**KARTHAS, ILYANA** (BA, Barnard College, Columbia; AM, Oxford and Brown)  
“Nation, Modernism, Gender, and the Cultural Politics of Ballet”; lecturer, McGill University

**SEEGEL, STEVEN** (BA, History and English, Canisius College; AM, Brown)  
“Blueprinting Modernity: Nation-State Cartography and Intellectual Ordering in Russia’s European Empire, Ukraine, and Former Poland-Lithuania, 1795–1917”; post-doctoral fellow in Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University

**YEH, SARAH** (BA, Harvard; AM, Brown) “In an Enemy’s Country: British Culture, Identity, and Allegiance in Ireland and the Caribbean, 1688–1763”; faculty, Horace Mann School, NY



### **THANK YOU** Visiting Professors

Federico Finchelstein, Jorge Flores, Andrew Huebner,  
Keren McGinity, Jeremy Popkin, *and* Leigh Yetter



## Graduate Program

This year was an exciting one for the Graduate Program. The Department inaugurated its newly structured Ph.D. program, developed after a year of intensive discussion and reflection by the faculty in consultation with the current graduate students. While the faculty has always been proud of our Ph.D. program, we felt that some changes were in order given the very recent large shifts in the field of History. Now all doctoral course work takes the form of seminars spread out over two years rather than one as was the case in the previous program. Some of these seminars are framed using the traditional parameters of chronology and geography, so this year's students could choose from seminars on traditionally defined topics such as Modern United States History or Modern Europe/Germany. But they also could take seminars that cut across such categories to explore themes such as "Food Empires and Food Cultures" or "Modernity and Everyday Culture." These new thematic seminars help poise our Ph.D. students at the cutting edge of the discipline—in this era of globalization, historians are increasingly defining their subjects in transnational and thematic terms. Along with training our students in the newest developments in the field of History, the new doctoral program also is designed to help them cope with the more pragmatic aspects of being a historian. All first year Ph.D. students now take a seminar in the Practice of History, while all second years take a professionalization seminar.

The new series of seminars and course requirements was enthusiastically received by the Ph.D. students who came to Brown in the fall of 2005. We wish them luck as they embark on the second year of the new program. I'm also pleased to report that an impressive class of eleven Ph.D. and six M.A. students enters the

Department in the fall of 2006. The M.A. students will be the first to test the waters with our newly structured Master's program, which has features that are similar to the new Ph.D. program.

Our current students continue their outstanding work as Teaching Assistants and scholars. Their exceptional quality has been recognized both by the University and by external granting agencies and foundations. This year, our students were very successful in winning University Travel and Dissertation Fellowships, and fellowships from national and international organizations. The external grants that students from the Department hold for the academic year 2006-7 include Beinecke, Gilder-Lehrman, Humboldt, Huntington, and Mellon fellowships as well as the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship, the Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. Dissertation Award, the Clarke Chambers Travel Fellowship, the Eisenhower Foundation Research Travel, and the J.M. Stuart Fellowship.

Warm congratulations are owed the three students who received their doctoral degrees in History in May 2006. We wish them well as they depart from Providence to begin new lives, in one case as a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University, and in others as faculty members at the Horace Mann School, and McGill University. As they leave Brown, I will be ending my term as Director of Graduate Studies. I have greatly enjoyed my three years of constant contact with the Department's vibrant and energetic community of graduate students. I look forward to news of the program's continued achievements under my very able successor, Professor Engin Akarli.

—Amy G. Remensnyder

## Reflections on the History Honors Program

The Department of History continues to produce a great number of stellar undergraduate students. This year, at the suggestion of our department chair, we solicited reactions of their history experience from three graduating seniors. We hope you enjoy hearing from them instead of from us.

Christopher Elias '06, whose thesis won a departmental prize, is a member of the Mississippi Teacher Corps and currently teaches English at Raymond High School in Raymond, Mississippi. He plans to someday earn his doctorate in history. He writes: Like many—I would hope all—of my undergraduate peers at Brown, my choice of concentration was dictated by my personal interests. Though I hope to one day become a history professor, my choice of a history concentration was not dictated by professional plans. I could have easily chosen English Literature, Political Science, or International Relations, but I gravitated toward history because I have been a “history buff” since I was in grade school. That term—“history buff”—is certainly looked down upon by academic historians; it brings to mind re-enactors and slapdash History Channel documentaries. However, to me, “history buff” represents a straightforward, deeply felt passion that should reside within all historians. Despite their anachronisms and alarmist claims, I truly enjoy re-enactments, the History Channel, and popular histories of all sorts.

Thus, there was that underlying passion for history, and I was fortunate enough to spend four years studying what I loved. That said, I am only just now beginning to understand the true value of studying history, or, more specifically, studying history at Brown. History professors at Brown seek to make each and every student a refined

critical thinker. Of course, this is the goal of nearly all the humanities, social sciences, and probably the liberal arts in general. Of course, philosophy, religion, political science, and English professors also want their students to learn to think critically. The difference is that history professors seek to tie that attempt at critical thinking into the greater goal of creating active, productive democratic citizens. History professors at Brown are truly teachers in the sense that they are imparting, albeit indirectly, a way of thinking rather than isolated facts. I'm sorry Professor Wood, but I will never remember the specific causes of the Seven Years' War; I'm sorry Professor Sacks, but I can't tell you much about Emerson's “American Scholar” speech (and this, only a year and a half after I took your course). What I can remember now, and what I will remember for the rest of my life, is the process by which both professors arrived at their hypotheses about each of those topics. I can remember the way my professors thought about history and the world around them, I can remember how they dutifully collected, analyzed, and presented evidence, and I can remember how every history professor I had at Brown knew how to question historical documents and events in a way that would illuminate the darkest corners of their mystery. To a certain degree, the question (and the way of asking that question) was always more important than the answer.

Thus, it was this way of thinking that I picked up as a history concentrator. As I reluctantly transition into the big, bad world beyond Van Wickle Gates, I consistently find myself using the lessons taught by my history professors. I know I'll never discover all the answers, but it is a comfort to be able to know how to ask the questions.

Peiling Andrea Li, who received the The Claiborne Pell Medal for excellence in U.S. History, begins a two-year M.Phil in Modern European History at the University of Oxford in England, where she will examine the development of nationalism and citizenship in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Europe. After Oxford, Peiling plans to return to the States to pursue a Ph.D. in American history. She writes: During the 2005–2006 academic year I engaged in many history-oriented activities. With eight other undergraduates, I helped restart the History Departmental Undergraduate Group. Professors Michael Vorenberg and Seth Rockman served as the group’s advisors. HUG, as the group became known, sponsored gatherings and study breaks with the goal of bringing history concentrators together outside of a classroom environment. HUG also held an academic advising panel for current and prospective students. Several Dessert & Dialogue events, designed to facilitate informal faculty-undergraduate discussion, were organized. Professors Robert Self, Tara Nummedal and Tim Harris were this year’s featured Dessert & Dialogue professors.

In addition to coordinating HUG activities [HUGs are groups of undergraduate concentrators who come together for social and intellectual discussion], I wrote an honors thesis entitled “Desertion and Disunity: The North Encounters the Civil War.” My thesis focused on the causes of desertion and the implications of the prevalence of desertion throughout the Union ranks. My research drew on over four hundred court-martial files and correspondence between the home front and the battlefield. I also mounted “War in Pieces: A Portrait of the Civil War

North,” a three-month-long exhibit at the Rhode Island State Archives, as part of my Royce Fellowship project “Dead Letters: Rhode Islanders Report Back on the American Civil War.”

Last, and certainly not least, Dana Goldstein, whose thesis won a departmental prize and who also won the Marjorie Harris Weiss prize for outstanding undergraduate woman majoring in History, writes: My participation in the History Department’s honors programs as a junior and senior was definitely the defining academic experience of my time at Brown. My thesis—which focused on nineteenth century French literary and cultural history—allowed me to explore just how flexible the discipline of history is. I have to thank my advisor, Mary Gluck, and many other members of the History Department faculty for encouraging me to take advantage of that flexibility and encompass literary criticism, feminist theory, and sociology into my historical research and writing. This kind of broad thinking is serving me well in my current job as Associate Editor of *CampusProgress.org*, a progressive politics and culture webzine published by the Center for American Progress, a think tank in Washington, D.C. I’ve been able to write about a variety of historical topics with a pop culture twist—from German author Gunter Grass’ recent revelations of his past as an SS soldier, to feminist reactions over time to the 1972 movie “Deep Throat.” I’m not sure what the future holds—perhaps a career in magazine journalism, perhaps graduate school in history. Either way, the History concentration at Brown was great preparation.

Director of Undergraduate Studies  
Ken Sacks

## 2005–2006 History Department Honors Recipients

SUZANNE ALTSHULER	Transforming Philanthropy and Activism: Hadassah Grows in the 1930s
SAMUEL BIAGETTI	The Red Wine Rebellion: Louisiana, 1768
JEREMY CHASE	Francis Wayland: A Uniting Force in an Era of Disunion”
CONSTANCE CHOI	Shostakovich and His Music: How We Read the Multivalent Meaning of “Red” Art
ALEXA CLAY	Merchants of Destiny: Astrological Persona and the Scientific Imagination in Restoration England
BRIAN CORCORAN	Between Lennon and Lenin: Music and Politics in Czechoslovakia, 1968–1989
DEVON DEAR	Writing the Spectral State: The Poetry of Abdulhamid Suleimon Ughli Cholpon in Soviet Turkistan, 1917–1925
CHRISTOPHER ELIAS	The Company Man: John Theodore McNaughton and the Vietnam War
DANA GOLDSTEIN	Remembering the Flaneuse: Women of French Panorama, 1830–1848
JONAS KIEFFER	An Interest Residing Partly in both Territories: The Emergence of Nationalism in the “Verdmont” borderlands, 1777–1794
ALISON KLAYMAN	Labor and Labels: Categorizing Slavery, Servitude, Race and Gender in Colonial Southern Rhode Island
KATHERINE KLONICK	Styling Substance: How NOW and STOP ERA Created an Unmarketable Equal Rights Amendment
TARA LANG	A Mother in Defense of Her Family is Not Easily Turned Aside: Women Strike For Peace, 1961–1973
PEILING LI	Desertion and Disunity: The North Encounters the Civil War
FAIZAH MALIK	Negotiating Language, Identity, and State: The Decline of Urdu in Post-Partition North India
JOHN NICHOLS	Fallen Soldiers: Remembering the Centralia Tragedy of 1919
SUSAN OBA	Mostly Made, Especially for this Purpose, in Providence, R.I.: The Rhode Island Negro Cloth Industry
THERESA ROOSEVELT	Unintended Uses of Gitmo: The Evolving Story of Refugees at the U.S. Naval Base, 1959–1995
THOMAS SCHUMANN	Heaven, Hell, or Houston: Honky Tonks, Dance Halls, House Dances, and Rural Culture in Urban Texas during the 1930’s and ‘40’s



## Reflections on the History Graduate Program



I spent eight years in Brown University's history department—six as a graduate student under the direction of James Patterson, two as a visiting assistant professor. Now that

I've left Providence to take a position elsewhere, Brown has taken on a new meaning for me.

Viewed in retrospect, I can see that Brown was the place where I matured as an academic—where I started out an insecure grad student and became a slightly less insecure professional historian.

It is not uncommon to teach temporarily at one's degree-granting institution. Nevertheless, it felt a bit odd to teach a class in 2005 in which I'd served as a teaching assistant in 1998; to call professors on my dissertation committee by their first names, and to have Brown undergraduates not call me by mine; to eventually occupy Jim Patterson's old office, where I had been such an anxious caller almost eight years earlier. What quickly made it comfortable, though, was the way other professors in the department made me feel welcome. People who'd known me as a graduate student accepted me as a teacher; people I'd known as mentors now felt like colleagues and friends. All of them know who they are—and I am grateful to each of them.

—Andrew J. Huebner



### Florence Exchange Students

Veronica Bucciantini

## Oldest Living TA Turns Professor

It was only a year ago that I told my story in these pages, describing how I had returned to graduate school at age 55 to finish my Ph.D. in history and how, as a result, I had earned the sobriquet from my students at Brown University as the Oldest Living TA.

After spending 30 years as a public historian for various historical agencies and ultimately for the U.S. Department of State, I decided to go back to Brown to finish what I had started so long ago. But when my essay was published last year, I was having trouble finding a teaching job. I had gone on a few interviews, but after applying for positions at more than 50 departments, I had received no word at all from most of them.

Disappointed and depressed, I wondered if age discrimination might be a factor. But I had no real evidence of that. I was just thinking out loud—in this case, in print. In my column, I cited a 1996 study from the American Historical Association that found age discrimination all too rife in history-department searches.

My essay seemed to hit a nerve. I heard from many other older graduate students and Ph.D.'s, most of them in the humanities, who thanked me for my comments and revealed that they were in the same boat, unable to find work in academe.

But then I started to feel a little guilty. For no sooner had my essay appeared in *The Chronicle* than I received a job offer. It was for a temporary post at the University of Maine at Farmington. Several people at the university—including the president, the provost, and the head of the search committee looking to fill a one-year appointment in history there—saw my essay at precisely the same time that I applied for the position.

The president, Theodora Kalikow, later told me that she had thought after reading my column, “He’s the kind of person we should get up here.” She was amazed when the search committee selected me to fill the temporary position, and I must confess that she welcomed me with an enthusiasm that made it seem as if we were old friends.

In fact, once I arrived on the campus, everyone seemed to know about me. I would introduce myself, only to find out that my fame—such as it was—had preceded me. How do these people know so much about me?, I wondered. I may have a Ph.D. in history but that doesn’t mean I’m the sharpest nail in the toolbox. It took President Kalikow to enlighten me. After I had accepted the one-year job, she had sent copies of my essay around the campus.

I can’t say if the column helped me get that job. Only the members of the search committee who selected me can say for sure, and I actually never asked them. But my good fortune did not end there.

During the round of academic hiring that began in October of 2005 and ended this past spring, I was fortunate to land the job of my dreams. I have been appointed the Richard Frockt Family Professor of Civil War History and director of the Center for the Civil War in the West at Western Kentucky University.

In that search, no one ever mentioned my column. It just seemed—at least to me—like a perfect fit from the moment I read the position announcement, through my first interview, and on into the campus visit.

All of the issues that I had raised in my essay no longer seemed applicable. I felt as if I had

suddenly landed on a planet that made sense to me. Well, OK, not completely. The war in Iraq was still raging, gas was nearing \$3 a gallon, and those poor Katrina victims had their lives shattered. But I digress.

When I received the offer from Western Kentucky, I was overjoyed—and a little overwhelmed. One of my dissertation advisers put my situation into a rather shocking perspective: “You have gone from a teaching assistant to an endowed chair in less than a year.”

I do not quote him to brag. I am, quite frankly, still pinching myself to see if all of this has been a dream. It has not.

My wife and I are in the process of moving to Bowling Green, Ky., I am in the middle of preparing classes for the fall, and life has become hectic, crazy, and, I must tell you, incredibly satisfying.

I still think that age discrimination is an important problem in universities, and particularly in history departments. In fact, once I get settled at my new university, I would like to get involved in finding out how much of a problem it actually is—and how a remedy can be found.

There should be a place in the world, it seems to me, for “old” TAs and for “elderly” assistant professors. Of course, there also should be a place for all doctoral recipients to find work in their field, but that has not been the case in this country now for many decades.

Still, the issue of age should not automatically be a barrier for anyone who wishes, late in life,

to pursue a career in academe. After all, as the actor Maurice Chevalier once famously said: “Old age isn’t so bad when you consider the alternative.”

So I have been transformed from a TA to a chaired professor. I don’t know precisely how it all happened, although I am grateful to a long list of people at Brown University, the University of Maine at Farmington, and Western Kentucky University for giving me precisely the kind of support that I thought I would never get in academe—and for helping me land precisely the kind of dream job I never thought I could have.

I don’t take back what I wrote in my essay a year ago. Both anger and humor could be found in what I experienced at the time. Now, I am proud to say, I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work. So I must pass my title of Oldest Living TA on to someone else.

Any takers?

—Glenn W. LaFantasie

**GLENN W. LAFANTASIE** received his Ph.D. in history from Brown University in May of 2005. He is the author of *Gettysburg Requiem: The Life and Lost Causes of Confederate Colonel William C. Oates* (Oxford University Press), and other works. He starts this fall as a chaired professor of civil-war history at Western Kentucky University.

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