

# PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

A Report from the Department of History on School Year 2010–11

## Women's History Conference Draws 1500 to Campus

A HIGH POINT of the History Department's year came in June 2011, when we hosted the 15th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women. This triennial conference drew nearly 1500 scholars of gender and women's history to campus for four exciting days of talks, tours, workshops, and performances. As intellectually stimulating as the presentations were, it was added fun to welcome several alumnae and former faculty who returned to campus for this landmark event.

The Berkshire Conference traces its origins to 1930, when a small number of women historians, feeling isolated in the profession, launched an annual weekend retreat. That group, the "Little Berks," continues to this day, but as interest in women's history blossomed, a major conference—the "Big Berks"—was launched to provide a forum for new research.

*continued on page 3*

## Marking Its 25th Year, Public History Looks Boldly Ahead

IN SEPTEMBER 2011 UMass Amherst's Public History Program celebrated its 25th anniversary with "Public History 2036: The Next 25 Years," a landmark conference at which some of the nation's most innovative practitioners helped us ponder the field's next quarter-century. Close to 150 registrants gathered to hear lively, substantive talks, reunite with old friends, and form new connections that will surely help shape the coming years for us all.

The program began Friday, September 23, with welcomes from program director **Marla Miller**, History Department Chair **Joye Bowman**, and Dean of the Graduate School **John Mullin**. Museum director, consultant, and general provocateur **Nina Simon** then got the program proper off to a great start with an inspiring virtual tour of innovative exhibits and programs from leading museums worldwide. **Rolf Diamant**

of the National Park Service described how Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller and other NPS sites can partner with foresters and farmers to become agents of sustainability. Then, while everyone gobbled a box lunch, **Liz Cevcenko** discussed the Guantánamo Public Memory Project.

The formal sessions resumed with **Chris Wilson**, a preservationist at the University of New Mexico, showing fascinating examples of historic preservation intersecting with socially and environmentally responsible redevelopment. **Graciela Sanchez** followed with a moving account of the extraordinary work that her Esperanza Peace and Justice Center in San Antonio is doing to cultivate greater pride in the city's Mexican-American heritage as a tool for larger social activism. Thanks to her report, the need for courage in public-history practice entered the weekend's conversation.

After the day's talks, "Come to Our Table: Twenty-Five Years of Community Engagement at UMass Amherst," a beautiful exhibit created by student **Emily Oswald**, was unveiled. It celebrated the program's many partnerships and highlighted some of the longest, most fruitful projects we've undertaken with area history organizations, from the oral history of the Northampton State Hospital to more recent efforts to promote the Joseph Allen Skinner Museum at the Mount Holyoke College Museum of Art. We were especially delighted to see so many of our community partners at the event, including **Paul Weinbaum**, recently retired as Northeast regional historian for the National Park Service. Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts **Julie Hayes**, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement **Mike Malone**, and founding director **David Glassberg** offered remarks praising the Public



MAX PAGE AND CHRIS WILSON.

*continued on page 4*

---

---

## Letter from the Chair

NOW THAT THE new fall semester has begun, my first year as chair seems almost a distant memory. I continue to appreciate my colleagues' trust and confidence in me as I learn the job's ins and outs. UMass Amherst, and more specifically the History Department, is reinventing itself for the new world of higher education. Part of that means dealing with dwindling resources, especially from the state. But despite these constraints the department is thriving in many ways, as this year's activities demonstrate.

Two new faculty members joined us in September 2011. **Rachel Martin** has completed her doctoral dissertation, "Out of the Silence: Remembering the Desegregation of Clinton, Tennessee, High School," at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We look forward to her innovative use of oral testimonies to tell local histories of the Civil Rights movement. She joins our other public historians—**David Glassberg**, **Marla Miller**, **Jon Berndt Olsen**, and **Max Page**—who have helped to make our program one of the best in the country. Martin, part of a Heritage Studies Cluster hire, joins three other faculty hired in the departments of Anthropology and Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning. We also hired **Heidi Scott**, who received her Ph.D. from St. John's College, University of Cambridge. Her first book, *Contested Territory: Mapping Peru in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* (Notre Dame, 2009), uses historical geography and anthropology to



examine the Andes in new and exciting ways. She joins **Joel Wolfe**, a Brazilian historian, and **José Angel Hernández**, a Mexican historian, and thus strengthens our Latin American history program. The department also welcomed **Todd Diacon**, a distinguished Brazilianist, who is the deputy chancellor. His responsibilities in Whitmore keep him busy, but he knows that he is welcome to teach for us at any time.

In June the History Department helped host the Berkshire Women's History Conference, "Generations: Exploring Race, Sexuality, and Labor Across Time and Space." Nearly 1500 historians joined us to celebrate the Berks' return to the region. The local arrangements committee, which included our own **Marla Miller** and **Laura Lovett** and a host of graduate student support, did an excellent job. Kudos to all of them!

The Public History Program celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. In September the program commemorated its founding by looking forward in its conference, "Public History 2036: The Next 25 Years." Over 150 people joined us during a lively set of discussions about new trends and ideas in the field. Our thanks to the Public History Program and its graduate students who made this event such a success. Special thanks too to our alumni donors and the various departments on campus that made it possible for us to bring this dream to fruition.

This past January the American Historical Association met in Boston for a department-hosted alumni event, "Historians on the Harbor." Some 45 people braved the snow to reconnect with colleagues and friends. It was an honor to welcome Krikor Ermonian, who sponsors the Simon and Satenig Ermonian Fund, and several past undergraduate and graduate awardees were thrilled to meet him. We hope that this event will be the first of many.

I want to thank my colleagues Associate Chair **Anne Broadbridge**, Graduate Program Director **Marla Miller**, and Undergraduate Program Director Steve Platt for agreeing to serve with me. Without them and our staff members **Jean Ball** and **Suzanne Bell**, life as chair would be impossible.

Finally, as I begin my second year as chair, I renew my call for a more active alumni board. As we reinvent ourselves in this new age we must deal with increasingly difficult economic times. As state support shrinks, alumni have an ever more important role to play. If you'd like to join an alumni board, I'd love to hear from you ([chair@history.umass.edu](mailto:chair@history.umass.edu)).

—Joye Bowman

## Directors' Reports

### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

HISTORY CONTINUES TO be a popular major, with more than 150 majors or double majors graduating in 2011 and between 500 and 600 declared majors being present at any given time. What's changing is that an increasing number of students declare the History major by the time they enter UMass Amherst as first-year or transfer students. Most have taken advanced-placement history courses and arrive ready and eager for challenging work. They find plenty of options: we've expanded the range of courses that fulfill the required survey pair, and recent faculty hires have brought fresh choices to our already strong curriculum, including Public History classes for undergraduates.

Some of our majors were no doubt attracted by the energetic efforts of the History Club. In addition to their annual Haunted Campus Tour and an ongoing veteran's oral history project, members joined us at the annual Majors Fair.

This year we selected three accomplished seniors—**Caitlin Dailey**, **Brittany Fitzgibbon**, and **Patrick McGuire**—as peer mentors to support Undergraduate Advising. Peer mentors have direct experience with figuring out the History major, transferring to UMass Amherst, juggling multiple majors, study abroad, internships, and other issues of concern to students. They offer a perspective that just isn't available from faculty advisors or even from **Suzanne Bell**, our incomparable undergraduate program assistant.

In these tough economic times, students care deeply about career options. Internship coordinator **Laura Miller** did an outstanding job organizing Career Development events and helping students find internships. (Note to alumni: If you'd like to mentor a History intern, let us know!)

I have now completed my three-year term as director of undergraduate studies; Stephen Platt took over as of fall 2011. Many thanks to all of those who helped me along the way, especially **Suzanne Bell**, **Jean Ball**, and everyone in the offices of the Academic Dean and Registrar who helped our students clear hurdles to graduation.

—Alice Nash

continued on page 5

---

---

## WOMEN'S HISTORY

from page 1

---

Planning began some six years in advance of this year's conference, when **Laura Lovett** became an officer of the Berks and UMass Amherst began hosting the Berks' website. Once the Berks accepted the university's bid to host the conference, faculty members **Marla Miller** and Laura Lovett joined Lisa Armstrong of Smith College and Margaret Hunt of Amherst College to lead the Local Arrangements Committee. Other department members who contributed to the committee included **Joye Bowman**, **Barbara Krauthamer**, and **Alice Nash**, as well as alumnae **Jacqueline Castledine** (now a faculty member in the University Without Walls program) and **Susan Tracy** (a UMass Amherst graduate student in 1978, when the conference was held at Smith; more recently dean of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies and professor of American Studies at Hampshire College). We were especially grateful to graduate assistants **Julie de Chantal**, our incredible overall program coordinator, and **Gina Talley**, our amazing book-exhibit coordinator, for their hard work tracking the thousands of details such a large undertaking involves. Many other graduate students also volunteered throughout the meeting, and their can-do, how-can-I-help attitude was one of the most rewarding aspects of planning the conference.

A highlight of the weekend was a wonderful alumni breakfast that brought together many of our former students and colleagues. It was great fun to see **Bridget Gurtler**, now a Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers, and

---

---

*Visitors learned what we already knew: there's no place like UMass to study women's and gender history.*

---

---

co-sponsor), independent scholar **Elsa Hambleton**, and **Pamela Brooks** of Oberlin College. **Kathy Peiss** from Penn and **Françoise Hamlin** from Brown joined us to reconnect with many of their former students. **Joyce Berkman** was reunited with many students from her long career. It was a powerful reminder of the strength of the department's women's-history community and our influence throughout the field.

Given that the 2011 meeting would unfold on our campus, with its thriving Public History program, special effort was made to mark the



SUSAN TRACY AT THE BERKSHIRE CONFERENCE.

**Julia Sandy-Bailey**, now at Shepherd University. **Jane Berger** filled us in on her move to Moravian College, and **Tamar Carroll** reported on the College of the Holy Cross. **Kate Torrey**, director of the University of North Carolina Press, stopped in to say hello, as did **Kathleen Nutter** (who recently rejoined the staff of the Sophia Smith Collection, a conference

program's presence. A digital history lab organized by **Laura Miller** and **Kate Freedman** showcased the best of women's history and new media, and workshops enabled participants to build skills in historic preservation and public engagement. Public historians **Patrick Condon**, **Jessie MacLeod**, and **Stephanía Villar** developed a wonderful, downloadable audio tour of women's history on the campus. And it was exciting to add

to this mix the Berks' first-ever poster session, organized by the capable **Julie de Chantal**. In the crowded session high in the Campus Center, 36 emerging and established scholars offered 31 posters exploring wide-ranging topics from the family in 12th-century England to faculty wives in the 20th century. Alumna **Emily Gibson**, now at Western Kentucky University, presented a poster on her research about American female pilots in the 1920s and '30s.

Despite the drama of the Springfield tornado just days before the meeting and severe weather as conferees arrived, most people left campus impressed by the area's beauty and the incredible strength of the academic resources in the History Department and across the Five Colleges. They learned what we already knew: there's no place like UMass to study women's and gender history.

Hosting this large, complex meeting would not have been possible without the support of our administrators. We'd like to thank Neil Abraham, director of Five Col-

leges Inc.; Robert Holub, Todd Diacon, and the Office of the Chancellor; Michael Malone and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research; John Mullin and the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School; and Joel Martin, Julie Hayes, and the Office of the Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts for everything they did to support this effort. ■

---

## A Fond Farewell to Neal Shipley

AFTER 43 YEARS of undergraduate teaching in our department, Professor Neal Shipley has decided to leave the classroom for good. Neal began teaching here in 1968, and even after officially retiring in 2002 continued to teach two courses every fall semester. His large lecture courses *Tutor/Stuart England*, *Victorian England*, *World War I*, *Legal History*, and *History of Medicine* were much in demand and were regularly oversubscribed. Over the years thousands of UMass Amherst students admired his skill and talent as a lecturer and benefitted from his advice, counselling, and advanced tutoring.

Outside the classroom Neal served as director of the Oxford Summer Seminars, presiding officer of the Faculty Senate, president of the New England History Association, and associate dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Fine Arts. He was also a member of countless committees.

We wish him a long and happy retirement.

—Bob Jones, Professor Emeritus



## PUBLIC HISTORY

from page 1

History Program's extraordinarily talented run of students over the years and its outstanding record of innovative research, teaching, and outreach. Speakers and invited guests then headed to the campus's new Institute for Holocaust, Genocide and Memory Studies, where director **James Young** hosted a dinner.



MARLA MILLER AND STEVE LUBAR.



LI NA.



CHARLES HYDE INTRODUCES ALUMNI SPEAKERS.



DAVID GLASSBERG AND NINA SIMON.

Saturday morning the conversation resumed with an inspiring presentation by **Steven High** of Concordia University's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling. He described that organization's collaboration with Montreal's Rwandan and other refugee communities in collecting oral history and creating performances based on recorded conversations. **Steve Lubar** of the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage followed with his amusing yet profound reflections on the changing nature of public-history audiences. **Alice Greenwald**, director of the museum being established beneath the World Trade Center Memorial in New York City, then shared a preview of the museum's design, prompting a thoughtful discussion of the thorny challenges faced by exhibit planners in giving form to the public memory of 9/11.

After lunch several participants went off to a workshop with Nina Simon while others gathered to hear our alumni offer "Snapshots from the Field." **Li Na**, **Dave Favaloro**, **Angie Goebel Bain**, **Caitlin Osborne**, **Margo Shea**, **Meghan Gelardi Holmes**, **Mike Moore**, **Steve Bromage**, and **Jill Ogline Titus** offered brisk presentations on a wide range in subjects, from Project Civility, which Meghan has helped steer at Rutgers University, to the historically informed interpretive-dance projects Caitlin has choreographed in Altoona. The afternoon ended with a wonderful talk by NPS curator **Patricia West**, who took on the difficult charge of summarizing and synthesizing some of the main themes that emerged from the conference. In the coming years, we'll continue to grapple with the questions our Public History Program has helped unearth in its first 25 years of life.

We are deeply grateful to the various campus administrators who invested in this event: Provost James Staros; Mike Malone and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research; John Mullin, dean of the Graduate School; and Joel Martin and Julie Hayes, deans of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. We also drew essential support from the community of alumni donors that the History Department enjoys. We'd further like to thank our other sponsors and partners, who lent their support as we crafted the exhibit and who helped publicize the event and help with logistics: Historic Deerfield Inc., the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College, the Joseph Allen Smith Collection at Mount Holyoke College, and the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies. Lastly, we are deeply indebted to our extraordinary Public History graduate assistant Emily Oswald as well as **Erik Igmundson**, **Jill Dwiggin**s, and the ever-capable **Jean Ball** for making sure that every behind-the-scenes detail was addressed. The celebration was everything we'd hoped for, and more. ■

---

---

## DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

from page 2

---

### HONORS PROGRAM

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT congratulates its 27 majors who graduated this year from Commonwealth Honors College and the 69 History majors who graduated with Latin honors. We are especially proud of our strong tradition of fostering serious undergraduate research by providing students with the opportunity to work one-on-one with a thesis advisor and a second faculty reader. For the sixth year running we capped the spring semester with a thesis symposium to allow these students to share the results of their research. Faculty, students, and family members packed Herter 601 to hear 10 graduating seniors present their theses.

This year's presentations fell into three broad themes: U.S. Social and Political History (**Alexandra Brockway**, **Daniel Spritz**, and **Vanessa DeSantis**); History of Religion (**Austin Powell**, **John Walsh**, and **Amy Franklin**); and History of War (**Ian Russell**, **Kate Menard**, **Rebecca Newman**, and **Sean Bulger**). Each writer spoke for five minutes and then took questions from the audience. Some of the best questions came from parents—acorns, it seems, don't fall far from trees. All of the presentations were highly successful and they collectively offered a pleasingly diverse range of approaches, some favoring crisp, polished statements and others adopting a more casual, even funny style. **Catherine Chipman**, **Vincent Hyland**, and **Anna Littlefield** also produced fine theses this year.

—*Sigrid Schmalzer*

---

---

### GRADUATE PROGRAM

THOUGH THE GRADUATE Program's work is steady-on from one year to the next, every fourth year it undergoes a comparatively dramatic shift when one program director steps down and another steps in. In 2011 **Brian Ogilvie** completed a very successful term at the helm and I had the good fortune to inherit his impeccable records.

All year long, students traveled to conferences near and far to present work developed in and beyond their classes. Among the 16 students funded this year to present papers were **Julie de Chantal**, who offered "Scared from the



UNDERGRADUATE **NOAH ARIS** (LEFT) AND FRIENDS EXPLORE THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

Polls': Boston African American Women, Disenfranchisement, and the 1920 Massachusetts Legislative Elections" at the American Historical Association meeting, and **Melanie Kourbage**, who delivered "The Dragon and the Elephant: Hagiographic Satire in Sixteenth-Century England" to a Sixteenth Century Society meeting in Montreal. **Sandy Perot** presented "Bodies of Revolution: Late 18th-Century American Actresses, Playwrights, and Audiences and Embodiment of the American Ideal" at the Berlin conference "American Bodies: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Modes of Power." **Ann Robinson** presented "The Use of the Periodic Table by Scientists and Non-Scientists" at the University of Virginia's Forum for Interdisciplinary Dialogue.

During the eventful spring admission season the capable **Barry Levy** steered the Graduate Studies Committee—**Chris Appy**, **Joyce Berkman**, **Marta Saxton** from Amherst College, **Anna Taylor**, and our hardworking student reps **Laura Miller** and **Ben Smith-Poulin**—through some 160 applications for study in our department. The incoming group of 14 includes students from nine states and an international student, **Erika Tomoyose**, who joins us from Japan.

A highlight of every spring semester is the arrival of the writer in residence, and our 2011 guest **Jill Lepore** did not disappoint. In a lively public lecture she introduced a crowd in the Cape Cod Lounge to material from her work in progress, describing how scientists and the public have understood and imagined human eggs and the process of fertilization. In class visits and informal conversations she talked about her work in nonfiction and fiction and in magazines and books both in print and online, helping our community contemplate the promise and peril of being a public intellectual.

As always, we bade fond farewells to depart-

ing students. **Yveline Alexis** and **Carolyn Barske** completed their Ph.D. work and took positions at Rutgers University and Middle Tennessee State University, respectively. A large group of students completed master's degrees and are also off toward new horizons. To take just a sampling: **Richard Anderson** headed to Princeton to pursue doctoral work, **Lei Duan** has gone to Syracuse, **Kit Smemo** has begun Ph.D. work at the University of California–Santa Barbara, **Miriam Wells** will continue here at UMass Amherst, **Kayla Haveles** has accepted a position with the American Antiquarian Society, **Cheryl Harned** continues to curate at the Joseph Allen Skinner Museum at Mount Holyoke College, and **Jen Kleinman** remains with the university's Office of Undergraduate Advising. We wish them and the several others who completed their degrees this year—**Rebecca Guernsey**, **Morgan Hubbard**, **Jessica Monti**, **Michael (Micah) Schneider**, **Justin Silvestri**, and **Caleb True**—all the best as they begin the next phase of their careers.

Our departmental awards continue to help students develop as scholars. **Kathryn Julian** and **Lisa Ponce** each received an Ogilvie Award for Foreign Language Study. Kathryn traveled to Europe, while Lisa spent part of her summer in

#### 2011 PH.D. RECIPIENTS

**Yveline Alexis**, "Nationalism and The Politics of Historical Memory: Charlemagne Peralte's Rebellion Against the U.S. Occupation of Haiti, 1915–1986."

**Carolyn Barske**, "The Lover's Instructor: Courtship Advice in Anglo-America, 1640–1830."

---

---

Costa Rica, participating in a language immersion program and researching in the archives of the Catholic archdiocese as part of her larger interest in 18th-century Cartago.

Another Frederic Gilbert Bauer Research Fellowship went to **Rick Taupier**, who traveled to Mongolia to attend the conference “Mongolians After Socialism: Economic Aspirations, Political Development, and Cultural Identity,” an event he helped organize. In addition to advancing his own research, he was able to strengthen ties to the world’s leading historians of that part of the world.

The scholarship of **Richard Anderson** and **Kristoffer Smemo** was recognized with the Theodore Caldwell Prize. Richard was congratulated for his essay “Apostles of the Aquarian Age: The Baby Boomers, the Counter Culture, and the 1970s” (written for **Joyce Berkman’s** Oral History course), while Kit was acknowledged for the high quality of his thesis, “The Contested Terrain of Liberalism: Organized Labor, Liberal Republicans, and the Collapse of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party,” written under the direction of **Chris Appy**.

Both **Gina Talley** and **Kathryn Julian** received Simon and Satenig Ermonian Awards for their outstanding work as teaching assistants. Lastly, we were happy to toast **Michella Marino**, who landed one of the university’s highly competitive fellowships to support her research on women and sport in the 20th-century U.S.

In 2011–12 we will undertake two substantial reviews of the graduate program, an overall assessment for Five Colleges Inc., and a review of the Ph.D. program to be done as part of a university-wide evaluation. Stay tuned for the results.

—Marla Miller

---

---

## FEINBERG LECTURE SERIES

FOLLOWING LAST YEAR’S successful Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series on sports and history we are busily preparing for 2012. Our next series, “Truth and Reconciliation, History and Justice,” will focus on attempts to foster social healing in the wake of violent and traumatic historical events. The title is meant to raise questions about the complex relationship between seeking truth and studying history and the tension between pursuing reconciliation and striving for justice. We are organizing speakers, panels, films, and other events to explore these issues around the world and here at home. The

series will provide an excellent opportunity to utilize the scholarly resources we have on campus, the rich experiences of the local community (Northampton, for example, was the home of the Greensboro Justice Fund, which helped organize the first Truth and Reconciliation project in the U.S.), and of course the generous financial support from eminent History Department alumnus Kenneth Feinberg. —*Sigrid Schmalzer*

---

---

## PUBLIC HISTORY

FOR THE DEPARTMENT’S public historians, 2010–11 began and ended on the river. In September we welcomed the incoming class with a cruise down the Connecticut River from Barton’s Cove; in April, in an event co-sponsored by the university’s Geosciences Department, the Environmental Institute, and Five Colleges Inc., we contemplated the river’s past, present, and future with environmentalist and author **Nat Tripp** (*Confluence: A River, the Environment, Politics, and the Fate of All Humanity*). In a time when many disciplines are addressing issues related to natural resources, these events made appropriate

bookends to a successful academic year.

Through the fall, students in the *Introduction to Public History* course undertook a number of field-service projects, developing a women’s-history podcast tour of campus for the Berkshire Conference, exploring cultural resource documentation for the Porter-Phelps-Huntington House, gathering oral histories of UMass Amherst’s Music Department, creating a web exhibit on W. E. B. Du Bois and the Pan-African Congress of 1921, and developing “Becoming a Son of Great Barrington,” an exhibit for the Friends of the W. E. B. Du Bois Homesite. In April they installed the exhibit in the lobby of the Triplex Movie Theater to great acclaim, while other students in the spring *Museum and Historic Site Interpretation* class developed an exhibit on Elizabeth Freeman for the Ashley House (Trustees of Reservations) in Sheffield, Mass., an exhibit on silviculture for Historic Deerfield, and one on Civil War artifacts at the Joseph Allen Skinner Museum in South Hadley.

A particular highlight of the year was the 2011 National Council on Public History meeting in Pensacola, Florida, where **Morgan Hubbard** accepted the national Best Student Project Prize for his online exhibit “Uncertain Futures:

## Feinberg Donates Papers

IN SEPTEMBER 2011 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, professors Joye Bowman, Audrey Altstadt, Mary Wilson, David Glassberg, Bruce Laurie, and Mario DePillis joined Chancellor Robert Holub and a number of Friends of the UMass Library to thank Kenneth Feinberg, Esq. for his decision to donate his papers to the W. E. B. Du Bois Library. Feinberg is shown below left at the event, with Bruce Laurie. The public announcement of the gift was made on November 7, 2011. Look for further details in our next report.



Americans and Science Fiction in the Early Cold War Era” ([www.library.umass.edu/spcoll/exhibits/uncertain/](http://www.library.umass.edu/spcoll/exhibits/uncertain/)). There to applaud him were **Laura Miller** and **Kate Freedman** (Laura on hand as co-chair of the Graduate Student Committee, and Kate to participate with faculty member **Jon Olsen** in a roundtable on digital history platforms) as well as program alumni **David Cline**, **Margo Shea** (presenting in the roundtable “Public History and Urban Renewal”), and **Meghan Gelardi Holmes** (presenting her work on Rutgers University’s Project Civility in a session on civility in public history and public discourse, chaired by Public History Program Director **Marla Miller**).

It was exciting to watch our several partnerships thrive over the course of the year. The new M.S. in Historic Preservation, undertaken with Max Page and our colleagues in Architecture and Design, welcomed its first class of students. Another project being created with those colleagues will address the upcoming renovation of Holyoke’s railroad station. The new series at UMass Press, Public History in Historical Perspective ([www.umass.edu/umpress/](http://www.umass.edu/umpress/)), continued to shepherd intriguing new work toward publication, including Keith Erikson’s study of Indiana’s “Lincoln Inquiry” and Seth Bruggeman’s edited volume on birthplaces as a distinct genre of historic site, which includes an essay on the Du Bois homesite co-written by our own **David Glassberg**.

The most exciting campus news about Du Bois is that his papers, the crown jewel of the library’s Special Collections and University Archives, are now online, thanks to the Verizon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the efforts of a team led by **Rob Cox**, head of Special Collections.

We also reached across campus to sponsor a number of lectures and events. In addition to Nat Tripp’s visit, with our new partners at the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies we cosponsored the renowned German artist and memorialist Horst Hoheisel, who discussed his memorial projects devoted to the victims of the Nazi euthanasia program, the Jews of Germany, and the *desaparecidos* of Argentina. Along with the university’s new Center for Heritage and Society we joined our colleagues in Anthropology in hosting a salon series in which faculty from around campus spoke on research related to public uses of the past. The talks ranged from Lisa Wexler’s fascinating evaluation

*continued on page 8*

## Remembering Bob Griffith

**B**OB GRIFFITH’S UNEXPECTED death last January came as a great shock. Bob was so vibrant, so full of passion for life, so full of energy and unflinching optimism that it strains credulity to realize that he is no longer with us.

Bob came to UMass in 1971, coincident with my own arrival, so we were classmates in a sense and forged the enduring bonds that accompany such relationships—bonds that extended far beyond the halls of Herter. We shared more family meals than I could count, enjoyed somewhat friendly competition over our vegetable gardens, watched seasons of Little League games together, and marched shoulder to shoulder at peace demonstrations. We were rather more than colleagues; we were close, loving friends and political soul mates.

Bob entered the department as a prize-winning scholar. His 1970 book, *The Politics of Fear: Joseph McCarthy and the Senate*, won the Frederick Jackson Turner Award, given annually by the American Historical Association for the most distinguished first book by an author on a significant aspect of American history. He would go on to edit two more books and produce magisterial essays on aspects of modern American politics.



The Boston Globe

Always one to wear his academic celebrity lightly, Bob was modest to the point of self-effacement. He unerringly extended himself on behalf of students and colleagues, sharing opinions on texts, exchanging syllabi, and working closely with graduates and undergraduates. He was a superb stylist who combined a jeweler’s eye for detail with a wry, ironic way of putting things and was always willing to read works in progress by others.

An exemplary academic citizen, Bob developed a gift for academic administration. It was a sad day for UMass when in 1989 he left us to become dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at the University of Maryland. He went on from there in 1995 to become provost at American University before returning to AU’s history department two years later.

When the department later needed a chair it turned to Bob, who could easily have blended into the ranks and returned to classroom teaching. Retirement was never in the cards for him. At the time of his death he was treasurer of the Organization of American Historians and a recipient of its Distinguished Service Award.

Bob left an indelible imprint on our department. He was a visionary chair (1983–87) who launched us in new directions, thanks to his knack for looking ahead and forging a trusting, fruitful relationship with the dean’s office. He significantly strengthened the department’s ties to its graduates and all but invented its fundraising capacity. He persuaded colleagues to recruit young, promising scholars and teachers and bring in talent from outside the field of American history. He started our coverage of Africa, added historians of the Middle East, and inspired the Public History Program. He was also a tireless advocate for hiring women and people of color. The department’s current configuration of fields and personnel reflects his tenacious commitment to academic excellence and diversity.

For my part, I have never been able to accept the idea of an afterlife in the biblical sense of the term. I believe that people’s afterlives are their legacies—how we remember them once they’re gone. I often find myself thinking of Bob. He never strolled or ambled, and I have vivid memories of him walking purposefully down the seventh-floor hall, head bowed, manuscript in hand, editor’s pencils tucked behind his ears, mumbling locutions to himself. I also imagine him laughing hysterically at his own jokes, some of which really were funny. I mourn his loss but celebrate his memory.

Bob Griffith was a loving, supportive husband to his wife, Barbara, and proud father of sons Matt and Jon. He was an all-around *mensch*, indeed a *mensch’s mensch*, who made everyone and everything around him better. There someday may be another in his image—but not soon, and not quite his equal.

—Bruce Laurie, Professor Emeritus



CATHY STANTON ADDRESSES PUBLIC HISTORY STUDENTS IN LOWELL, MASS.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

from page 7

of how knowledge of the community's past affects public health (and particularly youth resilience in Alaska Native and circumpolar communities) to Whitney Battle-Baptiste's discussion of her work in black feminist archaeology. The Center for Heritage and Society also hosted a large conference in May in which **Max Page** and **David Glassberg** paid tribute to David Lowenthal, the pioneering scholar of popular memory.

It's a pleasure to report that a number of experiences this year were made possible by the generous support of a History Department alumnus and long-practicing public historian: two unexpected but much-welcome gifts allowed us to fund not only course-related travel to historic sites and visits from public-history practitioners but to fund several exhibits planned and mounted by students who got to see their visions beautifully realized in a range of settings. These gifts also helped fund our landmark conference

"Public History 2036: The Next 25 Years."

As we turned toward summer our Public History students headed off to some especially enviable internships: **Mark Roblee** at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum; **Elizabeth Bradley** and **John Morton**, both with the Trustees of Reservations (at the Ashley House and the Bryant Homestead, respectively); **Molly Campbell** at the UMass Amherst Archives; **Jessie MacLeod** at the Newport Historical Society; **Jessica Frankenfield** at the Old York Historical Society; **Erik Ingmundson** at the Baseball Hall of Fame; and **Emily Oswald** with the American History Workshop in Brooklyn, N.Y. Furthest afield was **Stephania Villar**, who traveled to the Museo Casa Carlos Gardel in Buenos Aires.

And lastly, we're delighted to welcome yet another faculty member to the Public History community: **Rachel Martin**, an oral historian trained at UNC-Chapel Hill's Southern Oral History Program, studies the Civil Rights movement and the ways in which it is remembered. We're all eager to see what new initiatives she'll bring and look forward to reporting on them

## Campus Gets Early Look at PBS Documentary

IN HONOR OF the 50th anniversary of the civil rights Freedom Rides, Springfield PBS station WGBY joined with the History Department in offering an advance screening of the *American Experience* episode "The Freedom Riders" at UMass Amherst on March 3, 2011. Local Freedom Riders **Jean D. Thompson**, **Judy Frieze Wright**, and **James Breeden** discussed their experiences traveling by bus through the segregated South and being jailed for their actions.

and other exciting events in a future column. Until then, find us on Facebook.

—Marla Miller

## GRADUATE HISTORY ASSOCIATION

IN 2010–11 GRADUATE History Association co-chairs **Richard Anderson** and **Morgan Hubbard**, along with treasurer **Micah Schneider** and secretary **Gina Talley**, orchestrated a successful year of professional and social events for History graduate students, culminating in the annual conference, "Conflict and Confrontation: Historical Perspectives." Held March 26, it featured papers from our own graduate students as well as a number of visiting students from around the country. Keynote speaker **Vijay Prashad** of Trinity College in Hartford gave a provocative talk, "Active History." The fall and spring book sales were important fundraisers for the conference, and we are already planning this year's.

—Jessica Frankenfield

## Faculty News

**Audrey L. Altstadt** reports: Closure is good. This past year has been a research-intensive period I used to finish revising my book *Culture Wars in Soviet Azerbaijan, 1920–1940*. With teaching and administrative duties filling the normal academic year, only summer is left for research. During 2010–11 I was finally able to incorporate information from my last archive trip to Baku, Azerbaijan in 2008, the first of my visits during which I was allowed to photograph materials. Bringing back digital pictures of frail, cracked, folded, smudged documents, some of which looked like third carbon copies (now there's a historical concept) was exciting and useful. I brought back more material than in the notebook-and-pencil days and can look carefully at originals.

This book is about cultural policies in the early Soviet period and the struggle over whose values would prevail, those of the Russian-dominated communist party or the native reform elites. It is a complex story with times of cooperation and the gradual loss of freedom of the natives culminating in the purges of 1937. Some of the documents were shocking and ter-

---

---

rible—denunciations of poets in meetings of the Writers Union and the loss of thousands of elementary-school children in the aftermath of collectivization.

I plan to use some of the documents in my classes. Though most students can't read them, they show some of what professional historians do in our research—and it isn't looking up "stuff" on Wikipedia.

**Chris Appy** reports: After another gratifying year of teaching, I am now on sabbatical to com-

plete a book about the impact of the Vietnam War on American identity from the 1950s to the present. It will be published by Viking Penguin in 2013. Last October I tried out a part of the book as a keynote address for an American Studies Conference in Amsterdam. Drawing on 1980s advertising, the music of Bruce Springsteen, and a variety of other sources, it was called "'The Pride is Back': The Strains of Post-Vietnam Nationalism."

**Joyce Berkman** reports: When I submitted last

year's entry I was in Germany. This year I'm on the verge of flying to Germany and then on to Ireland. I look forward greatly to my one-week residency at Free University in Berlin, where I'll give two lectures, "Controversies in the Field of Oral History Theory" and "Methods and the Debate Over Margaret Sanger." In Ireland I am one of the keynoters for the first International Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Philosophy of Edith Stein.

*continued on page 10*

---

## Guest Speakers Enhance Department's Offerings

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT had a stellar lineup of visiting speakers during 2010–11.

Early in the year, Professor **Charles K. Hyde** shared with graduate Public History students and faculty observations from his 40-year career in historic preservation and industrial archeology. The author of numerous books on the American mining and automotive industries, Hyde recently retired from Wayne State University.

In October 2010, **Katrina Gulliver** gave "Reading the Colonial City," a discussion of the ways in which particular cities challenge common frames of analysis. She considered the colonial city as a site of re-encounter, in which the crowds of strangers created the urban experience.

Later that month, writer and a local treasure **Bruce Watson** spoke about his new book, *Freedom Summer*. This important work recounts events from 1964 in which civil rights workers ventured into the heart of the Jim Crow South to register African American voters. It's a tale equal parts inspiring and horrifying, and the late Howard Zinn called Watson's the "best account" he'd seen.

Watson holds an M.A. degree from our department and has actively engaged the public on many levels as a writer for the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, as a Peace Corps volunteer, as a factory worker, and as an educator. He is the author of books on the Sacco and Vanzetti case, the 1912 "Bread and Roses" strike, and A. C. Gilbert, inventor of the Erector Set.

**Megan Elias** from Queensborough Community College visited us as a research associate at the Five College Women's Studies Center. She gave a brown-bag lecture, "Lunch is for Wimps: A History of the Midday Meal in America." Elias's work focuses on American food and food writing, tracing the way cookbooks and food magazines have defined American cooking since the Civil War. She also specializes in the dynamics of gender in food writing and readership and is the author of the forthcoming *Taste of the Nation: American Cookbooks and Culture*.



Later in the season **Ted Melillo**, an assistant professor of history and environmental studies at Amherst College, presented "The First Green Revolution: Debt Peonage and the Making of the Nitrogen Fertilizer

Trade, 1840–1930." Melillo's work reflects a "world systems" approach and explores global environmental history to better understand changing land-use practices, shifting labor regimes, and long-term geopolitical transformations.

In March we welcomed **Scott Nelson**, Legum Professor of History at the College of William and Mary, who gave a lively talk, "Bankruptcy, 'Bloodsucking Brokers,' and the Birth of American Banks." Cosponsored by the Department of Economics, Nelson's talk shared material from his current book project, *Crash: An Uncommon History of America's Financial Disasters*, which brought him to our neck of the woods as a Charles Warren Fellow at Harvard University.



Nelson shared his perspective on the seven American financial panics from 1792 to 1929 from the context of that of 2008. His project emerged in the wake of a 2008 *Chronicle of Higher Education* article in which he argued that the best analogy for the financial crisis was not the crash of 1929 but the events following the Panic of 1873. Once the article was published, Nelson's phone began ringing steadily as economists and bankers eager for greater historical insight called to ask what they should be reading.

Later in the spring **Cem Emrence**, then a postdoctoral fellow in the History Department, discussed his work on the frontiers in the Ottoman Middle East. His research particularly investigates alternative paths to modernity in the Middle East during the 19th century, and he has published several articles on the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey. Emrence is an historical sociologist and received his doctorate in sociology from SUNY Binghamton in 2008.

In September 2011 Professor **Thavolia Glymph** of Duke University delivered the department's annual lecture. "Slavery is Not Dead: Black Women and Children on the Civil War's Battlefields" challenged the audience to think about the conflict's forgotten victims, those of whom General William Tecumseh Sherman said, "We will show them the hard hand of war." Glymph based her presentation on recently excavated primary sources as well as known sources that other historians have disregarded, and the audience was riveted. ■

---

---

## FACULTY NEWS

from page 9

---

These three summer presentations follow upon a very active professional year. Two of my essays recently appeared in *History Compass*, a Wiley-Blackwell electronic publication. Both feature my research in the history of reproductive rights in the U.S.

In June, those of us who have led the Valley Women's History Collaborative talked about its history at the Berkshire Conference of Women's History, which also included a showing of a video documentary on the valley's remarkable Mary V. Softball League, one of VWHC's major past projects. (Back in April, during our department's Feinberg Series on the history of sports, the filmmaker and I had discussed the film and the broader topic of the history of women, gender, and sports.)

I look forward to continuing a particularly exciting project I codirected this past fall: the history of our university's Music Department. Working closely with Professor of Music **John**

**Jenkins** and my colleague **David Glassberg**, we launched a Music Department oral history project primarily conducted by current and past History graduate students. It culminated in a mini-conference that included my colleague **Jon Olson** and faculty from selected other departments. A Music Department dinner and concert gala climaxed the day.

I have been proud to serve the university and department on a variety of committees, including taking part in the indispensable work of the CHFA Dean's Personnel Committee and serving on the History Department Graduate Studies Committee. I can further happily report that a number of my master's and doctoral students in and out of our department completed their degrees, and others are making strong progress.

**Jennifer Fronc** reports: During 2010–11 I made several trips to New York to research my new book, *Monitoring the Movies: Film Censorship in the Progressive Era*. I also continued to consult at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum for its new exhibit on immigrant businesses and had three terrific students successfully defend outstanding senior-thesis projects.

**David Glassberg** reports: I have much to be grateful for professionally in 2011. My principal "publication," with archeologist Robert Paynter, is a redesign of the interpretive trail at the W. E. B. Du Bois Homesite in Great Barrington, Mass., complete with new signage, installed in fall 2011. It's a great privilege and responsibility to tell the public about Du Bois's remarkable life and achievements. At the biennial meeting of the George Wright Society in New Orleans in March, I offered a précis of my new book project about the National Park Service, which tells what Ken Burns wouldn't. Over the summer I actually got in some quality research time on the book, thanks to a fellowship from the Huntington Library in Pasadena. I also braved a snowstorm to be part of a workshop at Oregon State University on history and ecology which allowed me to think, out loud and somewhat systematically, about historians and climate change. And after four years I returned to teaching the graduate courses *Public History* and *Museum and Historic Site Interpretation* and had an absolutely awesome group of students who'd make any teacher look good.

**Dan Gordon** served as the director of Bachelor's Degree with Individual Concentration and associate dean of Commonwealth Honors

College. He taught *Western Thought to 1600*, *U.S. Constitutional History*, and the freshmen honors seminar *Ideas that Changed the World*. On the research front, Gordon attended an international conference at Cambridge University on the French author Raynal, one of the first great critics of European colonialism and slavery. Gordon's article stemming from the conference will be published and he has completed another article, "The Confidence Factor in Liberal Education," which he hopes to see published in a popular education journal. Finally, Gordon—along with **John Higginson** and about 20 faculty from other departments—served as a Davis Integrated Experience fellow. The group discussed the revision of general education on our campus and planned new Gen Ed courses in which students will bring together the diverse strands of their majors. During the next academic year Gordon will pilot a new Gen Ed course, *Ideas that Changed History*.

**Jennifer Heuer** reports: This past year I served as associate chair of the History Department, which involves a lot of memos and meetings but has been a useful way to learn more about my colleagues in the department and in the college and university as a whole. My most interesting course this round was *Introduction to History*, which **Jennifer Fronc** and I co-taught for all incoming graduate students. The class has been particular fun because it involves reading new works in many different historical fields and discussing controversial ideas.

Along with **Brian Ogilvie**, I directed the 2011UMass Oxford Summer Seminar, a six-week study-abroad experience based at Trinity College, Oxford, U.K. The program is centered on UMass Amherst students but open to others. We will again run it in 2012 and strongly encourage anyone interested to contact us ([www.umass.edu/oxford/](http://www.umass.edu/oxford/)).

Otherwise I will be on sabbatical in Paris in 2011–12, doing research in various French archives and libraries and writing a book with the working title *The Soldier's Reward? Love and War in the Age of Napoleon*. I have also given conference papers recently in places ranging from Lafayette, La., to Cambridge, England.

**John Higginson** submitted his manuscript *Winning the Peace, Claiming the Future for the Past: Collective Violence and the Agrarian Origins of South African Apartheid, 1900–1948* to Cambridge University Press in July 2011. He and **Joye Bowman** are forging ahead on a manuscript

## FACULTY AWARDS

College of Humanities and Fine Arts Awards, May 2011:

- College Outstanding Teacher:  
**Anna Taylor**
- Award for Exceptional Contribution by Emeritus and Retired Faculty:  
**Bruce Laurie**
- Distinguished Faculty Service Award:  
**Laura Lovett**
- Distinguished Staff Service Award:  
**Jean Ball**

**Jennifer Fronc** received a Faculty Research Grant for 2011–12.

**Barbara Krauthamer** is a 2011–12 fellow at the Institute of Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

**Marla Miller** received an award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Research and Creative Activity at the Fall 2011 Faculty Convocation.

**Brian Ogilvie** will be a fellow at the Institute d'Études Avancées in Paris, January–June 2012.

---

---

tentatively titled *Engineering Empire: William Lincoln Honnold, Herbert Hoover, and the World American Engineers Made in the South African Gold Mines, 1902–1949*.

In July and August of 2011 Higginson did research at the Chicago Historical Society, the Special Collections of the University of Chicago, and the Vivian G. Harsh Collection of the Chicago Public Library. He and Professor **John H. Bracey** of the university's W. E. B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies and Professor **Paul Young** of Utica College are editing the memoirs of Otis G. Hyde, an African American activist and trade-union leader in Chicago from the 1930s up to the turbulent 1960s and '70s. Hyde was a key leader of the anti-eviction movement in Chicago during the Depression and took part in the "Little Steel War" against the Republic Steel Corporation in 1937. Higginson was also invited to participate in the Global Leaders Economic Summit in Changchun City, Jilin Province, China, September 4–6, 2011.

Having begun her tenure as graduate program director, **Marla Miller** enjoyed a busy year learning the ins and outs of graduate study in our department and across campus. She spent the lion's share of the year, however, helping to plan the 15th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, a landmark event that brought some 1500 scholars from the U.S. and abroad to our campus for four exciting days in June. In her own research and writing, Miller continued to collaborate with other members of an Organization of American Historians-appointed team assessing of the state of history in the National Park Service. She also moved forward on several book projects, including a collection of letters to Gloria Steinem, a short biography of Rebecca Dickinson, and a study of the changing social relations of labor in the early republic, tentatively titled *Knowing Your Place: Women, Work and Class on a Massachusetts Landscape*.

**Alice Nash** ventured into online learning with the 100-level course *Indigenous Peoples of North America* and was pleased and surprised by how well it worked in this new medium. She spent time at the Office of Federal Acknowledgement in Washington, D.C., conducting research for a project on Narragansett history, and attended the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York City.

**Jon Berndt Olsen** completed his third year here at UMass Amherst. He continues to offer courses

in public history and modern Germany. In the fall of 2010 he taught a graduate seminar on comparative memory that focused on the Second World War as recalled from European, Japanese, and American perspectives. In the spring Olsen offered his first undergraduate honors course, on the history of the Third Reich; he reports that it was one of his best experiences as a teacher thus far. In the spring semester he for the first time taught a graduate reading course on modern European history, which he also greatly enjoyed. In November, Olsen attended the New England Museums Association conference, where he presented a paper on contested German memories since 1989 at the German Studies Association. In the spring Olsen helped organize a roundtable discussion on digital history platforms and participated in the first THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) at the National Council on Public History Conference. Finally, Olsen was instrumental in launching a new Digital Humanities Initiative (DHI) on campus, opening a new digital lab in the basement of Herter Hall. The DHI hosts a monthly seminar series and provides hardware and software for humanities research projects.

**Sigrid Schmalzer** reports: In the fall I launched a new version of my regular survey, *China: Origins to 1600*, with new material on Warring States philosophy in the form of a cutting-edge textbook produced by our local experts, **Bruce and Taeko Brooks**. I also debuted a new writing course, *History Writing and Political Engagement*, in which students thought and wrote critically about how a range of authors attempt to take strong political stands on important issues while still maintaining rigorous academic standards. This spring my regular course, *20th-Century China*, was enlivened by a visitor from the Feinberg Series, **Andrew Morris**, who spoke on sports and national identity in Taiwan and China. And for the second time I offered *History of Popular Science*, a mixed grad/undergrad seminar that resulted in a number of interesting papers, including one on eugenics in Japan and another on the recent

movement in the U.S. of "grinders," people who embrace "transhumanism" by incorporating technologies into their bodies. I also greatly enjoyed my role as the department's honors program director, especially organizing the inspiring Thesis Symposium where graduating seniors presented their thesis research.

On the research front I'm making progress on my second book, *Red Revolution, Green Revolution: Encounters with Scientific Farming in Socialist China*. I traveled to Guangzhou and Beijing last year to conduct interviews and visit archives, and I gave a well-received talk on my research at the Chinese Academy of Science's Institute for the History of Natural Science. In the spring, at a workshop on the history of science in modern China and India, I presented the first stage in a long-term collaborative research project with **Madhumita Saha**, a scholar of the green revolution in India. This summer I attended a conference on Mao-era China at East China Normal University in Shanghai, where I presented my findings on the significant research on biological control of insect pests that the prominent entomologist Pu Zhelong managed to conduct during the infamous Cultural Revolution (1966–76).



**HEIDI SCOTT IS STUDYING PERU'S LANDSCAPE AND CARTOGRAPHY.**

---

---

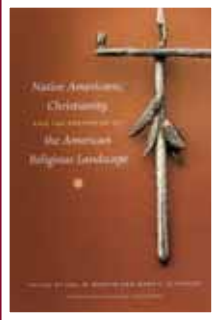
New faculty member **Heidi Scott** obtained her Ph.D. in historical geography at the University of Cambridge (St. John's College) in 2002. Between 2002 and 2004 she held a junior research fellowship at Newnham College, Cambridge, and in 2005 she joined Aberystwyth University (U.K.) as a lecturer (assistant professor) in human ge-

ography. Scott's doctoral research examined colonial relations in early Spanish Peru through the prism of landscape and geographical knowledge. Her postdoctoral work has continued to focus on the history and historical geography of the former Viceroyalty of Peru. In 2006–07 a British Academy grant enabled her to conduct the initial phase of archival research for a second book project on Franciscan missions and frontier creation in colonial Bolivia's tropical lowlands. In addition to continuing work on this long-term project, Scott is conducting research on the imaginative construction of the subterranean in Peru as well as on ideas and discourses of tropical nature in colonial Spanish America.

**Anna Taylor** reports: I had a very interesting year teaching. I tried out a new approach to History 100, *Western Thought to 1600*, which involved experiential-learning exercises for the students and myself, such as spending 24 hours without any modern communication technology (the horror!). I am trying out different approaches to teaching this class, which is framed by asking major social and existential questions and exploring different cultures' engagements with them. I hope the students find it engaging and thought-provoking. I also taught classes on the monstrous and supernatural, in which I found particularly interesting ways into ancient and medieval cultural history. I was deeply moved that my department nominated me for the College Distinguished Teaching Award and was both delighted and amazed to win it. I know that some of you who are reading this probably wrote letters in support of my receiving this honor; if so, I want to say a huge thank-you. It meant a great deal to me.

On the research front I am putting the finishing touches on my first book, *Epic Lives: Monks, Saints and Poetry in Western Europe, 800–1050*, which looks at medieval cultural history through the lens of saints' lives written in Latin epic verse. As I discovered, medieval monks had very creative approaches to framing their own history.

**Joel Wolfe** reports: After the January 2010 publication of my last book, I spent much of the 2010–11 school year teaching and beginning work on my next major project. I taught the survey of modern Latin America in both semesters and gave my Brazil class and an honors overload in the fall. In the spring I gave a new class, *The History of Baseball*, as part of our Feinberg Lecture Series. I also had the opportunity to direct a number of undergraduate and graduate inde-



**Dean's Book Indeed**

**J**OEL W. MARTIN, vice provost for academic personnel and dean of the faculty, has received high praise for his new book *Native Americans, Christianity, and the Reshaping of the American Religious Landscape* (UNC Press: 2010). Congratulations to Joel, who is also a professor of history at UMass Amherst.

pendent studies. In all, I ended up teaching more than 470 students over the course of the year.

In addition to working with **Brian Bunk** and **Jennifer Fronc** on the Feinberg Committee, I had the pleasure of chairing our Latin American search. **José Hernández**, **Barbara Krauthamer**, **Marisol Barbón** and I combed through an excellent pool of applicants and recommended that the department hire **Heidi Scott**, a fantastic historical geographer of the Andes. Her arrival gives the department three full-time Latin Americanists.

In the fall my essay "From Working Mothers to Housewives: Gender and Brazilian Populism from Vargas to Kubitschek" was published in *Gender and Populism in Latin America: Passionate Politics*, Karen Kampwirth, ed. (Penn State University Press, 2010). It tied together major findings on gender and politics from my first and second books.

I also had the pleasure of presenting my work on Brazilian modernity at two conferences, the Latin American Studies Association meetings in Toronto and the New England Council of Latin American Studies meeting at UConn Storrs. In June I traveled to London to the Institute for the Study of the Americas, where at the symposium "The Great Depression in the Americas and Its Legacies" I presented a paper (likely to be expanded into a book) on Brazil in the 1930s.

During 2011–12 I plan to continue to conduct research for my new book, tentatively titled *The Global Twenties: Work, Life, and Trade in the Western Hemisphere in the 1920s*. It will go far beyond my usual focus on Brazil to include the United States, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, and Brazil. I hope to complete the research in the next year or so and begin writing during a sabbatical in 2012–13.

## VISITING FACULTY

**B**ECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT has a record number of people on leave during all or part of the 2011–12 academic year, we would like to introduce their sabbatical replacements.

**Anne Brinton** received her Ph.D. in 2011 from Pennsylvania State University and focuses on the household unit, gender, and family in 19th-century America.

**Ron Lamothe** '00G (Ph.D., Boston University) is an African historian and documentary filmmaker with interests in Sudanese and African history.

**Jason Moralee** completed his Ph.D. at UCLA and specializes in Rome and late antiquity.

**Jeffrey Trask** (Ph.D., Columbia University), an Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellow at the New York Historical Society, specializes in the cultural and intellectual history of American cities.

**Aaron Windel** (Ph.D., University of Minnesota) specializes in European imperial history, political struggles over land tenure and use, and the history of telecommunications and film.

## EMERITI FACULTY

**Will Johnston** is enjoying a career high point during 2011. Australia's National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne mounted a mammoth exhibition, "Vienna 1900: Art and Design: Klimt, Schiele, Hoffmann." Anchored in furniture from the gallery's collection, it was the largest, choicest "Vienna 1900" exhibition held anywhere in the past 20 years. Johnston has written the lead article for the catalog, will lecture several times at the gallery, and has already met many new colleagues from Melbourne and Vienna. His



**ROBERT POTASH (CENTER) ACCEPTS HIS SIEGFRIED FELLER AWARD FROM HISTORY LIBRARIAN PETER STERN (LEFT) AND DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES JAY SCHAFER.**

book *Celebrations: The Cult of Anniversaries in Europe and the United States* (1991) was reissued by Transaction Press in June 2011. Its critique of the distortions that commemorations inject into historians' prioritizing has proven all too prophetic. Amid all this, Johnston reports that boomtown Melbourne is growing too rapidly and that the city of ten years ago seems idyllic in hindsight.

Since retiring in 2008, **Gerry McFarland** has continued to pursue various projects in academic history. In 2011 he's given five lectures in U.S. history—one in Manchester, Vt., based on his book *The 'Counterfeit' Man*, and four in the Civic Initiative summer programs of the Donahue Institute at UMass Amherst. The four programs varied in content but all attempted to introduce graduate-level students from Argentina, Iraq, Pakistan, and elsewhere to fundamental themes in U.S. history. McFarland also wrote a chapter on the depression of the 1890s for a volume on U.S. depressions and recessions to be published by ABC-CLIO.

**Robert A. Potash**, Haring Professor of Latin American History prior to his retirement 25 years ago, continues to maintain an active interest in the Argentine scene. He spends part of each day reading online editions of Buenos Aires newspapers and from time to time writes a column for *Noticias*, a leading Argentine weekly. In May Potash was asked to receive a young Argentine studying urban planning at MIT on a Humphrey Fellowship: he turned out to be a former member of the Buenos Aires legislature, a politically active Peronist who aspires to become the city's mayor.

**Jane Rausch** spent much of her first year as professor emerita doing further research on Colombia. Drawing on her analysis of the impact of the radio schools of Sutatenza on the Llanos of Colombia, she presented papers at the Congreso Colombiano de Historia (Bogotá), the AHA in Boston, and the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá, where she served as a member of an examining committee for a doctoral defense in history. The *Boletín Cultural y Bibliográfico* has accepted for publication her essay on the radio schools.

During a five-week stay in Colombia last August, Rausch presented papers on various topics at the Congreso de la Asociación de Colombianistas in Bucaramanga, the Universidad Tecnológica y Pedagógica in Tunja, and the Encuentro con la Historia de los Llanos in Villavicencio. In Bogotá the long-awaited Spanish translation of her book *De pueblo de frontera a ciudad capital: la historia de Villavicencio, Colombia, desde 1842* (Bogotá: Banco de la República, 2011) was officially launched. The real highlight of her year, however, came on April 14, 2011, when the UMass Amherst Department of Chemistry inaugurated its first annual Marvin D. Rausch Lectureship in Organometallic Chemistry.

This past June Potash was again asked to talk to a visiting group of 24 bright young Argentine professionals participating in UMass Amherst's five-week Civic Initiative Program. They had been selected in a rigorous competition by the Argentine Fulbright Commission, whose executive director, **Norma González**, is a graduate of our department.

In October 2011, Potash received the Siegfried Feller Award for outstanding volunteer service to the UMass Amherst Libraries.

**Charles Rearick** again spent the fall and spring months in Paris, where he found much to do that South Deerfield somehow can't offer. His new book, *Paris Dreams, Paris Memories: The City and Its Mystique* (Stanford University Press, 2011), was published in April. Rearick keeps busy with, among other things, continuing work in French history: book reviews, a commentary on papers at the annual French Historical Studies conference, posts to blogs, and an invited article in progress.

**Roland Sarti** reports: During my recent visit to Rome I was received by the president of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, and awarded an official commendation and the title of commendatore in recognition of my work on the history of the Italian national unification movement. The ceremony took place March 10, 2011, at the Quirinal Palace, the presidential residence, as part of ongoing celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Italy's national unification. The occasion also marked the presentation of a volume of 414 previously unpublished letters by Giuseppe Mazzini (1805–1872), chief inspirational figure of the unification movement, written to Katherine Hill (1821–1894), a close friend and collaborator of the Italian patriot, and to various Italian political exiles living in London. The autographs were donated to the Italian state by Hill's descendant Norah Mayper of Ben Lomond, California, who was also honored in Rome. Another ceremony, held the same day on Rome's Capitol Hill, commemorated Mazzini's role in the national movement. My biography of Mazzini has gone through several editions in Italy and I was the ceremony's designated speaker.

**PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROLAND SARTI (SECOND FROM LEFT) WITH (FROM LEFT) HIS WIFE, ROSE; NORAH MAYPER AND HER DAUGHTER, DIANA; AND PRESIDENT GIORGIO NAPOLITANO.**



---

---

## Student & Alumni News

**Yveline Alexis** received her Ph.D. in May 2011 and accepted a College of Arts and Sciences Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Africana Studies Department at Rutgers University. She also participated in “Slaves, Soldiers, Rebels: Black Resistance in the Tropical Atlantic, 1760–1888,” a summer program at The John Hopkins University.

Ph.D. student **Dan Chard**’s article “Rallying for Repression: Police Terror, Law-and-Order Politics, and the Decline of Maine’s Prisoners’ Rights Movement” has been accepted for publication by *The Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics, and Culture* and is scheduled to appear in the spring 2012 edition.

**Steven Cromack ’11** is this year’s Massachusetts winner of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship. He is one of only seven “Prospective Teachers” to receive the award, which supports the graduate study of American history by aspiring and experienced secondary-school teachers of American history, American government, and social studies. Recipients are required to teach American history or social studies in a secondary school for at least one year for each year of fellowship support.

**Sara Dubow ’96G**, a onetime student of Bruce Laurie’s, has won the Bancroft Prize for her book *Ourselves Unborn: A History of the Fetus in Modern America* (Oxford University Press). Dubow received her Ph.D. from Rutgers University in 2003 and is now an assistant professor of history at Williams College.

**Jon Haeber** is a first-year master’s student studying the built environment in the Public History program. His book, *Grossinger’s: City of Refuge and Illusion*, was recently published by Furnace Press as part of its Decomposition Series.



**Vincent Hyland ’11**, a double major in History and Russian-East European Studies, completed an interdisciplinary undergraduate thesis on Russian intelligentsia. He received a Fulbright Commission and will teach English at the Tsar Semyon the Great High School during an 11-month stay in Vidin, Bulgaria. Hyland also plans to travel in the Balkan region.

**Ann Jefferson**, who earned her Ph.D. at UMass in Latin American history in 2000, co-wrote with Paul Lokken the book *Daily Life in Colonial Latin America* (Greenwood Press, 2011). Jefferson is a lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

**Daniel McDonald**, a current History undergraduate, was awarded the Best Long Text Prize in a campuswide junior writing competition for his paper “Identity Ascendant: Argentine Labor and Political Action in the Age of Peron, 1943–1955.” This year he is featured in the *Student Writing Anthology*, a required text for the university’s first-year writing courses.

**Heather Murray ’06PhD** teaches at the University of Ottawa and has written *Not in this Family: Gays and the Meaning of Kinship in Postwar North America* (University of Pennsylvania, 2010), which the Organization of American Historians chose for its 2011 Lawrence W. Levine Award as the year’s best book in American cultural history.

**Chris Parcels** was accepted this year to the Bosch Archival Seminar for Young Historians in preparation for his dissertation, tentatively titled “The Political Public Sphere in Early Republic Rhode Island.” The two-week seminar was held in Chicago, Madison, Boston, and Washington, D.C.

**Brad Paul ’99PhD** runs the research and evaluation unit of a non-governmental organization in Maputo, Mozambique. His work concerns agroforestry projects as well as community maize milling, horticulture, and agro-processing.

**Nathan Rothstein ’11** is cofounder of Swellr, an online marketplace dedicated to funding local educational needs. After graduating from UMass Amherst he served as an Americorps volunteer in New Orleans.



There Rothstein later helped start a networking initiative called the New Orleans Young Professionals, for which at age 23 he was named one of the city’s “40 Under

40.” Rothstein has been featured by *The Boston Globe*, NPR, and *USA Today*, among others, and at Yale, UMass Amherst, MIT, and Harvard has presented workshops on how young people can make a social impact.

## Student Spotlight

**G**RADUATING HISTORY MAJOR Steve Manuel—shown here with his wife, Patty, and son, Alex—worked in the department this year helping faculty digitize course materials. He also wrote a senior thesis, directed by Barry Levy, on 19th-century U.S. shipbuilders.



## OUR DONORS

The History Department depends on contributions from alumni and friends for many of its essential activities. We sincerely thank this year's contributors. The following list covers donations through June 2011. If we've missed you, please contact the History Department so that your name can be added to next year's honor roll.

Barbara Seda Aghamianz	Charles Coombs	Dennis P. Haggan	John Mason	Samuel W.A. Scott
Brian J. Aiello	John J. Cosco	Carol L. Hagglund	Peter A. Mathison	Joseph R. Settineri
Edward J. Albrecht	Robert J. Costa	Michael S. Hakanson-Stacy	Caroline A. May	Eudora S. Shaw
Barry M. Alman	Edward M. Cynarski	Robert C. Hall	Richard J. McCraw Jr.	Richard M. Shea Jr.
Melvyn W. Altman	Allen N. David	Else L. Hambleton	William F. McEvoy Jr.	William H. Siles
Jeffrey G. Angers	Gail Davis	Stefan J. Hankin	Edward McGrath	Ralph J. Simmons
John J. Anzalotti	Suzanne E. De Lesdernier	Beth A. Harding	Mary E. McKenna	David N. Skolnick
Maria C. Aubut	Leonard J. Delmolino	Richard P. Harland	Guy A. McLain Jr.	Christopher M. Small
Alexander B. Austin	John P. Dempsey	William J. Harrington	Jeffrey T. McReynolds	David S. Smith
Richard Baker	Jodiann Denmead	William F. Hartford	Reed T. Mellor	Max Spaderna
Barbara J. Bartholomew	Jeffrey R. DePiero	Stuart S. Heller	William E. Mercer	Jody Spearin
David L. Baskin	Zarri R. Dhembe	Robin C. Henry	Barbara D. Merino-Mayper	Stephen E. Spelman
Matthew D. Baskin	Todd Diacon	Cathleen E. Hodson	Daniel R. Michelin	Patricia A. Staley
Kellie A. Beals	Joseph F. Dillon Jr.	John M. Hogan	Marian B. Mollin	Marsha I. Stockley
Albert H. Belsky	Richard K. Donahue Jr.	John V. Hogan Jr.	Robert D. Moran	Christiaan M. Stone
Amy Bencivenga	John F. Donovan	Wanli Hu	Cornelius J. Moriarty III	John W. Strachan
Christopher C. Blood	Jean Dougan	Charles R. Huse	John A. Morse	Anne B. Sweeney
Therese R. Blood	James Dwyer	Charles K. Hyde	Jennifer M. Mottolose	Marcia G. Synnott
William E. Bond	Suzanne Corcoran Early	John R. Hyslop	John A. Mullaly	Heather L. Taglieri
Karen Canfield Border	Russell H. Edes	Cecelia K. Jenkins	David F. Murphy	Richard P. Taupier
Amy K. Bosworth	Paul F. Ellis-Graham	Frank E. Johnson III	Eileen Murphy	Debra F. Taylor
Judith Boucher-Cameron	Ellen L. Emerick	Kevin W. Johnson	R. David Myers	Kent J. Taylor
Kristen M. Bouley	Judith Englander	John W. Jordan	Alice Nash	Sharyn M. Taylor
Bradley Bound	Krikor Ermonian	Marybeth M. Joyce	John F. Niles	Donna Tehan
Robert K. Boutilier	Christopher T. Fang	Monica Juitt	Lawrence E. O'Brien	Arthur Terzakis
Kerri F. Brophy	Theodore Fantl	Catherine D. Jurczyk	Edward J. O'Day Jr.	Thomas P. Tooley
Gregory W. Brown	Virginia M. Field	Cynthia P. Kadzik	James P. O'Keefe	Allen S. Torrey
James E. Buchanan	William B. Field	Andrew Kalinick	Helen L. O'Leary	James H. Tourtelotte
Robert J. Burgess	Lee W. Formwalt	Cathy Kelly	Jonathan J. Oliver	Stanley P. Tozeski
Mary Jane Burke	Eric C. Forsgard	James R. Kelly	David J. O'Shea	Melvin J. Tucker
Matthew T. Burke	Lisa Y. Tendrich Frank	Daniel H. Kenney	Malcolm J. O'Sullivan	Matthew T. Turi
Clarence A. Burley	Ilene S. Freedman	Kathleen B. Klesh	Laura E. Pagington	George A. Vannah
Kathryne A. Burns	Joseph Freeman	Richard C. Kolakoski	Donald F. Paquette	Louisa A. Varnum
George A. Byers Jr.	Benjamin N. Friedell	Janet A. Kopec	Jerold G. Paquette	Thomas G. Vichich
Jeffrey E. Caille	Donald B. Frizzle	Katherine L. Krystofik	Martin Pasternak	Joseph F. Von Deck
Neal M. Callander	Brian T. Fuhrmann	Karol P. Kucinski	Bradley M. Peacock	Altina L. Waller
David D. Campbell	Sarah D. Gagaris	Kenneth K. Kuske	William K. Peirce	William M. Walt
Jayde E. Campbell	James E. Gage	Lawrence J. Lane Jr.	Jill E. Perez	Daniel J. Ward
Thomas P. Campbell	Carolyn Galambos	Pamela S. Langlois	Janet R. Potash	Graham D. Warder
Andrew M. Canepa	Robert E. Ganley	Joanne T. Laptewicz-Ryan	Austin T. Powell	Lynne Audet Warren
Paul E. Canham	Timothy J. Garceau	Donald J. LaRocca	Barry M. Pritzker	Susan F. Watkins
Gerald L. Canter	Michael D. Gargas	Audrey L. Larvey	John T. Quinn	Peter J. Webber
Russell W. Carrrier	Kevin L. Gilbert	Linda D. Lau	Eileen M. Rabbitt	Robert S. Weiner
Patricia Carroll	Chester A. Giza	Mary C. Lawton	Andrew P. Rapp	Gary A. Welterlen
Richard A. Carter	James L. Gmeiner	Francis J. Leazes Jr.	Diane Reed	Lee R. Whitaker
Michael C. Cass	Esther Shub Goldberg	Richard D. Leblanc	Maryanne Reed	David W. White
Edward S. Chase	Scott M. Golden	Naomi J. Leeper	Stephen D. Reynolds	Claudia S. Wieggers
Gerald Chase	Jeffrey L. Goldings	Matthew S. Lemieux	Baxter P. Richardson	Anne C. Wing
Lloyd Chautin	Richard J. Goulet	Kristina M. Lentz	Kathryn E. Ritzen	Norman S. Winnerman
Marusya Chavchavadze	Karen Gowen	Mike J. Levins	Richard J. Robbat	Joel W. Wolfe
Patricia Chipman	Barbara L. Gravelle	Karen K. Linitz	Juan P. Rodriguez	John T. Wolohan
Gretchen H. Choate	Barbara C. Greenberg	Susan R. Lofthouse	Elizabeth R. Rogers	John G. Wooding
Barbara Ciolino	Keith J. Greene	Betty J. Longtin	Anne H. Rudden	Margaret A. Woovis
Edward J. Clancy Jr.	Jeffrey A. Greenhouse	David A. Lowy	Benjamin A. Rudnick	Shira B. Yoffe
John G. Cleary	Joshua P. Grey	Catherine E. Luther	Mary-Lou Rup	Walter Zagieboylo
Richard L. Cocivera	Michael J. Grossman	David W. MacLaughlan	Veronica M. Russin-Nash	Andrew G. Zehner
Mitchell M. Cohen	Jeffrey S. Groux	Roland MacLean	Carole S. Saal	Crystal L. Zimmer
Bruce E. Colton	Stephen J. Gulo Jr.	Adriana L. Maksy	James F. Scharfenberger	
Richard T. Colton	Barbara S. Gulovsen	Kathleen M. Manning	Robert J. Schilling	
John J. Connors Jr.	Flora M. Guzik	Patricia Marsh	Henry M. Schreiber	

Department of History  
Herter Hall  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
161 Presidents Drive  
Amherst MA 01003-9312

A105182

Non-Profit Org U. S. Postage PAID Permit No. 2 Amherst MA
---

Creative Communications 12-024

## *What Are You Doing? Let Us Know!*

*We're always interested in hearing from our graduates. Use the space below to fill us in on your news and mail your response to the address below, or send an e-mail to [newsletter@history.umass.edu](mailto:newsletter@history.umass.edu)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

My news: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

*Past, Present, and Future* is published annually by the Department of History, Herter Hall, 161 Presidents Drive, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003-9312.

Send news to the Editor or by e-mail to [newsletter@history.umass.edu](mailto:newsletter@history.umass.edu)

2011 Editor: Jill Dwiggins • Designer: Jack Cavacco • For a PDF version of this report, see [www.umass.edu/history](http://www.umass.edu/history).