

History

at American University

NEWSLETTER 2008-2009

Contents

The New Historians.....1

Chair's Letter.....2

Alan Kraut, Ellis Island, and the Story of American Immigration.....3

AU's Award-Winning Nuclear Studies Institute.....4

Anna Nelson Named Winner of Troyer Steele Anderson Prize.....4

Eric Lohr's Adventures in Georgia.....5

Department of History Events.....6

Department of History News and Notes.....7-10

New Scholar Joins Jewish Studies Program.....10

Undergraduate Alumna Travels to the Front Lines.....11

Patrick Clendenen Conference.....12

Sims Explores New York City's Underbelly.....12

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The New Historians: Public History at American University

Ninety-five miles outside of Washington, a group of AU public history students spent the summer of 2007 in a seminar, on historical site management at Stratford Hall, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee. Their professor was historian Paul Reber, executive director of Stratford Hall and a distinguished leader in the field of public history.

Living together for a week in on site cabins, they dreamed up imaginary programming: a Civil War tour that would include Stratford Hall; a family retreat for

grandparents and grandchildren that would include digging for Miocene and Pleistocene fossils on the beach. There were mock board meetings, discussions of marketing, and an afternoon spent cataloguing and identifying a collection of artifacts. The week at Stratford Hall was a chance to touch history and imagine a world that has vanished. After all, a public historian is a scholar, but also a story teller. And it will be the job of AU's public historians to ensure that the story of America's past still touches the people of America's future.

AU is surrounded by America's history. The region is arguably home to more museums, historic homes, and landmarks than anywhere else in the country. AU's graduates will be the ones working at those homes and battlefields, probing questions from the past while searching for the answer to a question at the heart of their field: how can the places that embody the past survive and thrive in the twenty-first century?

"Museums are in such a transitional period. When museums started, they were glass cases full of stuff. Now people want more than that," says public history graduate Amy Johnson, CAS/MA '08. "There's a big generation shift that's occurring right now," adds graduate student Allison Powell, CAS/MA, '08. "It really is a period of intense reevaluation of how we treat historic sites."

One cause of this, of course, is the Internet. "The Internet is providing new opportunities for historic homes and museums to reach the public in ways that they never could have imagined," says Linda Neylon, CAS/MA '06, coordinator of living history for the York County Historical Society in York, Pennsylvania. Through virtual tours and online research, "Visitors can now access more information and arrive at historic sites with a far greater base of knowledge than ever before," says Emily Weisner, CAS/MA '07, now acting lead park ranger at the USS Arizona Memorial at Hawaii's Pearl Harbor. "This allows historians and visitors to engage in a deeper conversation about history once the visitor actually arrives."

But it also means that visitors are looking for an experience beyond what they could find online. They already have a lot of information. They've even seen some of the rooms and objects. They want something more.

"You have to find that hook," says graduate student Courtney Esposito, CAS/MA '08, "a narrative that's engaging enough to draw people in and want to actually come to your museum—not just see it as, 'Oh, this was Robert E. Lee's home,' but, 'How does this connect to me? Why should I be personally invested in this?'"



photo courtesy of Paul Reber

continued on page 2

Public History

continued from page 1

A visit to a historic site is a chance to project ourselves imaginatively into the past. How would a woman have lived in colonial times? What about the people who cleaned the clothes, cooked the dinners, and picked the tobacco? “Obviously a whole group of people in this country are descended from slaves, and they want their own experiences reflected,” Powell says.

And whether or not visitors are women or descendants of slaves, they are all heirs of the civil rights and women’s movements, with a contemporary education and mind set. A public historian needs to know what that means.

“Public history isn’t just about how to do great research, but how to tell a great story,” says Kathleen Franz, director of AU’s public history program. “The use of objects often gets people very excited, even in the Internet age. If they can really touch the past, it brings it alive. If objects . . . can be brought alive with a story that is relevant to their personal lives, people get it. They connect.

“You have to ask what questions to ask to involve your audience in the past,” Franz adds. “I think the training we give [students] helps them focus on that, so by the time they graduate, they’re really good at it. It’s not just presenting history. It’s about involving your audience.”

Graduate students Johnson and Allison Boals, CAS/MA ’08, have both worked at the National Building Museum as gallery representatives and have made a point of noticing how much time people spend at different panels and what makes them linger.

“Anything hands on, people like,” says Johnson, who, like many of AU’s public history grad students, has spent a great deal of time in the area’s museums—critiquing exhibits, developing skills through internships, or simply taking advantage of opportunities to work or volunteer.

“I think,” Boals says, “we’re all holding these thoughts in our head for later programming.”

From “The New Historians” by Sally Acharya, American Magazine, Fall 2007

Chair’s Column:

History at American University



photo by Jessica Tabak

I am delighted to report that American University continues to be a vibrant, exciting place to study history. This fall, both undergraduate and graduate enrollments hit historic highs. With nearly 300 undergraduate and graduate majors, history is one of the largest departments on the AU campus. More importantly, the quality of teaching and scholarship continues to be very, very high. History faculty continue to publish outstanding books and articles, serve on prestigious boards and committees, and win important accolades from the historical community.

We recognize the fundamental role we play in contributing to the liberal arts education of all of American University’s undergraduate students and to providing advanced study for our undergraduate and graduate majors. We see no necessary conflict between the goals of liberal education and the professional aspirations of many of our students. We also understand the intimate connection between the liberal arts and American University’s

historic identification with public service, internationalism, and the fostering of diverse communities. Thus, we seek to sustain our traditions of excellence in teaching and scholarship, while making explicit our long standing commitments to internationalism, civic engagement, and diversity.

While historians have always been among the most internationally minded of humanities scholars, in recent years we have consciously sought to transcend historical studies that are bounded by the nation state. Here at AU, we are building on our existing strengths through new faculty appointments and new curricula that highlight the global reach of our discipline. Our department is presently searching for three new faculty members in modern British history, modern European history, and East Asian history. In all three searches, we are seeking scholars with interests in transnational or trans-regional scholarship, including (but not limited to) colonialism, migration, global history, and relations among states and peoples.

AU history faculty members have also long employed their expertise outside the classroom in the larger public arena. To cite only a few examples: Richard Breitman’s work at the Holocaust Museum and with the Nazi War Criminal Records Interagency Working Group; Alan Kraut’s chairmanship of the Statue of Liberty–Ellis Island History Committee; Allan Lichtman’s role as an expert witness (most recently in the notorious Texas re-districting case); and Kathy Franz’s creative work as a curator at the National Building Museum. But the department’s commitment to civic engagement is perhaps best embodied in our rapidly growing public history program, which is dedicated to nurturing the importance of cultural institutions beyond the university; to working with the public on social justice issues; and to training the next generation of historians who will continue to research, teach, and practice history in a variety of forums.

Last, but by no means least, as historians we are also deeply committed to understanding the rich diversity of human experience over time and space and to the roles played by race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, class, and gender. Here again, we build on the excellent scholarship of our faculty; on our location in a vibrant, culturally diverse metropolitan region; and on American University’s values-based commitment to internationalism, human rights, social justice, and diversity.

Please enjoy this newsletter and let us hear from you. For more information and news, visit our website at www.american.edu/history.

Bob Griffith
Professor and Chair, Department of History

Alan Kraut, Ellis Island, and the Story of American Immigration



photographs courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

For over a quarter of a century, Alan Kraut has been closely involved in preserving the story of American immigration, first with the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and the creation of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, and now with an ambitious expansion of the museum's vision and scope.

In 2003, Kraut became chair of the History Advisory Committee, charged with assisting a major expansion of the Ellis Island Museum. The new exhibit, entitled "The Peopling of America," will be located in the renovated Railroad Ticket Office and Kitchen and Laundry Building, and will cover the years prior to 1892 and after World War II, bringing the story right up to the present. In addition to migration, the exhibits will treat other methods of peopling such as conquest, annexation, colonization and the forced migration of black slaves from Africa.

As originally conceived, the museum told the stories of the millions of immigrants who entered the United States through Ellis Island from 1892–1954. The new \$20-million addition will explore the stories of

immigrants who arrived at other times or through other places – the waves of Irish, German, and Scandinavian immigrants who arrived before 1892, or the many Chinese who landed on the West Coast during the 1850s. "It's very important that we tell in the fullest way possible the story of the peopling of America, and that's much larger than the Ellis Island experience," Kraut told the *New York Times*. "We're talking about slaves who were part of a forced migration, Mexicans who were literally engulfed by the United States, the earliest arrivals, of course, Native Americans... Then in the later period, especially since 1945, we're looking at waves of southeast Asians, Latinos."

Kraut's involvement with Ellis Island began in the early 1980s, when he was contacted by a National Park Service historian who had read his widely assigned survey, *The Huddled Masses: The Immigrant in American Society 1880-1921*, and asked him to join a team of historians to discuss renovating the Statue of Liberty and the adjacent Ellis Island Museum. As he later recalled: "It took less than a second to say 'Yeah!'"

Together with other members of the History Advisory Committee, Kraut worked to ensure both the veracity of the exhibits and that the historical narrative and interpretation conformed to historians' understanding of the immigration experience. Members of the committee worked closely with researchers, museum designers, and representatives of the National Park Service. Kraut also worked closely with documentary filmmaker Charles Guggenheim on the exhibition's orientation film, *Island of Hope, Island of Tears*, and on "Journey to America," an extended version David McCullough's PBS series, *The American Experience*.

The Statue of Liberty was reopened in 1986, followed by the museum in 1990. And Kraut embarked on a nine-city tour to publicize the project on local radio and TV stations. "After teaching my classes at AU I would head for the airport," he recalls. "Red-eye flights were frequent. After one such flight from Seattle, I landed in New York, got several hours of sleep at a hotel, and headed for Ellis Island to conduct a tour of AU alums on a Saturday."

AU's Award Winning Nuclear Studies Institute

This past summer, the Nuclear Studies Institute celebrated its 14th year. Although it has been more than a decade since the then-fledgling institute was named “the most creative and innovative summer program” in North America by the North American Association of Summer Sessions, it has not lost any of its initial sense of excitement and freshness.

The institute offered its two standard classes—Professor Peter Kuznick's American Culture in the Nuclear Age and Professor Robert Musil's Nuclear Weapons and American Democracy. (Dr. Musil was for many years the executive director of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization Physicians for Social Responsibility.) The Institute also hosted Professor Sanford Gottlieb's course, History of the American Peace Movement. Dr. Gottlieb is the former executive director of the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE).

As always, the institute's highlight was the study abroad class in Kyoto, Hiroshima, and

Nagasaki. Professor Kuznick brought 11 American University students to study and travel with Professor Atsushi Fujioka from Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto and 20 of his students. This year, they were also joined by three students and Instructor Satoko Norimatsu from the

University of British Columbia.

Among the AU participants was Mary Dickson, a leading “downwinder” and award-winning playwright from Utah; and Koko Tanimoto Kondo. Though only eight months old at the time of the bombing, Koko was intimately involved in the rebuilding efforts in Hiroshima through the work of her father Rev. Kiyoshi Tanimoto, who was prominently featured in John Hersey's extraordinary book Hiroshima.

Kondo, who lives near Kobe, graduated from American University in 1968 and has participated in the seminar every year since 1996. According to students who have participated in the program, getting to know Koko and hearing her talk about her life and experiences is the highpoint of the trip.



photo courtesy of Peter Kuznick

Anna Nelson To Receive Troyer Steele Anderson Prize

Anna Nelson, Distinguished Historian in Residence, has been named recipient of the 2009 Troyer Steele Anderson Prize, given by the American Historical Association. The Anderson Prize is awarded to individuals who have made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of the purposes of the association. Recent recipients include: Roy Rosenzweig of George Mason University (posthumously); Linda Shopes of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission; Stanley Katz of Princeton University; and AHA Legal Counsel (and AU Historian in Residence) Albert J. Beveridge III.

A national leader among historians and archivists seeking to preserve access to public records, Nelson has been a member of the Department of State Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation (1992–1994) and was a presidential appointee to the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board (1994–1998). A vocal supporter of preservation of and access to historical records, she has testified repeatedly before the U.S. Congress. Professor Nelson recently represented the Organization of American Historians (OAH) in a successful lawsuit filed against Vice President Dick Cheney, after the latter had sought to exclude many of his public papers from provisions of the Presidential Records Act.



photo by Jeff Watts

Eric Lohr's Adventures in Georgia

Associate Professor Eric Lohr, a Russian historian whose advice has been sought by the campaigns of both Hillary Clinton and Barak Obama, had an unexpectedly up-close and personal encounter with the recent history of the region he studies. On August 5, he and his wife and two children arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia, to participate in their godson's christening and the formal dinner party that followed. "It was a wonderful evening full of introductions to friends and family, as well as many prominent figures in Georgian society," he recalls. Afterwards, the family set off on a trip to the remote Svaneti region in the upper Caucasus mountain range. "Traveling to the west along the main highway," he writes, "our first impressions were of the terrible state of the roads and the incongruities of cows and chickens wandering across the main highway across Georgia while shepherds chatted on their cell phones, and satellite dishes adorned many a ramshackle house."

The trip was harrowing:

"The main East-West highway is a two-lane road all the way across the country except for a smooth, short four-lane stretch on either side of the capital, complete with balconies adorned *a la* Potemkin with fake flowers courtesy of the government. Cars constantly pass each other at high speed—up hills, around curves, often forcing oncoming traffic to the opposite curb. The real nail-biting moments came when oncoming cars were passing at the same time, racing to get back in their lanes. At one such moment, a bull added to the drama by standing unimpressed in the middle of the road."

As they turned north into the upper Caucasus range, the roads became even worse.

We continued to dodge cows and pigs that munched happily on the two feet of vegetation between the road and sheer cliffs...the occasional large rock that had fallen on the road added a new obstacle.... After four gut-wrenching mountain hours, we finally arrived in Mestia [where] our hosts were waiting with a *supra*, a full Georgian feast with enough food to feed an army, and pitchers of homemade wine. We only realized in the morning that we had nestled into a postcard setting that trumped any from a Swiss address. Snow-capped mountains glistened in three directions, an icy glacial-melt river roared below, and an eighth century church was steps away. Tucked in the midst of dozens of unique towers built over the centuries as a refuge for families and fighters in times of war, we wondered who could have ever wanted to attack such a remote, poor village. But the guidebook told us that Persian, Ottoman, Mongol, and many smaller kingdoms had attacked over the centuries, and the towers found frequent use.

Minutes after their arrival, they learned that Georgian troops were entering Ossestia. "We watched the news on ... satellite TV, switching from Russian, to Georgian, to CNN, to

continued on page 6



photos courtesy of Eric Lohr



Lohr in Georgia

continued from page 5

BBC, though soon the Russian and international channels were blocked.” That evening, they gathered around the television, which showed increasing signs of a heavy Russian intervention. Fearing they might be cut off by Russian troops, they piled into their Land Cruiser. Ten hours later they arrived at their friend’s mountaintop vacation home in Racha.

It seemed hard to imagine that Russia would carry the war into Georgia proper. But that is what happened. We watched in horror as news came in of Russian bombing runs against military targets all over Georgia, and we ourselves saw a few planes and twice heard the dull thud of bombs in the distance. In a bit of a panic, fearing that a Russian invasion might come down the same mountain passage the Red Army had used in 1921, right past our *dacha*, we decided to make a run for Tbilisi. We left early on August 11, checking on the situation by cell phone every few moments to make sure the road was clear. The trip was tense, but uneventful, until we reached Gori. There we saw many troops, tanks, and guns both on the road and in camouflaged positions off the highway. Our goal was to get through the city as fast as possible, but at one point, the main barrier was a column of Georgian tanks. One by one, we passed them on the two-lane highway and sped ahead. Hours later, we heard that the shelling and bombing of the city began, followed by the arrival of Russian ground troops, who occupied the city. Days later, we heard that the tank column we had briefly accompanied had been destroyed by Russian bombs.

Once through Gori, Lohr and his family retreated to the relative safety of their hosts’ *dacha* 45 minutes due east from Tbilisi. That evening, they tensely watched the news that Russian troops had invaded Georgia proper and captured Gori. Fearing that the war would spread and that the capital might be encircled, they sought to leave. Lufthansa, however, had cancelled all flights and an effort to cross the Azeri border on the way to Baku proved unsuccessful. Fortunately, the Russian advance halted and the crisis began to ease.

Afterwards, Lohr reflected:

I pondered the folly of Russia’s approach. Had Russian soldiers stopped at the “border” between Ossetia and Georgia proper, defining the mission as reversing [Georgian President Mikheil] Saakashvili’s action, world opinion and domestic Georgian opinion would likely have been much more critical of the impetuous act of the Georgian president. By bombing and invading

Recent Department of History Events

Richard G. Hewlett Lecture: On October 23, 2008, the Department of History joined the Society for the History of the Federal Government in co-hosting the Society’s annual Richard G. Hewlett Lecture. This year’s speaker was AU’s own **Richard Breitman**, whose lecture, based on the multi-volume diary of a prominent American diplomat, was entitled: “Advocate for the Doomed: James G. McDonald and American Refugee Policy in the Roosevelt Years.” The lecture was followed by a reception from 6:00 to 8:30. Both were open to the public.

Bishop C.C. McCabe Lecture: On October 23, **Allan Lichtman** delivered a CAS 2008-2009 Bishop C.C. McCabe Lecture sharing his insights on the 2008 presidential election. The talk was drawn from the new edition of his book, *Keys to the White House: A Surefire Guide to Predicting the Next President*.

Phi Alpha Theta Initiation: On November 13, 2008, the department initiated new members into Phi Alpha Theta, the history honorary. The initiation and dinner was followed by a lecture by **Pete Daniel**, the current president of the Organization of American Historians (OAH). Daniel is a curator in the division of work and industry at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. He specializes in the history of the twentieth-century South, in particular rural life and labor, pesticides, popular culture, and civil rights. He has curated exhibits that deal with science, photography, and music. His most recent book is *Toxic Drift: Pesticides and Health in the Post-World War II South* (2005). *Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s* (2000) won the OAH Elliott Rudwick Prize. In addition to leading the OAH, he is also a past president of the Southern Historical Association.



Professor Allan Lichtman



photo courtesy of Eric Lohr

Georgia itself, including attacks on civilian targets as well as military ones, Russia has at least temporarily bolstered Saakashvili and has given powerful arguments to Russia’s harshest critics from Poland to John McCain. Russia has also put people like me who long argued for moderation and engagement in a difficult position. Unless Russia pulls back soon, the G8 may become the G7, institutional ties between Europe and Russia may be severed, the U.S. may continue to pursue a missile and radar defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic that has little chance of working but a great chance of further undermining Russia’s relationships with the West.

We departed on Sunday, August 17, thankful that we could leave but worried about what the future may hold for our generous hosts and the many talented young people we had met.



Department of History News and Notes

Faculty

Mustafa Aksakal's book, *The Ottoman Road to War in 1914: The Ottoman Empire and the First World War* (Cambridge University Press) will be published in November 2008. Professor Aksakal asks why the Ottoman leadership decided to go to war in 1914. The answer, he says, lies in the Ottoman experience with European great power diplomacy. By 1914 the political and military leadership, and the educated public, believed – wrongly, as it turned out – that the empire could survive only if it asserted itself militarily and took to the battlefield.

Emeritus Professor **Robert Beisner's** biography, *Dean Acheson: A Life in the Cold War* (2006), which had previously won the Robert H. Ferrell Book Prize of the Society for the History of American Foreign Relations and the Arthur Ross Book Award (Silver Medal) of the Council on Foreign Relations, was also named runner-up for the Harry S. Truman Book Award.

Richard Breitman will be on leave during the spring 2009 semester, during which time he will continue to serve as editor of the *Journal of Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, and he will continue to help assess the millions of documents turned over to the U.S. Holocaust Museum by the International Tracing Service. This collection of documents originated in over 50 concentration camps and prisons and includes death books, transportation lists, and medical reports.

Anton Fedyashin, who completed his PhD last year at Georgetown, has joined the department in European History. Last spring he presented a paper on “Liberalism, Globalization, and Rural Poverty in Late Imperial Russia: Modernization on the Pages of *Vestnik Evropy*,” at the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS). In November, he will present a paper, “A Public Thirsty for Moral Shocks: E.J. Dillon and Sexual Morality in Late Imperial Russia,” at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS). In Jan 2009, he will give a paper entitled, “The Innocent Ambassador: Samantha Smith in the Soviet Press,” at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association (AHA), where he is also organizing a session on “Cold War Celebrities and Myths: Jack Benny, Yuri Gagarin, and Samantha Smith.”

Eileen Findlay's article, “Artful Narration: Puerto Rican Women Return Migrant's Life Histories,” has been accepted for publication

in the *Journal of Women's History*. Eileen is currently serving on the prestigious Albert J. Beveridge Award and John H. Dunning Prize Committees of the American Historical Association. She will be on leave during the fall of 2009, working on her book, tentatively titled *We Are Left Without a Father Here': Transnational Domesticity and the Politics of Puerto Rican Labor Migration, 1935-1960*.

Kathy Franz is on junior teaching release, completing a co-edited volume on American popular culture for the *Major Problems in American History* series. She also remains active on a number of professional committees, including the AHA-OAH-NCPH working group on tenure and promotion processes for public historians.

Max Paul Friedman was awarded the 2007 Stuart L. Bernath Lecture Prize by the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations in recognition of excellence in research and teaching in the field. He delivered the lecture, “Anti-Americanism and U.S. Foreign Relations,” at the 2008 meeting of the Organization of American Historians. It was subsequently published as the lead article in the September, 2008 issue of *Diplomatic History*.

In addition to chairing the department, **Robert Griffith** chaired the search for a new university provost, served on a Middle States Accreditation Team for Lehigh University, and began a five year term as treasurer and executive board member of the Organization of American Historians.

Robert Hill, who is again teaching in both history and American studies, presented papers at five conferences, including the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, and the history department's own Clendenen Conference.

In December 2007, **Katharine Haulman** published “The Return of Patriarchy” in *Reviews in American History*. She presented a paper entitled “Citizenship's Corset: Fashion and the Body Politic” at the July 2008 annual meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early Republic; and in April 2008, she delivered the keynote address for the opening ceremony of the National Society of Colonial Dames Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. In September 2008, she began her appointment as the department's second Patrick Clendenen Professor of Women's and Gender History.

Peter Kuznick has recently published three articles in peer-reviewed



journals and had planned to expand one of them (“Prophets of Doom or Voices of Sanity?: The Evolving Discourse of Annihilation in the First Decade and a Half of the Nuclear Age,” *Journal of Genocide Research* 9, September 2007) into a book during his recent sabbatical. But film maker Oliver Stone made him an offer he couldn’t refuse. He and Stone are now at work on a 10-part documentary film series offering an alternative view of recent American history. In the summer, Kuznick led Nuclear Studies Institute’s 14th study abroad class to the Japanese cities of Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki. See related article on page 4.

Andrew Lewis’s book, *A Democracy of Facts: Natural History in the Early Republic*, has been accepted for publication by the University of Pennsylvania Press. He recently gave a talk to an international group of physicists on the science of Benjamin Franklin. His reviews of new books have appeared in the *Winterthur Portfolio*, *History*, and the *Public Historian*.

Tatjana Lichtenstein is the Schusterman Teaching Fellow in Jewish Studies. She earned her PhD at the University of Toronto. Her dissertation, “Making Jews at Home: Jewish Nationalism in the Bohemian Lands, 1918-1938,” examines the Zionist movement in Czechoslovakia between the world wars, focusing on ways in which nationalism served as a vehicle for Jews’ integration. Her research interests include twentieth century Jewish history with a focus on nationalism, minorities and state-building, and relations between Jews and non-Jews. She has published articles on interwar Zionism and Jews in Czechoslovakia in *East European Jewish Affairs*, the Simon Dubnow Institute’s *Leipziger Beiträge zur jüdischen Geschichte und Kultur*, and *The Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish History, Religion, and Culture*. At AU, she is teaching courses on the history of Israel, modern Jewish politics, culture, and history, and the Holocaust.

Allan Lichtman has published two books; a new edition of *The Keys to the Presidency*, timed to coincide with the presidential election, and a major new study, *White Protestant Nation: The Rise of the American Conservative Movement* (Grove/Atlantic Press, 2008). Lichtman examined the presidential election in a recent installment of the College of Arts and Sciences’s annual Bishop C.C. McCabe lecture.

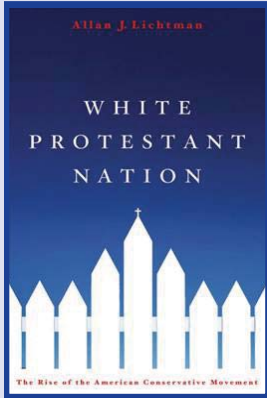
Eric Lohr, who was promoted to associate professor in 2008, served as a member of the advisory committee on Russian and European Foreign Relations for the Hillary Clinton campaign for president. In the last two years, he has traveled frequently, presenting papers and lecturing in Hamburg, Moscow, Berlin, Paris, Kiev, Cambridge, Freiburg, New York, and Marburg. He has been

appointed editor of volumes on politics, economy, and society and to the editorial board of a projected 15-volume series on the history of Russian involvement in World War I. He continues to work on the monograph, *Citizenship in Imperial and Revolutionary Russia*, and chairs the Washington area Russian history seminar, held monthly at Georgetown University. See related article on Lohr’s trip to Georgia during the Russian invasion, page 5.

Ira Klein published an essay entitled “British Medical Discoveries and Public Health in India” *Journal of Indian History* (Winter, 2007-8). His essay on “British Reforms, Commercial Agriculture and Agrarian Distress in India,” was recently accepted for publication in *The Historian*. He was named an outstanding AU faculty member by the Student Government Association.

Alan Kraut was named Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians. He was also appointed an Affiliate Faculty Member in the School of International Service. His co-edited volume, *From Arrival to Incorporation, Migrants to the U.S. in the Global Era*, was published in January by New York University Press. *Covenant of Care: Newark Beth Israel and the Jewish Hospital in America* (2007), co-authored with his wife, Deborah, has received the Author’s Award of the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance. Professor Kraut delivered many prestigious lectures, including “Ellis Island – Testing the Bodies and Minds of Immigrants Before Granting Admission to America” at the English-Speaking Union in London in April; “TB and Immigration: An American Historical Perennial” at the 2008 Annual TB Conference sponsored by the New York Board of Health and Mental Hygiene; and “‘Mirrors of the Culture’: Jewish Hospitals in the History of American Healthcare,” the John K. Lattimer Lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine. He was recently appointed a nonresident Fellow at the Migration Policy Institute, Washington’s premier immigration think-tank. He again served as an historical consultant to the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation’s History Advisory Committee. See related story on page 3.

As AU’s Scholar/Teacher of the Year during 2007-08, **Pamela Nadell** addressed the faculty in at the annual Ann Ferren Teaching Conference in January 2008. The department’s inaugural Patrick Clendenen Professor, she organized and chaired the Department of History’s inaugural Clendenen Conference, “‘With Vision Flying’: New Perspectives on Women’s and Gender History.” Designed especially to focus on work by AU faculty members, visiting scholars, and former PhD students, the wide variety of topics—from the diaries of nineteenth-century farm women to women’s roles in art history to the politics behind dieting—emphasized the



interdisciplinary nature of women's and gender history.

Anna Nelson's newest publication is an edited study to which she also contributed a chapter, *The Policy Makers: Shaping American Foreign Policy from 1947 to the Present*, (Rowman and Littlefield, November 2008). See related story on page 4.

Emeritus Professor **Valerie French** and Gail Humphries Mardirosian of the Department of Performing Arts made a presentation, "Between Reason and Passion: *Antigone* and Athens," at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, August 2008. In 2007-8, she was a member of the Brested Prize Committee of the American Historical Association.

April Shelford, who last year published *Transforming the Republic of Letters: Pierre-Daniel Huet and European Intellectual Life, 1650-1720* (University of Rochester Press, 2007), was promoted to associate professor with tenure. She presented a paper, "Reading and Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century Jamaica," at the McNeil Center at the University of Pennsylvania in April 2008. She has been named co-editor of the Proceedings for the Western Society for French History. She has been awarded a prestigious fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh.

Kimberly Sims spent the fall of 2007 as the Lloyd Sealy Library fellow at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York and a Balch Institute of Ethnic Studies fellow at the Pennsylvania Historical Society. See related story on page 12.

Graduate:

Sarah Brockett MA '07 plays bass in the Brooklyn-based foursome Palomar, which has four albums to their name and another in the works. The indie-pop outfit, which is big in the Big Apple, is starting to make waves nationally, too, touring with the likes of Spoon and Mates of State. Sarah returned to school in 2005 to pursue her master's degree in public history at AU. "Living in New York, I really became interested in urban history, the way the streets are laid out, and the things people do to entertain themselves," she says. "The degree was the perfect outlet for that interest." Brockett is currently applying for jobs in the New York area and eventually hopes to get into historical tourism. Things are going well for Palomar, too; the group continues to tour and is hard at work on their fifth album. (adapted from *American Magazine*, Spring 2008)

Rod Coeller PhD Candidate was awarded the CAS Dissertation Fellowship for AY2008-2009. He also received the Samuel Flagg Bemis Research Grant from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

Lynette Garrett PhD Candidate, who is also a counselor in the AU Honors Office, received a 2008 Mellon Research Fellowship from the Virginia Historical Society and a spring 2008 Graduate Student Mellon Research Grant from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Recent graduate **Cindy Gueli PhD '07** helped curate "Traveling Mercies," a photographic exhibition at AU's Bender Library featuring the work of Pennsylvania businessman and humanitarian Aldo Magazzeni in Kenya and Afghanistan. For more about the Magazzeni's organization, see <http://travelingmercies.org/>.

Vincent Intondi PhD Candidate received the Thomas M. Campbell Award for the best overall paper presented at the 2007 annual meeting of the Florida Conference of Historians. His paper, "From Harlem to Hiroshima: The African American Response to the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," examines African American reactions to the atomic bombings while shedding light on the connection between the anti-nuclear movement and black freedom struggle. His paper was published in the organization's peer-reviewed journal, *Selected Annual Proceedings of the Florida Conference of Historians*. Intondi was also named the recipient of the Roger Brown dissertation fellowship.

In February 2008, **Stephanie Jacobs PhD Candidate** was awarded the 2008 Lilla M. Hawes Award for the best book published in 2007 on local Georgia history for coauthoring *Never for Want of Ponder: The Confederate Ponder Works in Augusta, Georgia*. The award is sponsored by the Georgia Historical Society of Savannah. Later in the spring on April 17, 2008 Stephanie gave a presentation to the trustees of the Cosmos Club Foundation, which had awarded her a grant to begin work on her dissertation on financier Thomas Fortune Ryan. Stephanie was awarded a 2008-2009 Lord Baltimore Fellowship by the Maryland Historical Society to support dissertation research at the society later this fall.

Erica Munkwitz PhD Candidate was awarded the Richard and Carol Breitman Fellowship.

Eric Singer PhD Candidate presented a paper at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research's Politics of Fear in the Cold War conference in September 2008. He was notified after the conference that his paper will be published in a book that the Institute is putting together that will contain all papers presented

News and Notes

continued from page 9

at the conference and substantial context. Interestingly, the book will be published in German. He presented a different version of his paper at the International Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland. His review of Dee Garrison's "Bracing for Armageddon: Why Civil Defense Never Worked" will be published in the December issue of the *Journal of Popular Culture*.

Undergraduate:

Frankie Martin BA '06 is the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies Research Fellow at AU's School of International Service. He did field work among Muslims in the Middle East, South Asia and East Africa for the book *Journey into Islam: The Crisis of Globalization* by Akbar Ahmed, and he recently published an article in the online edition of the *Guon Pakistan*. He has also published in the online edition of the *Washington Post*.

David Moak BA '08 has received many awards and accolades, including the Dorothy Gondos-Beers Award for Outstanding Undergraduate History Major and the James Mooney Award for Undergraduate Research. The latter award enabled him to conduct research for his senior thesis in Montpellier, France, over the winter break. He has also published translations of "emulation" and "Royal Academy of Sciences" in the on-line Encyclopedia of Diderot and D'Alembert, which is edited by University of Michigan historian Dena Goodman and hosted by ARTFL, a cooperative enterprise of the CNRS, France, and the University of Chicago. His senior thesis won the Department's Janet Oppenheim Prize for most outstanding senior thesis.

Laura Neff BA '07 has begun the graduate program in the history of medicine at University College London's Wellcome Trust Centre, where she has been awarded a full scholarship.

Michele Risinger BA '07 interned and worked at the American Red Cross, where she initially worked as an historian and curator. On July, 4, 2008, she deployed with the Red Cross to Baghdad, Iraq, as an assistant station manager. "I work emergency communications, distribute American Red Cross supplies and donations, and honestly, just try to make people smile," she writes. She maintains a blog, which can be accessed at: <http://climbinback.blogspot.com/>.

Ward Wilson BA '80 has won the Doreen and Jim McElvany Nonproliferation Essay Challenge - a challenge designed to elicit the "most outstanding new papers in the nonproliferation field" for an essay called "The Myth of Nuclear Deterrence." As Stephen Schwartz, the editor of *Nonproliferation Review*, writes, Wilson is "well on his way to deconstructing the most fundamental beliefs about nuclear weapons." Adds Wilson: "And what is at stake are not minor adjustments or slight course corrections. What is at stake is the rationale for keeping nuclear weapons at all."

New Scholar Joins Jewish Studies Program



Schusterman Teaching Fellow Tatjana Lichtenstein

AU's Jewish Studies Program is expanding. This fall, it welcomed Schusterman Teaching Fellow Tatjana Lichtenstein to its faculty. Lichtenstein brings expertise in modern European Jewish history and culture to the program; her doctoral thesis focused on the Czechoslovak Zionist movement between World Wars I and II. "It seems contradictory, but this cultural movement was not about separation, but integration," she explains. "It was a testimony to how Jews sought to become a part of the home they already lived in."

As an interdisciplinary program, Jewish Studies draws upon courses offered in departments across the campus. This fall Lichtenstein offered two courses through the Department of History: History of Israel and a seminar in Modern Jewish Politics. In the spring, she will teach a course on the history of the Holocaust, and a seminar on Jews and East European Jewish culture.

Lichtenstein's two-year appointment is jointly funded by CAS, the Jewish Studies Program, and the Jewish Studies Expansion Project, a pilot program aimed at enhancing Jewish studies programs at colleges and universities across the country. A Foundation for Jewish Culture initiative supported by the Charles and Lynn Shusterman Family Foundation, the project received over 50 grant applications in its first year—with AU one of six colleges and universities that received the funding.

The project's fellows also receive valuable teaching experience and establish mentor relationships to prepare them for tenure-track positions. "A lot of graduate students get out of school and don't really have any teaching experience, so they're not as competitive in the job market as they could be," says Pamela Nadell, Jewish Studies Program director and Lichtenstein's on-campus mentor. "I am interested in making certain that, wherever she goes next, when [Lichtenstein] finds a tenure-track job, we will have really helped prepare her."

"Washington, D.C., offered a lot of opportunities for research," Lichtenstein adds, "and AU has such a solid core of people working in the field of Jewish studies. It's an exceptional environment to be working in."

Reprinted from "Jewish Studies Expands" by Jessica Tabak, CAS Connections, November 2008

Undergraduate Alumna Travels to the Front Lines

Most American civilians are content considering the war in Iraq from the safety of their own shores, but **Michelle Risinger BA '07** is not most people.

After graduation, her college internship at the American Red Cross National Headquarters Building led to a full-time position. Risinger, whose undergraduate history thesis examined the myth and reality of WWI Red Cross Girls, worked as a historian for the organization—bringing speakers, writing articles, and initiating a tour program for the historic headquarters building.

As much as she enjoyed her job, she felt the pull to be out there on the front lines. “The original reason I wanted to work for the Red Cross was because of its work as an international humanitarian organization,” she explains. “I realized that I needed to be out there.”

Last July, Risinger became an assistant station manager at the Red Cross’s Baghdad station—a job she calls “simultaneously exhausting and rewarding. You really get to see the difference that your work and your presence make to someone in a capacity that very few people ever get to experience.”

Risinger recently began sharing these experiences via her online blog, “Climb in Back” approaches personal experiences through twin lenses of reflection and historical insight. “The blog is my attempt at making some analytical sense of life in Iraq,” she explains. “It’s my way of trying to both show people what life is like here while at the same time offering some reconciliation of why things happen over here.”

Adapted from “Historians in the Hot Spots” by Jessica Tabak, CAS Connections, November 2008.



photo courtesy of Michelle Risinger

Michelle Risinger BA '07 prepares for a 10-mile run outside of Baghdad, where she is stationed with the American Red Cross.

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Inaugural Patrick Clendenen Conference Highlights Women's and Gender History

When Kathy Peiss was preparing for her oral boards as a doctoral student at Brown University in the late '70s, her reading list included every book written on women's history.

"And that was the last time I could honestly say that I had read everything," laughed Peiss, a leading scholar of women's history at the University of Pennsylvania.

Over the last 30 years, the field of women's and gender history has flourished, said Peiss, who delivered the keynote address at the Department of History's inaugural Patrick Clendenen (grandfather of early donor Mary Graydon) Conference.

For centuries, women were "hidden from history," she said. "If the original goal [in the 1970s] was to write women's history, then we've succeeded on many fronts."

The two day conference, "With Vision Flying: New Perspectives on Women's and Gender History," showcased the latest scholarship from AU professors and alumni. Researchers presented papers on topics ranging from Jewish women in postwar suburbia to the diaries of nineteenth-century farm women in New England.

Cindy Gueli, an adjunct professor at AU, discussed her research on the place of "government girls" in World War II Washington. This "lipstick brigade" was composed primarily of single, white women in their early 20s with a sense of patriotic duty and a thirst for adventure. At the height of the war, Gueli said, these women made up 40 percent of the government workforce in Washington, earning about \$1,440 per year (\$17,090 in 2007 dollars).

"Exploring the city became a priority for the women," many of whom hailed from small town America, said Gueli. "If the weather was nice, you could find 100,000 people in Rock Creek Park enjoying a concert."

Though many Washingtonians "weren't so sure what to make of the government girls," the military men who found themselves in D.C. on leave were simply in heaven.

"A guy had to be dead not to get a date in wartime Washington," laughed Gueli.

Although the majority of government girls returned home after the war, Gueli said they "opened a space in Washington for the career woman."

"Government girls didn't permanently shatter boundaries for women working in Washington, but they did stretch them a bit," she said.

Cosponsored by the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, the Clendenen Conference demonstrated AU's "longstanding commitment to issues of diversity and inclusiveness," according to College of Arts and Sciences dean Kay Mussell, who spoke Tuesday night.

"Just reading this program reminds me of all the ways AU has nurtured women's and gender studies," said Mussell, who expressed "enormous gratitude to the women and men who laid the foundation."



photo by Jeff Watts

Keynote speaker Kathy Peiss

Sims Explores New York City's Underbelly

Kimberly Sims, assistant professor of history, spends much of her time immersed in the shadowy confines of New York City's criminal past. Her research focuses on the link between race and crime during the first half of the twentieth century. "It is a fascinating era," she says, "a time when desperately poor immigrants and southern blacks poured into northeastern cities, a time when vigilante crime-fighting societies sprang up across the country, and when new scientific disciplines seemed to provide objective proof that there was a causal relationship between race and criminality."

Sims scours such archival sources as the records of New York City's Urban League and the police department, mayoral papers, and newspapers to explore how Americans' ideas about race and crime have developed and changed. Her research is going into a book, tentatively titled "As Bad as the Negroes: Blacks, Italians, and the Politics of Crime in New York City, 1900–1951."

The subject first captured Sims' interest in graduate school. She was researching the assassination of President McKinley when she stumbled across the testimony of a guard who was assigned to the president the day he was assassinated. The guard claimed he did not notice the blond, blue-eyed man who actually fired the gun because he was distracted by, in his words, a "suspicious-looking, swarthy Italian man with a large mustache." Meanwhile, a now-famous black man named James Parker tackled the real assassin, Leo Czologosz, before he could fire a third shot at the president. "It made me stop and think about historical relationships between race, crime, and politics," said Sims.

"I chose New York because the city is a great laboratory. The city is watched by the world. For much of its modern history, it has had a reputation as a hotbed of criminal activity and as a place people of all races called home."

Her research examines familiar stereotypes. "Blacks and immigrants from southern Italy," she says, "were stereotyped in some similar ways at the beginning of the century—as racially inferior, violent, reckless, and sexually deviant. These perceptions began to diverge after World War I. My work aims to uncover and explain the reasons why."

From "Inaugural Clendenen Conference offers new perspectives on women's history" by Adrienne Frank, American Today, 4/1/08.

From "Sims Pursues Crime in the City" by Anne Bentzel, CAS Connections, March 2007