

# HISTORY AT LEHIGH

Newsletter of the Department of History, Lehigh University

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

This is the second issue of *History at Lehigh*, which we expect to publish twice a year to keep in closer contact with graduates and share information among alumni, friends, students, and faculty. News of alumni activities will appear in this and the next few issues. Please keep us up-to-date with your work, activities, publications, and changes of address.

The Department received exciting news since our last publication. **Michael Hoben (BA '61)**, who majored in Finance and minored in History, designated a gift to the Department that in the future will allow for the creation of an endowed chair in History. Mr. Hoben, President of

Benefit Capital Management Corporation, hopes his gift will further enhance the opportunities for a solid and wide ranging liberal arts education at Lehigh. The Department extends its deepest gratitude to Mr. Hoben and his family for the kind and generous gift. In the future, the endowed chair will allow the Department to hire another faculty member, thus expanding the areas in which we will be able to offer courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

We enthusiastically welcome everyone to attend History Department lectures and seminars. Listed on the last page of this newsletter are the dates and times for some 2001

events. If you need more information, please contact **Janet Walters**, the Department's Coordinator, at the number or e-mail address found on this page.



## EXPERIENCING HISTORY

### *History Honors Students Living and Practicing History....*

Several of our undergraduates involved with the Roy Eckardt College Scholar Program have spent time outside of the Lehigh classroom working on exciting and challenging new research projects. The College Scholar Program,

established in 1990, is designed for students who show outstanding academic promise or unusual creativity and those who transcend traditional programs. It provides students who meet the Program's criteria with the time and freedom for some fascinating research opportunities. **Brian McDonnell ('02)**, a College Scholar, spent last semester at American University in

Washington, D.C. enrolled in the *Washington Semester Program*. There, he took four credits towards research that will overlap with the history and political science departments. His work focuses on Civil Liberties in Crisis, a study of the decision-making behavior of the Supreme Court, during the period of 1940-1955.

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Spring 2001

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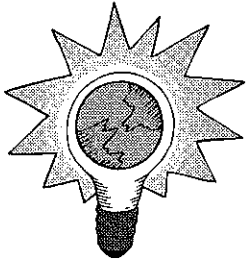
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## Organizations



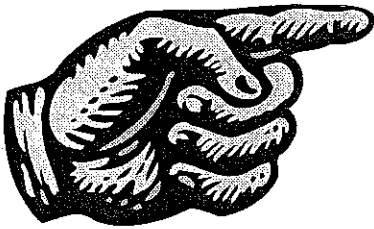
The History Club has enjoyed success this year. In the fall they held a faculty/student mixer at the home of **Professor Gail Cooper**. Approximately ten students and ten faculty members attended. Upcoming projects include a historically based tour of Lehigh's campus, and a movie night where students have fun critiquing a Hollywood film for its historical accuracy. The club currently has about forty-five student members. It brings together history majors, minors, or anyone who is simply interested in history. The current club President is **Dominick Zurawski**, the Vice President is

**Danielle Shube**, and the Treasurer is **Laura Rhinauer**. Anyone interested in joining, please contact one of the officers, or **Janet Walters**, Coordinator of the History Department. Much like the History Club for undergraduates, the **Graduate Student Council (GSC)** welcomes those from our department interested in joining. Our current representative is **Paul Gillespie**. Right now, Gillespie is looking for someone from our department to replace him for the upcoming year. GSC gives graduate students the opportunity to get involved with the academic community. GSC provides travel grants, but only for departments who are represented at

*(continued on page 6)*

## Experiencing History, continued

*Two of the Department's undergraduates have found their experiences challenging and insightful...*



McDonnell found his time in Washington challenging in several ways. Departing from the traditional classroom setting, the *Washington Semester* offers students a highly interactive experience that involves traveling downtown to speak directly with key insiders about current political issues and ongoing debates. "From free speech on the Internet to Affirmative Action, to Gun Control and Abortion Rights, we discussed and dissected a full spectrum of current public law topics," says McDonnell. Highlights of his experience included watching a case before the Supreme Court, meeting with Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (NY-D) and being present on the White House lawn when President Clinton opened a ceremony to welcome the Prime Minister of India. McDonnell hopes to use his experiences from D.C. by attending law school after Lehigh. **Elizabeth Marie Smith**, also a Junior and a participant in the College Scholar Program,

is spending this semester in Madrid, Spain, through a Syracuse University program. Smith is taking three history courses, two of which are conducted in Spanish. Her research interests include Jews in Spain and Medieval history. Living in Madrid, Smith has had ample time to explore the city's rich cultural past. She hopes to use her experiences in Spain after graduating from Lehigh. Smith intends to be a high school history teacher in an urban district. "I want to teach kids who really need someone passionate about different kinds of people and learning," says Smith. Her time abroad and knowledge of Spanish will certainly enhance her ability to teach in urban districts often recognized as multicultural, and, in some cases, bi-lingual, with many students speaking Spanish as their first language.



## Alumni

*N.B. : Not all of the responses received from alumni have been included in this newsletter. More Alumni updates will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.*

**Thomas L. Birch** ('67 BA) received his law degree from George Washington University. He worked on Capitol Hill for a number of years as legislative counsel to members of the Senate and House of Representatives. He has spent the past twenty years in public policy development and advocacy in child welfare, human services, and cultural affairs. Last year he ran unopposed for election to the local town council in Georgetown, D.C.

**Rev. Thomas S. Carter** ('71 BA) is currently Pastor at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas. He received his M.Div. from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry in 2000 from SMU.

**Richard L. Christensen** ('67 BA) teaches American religious history at Lakeland College in Wisconsin. He received his PhD in 1992 from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. Mr. Christensen spent several years as a pastor and teaching in southern Africa

before returning to graduate school.

**John D. Colliander** ('68 MA) is currently a partner in the law firm of Colliander, Field, and Brown in New Hampshire.

**Charles A. Cosgrove** ('68 BA) is Lieutenant in the United States Army. He received his law degree from Dickinson Law School. One of Mr. Cosgrove's fondest memories at Lehigh was a chance encounter with Lawrence Henry Gipson, Pulitzer-Prize winning historian of colonial America who taught in the Department until his death in 1971. "Dr. Gipson assisted me in locating a book in the stacks," reminisces Cosgrove. "I never forgot that this famous historian took time to help an undergraduate."

**Pam Crawford** ('81 MS) is an assistant Professor of Mathematics at Jacksonville University in Florida. Dr. Crawford still finds her history minor from Lehigh useful. "My interest in the history of Math was viewed as an oddity," writes Crawford. "Now that many colleges require students to take speaking and writing courses, departments are seeking mathematicians who can teach History of Math!"

**Larry A. Dean** ('66 MA) is a retired instructor of history at Harrisburg Area

Community College. He taught there from 1966 until 1996.

**John L. De Cesare** ('64 MA) just retired after forty years in public education. He was an adjunct professor for ten years at Pennsylvania State University, two years at Reading Community College, and two years at Lafayette College. He was also assistant superintendent of schools for over fourteen years. He lives in Stroudsburg.

**Michael de Nie** ('92 BA) is a PhD student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is currently adjunct professor of history at Lakeland College. Mr. de Nie is also the editor of the Internet Scout Project for the University of Wisconsin.

**Neil Hanlon** ('57 BA) worked for over forty years selling advertising space for such diverse publications as *Redbook*, *Sport Parade*, and *National Geographic*. In his retirement he has started Green Flag Productions, producers of Civil War items that celebrate the achievements of the Irish Brigade.

**Hugh E. Jones** ('61 BA) is Chair of the Political Science Department at Shippensburg University. He received his MA from

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## STUDENTS

**Tom Agostini** is currently writing his dissertation, a social history of provincial soldiers in the Seven Years' War. Tom has held fellowships at the Clements Library in Michigan, the David Library in Pennsylvania, and the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. He will be giving a paper at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture annual conference in Glasgow, Scotland this July.

**Mark Gallimore** received his BA from the University of West Virginia in 1998. He is a first year MA student interested in the social history of Hessian (German) soldiers during the American Revolution.

**Paul Gillespie** just passed his PhD comprehensive examinations this Spring. He is attending Lehigh on a program funded by the Air Force. He is currently the History Department's representative for the Graduate Student Council (GSC)

**Steve Hatch** is a history of technology master's student working as an independent consultant for the America on Wheels Transportation Museum in Allentown, PA. In preparation for the museum's opening in 2002, Hatch is assisting the exhibit design staff in locating visual media for the museum.

**Danielle Impink** is a Junior history major with a minor in International Relations. Impink is a member of the History Club, the Headstart Program of the Lehigh Valley, and a tour guide for the admissions office.



## STUDENTS

She is also in Alpha Gamma Delta, and part of the Star Academy, a program at Lehigh that tutors local children and teenagers. Impink wants to attend law school after graduating from Lehigh.

**Maria McGrath** received her BA at Temple and her MA at the University of Wyoming in American Studies. She is currently preparing for her PhD comprehensive exams and assisting Professor Kim Carrell-Smith in American History 1865-1941.

**Mark Nicholas** will be presenting a paper at a Colonial Society of Massachusetts Conference to be held in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, in April 2001. The conference is entitled "New England Indians and the Colonial Experience." Nicholas' paper will focus on the Mashpee Indians of Cape Cod as domestic and maritime laborers in the eighteenth century. He is currently working on his dissertation proposal that will examine the growth of Indian confederacies between 1770 and 1812.

**Erwin Pantel** earned his MA from Monmouth College. He is currently researching the life of industrialist Frank J. Sprague which will form the basis of a Brown Bag Lecture in the History Department in April. Pantel is in the process of preparing for his PhD comprehensive exams.

**Gina Louise Rongione** received her BA in 1995 and MA in 1998 from Villanova University. She is a first year PhD (continued on page 5)

## FACULTY

**Stephen Cutcliffe** recently co-edited with Carl Mitcham of the Colorado School of Mines a new book entitled *Visions of STS: Counterpoints in Science, Technology, and Society Studies*. The collection brings together the views of ten leading scholars to clarify the nature of STS Studies and point toward future developments. Prof. Cutcliffe also gave the keynote address at the Third Symposium on the History of Technology hosted by the

National Science Museum in Tokyo, Japan. The title of his presentation was: "Artifacts 'R' Us: Some Ruminations on Industrial History and Museums."

**Jean Soderlund**, chair of the History Department, and co-director of the **Lawrence Henry Gipson Institute for Eighteenth-Century Studies**, has recently co-authored a textbook for Advanced Placement

and college level courses, *American Passages: A History of the United States*. Soderlund wrote the section that covers the colonial period up until the War of 1812. She is currently working on a book about the Lenape Indians of New Jersey from first contact with the Dutch and Swedes in the early seventeenth century up through the American Revolution.

## Students From Belgium

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Over the past two years, Lehigh's History Department has welcomed six graduate students from Belgium. **Sarah Van Beurden**, who came in 2000 with three other students from the Catholic University at Leuven in Belgium, has decided to stay at Lehigh to finish her MA in American Studies. Van Beurden has found working with Professor Pettegrew perfect for her interests in the New Left. She developed her historical curiosity growing up with very liberal parents who worked as social workers. Being young in Europe when the Berlin wall crumbled to the ground, and visiting relatives in Poland when Lech Walesa's Solidarity Move-

ment was just taking root, have also contributed to her historical interests. While not focusing on labor movements per se, her research addresses Leftist ideology. She is interested in why the fifties and early sixties are often seen as a time of no feminist activity, when, according to Van Beurden's findings, there existed strains of Leftist thought during that time that can link First Wave Feminism to Second Wave Feminism. She hopes to continue on with her PhD in the States. Two other exchange students, **Ellen Depoortere** and **An Vandenberghe** are taking graduate courses here at Lehigh this semester. Depoortere's interest stems from her Leuven thesis on

European perceptions of Native American dances in the eighteenth century. Vandenberghe is interested in intellectual history and the history of medicine. All three women have found their trans-Atlantic education interesting and challenging in a variety of ways. First, history courses are taught differently here than at Leuven. "Leuven is more conservative," says Van Beurden, "focusing more on lectures and facts." Students here in the States are taught to be more critical and analytical of what they read. Students here must speak up in class, (continued on page 6)

## ALUMNI, continued

Duke University in Twentieth Century American History and his PhD in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University.

**Ralph Kidder** ('68 BA) received an MAT from Duquesne University in 1973 and an MBA from Boston University in 1986. He is currently Vice President and CFO of Massosoit Community College in Massachusetts. Mr. Kidder invites graduate students and faculty who visit Boston to come and guest lecture at Massosoit.

**Richard K. Lieberman** ('67 BA) is Professor of History at La Guardia Community College & CUNY Graduate Center. He is director of the La Guardia and Wagner Archives that holds the personal papers of Mayors La Guardia, Wagner, Beame, and Koch. The archives is considered one of the country's leading urban archives and is the only mayoral archives in the country. He was the recent recipient of the Sloan Public Service Award.

**Howard Mackey** ('55 PhD) is a retired Professor of History at Lamar University in Texas. He has published extensively. His research has focused on Sydney Smith, early Virginia history, and Chinese society and culture. He was a Fulbright fellow in 1963 at the

2nd Summer Institute in Chinese Civilization at Tunghai University.

**Melissa G. Mundel** ('73 BA) is an employed consultant in grant writing, business plans, and product development for Technology 2020 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She is also an assistant adjunct research professor in anthropology at the University of Tennessee. She holds an MA from Drew University in Near Eastern Archaeology and a PhD from the University of Tennessee in Physical Anthropology. She will be excavating this summer in Turkey.

**Danton A. Ponzol** ('80 MA) is Supervisor of Social Studies, Secondary Level at Pennridge School District. In 1983 he coauthored a Teacher's Edition of *Land of Liberty* a U.S. History Text published by Holt Rinehart. In 1999 he wrote *A Century of Timeless Toy Trains*, a one-hundred year history of the Lionel Toy Corporation published by Barnes and Noble in March 2000.

**Fred H. Shunk** ('67 MA) retired in June of 1993 after thirty years of professional service in the Bethlehem Area School District. He also taught for several years at Northampton County Community College. He lives in Bethlehem.

**Thomas J. Spinner, Jr.** ('51 BA) is Professor Emeritus of

History at the University of Vermont. He attained his MA from Columbia University in 1954 and his PhD from the University of Rochester in 1964. He was a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Guyana in 1972-1973. He has collaborated with his wife on the books *George Joachim Goschen: The Transformation of a Victorian Liberal* published by Cambridge, and a *Political and Social History of Guyana, 1945-1983*, published by Westview Press.

**Janet Tucker** ('85 MA) is Associate Director of the Lehigh University Alumni Association. She concentrated on twentieth-century American history.

**Kurt Zwinkl** ('82 MA) is now President of the Allentown Economic Development Corporation.



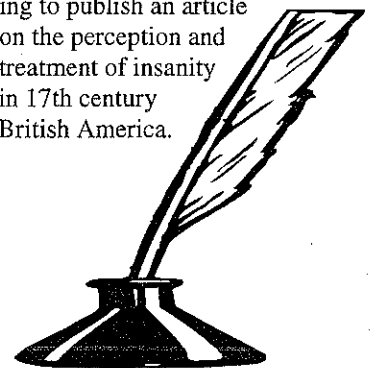
## STUDENTS

student interested in the early contact period. She examines Native American mythology to explain and explore social, cultural, and environmental changes.

**James P. Ryan** is a Senior history major who is working on a research project concerning the Peasants' War of 1525 in Germany. He is hoping to attend graduate school in history here at Lehigh in the fall.

**Thomas Saxton** received his BA from Rider University. He is an MA student currently working on his thesis that will examine the costs of war on the families of Revolutionary War veterans. Tom works closely with the David Library of the American Revolution located in Washington Crossing, PA. He works as a research assistant for the library. This summer he plans to resume his work at the Library helping to set up exhibits.

**Matt Zimmerman** received his BA from Widener University in 1995 and his MA from Ohio University in 1999. He is a PhD student whose primary interests include colonial American history focusing on race relations in the early contact period. He is currently trying to publish an article on the perception and treatment of insanity in 17th century British America.





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Colloquium and Lecture Series

Organizations, continued

most of the meetings. GSC also provides the opportunity to mingle with graduate students from other departments. The GSC brings speakers to meetings to inform students on a variety of campus issues. Anyone who is interested please contact Paul Gillespie at pag6@lehigh.edu.

Belgium, continued

while in Leuven, the Professors do all the talking. Here at Lehigh, all three students feel they have learned to open up and express their opinion. Van Buerden, since she has been here longest, finds the American system more liberating and open to her ideas. At Leuven, exploring the New Left is relatively unknown among historians. "Here, while the field is new as well, at least there are scholars like Pettegrew interested in the topic," says Van Beurden. Indeed, the students from Belgium have not only adjusted to studying in the U.S., but living here as well. "Leuven is really integrated into town life," Depoortere observes, "while Lehigh's social life seems not at all involved with Bethlehem. It is different, but we are getting used to it."

Feb. 21 *Mashpee Indians in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World.*  
Mark A. Nicholas, Dept. of History, Lehigh University

Feb. 28 *Magellan's Ship? An STS Class Project.*  
Michael Notis, Dept. of Materials Science, Lehigh University

March 5 *Circumnavigation of South Georgia and the Falklands*  
Held in Sinclair Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.  
Howard Whitcomb, Prof. Emeritus, Dept. Political Science, Lehigh University

April 4 *Engineering the Modern City: Frank J. Sprague—Inventor and Businessman*  
Erwin C. Pantel, Department of History, Lehigh University

April 11 *In the Arms of the Angel: Joseph Mengele and Social Control at Auschwitz*  
Michele Baer, Department of History, Lehigh University

April 20 *Harnessing Imported Technologies for Economic Growth: Is There an East Asian Model?*  
Rudi Volti, STS Program and Dept. of Sociology, Pitzer College

April 25 *Occupation, Gender, Ethnicity, and Household Structure: An Analysis of the Census and Tax Records of Bethlehem Borough, 1850*  
Meredith Gee, Dept. of History, Lehigh University

May 2 *Mendacity and Peasant Mentalities in Pre-Revolutionary Brittany*  
Brandon Wallace, Dept. of History, Lehigh University