

History at Lehigh University

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History at Lehigh is the official newsletter of the Department of History at Lehigh University, and is published twice a year in an effort to maintain contact and share information with students, faculty, and alumni. Please e-mail us, and keep us informed of any updates you may have for our next newsletter.

City As Utopia Bethlehem & Beyond

Lehigh University's American Studies Program with the museum of Industrial history held an interdisciplinary conference on the relationship between the city and the history of the striving for human perfection. The conference met amidst a period of dramatic transformation for Bethlehem's South Side on the former site of Bethlehem Steel. The new owners have a range of ambitious plans, including the building of a new hotel, commercial and residential spaces, performing arts venues, and the National Museum for Industrial History. Sessions fit within one of the three crucial time periods and subject areas in the life of Bethlehem: the mid-18th century Moravian founding of Bethlehem, late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century industrial history, and early twenty-first century imaginings of the post-industrial city. See inside how members of the Lehigh History department took part in this monumental event.

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Faculty

Prof Roger Simon and **Brian Alnut** (PhD '03) co-authored an article on the history of Philadelphia in the last twenty-five years. The article appeared in the October, 2007 issue of *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (vol. 131, no. 4). The issue celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of *Philadelphia: a 300 year History*, covering about twenty-five years. Simon and Alnut's article is intended as an update to the Weigley anthology, as "the next chapter."

Prof Michelle LeMaster, **Prof John Pettegrew**, and graduate student **Holly Kent** will be presenting at the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians' Fourteenth Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June 2008. The conference is held once every three years and draws scholars of women's and gender history from all over the world.

Prof John Savage gave a paper at the Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction (FEEGI) bi-annual conference at Georgetown University in February. He will present a paper at the annual French Historical Studies conference at Rutgers in early April; at the French Colonial Historical Society meeting in Quebec City in May; and present "Obeah and Other Powers: the Politics of Caribbean Religion and Healing" in a conference at Newcastle University in July. Recent articles are coming out in *Studies in French Cinema* and *History of Education Quarterly*. While he is close to completing work on an edited volume on the theme of *Napoleon's Atlantic*, to be published by Presses de l'Universite de Toulouse this summer.

Graduate Students

Eric Eisenberg recently attended the South-by-Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas. He says he is writing a book on the history of the festival, focusing on the festival's interactions with the local community and its role in the entertainment industry.

Kelli Oliver and **Jim Higgins** both presented at the *City as Utopia: Bethlehem and Beyond* conference here at Lehigh University. Kelli presented a portion of her MA thesis *The Evolution of St. Luke's Hospital, 1873-1900*, while Jim presented a paper *Bethlehem in Crisis: The Great Influenza Epidemic of 1918*.

The Northern Mariner, a peer-reviewed (or is it pier-reviewed?) journal of maritime history in Canada published **Jeffrey Remling's** article entitled "Patterns of Procurement and Politics: Building Ships in the Civil War." in their January issue. Since the only American maritime journal, the American Neptune, stopped publishing several years ago, many maritime historians are being forced to publish outside the country. Since publishing, the editor has also asked me to review an article for the journal.

Silas Chamberlain presented a version of his thesis, " 'A True Recreation of Our Spirits, Our Courage, and Our Love': Hiking Ideology in the Twentieth-Century Pennsylvania" at the Barnes Club Conference at Temple University on April 12.

Sarah Brennan, Nichole D'Elia, and Lauren Volpe were awarded this year's Harmon Prize. The Harmon Prize is the history department award for the student with both highest history and overall GPA.

Alumni

Working as the Curator of America On Wheels Museum in Allentown, Pennsylvania has been an incredible experience says **Sarah Brennan**. She says that finding a job in public history right after graduation has been like a dream come true

Brian Alnutt is an adjunct assistant professor at Kutztown University. His article " 'Great Security... from the Insults of Our Enemies': Provincial unity during the Era of Leislerian Factionalism in New York, 1691-1709" was published in *de Halve Maen*, the Quarterly Journal of the Holland Society of New York, volume 80, no 3.

Department News and Announcements

Silas Chamberlain gave a brown-bag talk on April 3rd. He presented research on early twentieth-century hiking clubs and discussed what motivated Pennsylvanians to hike in the absence of modern environmentalism.

Professor Michael Baylor will be returning to Leuven, Belgium again this summer to teach in the Lehigh in Belgium program. Lehigh has designed courses to take advantage of Belgium's unique and pivotal role in the political and economic development of modern Europe. Being near Brussels also provides students a firsthand opportunity to learn about the European Union.

Professor John Smith's web project is now live at www.explorepahistory.com It provides a plethora of information on Pennsylvania history.

History Quiz

1. Who was the head American prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials of Nazi War Criminals? He had been Supreme Court Justice and never finished law school.
2. Which of the thirteen original colonies was the only to be founded with statutes forbidding slavery?
3. George Washington is the only president who was not sworn in by a member of the judiciary branch. Who swore him in, and why was the oath not administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
4. What is the name of the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs mascot?

ANSWERS: 1. Robert Jackson; 2. Georgia; 3. Robert Livingston, no such judge had yet been appointed; 4. Ferrous

Parting Thoughts

There is no history of mankind, there is only an indefinite number of histories of all kinds of aspects of human life.

~ Karl Popper

Honest history is the weapon of freedom

~ A.M. Schlesinger, Jr