From the Department Chair, Alastair Bellany

I began drafting this introduction to the newsletter in the chair’s office in Van Dyck Hall. Rutgers has been “open” since July 6, and although the summer months remain (as is their wont) very quiet, the department staff and I have begun a tentative return to on-campus work routines, all in preparation for the exciting (if daunting) prospect of the return of thousands of mandatorily vaccinated undergraduate and graduate students to our classrooms on September 1. It’s still a little odd to be back, and this summer of battles between vaccines and variants is now generating more uncertainty about the immediate future than we had bargained for.

It has already been a long, bruising sixteen months, and one of the most challenging crises in Rutgers’ history. But the University, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the History Department have, it seems, thus far weathered the storm. There has been suffering and loss, frustration and anger, confusion and disagreement, but there has been effective leadership when it mattered, displays of flexibility and resilience throughout the institution, and, above all, a collective effort across the whole university community to rise to the challenge.

When I wrote my letter this time last year, the University, School and Department faced a host of financial challenges arising from the pandemic, including the last-minute withdrawal of significant amounts of state support. Right at the end of the 2020 fiscal year, the department had to draw on its reserves to help the School close a yawning deficit, and we spent last summer anxiously awaiting the next budgetary calamity. This past year has been a fiscal challenge, but it’s a relief to report that it could have been so much worse. State support to Rutgers was restored, student enrollments (the main source of revenue to the School of Arts and Sciences) remained robust (although tuition income was hurt by a steep drop in the number of higher-paying out of state students), and the savings accrued by being unable to do so many things—travel, host conferences, etc.—proved sufficient to cover enough of the shortfall to head off the possibility of a second raid on our reserves. Months of

(continued on page 2)
From the Department Chair, Cont’d.

negotiations between the administration and the AAUP eventually resulted in a deal that traded short faculty furloughs for the restoration of delayed contractual raises and for protections from layoffs for more vulnerable employees. Both unionized and non-aligned staff members also took furloughs during the year, making individual sacrifices for the common good.

Early on in the pandemic, we realized that our biggest departmental financial challenge would be to provide additional time and support to the large number of PhD students whose research had been disrupted by the suspension of travel and the closure of archives. We decided fairly early on that we would give an additional year of guaranteed funding to all the students in the four cohorts most deeply affected by the pandemic. In the absence of significant external infusions of financial support, we agreed that we would pay for these additional years of funding by reducing the number of admitted students for two recruitment seasons. We then decided that during the 2021 recruiting season we would have to reduce the incoming class to five and that we would target, in particular, applicants working on the histories of race. This year’s admissions and recruitment process were thus far from routine, but we were able to recruit five wonderfully talented new students to the program. Many challenges await—running a graduate program with so few new students poses real curricular difficulties; and the extended duration of the pandemic and the uneven pattern of re-openings of archives and travel, has put even greater pressure on our current students who need to get back inside the library. But our budgetary discipline this year has created some leeway going forward, including the possibility of a small but meaningful increase in numbers of new students during the next admissions season.

The Department completed a full academic year of robust online teaching to strong student enrollment, and managed to roll out some wonderful new courses including Jamie Pietruska’s class on “Data: A Social History”, and Julie Stephens’s and Judith Surkis’s gateway course for the new minor/certificate in Law and History (for more on which, see below). With the support of SAS, and under incredible time pressure, Erica Dunbar and Donna Murch created a major new “Signature Course” on “Black Lives Matter” that ran with great success in Fall 2020 and will be taught again, this time by Erica Dunbar and Tiffany Gill, in Fall 2021. It was undoubtedly a tough year for our undergraduate students, but they showed remarkable resilience. We had to celebrate the achievements of our majors online, but months of experience in the Zoom room meant we could produce some meaningful live events to mark the close of the academic year: a Phi Alpha Theta induction ceremony featuring mini-lectures on Lincoln by Lou Masur and on the history of pandemics by Elaine LaFay; a high-powered honors thesis conference, in which students presented brilliantly on a remarkable range of topics; and a senior celebration which gave us all a chance to praise and to hear from our graduating majors.

Our PhD students have faced many challenges—a first year cohort who couldn’t get to campus or even meet each other in person; numerous students who remained stalled in the midst of research, unable to travel to libraries and archives; dissertation writers completing their work under the lowering skies of the worst job market in years—and everyone has felt deeply the pains of the forced dispersal of the community so essential to the intellectual and emotional life of the program. And yet, our students’ achievements this past year were staggering—multiple journal publications, numerous external fellowships, prestigious post-docs and remarkable success on what remained of the tenure track job market. After having to cancel the spring 2020 event, the graduate students organized an excellent online Susman conference in April that featured papers from a wide range of participants and culminated in a wonderful keynote talk by Jennifer Brier which brought many of our past PhDs virtually back to campus.

It has also been another year of outstanding achievements by our faculty. Seth Koven won a Guggenheim fellowship to work on his book, Conscience Wars: Christianity and Coercion in Modern Britain and its Empire, while David Greenberg won a Cullman Center fellowship at the New York Public Library to work on his biography of Congressman John Lewis. Deborah Gray White and Marisa Fuentes steered the university’s “Scarlet and Black” project through to its third and culminating volume of studies, while laying the foundations for the project’s long-term future. “Scarlet and Black” will now move under the aegis of the new
Mellon-funded, cross-campus, Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice, where our own Erica Dunbar has been appointed the first New Brunswick director. Camilla Townsend’s *Fifth Sun: A New History of the Aztecs* won the highly-coveted 2020 Cundill Prize that recognizes work that “embodies historical scholarship, originality, literary quality and broad appeal”. And in June, Cami joined Lou Masur in receiving one of the University’s highest honors, a Board of Governors Professorship.

Amidst all the chaos and stress of the pandemic crisis it’s sometimes hard to remember all the more routine comings and goings that constitute the normal life of the department. But we’ve had a fairly busy year. We welcomed four new faculty members in 2020-21, three of whom (the fourth was away on external fellowship) had to teach their first Rutgers classes online, and adapt to life in a new department without being able to set foot in Van Dyck Hall. All four of our brand-new hires, and our two other most recent additions to the faculty, have contributed brief self-portraits to this edition of the newsletter, which I hope will give the larger departmental community a chance to meet them all. Dorothy Sue Cobble, Distinguished Professor of History and Labor Studies, and a leading member of our PhD program in women’s and gender history, retired in January 2021, not long before her latest book, *For the Many: American Feminists and the Global Fight for Democratic Equality*, appeared from Princeton University Press. There was also a major change in the office. Tiffany Berg, our business manager, was promoted to serve as the Director of Administration for the humanities under the new humanities dean, Rebecca Walkowitz. We were sad to lose Tiffany, whose work for the department and leadership among the staff have been truly outstanding, but we are incredibly proud to see Tiffany’s many accomplishments and talents fully rewarded. We were then remarkably fortunate to recruit Donna Ghilino from Economics as Tiffany’s replacement. Donna brings deep experience and skill to the position, and she has quickly established herself as an invaluable member of the staff despite the challenges of joining a new team and department while working remotely.

Having agreed to serve an additional year, 2021-22 will be my last one as chair. I hope that there will be a chance not only to help the department return to something like normal operations, but also to start the process of figuring out what we have learned from this crisis as historians, teachers, scholars and citizens, a process that should allow us to gauge how much of “normal operations” is still good enough. It’s been a privilege to work through this most challenging of years with such a brilliant team of vice-chairs—Johanna Schoen, Paul Hanebrink and Leah DeVun—and I’m relieved that all three of them have agreed to serve another year alongside me.

As always, I want to thank you for your support for and continuing interest in the department, and I hope to see you back in Van Dyck before too long.
Seymour (Sy) Becker (1934 - 2020)

Submitted by Alastair Bellany

Seymour (Sy) Becker, Professor Emeritus of Modern Russian history, died on October 5, 2020 at the age of 86. Born in Rochester, New York in 1934, Sy received his BA from Williams in 1956, an MA from Harvard in 1958, and his PhD, also from Harvard, in 1963, writing his dissertation, “Russia’s Central Asian Protectorates: Bukhara and Khiva, 1865-1917”, under the direction of Richard Pipes. Sy joined the History Department of Douglass College as an Instructor in 1962, became an Assistant Professor in 1963, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1967. His first book, Russia’s Protectorates in Central Asia: Bukhara and Khiva, 1865-1924, appeared from Harvard University Press in 1968, and established Sy as a leading scholar of Russian imperialism and of Central Asian history. (The book was republished by Routledge in 2004). His second book, Nobility and Privilege in Late Imperial Russia (Northern Illinois UP, 1985) saw him plunging into controversial debates about the resilience (or lack thereof) of the late imperial Russian aristocracy, and he was promoted to Full Professor in 1986. Sy continued to teach at Rutgers until his retirement in 2002, offering, at the undergraduate level, a sequence of courses at the 300-level on Russian history, a 200-level course on “Russia and the West”, and a 300-level class on Eastern European history. He also regularly taught the introductory survey course Development of Europe, initially focusing on the second half but occasionally venturing into the premodern era. While at Rutgers, Sy also served as the director of the “Soviet and East European Program” from 1979-87, and helped run the study abroad program in Florence. For the latter part of his career, Sy’s research focused on what he called “the development of Russian national consciousness with respect to the non-Russian borderlands of the empire in the latter nineteenth-century”. Four chapters and a brief appendix from his extensively drafted but unfinished book—tentatively titled The Borderlands in the Mind of Russia—appeared posthumously in three consecutive issues of the journal Ab Imperio: Studies of New Imperial History and Nationalism in the post-Soviet Space, published in 2020-21. Sy is survived by his wife, Alla Zeide, his two children and a grandson.
This past May, the Scarlet and Black Project, co-directed by Marisa J. Fuentes and Deborah Gray White published the third and final volume of Rutgers history with African American, Native American, and Puerto Rican communities. Along with Miya Carey, a Rutgers PhD alum who is now an Assistant Professor at Binghamton University, we edited Scarlet and Black: Making Black Lives Matter at Rutgers, 1945-2020. As with the first and second volumes, the essays represent the work of our talented graduate and undergraduate students.

The bulk of the book covers the Black student movement on Rutgers campus that occurred from the mid-sixties through the early years of the 70s. It is divided into three parts: The essays in Part One explore Rutgers before the late 1960s. Really an extension of Scarlet and Black Volume II, it continues the discussion of what life was like at Rutgers when only a handful of Black and Latinx students attended. It also introduces the Newark and Camden campuses and communities, and the way race as a subject of inquiry was handled on the New Brunswick campus. The essays in Part Two focus on the Conklin Hall takeover at Newark and the process by which multiculturalism was introduced at New Brunswick, Newark and Camden. In Part Three we focus on incidents of racial tension that occurred toward the end of the twentieth and beginning of the twenty-first century, namely demonstrations against South African apartheid, activist Assata Shakur’s arrest and imprisonment, President Lawrence’s “bell curve” remarks, and Don Imus’s insulting comments about the Scarlet Knights women’s basketball team. The epilogue speaks to Rutgers’s renewed commitment to cultural diversity and African American excellence by introducing Dr. Jonathan Scott Holloway as the 21st president of the university, the first African American to hold this position and whose scholarly expertise is African American culture and history.

We continue to be indebted to Rutgers administrators, librarians, faculty and students who gave us tremendous support. And we extend a special thanks to Drs. Jesse Bayker and Alexandria Russell for their help in every aspect of the publishing process and for organizing our very successful Spring 2021 virtual conference.
Introducing “Law and History”:
Judith Surkis

Over the past few months, the teaching of history has been the focus of highly politicized legal dispute. State legislatures around the country have proposed bills to limit—and indeed censor—what can be taught in K-12 social studies classes about how the legacies of slavery and past racial, sexual, and gender discrimination continue to shape our present. The proponents of these laws have repeatedly distorted and misrepresented “Critical Race Theory” (CRT) as part of a broader tactic to discredit renewed efforts to reckon with that past. An important strain of historical and legal analysis that has until recently remained a subject of instruction in law schools, CRT illuminates how law has historically structured racial difference and discrimination in domains from education to incarceration, tax policy to welfare. Its foundational thinkers, alongside prominent historians and journalists from The Washington Post to the New Yorker, have denounced networks of conservative activists and think tanks for mobilizing a false conception of CRT in order to engineer their own legal assault on how history is taught. These new “history wars” are just one of the topics that students will learn about in the recently launched “Law and History” course offered in Fall 2021 by Professors Jennifer Mittelstadt and Judith Surkis.

The class, which was first taught as an online course in Fall 2020 by Professors Julie Stephens and Surkis, is the anchor to a new undergraduate history minor and certificate program. It introduces students to how historians think about the law and how lawyers think about history, preparing them for further course work in “law and history” themed courses and eventually law-related careers, including the exciting prospect of a joint BA/JD with Rutgers Law School. Designed around a series of interconnected thematic modules, the course looks to law see the study of the past as crucial for understanding and intervening in present day questions: about the history of property and labor, policing, forensics, public health, voting rights, and sex discrimination.

The class begins with a history of law-school education in the United States in order to explain how the “case method” emerged in the nineteenth-century. Students then get hands-on experience in how to brief a case: they distill its central issue, rule, analysis, and conclusion—a skill that they continue to hone over the course of the semester in the “practicums” that follow thematic class segments integrating lectures, podcasts, video clips, and documentaries. These asynchronous lectures are complemented by a related series of synchronous “law labs.” Developed with the crucial help of a Humanities Plus course development grant and original research assistance by Ph.D. candidates Ariel Mond and Stephen Thrasher, these interactive labs allow students to practice working collectively to analyze a range of primary sources that touch on how law is made, implemented, and represented. They learn about the writing and enforcement of contracts; the history of detective fiction and contemporary media representations of policing; the recent proposed legislation on history teaching and the role of historians as expert witnesses in trials. In their final projects, students are given the opportunity to explore how historical knowledge shapes contemporary legal arguments by writing a historian’s “amicus brief” on a subject of pressing present-day significance. Last year, students worked on vaccine mandates. This year they will examine the protection of voting rights.

“Law and History” and the minor and certificate program with which it is associated give students a concrete sense of how the skills of historical analysis and interpretation have direct practical applications and public impact. It is vital part of an exciting new program in “Law, History, and Social Justice.” This initiative brings together historians and legal scholars, undergraduate and graduate students, from across the university to implement a new vision of the public, social, and civic contributions of the humanities. We look forward to sharing further information about the program in future newsletters.

Prof. Judith Surkis's research focuses on French colonial and postcolonial history, with a focus on gender, sexuality, and law. She is the author most recently, of Sex, Law, and Sovereignty in French Algeria, 1830-1930 (Cornell, 2019) and is currently at work on a book about the international politics of family law entitled The Intimate Life of International Law: Children and Development after Decolonization.
43rd Annual Warren Susman Graduate Conference

Submitted by Josh Anthony, Yazmin Gomez, Ayelet Marron

"Quarantine" has become a deeply familiar concept for all of us in recent times. But strategies of quarantine have also shaped the making and telling of history – from the geopolitics of “Divide and Rule” to the social politics of “A Room of One’s Own”. In this year’s 43rd Annual Warren Susman Graduate Conference, we invited our applicants to use their experiences of quarantine to reflect on themes of control, connectivity, and community.

By connecting as a community online, we were able to expand the geographical range of our presenters from Bombay to Tel Aviv. At the same time, we kept with tradition by inviting a Rutgers graduate to give the keynote address: Dr. Jennifer Brier, OAH Distinguished Lecturer and Professor of History and Gender & Women’s Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Brier’s powerful talk, which drew upon extensive interviews and fieldwork, presented a women’s history of HIV/AIDS in the United States.

Our first panel, moderated by Dr. Paul Hanebrink, explored the boundaries of nation and empire. Ilya Slavutskiy reinterpreted Japan’s economic ‘isolation’ between 1600-1918 as a commerce strategy, Filipo Gradi analyzed resistance to Japanese Fascism in the writings of philosopher Tosaka Jun, Jesse Siegel demonstrated a link between Sudeten German Nationalism and German expressionism through art historian Otto Kletzl, and Zohar Sapir-Dvir drove home the crucial role of the automobile in France’s interwar African empire.

The second panel, moderated by Dr. Jack Bouchard, was attuned to silences in the archive and the historiography. Josh Anthony retold the history of colonial Mexico from the vantage point of changing Aztec family conventions, Maayan Aner examined sexual and religious boundaries in 16th-century Spain through the inquisition trial of a transgender man, Endia Louise Hayes mapped enslaved imaginaries in the Federal Writers Project archive, and Yazmin Gomez utilized unknown women’s collective power to chronicle Milwaukee’s Latino educational activism.

The third panel, moderated by Dr. Julia Stephens, focused on questions of mobility and domesticity. Peter Sicher illuminated the influence of a fugitive enslaved man on narratives of emancipation in the Civil War, Carnes Couvillon studied the relations between war and gender in the Kingdom of Dahomey through material culture, Ayelet Marron showed how domestic encounters in American-occupied WWII North Africa reversed the gendering of liberation, and Jessica Mingoia reconstructed the “working from home” experience in the shop-apartments of ancient Pompeii and Herculanum.

The fourth panel, moderated by Dr. Lilia Fernandez, centered on social movements. Emily Hawk studied community art and civic discourse in New York City’s DanceMobile Program, Julie Aromi probed the contentious histories of the Crown Heights Riots, Elissa Branum reframed evangelical purity culture through the role of women in the 1970s, and Mary Gently examined how evangelicals negotiated their beliefs and same sex attraction in their cultural productions.

The fifth panel, moderated by Dr. Aldo Lauria-Santiago, discussed discourses of contagion. Whitney McIntosh unearthed Group Research Inc.’s fact finding mission to expose the New Right in the 1960s, Nick Sprenger analyzed British strategies of rule in Ireland and rhetoric of quarantining the “Irish Disease”, Sarjoo Shah studied the shift in the “punitive containment” of the Witch in Indian literature, and Michael Onufrak researched the role of Cotton Mather in the Smallpox Epidemic in Boston.

We are delighted that despite the circumstances, our community of faculty and graduate students was able to convene, debate, and exchange ideas. With cautious optimism, we look forward to meeting and dining in person at the 44th Warren Susman Conference.
Meet the New Faculty

Yesenia Barragan

Born and raised in working-class Latinx Hackensack, New Jersey, just north of Rutgers NB, Yesenia Barragan is a social historian of modern Latin America and the Caribbean. She specializes in the transnational histories of race, slavery, emancipation, and legacies of anti-Blackness in Afro-Latin America and the African diaspora in the Americas. She earned her Ph.D. in Latin American History from Columbia University, where she was a Ford Foundation Fellow, and her B.A. in Philosophy and History (Magna Cum Laude, with Honors) from Brown University, where she was a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow and Beinecke Scholar. She is the author of two books, *Freedom’s Captives: Slavery and Gradual Emancipation on the Colombian Black Pacific* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), which is a narrative-driven social, political, and geographical study of the gradual abolition of slavery in the majority-Black Colombian Pacific coast, and *Selling Our Death Masks: Cash-for-Gold in the Age of Austerity* (Zero Books, 2014), which is a surrealist ethnography of cash-for-gold shops in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis. Her peer-reviewed articles have appeared in *The Americas*, *Slavery and Abolition*, *Revista de Estudios Colombianos*, and *Nuevo Mundo, Mundos Nuevos*. Her next project bridges African American and Latin American history by telling the story of free and fugitive African Americans who fled to Mexico, Central America, and the Northern Andes during the antebellum period.

Yesenia is deeply committed to public historical work and scholarship. For several years, she was a regular contributor to *Black Perspectives*, an online platform for public scholarship on global Black thought, history, and culture established by the African American Intellectual History Society, and an opinion columnist for the major Latin American media outlet, Telesur. She is also interested in the digital humanities and is the Principal Investigator of “The Free Womb Project,” a bilingual (English and Spanish-language) digital collection of gradual emancipation laws with Free Womb clauses across the eighteenth and nineteenth-century world. This digital database has been used extensively by faculty and students in the United States and Latin America. Apart from these projects, Yesenia has served as a Country of Origin Information (COI) Expert for asylum cases related to Colombian asylum seekers. Based on her experience as a COI Expert, she designed a new undergraduate course titled “History and Asylum Law in the United States,” where students work on mock asylum cases from around the world and meet with an asylum lawyer and organizations serving asylum seekers in New Jersey. This course received a Humanities Plus award to support programming and teaching needs.

At Rutgers, Yesenia is the convener of the interdisciplinary Slavery + Freedom Studies Working Group, currently sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice (ISGRJ), which brings together faculty across departments whose work engages with the problem of slavery, freedom, and the post-emancipation world transhistorically and cross-culturally, from ancient Rome, Asia, the United States, to Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and the Indian Ocean. For the 21-22 AY, she will be an Early Career Faculty Fellow at the ISGRJ.
Meet the New Faculty, Cont’d.

Lastly but importantly, Yesenia is a first-generation daughter of poor/working-class immigrants from Latin America and a longtime activist involved in social and racial justice movements. She is committed to mentoring underrepresented and first-generation students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Jack Bouchard

I consider myself an environmental historian who is broadly interested in the history of islands and maritime spaces, food history, and labour histories in the premodern world. I teach global, premodern themes, but my own work focuses on the 15-16th century Atlantic basin. My first book project tells the story of how, in the first decades of the sixteenth century, largely anonymous groups of mariners from across Europe forged a vast, seasonal fishery around what is today the island of Newfoundland, a space they knew as Terra Nova.

There are a lot of random topics and questions which interest me, and which I’d be happy to talk about if we ever run into each other in the hallway: the ways that medieval Arab-Persian foodways structured early modern European cookery and medicine; the history of ambergris as a food and medicine from the 7th-18th centuries; the premodern history of scurvy and why it’s so poorly understood; premodern African fisheries; the early modern Atlantic salt trade; and Arctic history. To me these are part of who I am as a teacher and researcher, even if they’re not really what I write about most of the time. They are as much a part of why I am excited to be teaching environmental history as my work on cod fisheries, and I put them at the start just to give a sense of where my thoughts are as I join the department.

I don’t fully understand how I ended up here, because this is not where I thought my studies would take me. I started my undergraduate years ago wanting to work on the recent history of the middle east (especially 20th century Yemen), then transitioned to focusing on Classical Greek history and early modern European peasants. During my MA I was introduced to Atlantic history, and through this it struck me that the Newfoundland fisheries are mentioned in passing by Atlantic historians, but never integrated into wider narratives. I wanted to write a dissertation that rectified this problem. The 16th century fisheries seemed to offer a project that would let me do a number of things that were important to me: it was an underresearched topic with a tricky sourcebase in multiple languages; a multinational history that would let me bring together a number of different perspectives; it combines labour, environmental, economic and spatial histories; and it was a broad enough topic that I could both do a great many things with it and also (hopefully) never get bored. A decade later that still holds true!

In 2012 I started my PhD work with the history department of the University of Pittsburgh. This gave me six years to work with an incredible cohort of graduate students and faculty committed to Atlantic history, and the chance to work with the growing World History Center. From 2018-2020 I got to be part of an interdisciplinary team of scholars at the Folger Shakespeare Library with the “Before ‘Farm

Undergraduate Prizes and Awards Cont’d.

Edward Romano Memorial Award in History and Public Service (given to a history major who combines a passion for historical learning with a commitment to activism and public service): Cara Del Gaudio

Edward McNall Burns Award in History (given to a non-traditional undergraduate student who graduates with the highest academic record in the field of History in the School of Arts and Sciences): Samantha Fitzgerald

Henry Rutgers Scholars Award (given to the best senior honors work in any discipline in the School of Arts and Sciences): Ethan Bull - American Studies, “The Making of Masculinity: Hazing, Fighting, and Cadet Culture at West Point, 1897-1901”

Barbara Shi - Interdisciplinary, Unapologetically Chinese, “Unforgettably Kiwi, and Undeniably American: A Personal History on Chinese Migration”

Austin Wang - History, “Sepoys in the Crosshairs: The Elevation, Fall, and Journey of the 70th Bengal Native Infantry, 1856-1860”

James Reed Award (given to the student with the best honors thesis presentation at the Rutgers History Honors Conference): Anny Lu, thesis title: “The Anson Place Spectacle: The Life and Death of Elizabeth Hamblin in the Victorian Liverpool Dock and Sexual Economies, 1850-1884”
Meet the New Faculty, Cont’d.

Nicole Burrowes

I joined the Rutgers history faculty in September 2020, during the pandemic and the global movement for Black lives. I also moved from Austin to Philadelphia (while sick!) during this tumultuous year. I am enthusiastic about entering a department with such an array of strengths, including in the study of diaspora, race, gender, and empire; and about joining a public university with such a powerful union.


Julian Acevedo: Marching in Place: *La Revolucion en Marcha* and the Complex Obstacles to Reform in Colombia, 1934-1938 (Professor Aldo Lauria Santiago)

Ethan Bull: The Making of Masculinity: Hazing, Fighting, and Cadet Culture at West Point, 1897-1901 (Professor Louis Masur)

Cara Del Gaudio: Elizabeth Catlett: Redefining Activism (Professor Amber Wiley)

Ethan Iano: Creation from Contention: Competing Visions of Iraqi Futures Prior to and during the 1920 Revolution (Professor Toby Jones)

Anny Lu: The Anson Place Spectacle: The Life and Death of Elizabeth Hamblin in the Victorian Liverpool Dock and Sexual Economies, 1850-1884 (Professor Seth Koven)

Jean-William Mackler: Revolutionary Pop Culture: The Politicization of Material Culture during the American Revolution (1763-1783) (Professor Jennifer Jones)

Alexandra Schindewolf: The Diabolical Woman: Gender and Witchcraft in Tudor and Stuart England (Professor Alastair Bellany)

Austin Wang: Sepoys in the Crosshairs: The Elevation, Fall, and Journey of the 70th Bengal Native Infantry, 1856-1860 (Professor Seth Koven)
Meet the New Faculty, Cont’d.

of empire in the midst of environmental, economic, and political crises. My intervention is three-pronged: to center working people and the 1930s in the development of modern politics in the Caribbean; to expand the framework of “overlapping diasporas;” and, by examining the seeds of solidarity, to counter generations of hegemonic narratives that focus exclusively on racial discord. While these interventions are specific, they are not limited to British Guiana, but speak to the larger impacts of racial colonial capitalism and corresponding grassroots responses.

What a time to be writing this book! In Guyana, the last few years have been marked by the demise of the sugar industry—which led to the loss of thousands of jobs, and the rise of an oil boom, spearheaded by Exxon Mobil. Oil futures, in turn, have deepened existing racial polarization in electoral politics and spurred racial violence between the two largest ethnic groups in the country—African-Guyanese and Indian-Guyanese. Meanwhile, climate future, Indigenous land rights, and Guyanese sovereignty hang in the balance. In May and June 2021, Guyana also suffered from massive flooding as it hosted an exciting Caribbean Studies Association conference for the first time, even amidst deep environmental distress. The history I write can help us expand analyses of how these racial tensions developed and my work points to the potential and possibility of a little-known historical moment in which Black and Indian communities came together under extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

During the 2020-21 academic year, I was awarded two external fellowships to support my research: the American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship and the Institute for Scholars and Citizens (formerly the Woodrow Wilson Foundation) Career Enhancement Fellowship. Unfortunately, due to COVID, three important research trips have been cancelled to date, but both of these fellowships and my new position at Rutgers were critical in supporting me to complete a draft of my manuscript. At the end of the Spring 2021 semester, the University of Virginia’s Carter G. Woodson Institute for African and African American Studies generously hosted a manuscript review of my book. The feedback I received from the session was invaluable and I am in the process of revising the manuscript now in order to send it to the press in the fall.

My publications also engage critical pedagogy and reflect my commitment to collaboration, as demonstrated by the book chapter I co-authored with Dr. LaTaSha Levy entitled “Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Teaching the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Project.” The piece appears in the 2020 book Understanding and Teaching the Civil Rights Movement, edited by Hasan Jeffries and published by the University of Wisconsin Press, which was awarded the American Historical Association’s 2020 James Harvey Robinson prize. Highlighting a course we co-taught as a pedagogical model, the chapter makes an argument for teaching Freedom Summer in a way that centers local people. We contend that our course upended conventional iconography favoring male charismatic leadership, integration, and middle-class receptability, and that focusing on this slice of civil rights history allows students to think more critically about the nature of democracy in the United States, state-sanctioned violence, long-standing ideological debates within the movement, and notions of collective leadership. Dr. Levy and I were also recently featured in a January 2021 podcast episode of season 3 of the series “Teaching Hard History.” Finally, in June, I workshops a new article for the “Beyond Inequality” collaborative, sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin and Harvard University, and I participated in the public-facing 2021 Pop-Up Institute “Beyond the Future of Work: New Paradigms for Addressing Global Inequality.” I look forward to the opportunity to meet people and build with the Rutgers community in person during the upcoming academic year.
Tiffany Gill

I often joke that I am a historian of the frivolous. Perhaps it’s more accurate to say that I am a scholar who examines how political activism is often birthed in unconventional and seemingly apolitical spaces. This quest has led me to conduct research that blurs the boundaries between political engagement and the seemingly mundane and frivolous routines of life. At its core, my research seeks to disrupt understandings of Black freedom struggles by recovering how leisure activities often inspire political strategies and birth unexpected leaders and institutions.

My research trajectory was birthed in the basement of Van Dyck Hall during my time as a graduate student in the History Department from 1996-2003. In research seminars and colloquia, I was encouraged to see what happens to the contours of historical knowledge when the lives of Black women are placed at the center of the narrative. My quest to understand Black women’s political activism did not lead me to traditional political institutions, but to beauty shops where the collision of entrepreneurship, beauty, and disenfranchisement birthed a vibrant community of activists committed to Black liberation. What began as a seminar paper grew into my doctoral dissertation and eventually my award-winning book *Beauty Shop Politics: Black Women’s Activism in the Beauty Industry*.

While conducting research for *Beauty Shop Politics*, I came across accounts of beauticians traveling to Europe and the Caribbean in the 1950s and 1960s. I was intrigued by the attention given to their voyages, especially the extensive coverage of these trips in the Black press. I thought this was an anomaly until I discovered an array of travel columns, contests, and advertisements from travel agents, resorts, and transportation companies filling the pages of Black magazines and newspapers. However, when I turned to the vibrant body of scholarship on Black Internationalism, I found little to help me understand this phenomenon. Black Internationalism’s emphasis on radical political struggle and global solidarity among oppressed people, while important, often obscures the ways that African Americans waged battles for civil rights as consumers and cosmopolitans, often in complex, messy, and seemingly apolitical ways.

While there has been increased attention on the challenges of navigating American racism in domestic leisure spaces, the international arena remains underexplored. However, my doctoral training at Rutgers prepared me to wade into this complex, messy, and important global story. Since returning as a member of the faculty, I have been working on my book manuscript, “Civil Rights on Vacation: Black Leisure, International Travel, and the Black Freedom Struggle.” For African Americans, travel from one place to another has never been a simple thing. Leaving the US promised...
Meet the New Faculty, Cont’d.

the possibility of escape from the daily humiliations of segregation, but the reality was often more complicated. As such, Civil Rights on Vacation chronicles the interactions among Black travelers, Black owned and operated travel agencies, transportation companies, government bureaucracies, and the Black press to historicize the development of an African American international tourist industry since WWII. At its core, is an attempt to examine how the experience of traveling abroad inspired strategies to combat racial injustice at home.

My journey as a historian began 25 years ago in Van Dyck Hall. As we continue to wade through the uncertainties of the COVID-19 crisis and its many afterlives as well as this moment of intensified racial reckoning, returning to Rutgers, now as a member of the faculty, has reminded me of what drew me to pursue an academic career in the first place. It is my hope that my scholarship would compel all who encounter it to imagine the ways that ordinary and enjoyable pursuits can help us unlock the strategies to combat our most pressing issues.

Elaine LaFay

I am a historian of climate and the body. My current research explores how atmospheric and medical knowledge became entangled with American imperialism along the United States Gulf Coast—Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas—in the nineteenth century. I am currently completing a book manuscript entitled, At the Tropics’ Brink: Climates of Disease and Empire in the Nineteenth-Century Gulf South. The book interrogates the ways in which climate has been aligned with different political projects and embodied experiences, and in doing so provides a new perspective on American expansion into the southern borderlands. Bodily experience and climatic knowledge were—and remain—tied up in the politics of race, wealth, and empire. At the Tropics’ Brink ultimately argues that colonialism was predicated on an experimentalism that turned parts of the tropics into laboratories for bodies and plants. Testing scientific ideas about climate, vegetation, and health was central to imperial practice. Diverse actors in the region used this knowledge in many ways, to recruit white settlers to contested land, shape the built environment of slave plantations, confront experiences with debility, and nurture popular fantasies about the commercial and medical benefits of a tropical America. By invoking the sub-tropical Gulf South as a critical frame of analysis, and by exploring a world divided by air currents in addition to landmass, I study ways of dividing the world that have not been previously historicized. This project draws on a wide range of primary source material: medical publications, meteorological and climatological treatises, works of botany, government documents, archival sources like diaries and correspondence, and a fascinating genre of early American science, personal weather journals. I am also beginning a new project, tentatively entitled Green Girls: Young Women, Environment, and Embodiment in Early America.

Undergraduate Alumnae/Alumni News

Eve Snyder (1999). Last December I graduated with my Ph.D. in History from Binghamton University after successfully defending my dissertation on the history of Title IX called “Title Wave: Civil Rights Education Policy as a Vehicle for Women’s Rights, 1944-1972.” For the past year and a half I have been working as project coordinator for an open source community digital history project called HistoryForge (www.historyforge.net) out of the History Center in Tompkins County (NY). It is an exciting project that started in Ithaca, NY but thanks to a grant from the National Historical Publications & Records Commission of the National Archives has recently started up in other parts of New York State and beyond.

Jacob A. Zumoff. I graduated from Rutgers (Livingston College) in 1997, with a BA in history. I subsequently earned a doctorate in history at University College London. I am currently an Assistant Professor of History at New Jersey City University in Jersey City.

My new book, The Red Thread: The Passaic Textile Strike was published by Rutgers University Press in July 2021. This book tells the story of 15,000 wool workers who went on strike for more than a year, defying police violence and hunger. The strikers were mainly immigrants and half were women. The Passaic textile strike, the first time that the Communist Party led a mass workers’ struggle in the United States, captured the nation’s imagination and came to symbolize the struggle of workers throughout the country when the labor movement as a whole was in decline during the conservative, probusiness 1920s. Although the strike was defeated, many of the methods and tactics of the Passaic strike presaged the struggles for industrial union a decade later in the Great Depression. My previous book is The Communist International and U.S. Communism, 1919-1929 (Brill, 2014).
This project explores the centrality of botanical and climatic knowledge to the care of bodies that bled, grew hair, became nervous, occasionally turned green, and developed other signs of maturation.

I received my PhD in History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 2019. For the academic year 2021-22, I am a co-convener of the “Technopolitical Natures” working group in the Center for Cultural Analysis, as well as a faculty fellow in the RCHA “Life and Death” seminar series. At Rutgers, I teach courses on the histories of medicine, environment, imperialism, and how we know and alter the natural world.

Dear colleagues and friends,

I’ve decided to write my intellectual self-portrait as a letter. You can find my publications, education, and past positions online. It’s information about where I’ve been and what I’ve thought about, which is summarize-able as: I love to travel to far away places, in person, and through the lives of people who lived in centuries past. Self-portraits, auto-biographies, and letters usually employ the first voice, but my apologies nonetheless for the profusion of personal pronouns, seldomly found in the histories I write.

I’ve received letters, written out with ink on paper or on a keyboard, that tell me about recent events, news, and plans. I’ll tell you mine. I was in Dallas for the 2020-21 academic year, gratefully on research leave at the Clements Center for Southwest Studies at SMU, where I completed a manuscript on the history of Mexico City during the seventeenth century, one of my favorite global cities and periods in time. It’s an economic and social history that examines how people from around the world made a living on the ground, such as tavern keepers who plied their customers with hard liquor and the coachmen who waited to take them home. Their lives emerged from property records and court cases, my preferred sources for historical reconstruction. It’s a glo-cal history – a study of global exchange and forced and free migrations centered on local experiences. I hope it inspires you to visit and think about city-living in other places.

My next projects will take me further afield. I’ve been working on a book, tenta- tively titled “First Routes: Indigenous Trade and Travel in Early North America,” for years. It’s about short- and long-distance networks that crossed present-day national borders, and my historicizing response to the walls, border patrols, and checkpoints that divide us today. I saw the Rio Grande for the first time this past year, which added urgency for completing this project.
Meet the New Faculty, Cont’d.

A camping trip brought me before this sign, located at the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site. It points to Mexico City, 1,100 miles southward, and Natchitoches, Louisiana, 144 miles to the northeast.

It’s a representation of where I am intellectually – a historian who has been looking northward from Central Mexico, the land of my childhood, to the US trying to understand the centuries-long connections that have bound this territory. I have in so many ways followed the routes of countless others, with endless fascination as to why people go from so-called centers to borderlands, and why they leave their homelands, even if only temporarily, to see new places.

Until next time, Tatiana

Graduate Student Accomplishments

Major and Minor Field Examinations

**Major Field Examinations:**
Isaac Bershady (Modern European), Ashley Council (African American), Andrea Dikoff (Women's and Gender), Anais Faurt (Modern European), Clio Isaacson (Latin American), La’Nora Jefferson (African American), Adam McNeil (African American), Jian Ren (Latin American), Anna Richey (Women’s and Gender), Jesse Siegel (Modern European), Nicholas Sprenger (Modern European), Adam Stone (American), Leo Valdes (African American)

**Minor Field Examinations:**
Isaac Bershady (Global and Comparative), Jeffrey Berryhill (African American), Ashley Council (American), Andrea Dikoff (STEH), Anais Faurt (Women's and Gender), Harold Gabel (Global and Comparative), Clio Isaacson (Women’s and Gender), La’Nora Jefferson (American), Ayelet Marron (American), Adam McNeil (American), Stephen Powell (Global and Comparative), Anna Richey (American), Ilya Slavutskiy (Asian/Middle Eastern), Hannah Sigurdson (STEH), Nicholas Sprenger (Global and Comparative), Leo Valdes (LGBTQ), Leo Valdes (Latinx)

Dissertation Proposal Defenses Cont’d.


Carie Rael, “The Shadow of Disneyland and Conservative Orange County Politics: Latinx Resistance and Community Building in Anaheim and Santa Ana, 1942-2010”.


Jesse Siegel, “Gambling against a Dark Future: German-Czechoslovak Businessmen in Europe, 1918-1948”.

Graduate Student Publications


Ph.D. Degrees Conferred

Beatrice J. Adams “Standing in the Warmth of Our Own Sun: African Americans who Remain in and Returned to the American South during the Great Migration”, under the direction of Deborah Grey White and Mia Bay.

Catherine Babikian “Creating Welfare, Nursing Empire: Colonial Nursing and the National Health Service”, under the direction of Seth Koven.

Moyagaye A. Bedward “They say that we are from Africa’: Race, Slavery, and Haratin Nationalists in 20th Century Colonial Morocco”, under the direction of Carolyn Brown.


Julia A. Buck “Making the Resistance French: Bureaucracy, Memory, and Space in Postwar Marseille”, under the direction of Judith Surkis.

Taylor M. Moore “Superstitious Women: Race, Magic, and Medicine in Egypt (1875-1950)”, under the direction of Toby Jones and Seth Koven.


Paul Sampson “Ventilating the Empire: Environmental Machines in the British Atlantic World 1700–1850”, under the direction of James Delbourgo.

Dustin Stalnaker “The Long Shadow of Fascism: German Resistance through the Spanish Civil War and its Legacy in West Germany, 1933-1989”, under the direction of Belinda Davis.

Fellows, Grants & Other Awards

Long-Term Awards

University Year-Long Fellowships:

Joseph Williams: SAS Mellon Completion Fellowship

Catherine Naeve: Louis Bevier Completion Fellowship

Ian Gavigan: Center for Cultural Analysis Fellowship

External Year-Long Fellowships:

Shaun Armstead: The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies at the University of Virginia two-year pre-doctoral fellowship
Graduate Student Awards, Cont’d.

Shaun Armstead: Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Shaun Armstead: Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship
Whitney Fields: The McNeil Center for Early American Studies Dissertation Fellowship
Harold Gabel: Title VIII award through the American Councils for International Education (funded by the Dept. of State) for research in Poland
Henry Snow: The McNeil Center for Early American Studies Dissertation Fellowship
Lisette Varon-Carvajal: SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)
Joseph Williams: Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Joseph Williams: Louisville Institute Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Joseph Williams: Charlotte W. Newcombe (and E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation) Dissertation Fellowship

Short-Term Awards & Grants

Departmental Short-Term Awards & Grants:
Anna Richey: John Whiteclay Chambers II Oral History Graduate Student Fellowship

External Short-Term Awards & Grants:
Carnes Couvillon: West Africa Research Association (WARA) Predoctoral Travel Grant for work in Benin
Harold Gabel: Kosciuszko Foundation Graduate Studies and Research in Poland Grant at the Jagiellonian University in Warsaw, Poland
Alison Hight: North American Conference on British Studies’ 2021 Dissertation Fellowship, which supports archival travel for dissertation research
Eri Kitada: Matsushita Foundation Grant
Adam McNeil: David Center for the American Revolution Fellow at the American Philosophical Society Library and Museum in Philadelphia
Adam McNeil: Howard H. Peckham Fellowship on Revolutionary America from the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Adam McNeil: The Lapidus Predoctoral Short-Term Fellowship from the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
Adam McNeil: The Omohundro Institute inaugural OI Audio Fellow
Jerrad Pacatte: John Carter Brown Short-Term Research Fellow
Adam Stone: Summer Language Institute Scholarship by the University of Pittsburgh for Russian language study
Lisette Varon-Carvajal: National Science Foundation (NSF) Dissertation Improvement Grant

Jobs and Post-Doctoral Fellowships

Beatrice Adams: Tenure-track position as assistant professor of African American History at the College of Wooster.

Moyagaye Bedward: Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Mellon-funded Sawyer Seminar "Race and the Middle East/North Africa" at the CUNY Graduate Center as well as a Consortium for Faculty Diversity postdoctoral fellowship at Bowdoin College. She will take the CUNY fellowship next year and the Bowdoin post-doc the year after.

Marlene Gaynair: William Lyon Mackenzie King Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Canada Program at the Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, as well as a tenure-track position as assistant professor of History: African Diasporas in the Americas at Washington State University in Fall 2022.

Tracey Johnson: Tenure-track position in African American History at the University of Georgia. She will start there in Fall 2022 after taking the Scarlet and Black Post-doctoral Fellowship here at Rutgers next year.

William Kelly: 2021 ACLS Emerging Voices Fellow who will be a resident at the Center for the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis.

Taylor Moore: Tenure-track position as assistant professor of history at the University of California-Santa Barbara. She will begin the position in July 2023 after spending the next two years as an Academy Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International Studies.

Marika Plater: Visiting Assistant Professor (1y) Dickinson College.

Pamela Walker: Tenure-track position as assistant professor of African American History at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Caitlin Weisner: Tenure-track position in History at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY.
Emeritus Faculty News

Michael Adas. Just like my current book in progress on “Misbegotten Wars and the Decline of Anglo-American Power in the Long Twentieth Century,” the splendid Japanese Koi in our pond steadily grow larger. But rather remarkably, the fish will only get as large as the space in which they swim. I struggle, on the other hand, to keep the book, which covers an admittedly vast swath of history, to a length that will find a decent readership. I tried to save space by authoring spinoffs from Misbegotten Wars for forthcoming edited collections. But the recurring need to add issues that seem to me must be covered soon fills up the pages I thought I’d gained. Book, garden, visits from former students, and long walks with Jane and Charley, have made retirement fulfilling despite ever-present concerns regarding the ravages of the pandemic and the state of the planet more broadly.

Rudy Bell. Notwithstanding a couple of health challenges, I and my family have been doing well over the past year, the first in the retirement phase of my life. Together with former PhD student Martina Saltamacchia, I am completing a text for the “The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe” series, tentatively titled: Veronica Giuliani, Adored Child and Mystic Saint in Catholic Reformation Italy: Five Autobiographies. I am also doing brief articles for the Canal Walk Association monthly newsletter on historical matters related to this 55+ central NJ community where we now live.

Work at the Retiree Assembly of the RU AAUP/AFT Union also keeps me busy, as we engage in a membership drive aimed to improve emeriti connections with the University, as well as to preserve and enhance privileges and benefits related to our years as NJ state employees. If you are interested in joining and have not already signed on, please email me at rbell@rutgers.edu. Also on this front, I want to thank Candace, Alastair and all the Van Dyck folks who are taking such good care to include retirees in the ongoing activities of the History Department.

Jack Cargill. Having been retired since 2007, I have not been research-active for quite a few years now. I did try to attend the annual conventions of the Association of Ancient Historians, but because of the pandemic they have lately been “virtual”, and since I had been going more to see old friends and colleagues in my field than actually to keep up with the scholarship, I did not sign up for those the last couple of years. My main activity in recent years (encouraged by the period of lockdown and everything being closed for a while) has been in my new-found interest in art, i.e., drawing and painting – things that are interesting and can be done alone and at home. Other interests (plays, concerts, etc.) are beginning to become possible again, as well as travel (I write this while on my only trip of longer than 50 miles for the last two years). And of course I have been reading voraciously. But not doing research. Best wishes to all my old colleagues, active and retired.

John Whiteclay Chambers II. Since retiring in 2017, and after a vacation in Greece and the Greek islands with his wife, Amy, has made gifts to the Rutgers Oral History Archives and Rutgers Special Collections, and has been doing research for the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society. Most recently, he has researched the historical significance of a well-preserved cottage outside Cranbury village that is now believed to have been built in 1713, which would make it one of the oldest in Middlesex County. Its French Huguenot owner was visited in June 1778 by the Marquis de Lafayette while the young general in the Continental Army was spending the night with his Advance Force in Cranbury on the way to what would become the important Battle of Monmouth Courthouse. On another matter, Chambers also published an article about Louis O’Jibway, one of the few Native Americans to serve in William (“Wild Bill”) Donovan’s Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in World War II, a piece that appeared in Studies in Intelligence in June 2020.

Dorothy Sue Cobbie. This year was a bend in the road for me: retirement after thirty-five years at Rutgers. I valued my time in the History Department, what I learned from so many of you, and the friendships that emerged. My new book, For the Many: American Feminists and the Global Fight for Democratic Equality, appeared this spring from Princeton University Press.

Ziva Galili. The achievement I report here is a bit of old news: the publication in Moscow in December 2019 of a two-volume annotated scholarly edition, entitled “Zionist Political Parties and Organizations in the USSR, 1920s [Sionistskie partii i organizatsii v SSR]. 20-e. Ed. Z. Galili, V. Vasilyev. Rosspen. Moscow, 2019. 2 volumes, 1038 + 854 pp.”. It appeared in the documentary series “Political Parties of Russia,” with a publication subvention from the Russian Fund for Basic Research. For me, it caps a fifteen-year effort to gain access to highly restricted archives, sort out thousands of documents seized at the point of arrest, make sense of them, and write extensive...
Emeritus Faculty News, Cont’d.

annotations and introductions. Luckily, teamwork is far more valued in Russia than in the West, and I was joined in this project by a team of scholars and archivists in Russia, Ukraine, and Israel.

It all began with a limited permission to see arrest files in the archive of the Russian Federal Security Service (formerly GPU, NKVD, KGB). There, I discovered documentary traces of a little-known chapter in the histories of the early Soviet Union and of Zionism: the short-lived success of a dozen parties, youth organizations, and networks of training farms, all calling themselves Zionist, in enlisting tens of thousands of young people in their ranks. The arrest files held a multitude of unsorted and apparently unstudied materials produced by these organizations, including resolutions, minutes, leaflets, and doctrinal treatises. Together, they testify to the diversity of ideological interpretations of Zionism, as well as the influence of Soviet slogans, cultural patterns, and organizational forms on the 3000-odd men and women who would emigrate to British-ruled Palestine and participate in shaping Jewish society and polity there. Documents selected from the archives of the security services and other Soviet agencies present their varied perspectives on the usefulness and dangers of Zionist organizing. In extensive annotations and introductions, we elaborate on the socio-economic, cultural, and political contexts for the flourishing and eventual demise of these organizations.

Lloyd Gardner. There really is little to report. I keep teaching at the Princeton Senior Resources Center. This past semester it was “Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin: The War They Fought, the Peace They Sought,” which I enjoy, even on Zoom, and doing some book reviews. I am seeking to revive interest in older books with a series, “Second Looks,” on books that have faded from popular sight, but need to be reviewed again because of their lasting importance in historiography and current relevance.

Ann D. Gordon. I think it has been a privilege to have gone into the time of pandemic as an old person. No young people in the house to school and feed. No job to be reconfigured on the fly. And the Social Security Administration chugged along. The main agenda for 2020 could be keeping safe and healthy. A salute to younger historians with difficult burdens.

The pandemic slammed into the 19th Amendment Centennial year and disrupted a lot of plans, but there was Zoom. Nearly all my scheduled lectures turned into online events, originating from my dining room table. To meet demand, I had to become somewhat expert on New Jersey’s (peculiar) history of woman suffrage, dating from 1776. My centennial-year-plus-one may have ended at last on a weekend in July 2021, streaming for the National Park Service, but I’m puzzled by the whole experience. How did we get to the end of 19th Amendment celebrations and find voting rights in the nation in such peril? Whatever happened to Susan B. Anthony’s call for “a citizen’s right to vote”? Had no one noticed, while they lobbied for historical markers and such, that there is no “right to vote”? Despite all the attention paid to olden days for this centennial, it feels like a failure of public history.

Away from historical topics, I am once again on the Executive Council of the Rutgers AAUP-AFT, this time as delegate of the Retrée Assembly. Within the Retrée Assembly, I’m now vice chair to Rudy Bell’s chair-ship. Maybe that is an historical topic.


Steve Lawson. Nancy Hewitt and I retired to St. Petersburg, Florida in 2018, where we live in a condo in the downtown area. My first full-time faculty position was at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg campus nearly 50 years ago, and both the campus and the city have changed dramatically. St. Pete is now the center of the cultural transformation of the Tampa Bay region. The city has attracted art galleries, restaurants, and museums. I volunteer at the Salvador Dali museum as an architecture tour guide. Opened in 2011, the Dali contains over 3,000 pieces of Dali’s surrealistic work and the building itself, designed by Jan Weymouth, is also a surrealist work of art. We were able to get through the pandemic in good shape, probably because Florida weather allowed us to go outside for walks throughout the entire year. The lockdown also gave us time to finish the fourth edition of our U.S. history textbook, “Exploring American Histories,” which will be published at the end of this year. An Advanced Placement version of our book for high school students appeared in 2020 and is titled, “Fabric of a Nation.” Finally, over the past three years I have enjoyed writing occasional op ed pieces for the “Tampa Bay Times.”

(Continued on page 20)
Emeritus Faculty News, Cont’d.

Yael Zerubavel. In March 2020 I was in Israel for a symposium launching a new book I coedited with Israeli historian Amir Goldstein, when the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic became more widely known and a pending lockdown signaled a new turn of events. Luckily, the symposium took place just before the lockdown, and I returned to the USA. The book, *Tel Hai, 1920-2020: Between History and Memory* (1920; in Hebrew) presents new research on this historical event and its interpretations, including my own essay on the reshaping of its main hero’s iconic image and its meaning in Israeli popular culture. Since then, another broader article on mnemonic strategies, entitled “Boundaries, Bridges, Analogies and Bubbles: Structuring the Past in Israeli Mnemonic Culture,” was published in the *Journal of Israeli History* (vol. 38, 2020); the essay, “My Life in Dialogue,” appeared in the volume of intellectual autobiographies by Israeli Studies scholars entitled *Collective Portraits (Kavim lidmutenu)* (2020; in Hebrew); and my article “The Bible Now: Political Satire and National Memory” was published in a festschrift entitled *Continuity and Change in Political Culture: Israel & Beyond, A volume in Honor of Professor Myron J. Aronoff* (2021). Finally, I have spent the last year working on the Hebrew translation of my book, *Desert in the Promised Land* (Stanford University Press, 2019), which is scheduled for publication 2022.

Looking back at the challenging period of the pandemic, I can see how the continuing engagement in my academic work has been not only a source of intellectual stimulation but also psychologically sustaining. Being used to write at home turned into an advantage and made it easier to adjust to the social constraints we inevitably faced. This period also made me appreciate in new ways the power of technology that has made it possible not only to connect with family, friends and colleagues, but also attend virtual academic programs from near and far.

Yesenia Barragan. I have been quite busy this past academic year birthing two different kinds of projects. First, my book, *Freedom’s Captives: Slavery and Gradual Emancipation on the Colombian Black Pacific*, was published by Cambridge University Press this past June of 2021. Second, I gave birth to my second son, Omar Melin Bray, on December 28, 2020. Both projects have brought different kinds of joy to my life. I look forward to introducing both to you all in the near future!

Alastair Bellany. I’ve managed to keep the historian part of my brain active enough this past year to get a few useful things done. In the Fall, I taught a new class on climate history and the Little Ice Age, which proved an exhilarating (if sometimes exhausting) intellectual and pedagogical experiment that raised a small mountain of research questions that I’m eager to follow up once my sentence as chair is complete. In the fall and winter, I also got to make a couple of virtual presentations to seminars “at” Oxford and Chicago where I shared drafts of an essay on the political meanings of Walter Charleton’s early 1660s’ claim that Stonehenge was a Viking site for ruler inaugurations. The welcome disappearance of weekly chairs’ meetings this summer has allowed me to return to work on my textbook history of the Britannic Isles. To a degree I didn’t consciously feel during earlier projects, this one seems unusually sensitive to its own historical moment. Much of what I have in draft was written in the shadow of Brexit, and is exquisitely conscious both of the history of the Isles’ entanglement with the Continent, and of the perils of the Anglocentrism that was hard-wired into my own academic training. As I resume work, it seems clear that both histories of climate and histories of health and disease deserve a more prominent place in the book, so I’ve spent the past couple of months immersed in the latest controversies over the Justinianic Plague and the Late Antique Little Ice Age, in debates about “archaeogenetics” and the peopling of the Isles, and now in the latest work on the Black Death and the second bubonic plague pandemic. Not exactly cheery stuff, I admit, but hopefully these new perspectives will make the book speak more directly to our students’ interests and experiences.

Paul Clemens. In this extraordinary year and a half, I feel I have simply survived, while being amazed at what some of the people I’ve met have gone through, endured, and overcome. Against the backdrop of what so many have had to deal with, I’m not sure the ordinary things of an academic life have much place, even in a newsletter. I’ll only note that I have been privileged to collaborate with my colleague Johanna Schoen on numerous oral histories that inform our study of how Rutgers has dealt with the pandemic. The stories to which I’ve listened, some from our union leaders (including my history colleagues), some with our graduate students stranded in various places far from New Brunswick, and some from our undergraduates, coping with so much with so few resources to do so, have been a powerful counter to so much that has gone wrong. Stay well.
Faculty News, Cont’d.

Barbara Cooper. What a crazy year and a half it has been! My students and I watched the pandemic unfold in our History of International Health class in the spring of 2020 with an odd mix of fascination and unease. Sending them off to finish out the semester anxious and “alone” felt all wrong. But somehow we managed. I spent the following twelve months on a much needed sabbatical leave. This was not the ideal time to be doing research on West Africa—no travel to archives, no field visits, no interviews with people on the ground. No visits with friends in Niger, Senegal and France.

For that reason, although it was a relief to step away from online teaching it was frustrating as well. Fortunately, my colleague, Alice Kang (Political Science, University of Nebraska) had a project underway that was perfect for lock down. We are translating a book by sociologist Hadiza Moussa, who was killed in a car accident after publishing a ground breaking study of infertility and contraception in Niger. We wanted to honor her and her work _Entre Absence et Refus d’Enfant_, by translating it and making it available to the enormous English language readership interested in Africa. We had paid to have a rough translation done by Natalie Kammerer, a literary translator, and over the past year we have reworked her translation with a specialist eye.

It has been a fascinating experience, sometimes delightful, sometimes exasperating, always challenging. Trying to translate Hadiza Moussa’s words when we could no longer consult her to make sense of a tricky passage sometimes felt like a high wire act. It entailed a crash course in the sociology literature taken for granted in France. Every citation had to be checked, which required finding the original English of some of the works she used in French translation. Phrases in Hausa and Zerma had to be identified and tagged as such. Editors’ notes were necessary to situate some of the issues she assumed would be familiar to a French language reader, but which would not be obvious to an English language reader.

It is safe to say that I wouldn’t have followed through with this project were it not for pandemic, which forced me to stay put, focus on one thing, and make use of the phenomenal resources available in electronic form. Thank you Rutgers Library! Thank you Hathi Trust! It has been an unexpected, but worthwhile, adventure. We now have a contract with Oxford University Press and are moving towards completing the manuscript.

When not staring at a computer screen I escaped to the outdoors to learn more about New Jersey’s parks than I ever knew before. I explored the Catskills, skied in the Adirondacks, and discovered the waterfalls that abound in the Finger Lakes region.

Belinda Davis. I write during an unseasonably cool day in late July—following some weeks of scorching temperatures in the Mid-Atlantic region. Oh, the excitement global warming offers...

I have just stepped down after three years directing Rutgers’s Center for European Studies (CES). This was a terrifically exciting opportunity, and not only for the fun of being able to bring back to Rutgers History Ph.D.s Sandrine Sanos, Todd Shepard, Anita Kurimay, and Richard Keller. We were able to explore many burning issues that concern Europe and also the larger world—and to work closely with many Rutgers colleagues, among others. Indeed, I leaned heavily on History Dept. talent, faculty and grad students alike, including those who organized Nation & Empire (Alison Hight, Katie Sinclair, Nick Sprenger, Anais Faurt, Jesse Siegel, Ayelet Marron, and Joshua Anthony), a grad student working group that CES cosponsors with British Studies. The entire experience only reinforced my awe for Rutgers colleagues. (The successes of our joint unions inspired no less awe!)

I am now working, together with the redoubtable Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan (and Cambridge geographer Elsa Noterman), to complete editorship of a volume of oral histories and other documents concerning PPEHRC (the Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign). The collection will offer a retrospective of the group’s achievements—and also speak to the issues of the millions newly impoverished by COVID, I am now working, together with the redoubtable KrisƟn O’Brassill‐Kulfan (and Cambridge geographer Elsa Noterman), to complete editor‐

It is safe to say that I wouldn’t have followed through with this project were it not for pandemic, which forced me to stay put, focus on one thing, and make use of the phenomenal resources available in electronic form. Thank you Rutgers Library! Thank you Hathi Trust! It has been an unexpected, but worthwhile, adventure. We now have a contract with Oxford University Press and are moving towards completing the manuscript.

When not staring at a computer screen I escaped to the outdoors to learn more about New Jersey’s parks than I ever knew before. I explored the Catskills, skied in the Adirondacks, and discovered the waterfalls that abound in the Finger Lakes region.

Belinda Davis. I write during an unseasonably cool day in late July—following some weeks of scorching temperatures in the Mid-Atlantic region. Oh, the excitement global warming offers...

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Tom Figueira notes that History/Classics major (2020) Jonas Tai has spent his year at Oxford University (Jesus College) as an Ertegun Scholar, achieving his MA with distinction. Jonas will be entering the graduate program in Ancient History at Stanford this fall. Tom gave virtual papers both in July 2020 at _Sparta Live!, Centre of Spartan & Peloponnesian Studies, University of Nottingham, and the City of Sparti, and in October 2020 at _Salomis & Democracy_, the University of Athens and the Ministry of Culture, Greece. In April 2021 at a conference held in honor of the 35th anniversary of his and Greg Nagy’s collection, _Theognis of Megara: Poetry and the Polis_, at Hunter College, CUNY, Tom gave a closing address and moderated the final discussion. At a conference in June 2021 of the Centro de Estudos Clássicos e Humanísticos, University of Coimbra, he chaired the opening plenary session, as well as organizing and giving a paper at a meeting (Classical Athenian Statesmanship and the Specter of Demagogy) of his Working Group on Athenian Hegemony. Of his recent publications, especially interesting to History colleagues and students may be his chapter (with S.R. Jensen), “Chattel Slaveres in Ancient Greece: Athens and Elsewhere,” in _The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Slaveries_ (only online for now). You catch can catch Tom’s AHA Member Spotlight in Perspectives on History.

David Greenberg. Like most of us, I had to learn to teach remotely in 2020-21. It was less challenging and more rewarding than I anticipated. My seminars seemed to go well, I think, because they were small enough so that I could see all of my students’ faces on a single Zoom screen. That should be a reminder to the powers that be of the importance of small class sizes. The online format also forced me for the first time to convert my lectures on the history of the presidency into Power Point presentations, and I found that...
Faculty News, Cont’d.

I enjoyed learning to play with fonts, colors, shapes, clip art, and other special effects. I don’t know what my students thought, but I also found working from slides instead of 8 x 11” sheets of printer paper to be somewhat liberating. It was also a pleasure to write a lecture about Donald Trump’s presidency and know that it had come to end.

I’ve been working on a biography of John Lewis, the congressman and civil rights leader, for Simon & Schuster. As people know, Congressman Lewis died last July at the age of 80 from pancreatic cancer. Anyone who missed his funeral should watch on YouTube; the tributes befit a president or world statesman. I had the opportunity to interview Congressman Lewis a few times, and I’ve also been talking to his friends and colleagues, from Harry Belafonte, Robert Parris Moses, and the Rev. James Lawson to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Barney Frank, and Vernon Jordan (the last of whom we also sadly lost of late). I have to say, I’ve never enjoyed writing a book as much as I’m enjoying this one. Just learning about Lewis’s extraordinary life’s journey makes sitting down to work each day worth it. I’m fortunate to be able to spend the coming year as a fellow at the New York Public Library’s Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, which will help me make some progress in writing the manuscript. This means further delaying my physical return to campus, but my commute on the NJ Transit Northeast Corridor line was one casualty of the pandemic that I was not inclined to mourn.

Jochen Hellbeck. I’m writing from Berlin, Germany, where Katinka and I, with Jakob (8) and Toni (3), have spent the past eleven months. Our belief in the high quality of the German public health system, which undergirded our decision to move to Berlin (and take advantage of our EU passports that were gathering dust), has since then taken a hit or two, but we are counting our blessings that we didn’t get infected with the coronavirus and are fully vaccinated.

Remote teaching came with peculiar challenges, including the question of how to best run a graduate seminar with participants straddling 13 time zones, from Chicago to Seoul. But here, as well as in an asynchronous lecture course that I taught for the first time (and am not exactly eager to turn into a habit), I was impressed by how students rallied together to make the best of trying circumstances.

A few weeks ago, I was able to take part in commemorations of the 80th anniversary of Germany’s attack on the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. An article that appeared in German and English details the Soviet experience of the Nazi war of annihilation. With help from German foundations, I was also able to launch a web project, www.so viet survi vors.com, which features in three languages (English, German, and Russian) the wartime voices of Soviet survivors of Nazi occupation. The book manuscript on the entangled history of Nazism and the Soviet Union that I was hoping to have ready by this summer, alas, is taking longer. I hope I can say it’s done by the time of the next newsletter.

Paul Israel. This last year was a particularly eventful one for me and the Edison Papers. The biggest change was a product of the SAS decision to layoff our longtime administrator Rachel Weiss enburger and to transfer the administration of the project to the History Department. I am especially grateful for the extraordinary efforts of Donna Ghilino, Quiyana Butler, and Candace Walcott-Shepherd to enable a smooth transition and their continued administrative support for the project. The Edison Papers book and image editions are in the process of their own major transitions. In October, our book edition will be published as open-access content in PDF and EPUB3 formats on Johns Hopkins University Press’s Project Muse. This will include the publication of Volume 9 and the inclusion of previously published volumes 1–8, all of which will also be available as print-on-demand books. As we transition to a digital book edition, we will be looking for ways of linking our book edition with our digital image edition, which we are in the process of updating to a new platform to provide better access to over 154,000 documents (http://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/). In addition, we have digitized our original microfilm edition of materials from the Thomas Edison National Historical Park archives and mounted this as a collection on the Internet Archive (https://archive.org/details/edison-microfilm). As part of our efforts to provide new ways of accessing the extensive collection of Edison’s papers, I have been working with Public History interns to create document-based exhibits and story maps that link to documents in our image edition. Finally, as I have done every spring for the last several years, I again taught two online courses: The Edison Effect: Technological Innovation in American Culture (3 credit) and Topics in Innovation History (1 ½ credits).

Aldo Lauria Santiago. After publishing my first book (co-authored with Lorrin Thomas of Rutgers Camden) on the history of Puerto Rican rights movements and social struggles in the US, I submitted the first of two manuscripts based on my research on Latino History in 20th century New York City. I received a contract from the University of North Carolina Press, and I am (very) slowly working the many edits, cuts, and fixes. I am very glad that the press agreed to a 170,000-word manuscript...but I still have some cutting to do. The volume is a history of Puerto Rican communities in New York through 1950. The second volume is half written and will follow the story through new migrant flows of the 1950s up to the urban crisis of the mid-1970s. I have tried to combine aspects that are usually treated separately (social mobility, labor, left and working class politics, racial politics, community) into one history that tries to answer a simple question: how did working class Puerto Ricans become New Yorkers? I published an online exhibit and blog-version of many aspects of this work through the Center for Puerto Rican Studies’ Digital Humanities E-Journal. I am also co-editing an interdisciplinary volume on Latina/os in New Jersey with colleague Ulla Berg and recently received some support from the New Jersey Historical Commission to create a companion public humanities website. Closer to home, I will be directing the Rutgers Center for Latin American Studies and will serve as coordinator for the Latin America caucus in our Ph.D. program.

Kathy López. Like my colleagues, I spent much of the past year adapting to the abrupt changes brought on by the pandemic and learning new online teaching strategies and platforms. I am grateful for my students who have persevered through these difficult times. In February I participated in the panel “An Untold Past: Chinese in the Caribbean” organized by the Chinese American Museum of Los Angeles. We were amazed at the turnout of hundreds of community members, among them people of Chinese descent from the Caribbean and its diasporas (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOULiJ0wwgg0). I continue to serve as co-editor of two interdisciplinary book series: Critical Caribbean Studies (Rutgers), with Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel and Carter Mathes, and Historical and Cultural Interconnections between Latin America
Facility News, Cont’d.

Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan. The Public History Program, like most of us, has spent the last year and a half adapting its usually place-based, site-based, in-person experiential learning models to virtual and hybrid formats. Our incredibly determined and resilient host sites and students have shown tremendous creativity finding ways to connect with each other and with our communities despite physical limitations. By engaging in exciting digital exhibits, responsive oral history projects, and storymapping projects, our students have learned that community-engaged history is about the long game – serving communities’ needs, telling their stories, and building relationships over time – much more than just showing up in the moment.

Public history students and I participated in “Shelter,” a Luce Foundation funded project blending direct service provision for housing insecure community members with oral histories, community art creation, and collective storytelling via podcasts. An exhibit featuring this work will be on display at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary this fall. In Spring 2021, I was also co-PI on a “The Way Forward” Multi-Institutional Innovation Grant from Bringing Theory to Practice at Elon University with Jill Strauss. This allowed my Public History course students to participate in a project developing interactive virtual reality monuments using Adobe Aero on the theme of “Pandemic and Protest,” commemorating turning point moments in 2020. These monuments will be part of a digital exhibit featuring work on the same themes from students at Borough of Manhattan Community College.

This Fall, we will “host” the traveling exhibit from the Humanities Action Lab, “Climates of Inequality: Stories of Environmental Justice,” to which Public History students and I contributed, curating with community partners New Labor and the Rutgers Climate Institute, beginning back in 2018. While Alexander Library will be unable to host the physical exhibit for the public as had originally been planned, a small companion exhibit will be on display in the Zimmerli Art Museum’s Study Gallery, and the full digital exhibit is available, complete with oral history recordings and interactive virtual reality elements, at climatesofinequality.org. We plan to host some virtual events this fall that will allow community members to engage with the project’s exploration of the historical contexts behind contemporary working conditions in New Brunswick, so stay tuned for more details! Also this fall, I’ll teach my new Core Curriculum course, History of Homelessness: Unhoused Populations in US History, for the first time, expanding on my own research areas to link legal history and public history methods to help students understand the origins of the contemporary crisis of houselessness and consider how historical awareness can lead to tangible policy change.

Johanna Schoen spent much of the pandemic feeding and walking the 25 pound lab puppy George that she and her wife adopted in April 2020 and seeing him grow to 90 pounds. She also cleaned up a lot of dog hair. When not in pursuit of George’s contentment, she continued to co-direct RCHA’s Life and Death seminar, including creating a podcast featuring some of the seminar’s speakers. She also taught a year-long graduate research seminar on Zoom and must have made quite an impression, since one of her students whom she had never met in person was surprised to find at the in-person picnic this May that Prof. Schoen is much shorter than expected. This summer, she is keeping busy and happy conducting oral history interviews with her colleague Paul Clemens for a project on the history of the pandemic at Rutgers. In addition, she embarked on a new research project on the history of neonatology which is putting her into intellectual bliss. In her work- and dog-free time, she continues to volunteer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where she is a caregiver advisor on the Patient and Family Advisory Council, the Ethics Committee, and the LGBTQ Committee and currently training as a Bioethics Ambassador.

Nancy Sinkoff. I continued to serve as the Academic Director of the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish life, helping to bring a host of exciting programs to Rutgers despite the shutdown due to COVID-19. The pandemic forced all our programming online, which meant the unanticipated benefits of being able to Zoom in speakers from abroad and to attract audiences outside the region. Of course, it felt wildly dystopic and challenging to those of us who thrive in conversation with real people in real time. As I write this, I look forward to a return to campus, aware that the “new normal” will be different than the old “normal,” the most obvious being that prior to COVID I discouraged students from bringing their laptops to class to maximize social interaction and discussion. In the hybrid format of teaching, such proscriptions are now charmingly obsolete.

My book, From Left to Right: Lucy S. Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History (Wayne State University Press), was published just days before lockdown, cancelling almost all in-person book talks. Happily, I was able to do over 40 Zoominars on the book, which earned two awards (the Natan Notable Book Award for 2019 and the National Jewish Book Award in the category of biography for 2020). I spoke “in” Bloomington, Gainesville, Binghamton, Amherst, Tel Aviv, D.C., Waterville (ME), Jerusalem, New Brunswick, New York City, and Warsaw, among other venues. I also did five podcasts and was interviewed by several popular journals, including Gazeta: A quarterly publication of the American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies and the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture.
Faculty News, Cont’d.


Paola Tartakoff was promoted to Full Professor in June 2020 and served the second year of her term as Chair of the Department of Jewish Studies. She gave talks on her 2020 book, Conversion, Circumcision, and Ritual Murder in Medieval Europe, at venues including the Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers and the Jewish Theological Seminary. She spoke on “The Deep Roots of Modern Anti-Semitism” at American University, on “Teaching about Antisemitism” at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference, and on Ephraim Kanarfogel’s new book, Brothers from Afar: Approaches to Apostasy and Reversion in Medieval Europe, at the Center for the Study of Conversion at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Her review of Tamar Herzig, A Convert’s Tale: Art, Crime, and Jewish Apostasy in Renaissance Italy (Harvard, 2019), was published in Marginalia Review of Books. She joined the Academic Advisory Council at the Center for Jewish History.

Camilla Townsend. As hard as this past year has been, I am grateful we had the technology available to make remote life possible in the academy. Still, I look forward eagerly to hearing the sound of many people laughing together. In my own life, I am experiencing all the normal changes: my oldest son is a student at Carleton in Minnesota, and my younger boy, who is in high school, is suddenly taller than I am. Carmen had a battle with breast cancer during quarantine, but she seems to have emerged victorious. My professional life goes well. Fifth Sun: A New History of the Aztecs came out just before Covid struck, and it found an audience among all those trapped people looking for something to read. Last fall, it had the good fortune to win the Cundill History Prize, and it is now in the process of being translated into Spanish, French, Chinese, and—Estonian!

Carla Yanni, affiliate Faculty Member (Art History) was promoted to Distinguished Professor.

Graduate Alumnae/Alumni News

Karen Balcom (2002). On July 1st, I started a new administrative appointment at McMaster University as the Academic Director (Teaching and Learning) for the Office of Community Engagement. My new job involves deepening and locking in the university commitment to principled engagement with our partners in community following our principles of relationships first, equity, reciprocity, sustainability, willingness to learn, and commitment to act. This is feeling like my chance to entrench the commitment of the university, its faculty and students as partners in campaigns for social justice on the local and global level. The recent news from Canada only makes this work the more important. This grows out of my work with the Gender and Social Justice Programme here at McMaster, but that in turn all traces back to Women’s History and Women’s And Gender Studies at Rutgers. I hope Alice will be proud!

Rebecca Boone (2000). Last year I became Chair of History and Chair of University Studies (a multidisciplinary program) at Lamar University, where I have been since 2002. I was also named Ralph and Edna Woooster Professor of History, the first recipient of the endowed professorship. In my research, I am looking at human sacrifice and historiography as well as editing a five-book series for Routledge, Real Lives in Global Perspective. Each book in the series presents four sets of parallel biographies from eight distinct geographic regions to introduce students to the key issues in world history. We are looking for authors to write the volumes covering the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Is anyone interested? Please let me know.

Kendra Boyd (2017). In the fall of 2020, I joined the History Department at Rutgers University-Camden (after two years as an assistant professor at York University). I am excited to be back at Rutgers!

Bruce Chadwick (1998). A new life…..I left my home of 35 years after my wife died and moved to a 55 plus condo community near New Brunswick. Here, once again, life is wonderful. On the professional side, I just sold two books, one on slave uprisings and one on Fort Sumter. Life begins at 74!

Jelani Cobb (Ph.D. 2003). I recently co-edited a concise edition of the Kerner Commission Report and wrote a new introduction for the volume. It will be out in August from WW Norton.

Gary Darden (2006). I am to be awarded the University Distinguished Teaching Award at Convocation for Fall 2021. This award is granted to one member of the tenured faculty each academic year. I won the University Distinguished Service Award in 2017, and thus won two of the top three awards granted to faculty.

Dina Fainberg (Ph.D. 2012). My book, Cold War Correspondents: Soviet and American Reporters on the Ideological Frontlines came out this year with Johns Hopkins University Press. My author copies arrived just as Britain, where I live, was entering its second lockdown. I’m very grateful to my dissertation advisers Jochen Hellbeck and David Fogleason and my dissertation committee members, Ziva Galili, Jackson Lears, and David Greenberg for their unwavering support, wisdom, and mentorship.

Four years ago, I developed a brand new History BA at City University of London and have been serving as its director since. We welcomed our first cohort in 2018 and together embarked on a unique adventure in teaching and learning. Most of our students come from working class and BAME backgrounds and are the first members of their families to participate in higher education. Our first cohort is graduating this year and I
Graduate Alumnae/Alumni News Cont’d.

feel immensely grateful for the opportunity to work with our students and proud of their achievements. Every year, the UK conducts a national survey, where third year students rate their undergraduate programs. This year our program entered the survey for the first time. We were ranked #1 History program in London and #12 nationally.

At the end of this academic year, I also received the good news of my promotion to Senior Lecturer (British equivalent to Associate Professor). A great coda to a year that was both immensely challenging and very exciting.

Annalise Kinkel DeVries (2013). My book, *Maadi: The Making and Unmaking of a Cairo Suburb, 1878-1962* came out in March 2021 with the American University in Cairo Press. I have been at Samford University since 2017 and have enjoyed being the program coordinator for our Global & Cultural Studies program for the last two years. I am now moving into a new role as the Core Texts Leadership Fellow, working with the current program director on our two-semester great books sequence, which all of our freshmen take. I remain deeply grateful for all of the instruction and mentoring I received at Rutgers.

Lisa DiCaprio (Ph.D. 1996). As an Associate Professor of Social Sciences and Associate Director of Curriculum at NYU’s Division of Undergraduate Applied Studies at the School of Professional Studies (SPS), I am advocating for the integration of sustainability and civics in our curriculum. I also write articles for the *Sierra Atlantic*, the publication of the Sierra Club Atlantic (NYS) Chapter that provide a historical perspective on contemporary issues. Two recent articles that I believe will be of special interest are: "Earth Day 50 and the Coronavirus Pandemic - Educational Resources," *Sierra Atlantic*, Summer 2020 and "Educating About American Democracy," *Sierra Atlantic*, Spring 2021. In the second article, I discuss innovations in civics education and seven ways that we can protect our democracy and the right to vote. Hopefully, the voter suppression laws that are being enacted in several states will motivate high schools, colleges and universities to implement new initiatives to promote civics and voter registration.

Roy Domenico (1987). Thinking about retirement? Not just yet. I’ll be an interim chair this year at the University of Scranton. But in September, Catholic University of America will issue my latest: *The Devil and the Dolce Vita*! Now it’s time to finish *Italy’s War at Home (1940-1945)* for the maestro - Kurt Piehler!

Finis Dunaway (2001). I’m delighted to announce the publication of *Defending the Arctic Refuge: A Photographer, an Indigenous Nation, and a Fight for Environmental Justice* (UNC Press). This is definitely not the book I set out to write. Early in the research, I came across a story about Lenny Kohm, a former jazz drummer and aspiring photographer who had a life-changing experience in the Arctic in 1987. He returned to California and threw himself into anti-drilling activism. Along with some friends, Kohm put together a multimedia slide show called *The Last Great Wilderness*. Despite its title, the show transcended the familiar dualisms of the wilderness ideal to place the Arctic Refuge in a broader frame. Made with the cooperation of indigenous communities in Canada and Alaska, the show helped transform a traditional wilderness battle in something else entirely: a transnational fight for environmental justice.

Kohm passed away in 2014, just before I was planning to interview him. I thought his unusual story might provide the basis for a chapter, but it eventually became the book’s main narrative thread. The book interweaves micro-history with broader stories of environmental-Indigenous alliances, the grassroots circulation of images, and changing political dynamics in DC. I’ve also launched a website featuring a recently-digitized version of the slide show. You can check it out at defendingthearcticrefuge.com.

Frank J. Esposito (1976). After 50 years of teaching and serving in various administrative roles at Kean University, I retired as a Distinguished Professor of History and Education in July 2020.

I was most fortunate to have served as the founding Dean of the Nathan Weiss Graduate College in 1997 until 2001, and as Interim President of Kean for the 2001-02 and 2002-03 academic years. I worked in the administrations of two New Jersey governors, Thomas H. Kean and Christine Todd Whitman, while on leave from then Kean College in the late 1980’s and mid 1990’s. In the Whitman administration I also had the honor of being the principal draftsperson of the Charter School Act of 1995 which has resulted in the creation of scores of successful charter schools in New Jersey. I also entered politics in 2009 by being a candidate for Lt. Governor of NJ on the Independent ticket led by Christopher Daggett. We lost, but apparently played a key role in developing public awareness of the critical issues then facing the state.

In 2018 my latest book, co-authored with Brian Regal, was published by Johns Hopkins Press entitled *The Secret History of the Jersey Devil: How Quakers Hucksters, and Benjamin Franklin Created a Monster*. Any successes I have had in my career are directly traceable to my Ph.D. work in history at Rutgers (New Brunswick) with outstanding scholars and teachers such as Richard H. Kohn, Richard P. McCormick, James Kirby Martin, and Peter O. Wacker, as well as a lifetime friendship with my then fellow student Frederick M. Herrmann who has become an iconic figure in the field of New Jersey election law.

Alex (Alejandro) Gómez del Moral (Ph.D. 2014). It was great to see your request for news, as this year in particular I’ve got a few happy things to report. As I may or may not have informed you all when it happened a few years ago, in 2018 I changed institutions, leaving my previous position as an Assistant Professor in the History department at the University of Southern Mississippi to take a position as an Yliopistolehtiö (it translates to University Lecturer, which in the local academic structure is roughly equivalent to a
tenured Associate Professor in the States) in the Economic and Social History department here at the University of Helsinki, which is Finland’s top research and teaching university. I’ve been here three years now, and I can say that it has been a fantastic move in just about every way. I mention this primarly as preamble to the actual big piece of news, just because it’s the sort of news that people usually associate with the tenure process, which isn’t relevant in this instance. And that news is that my book has finally come out. Buying into Change: Mass Consumption, Dictatorship, and Democratization in Franco’s Spain, 1939-1982, which is based on my dissertation, was published this past May with the University of Nebraska Press. I’m very pleased with the job they did as well as with the book’s (admittedly, still limited) reception thus far. It’s been a busy year - I’ve got an article drawing on my new line of research into the history of the Spanish pork industry that’s supposed to appear in a special journal issue on Iberian gastronationalisms, and I’m also co-editing a volume with my colleague Kathryn Mahaney (CUNY Ph.D. 2018), which I can happily report is under contract to be published with Routledge. This collection will bring together chapters from an international assortment of scholars, each of which historicizes a different aspect of the ongoing Catalan independence crisis in Spain. On a personal level, things are going quite well, too: my family and I purchased a home a year ago in a residential but still quite central neighborhood in the Finnish capital, where we feel very much at home, I’ve made some strides with the notoriously difficult Finnish language, and we’ve come through Coronavirus largely unscathed.

Bert Gordon (M.A., 1964; Ph.D., 1969) is now Professor Emeritus, History, at Mills College. He is the author of War Tourism: Second World War France from Defeat and Occupation to the Creation of Heritage (Cornell University Press, 2018).
https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9781501715877/war-tourism/#bookTabs=1

As of 2021, he is Associate Editor of the Journal of Tourism History (Taylor & Francis), and has recently completed several essays to be published as chapters in books. They include: “‘Sous les pavés, la plage’: Sun and Sand in French Tourism - The Evolution of an Image,” in Patrizia Battlani and Carlos Larraínaga, eds., On the beach. The new material culture of coastal tourism in Southern Europe in the XIXth century (Peter Lang); “Dining at the Tour d’Argent in Occupied Paris: Ernst Jünger - Power, and the Othering of Paris,” in Sandra Ott, ed., Nazi Germany and Occupied France: Jewish, American, German, French, and Basque Perceptions (University of Nevada Reno Center for Basque Studies); “Monuments and Memorialization,” in Michael Di Giovanni, Josep-Maria Garcia Fuentes, and Teresita Majewski, eds., Handbook on Heritage and Tourism (Routledge); and “Tourism Governance in France: The Role of a dirigiste State,” in Amir Gohar, ed., Tourism Governance: A Critical Discourse on a Global Industry (De Gruyter).

His essay in honor of his doctoral dissertation advisor at Rutgers appeared as “Professor Robert A. Kann: Historian, Scholar, Mentor,” in the Austrian Studies News Magazine, 32:2 (Fall 2020), pp. 6 and 26; and online 16 September 2020; URL: https://cla.um.edu/austrian/news-events/announcement/cas-exclusive-professor-robert-kann-historian-scholar-mentor. His paper “‘Longing to See More’: War and Tourism,” was presented virtually at the Conference “Dialogue authentique entre la Russie et le monde francophone dans l’espace de la culture, de la langue et de la littérature,” at the Moscow State Linguistic University, 23 April 2021. Also, in April 2021 he taught a course “French History from the 1789 Revolution to the Present,” online, for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the Santa Clara University in California.

Vanessa Holden (Ph.D. 2012). I’m happy to report that I’ve been promoted to associate professor of history and African American and Africana studies at the University of Kentucky. I published my first book, Surviving Southampton: African American Women and Resistance in Nat Turner’s Community (University of Illinois Press), this summer. I’ve also been named the director of the Central Kentucky Slavery Initiative, a project to research and write the Black History of the University of Kentucky and the history of slavery in the Bluegrass region.

Frankie Hutton (1990). Former collegiate professor of history and mass media, Hutton has revealed again in this sequel book on the history and metaphysical wonders of the rose that she knows the secrets of the quintessential flower best. This new rendering, Rose Paradise. Essays of Fathoming: Gurdjieff, The Mahatmas, Andreew, The Emerald Tablets, OASPHE and More, a decade in the making, delves even deeper than her last rose book, a diverse collection on the semi-
otics and history of the rose. Endorsed by a bevy of scholars from Rutgers University to Oxford and Ankara University, we await this scholarly work due in the Winter 2020-2021. The book is sole authored and encompasses insight on Gurdjieff, the Emerald Tablets, the Mahatmas and significantly more.

Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers (Ph.D. 2012) has been appointed the Chancellor’s Professor in History from 2021-2024. In addition to winning the Organization of American Historians’ 2020 Merle Curti Prize for the best book in American social history, and the Los Angeles Times 2019 Book Prize in History in 2020, Jones-Rogers’s book They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South (Yale University Press, 2019) also won the 2020 Harriet Tubman Prize from the Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery, the Southern Association for Women’s Historians 2020 Julia Cherry Spruill Prize (Co-Winner), the Southern Historical Association 2020 Charles S. Sydnor Award (Co-Winner), and the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic 2020 Best Book Prize.

Kathleen Keller (2007). I recently completed a three-year term as department chair in the History Department at Gustavus Adolphus College. Chairing my department through the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic was one of the most challenging things I’ve ever done, except perhaps helping my son navigate Kindergarten online. In fall 2020 I was promoted to full professor. I have taken on a new administrative role as director of the African Studies program at Gustavus. I wrote an article titled ‘Surveillance, Prisons, and Policing in French colonial West Africa” that will be published soon in the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History.

Peter Larson. It has been a busy year for me. I was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and I completed my new monograph, Rethinking the Great Transition: Community and Economic Growth in County Durham, 1349-1660, which is now in production at Oxford University Press, due out late 2021 or early 2022. I also completed my first term as department chair, and have been asked to undertake a second term.

Rebecca C. Lubot (2017). I have some good news to share. I recently joined Porzio Governmental Affairs in Trenton, NJ. This is a link to the announcement that was published in Insider NJ.

Raechel Lutz (2018) teaches history and humanities classes to juniors and seniors at the Wardlaw + Hartridge School in Edison, NJ. She encourages graduate students to consider teaching at the HS level, and wrote an article this year about how to get a job at an independent school on EnvHistNow titled “Get A U.S. High School Teaching Job.” https://envhistnow.com/2020/10/07/get-a-u-s-high-school-teaching-job/

Teresa Meade (Ph.D. 1984). Every year I get this reminder and I always intend to write something, but I’m afraid I’ve only managed that once or twice. Since I retired in 2020, I have a bit of time on my hands (but just a bit!). After teaching Latin American history for 33 years at Union College in Schenectady, NY, I walked away on March 12 when all classes were canceled. So that was it! Go home, take what you need, and maybe we’ll see you again one day. We did have a party this spring for the retirees of the last two years.

Pretty much stuck at home, I was able to finish a second edition of A Companion to Global Gender History, co-edited with Merry Wiesner-Hanks, and a third edition of A Brief History of Brazil and will be soon finished with the third edition of A History of Modern Latin America, 1800-Present. As I write I am awaiting the page proofs on a book that I’ve been working on for many years, entitled: “We do not become refugees by choice”: Mia Truskier, Survival and Activism from Nazi-occupied Poland to California, 1920-2014 (Palgrave-Macmillan).

It is an oral history of a remarkable woman who was a tireless advocate for Central American and Haitian refugees. Mia escaped from Warsaw in 1940, lived out the war in Italy with her
Celebrating Alumnae/Alumni Books

Graduate Alumnae/Alumni News, Cont’d.

husband passing as Aryan, while she maintained a coded correspondence with her mother who stayed behind on the Aryan side of Warsaw working with the resistance. Mia and her young family left Rome in 1949, after finally getting a visa, settling first in Nebraska and then California. Up until her death at 94, she was on the Board of the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant in Berkeley, working for refugees. In fact, in the 1970s she and her husband provided “refuge” to South Vietnamese students from Cal State University campuses who were opposed to the war in Vietnam, and as a result lost their visas, were pursued by US intelligence, and harassed by anti-communist Vietnamese exiles in California.

The pandemic year had its challenges, which my husband, Andor Skotnes (Ph.D. 1990) witnessed firsthand when our daughter moved home from Brooklyn to teach her bi-lingual special ed students at Bushwick Leaders public high school online from her old bedroom. It was an eye opener to hear her on zoom trying to get her classes of quite challenged, but lively, students through all the requirements to graduate. The contrast between remote teaching college and high school was pretty stark! Our son continues to work for NY state here in Albany, and Andor I hope to get in some traveling next year. We know no one who died from COVID, nor anyone who even got it, but the saddest moment of the year was the death in June 2020 of our good friend from Rutgers grad school, Steve Meyer (Ph.D. 1977). A really stellar historian, Steve, his wife, Margo Anderson, along with a great cohort of other grad students, have left us with wonderful memories of our days in Bishop House.

Edward Muir (Ph.D. 1975). I’m happy to report that I have been elected to be the next President of the American Historical Association (AHA).

Justina Parsons-Bernstein (2001). In addition to my existing duties for Utah State Parks, I was appointed the coordinator of the legislatively-created Utah State Monuments Act in 2019. I was responsible for writing nomination criteria and now coordinate the review process for all nominated entities. My work in dark sky stewardship and education continues. I have been the coordinator of the Utah State Parks Dark Sky Initiative since 2015 and thus far have helped shepherd 10 of our parks to designation as International Dark Sky Parks—more than any other state park system in the world. I was honored to be named Utah Department of Natural Resources employee of the year for 2020 for my work on dark skies and for being the COVID-19 information researcher and safety policy writer for my Division. Coming up this year, I have some very interesting and challenging history interpretation/education projects for the newly created Utahraptor State Park. The park contains one of the most productive dinosaur quarries in the world and was a CCC camp and a WWII Isolation Camp for Japanese internees. I truly appreciate the varied public history work I get to help with at our 46 (and counting) state parks.

Erika Rappaport (Ph.D. 1997). I have just completed a three-year term as chair of the department of history at UCSB. It has been a difficult but very gratifying experience to navigate the department through the Covid-19 pandemic at a time when the Trump presidency and renewed calls for racial justice inspired by the brutal murder of George Floyd and so many others at the hands of the police. I am though looking forward to a year of sabbatical to work on two books exploring the political economy of decolonization. While I would love to travel to archives, sitting at home and writing in Santa Barbara, CA will be a very nice year! I would love to have visitors though....

Stephen Robertson (Ph.D. 1998). Since my last report I’ve stepped down as director of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History & New Media, in 2019, thoroughly burnt out after six years of shepherding the organization through substantial change and to a sustainable financial position. I’m now a ‘regular’ Professor in the Department of History and Art History at George Mason University, able to return to my own research. I was extremely fortunate to be awarded an NEH/Mellon Digital Publication Fellowship for 2021/22, to work on “Harlem in Disorder: A Spatial History of How Racial Violence Changed in 1935.” The project is both an extension of the spatial analysis of life in Harlem I’ve been developing for more than ten years and a return to the possibilities for non-linear narratives that animated the early years of digital history in the 1990s. It will take the form of an online, multi-layered, hyperlinked argument that connects different scales of analysis: broad narratives, aggregated patterns, and individual events. All going well, I’ll
Graduate Alumnae/Alumni News, Cont’d.

deliver it to Stanford University Press in early 2023 for publication in its Digital Projects series. Now well settled in Northern Virginia, Delwyn and I became US citizens in early 2020, narrowly beating the pandemic. Cleo, having graduated from Bryn Mawr College and the Postbac program in classical languages at Georgetown, is headed to do a masters in classical archaeology at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Michele Rotunda (2014). Keeping busy and enjoying my time teaching at Union County College. We’ve got a great History Club here, and we’re also working with students in the UCC Archives. I just had a book published with University of Massachusetts Press this past February – *A Drunkard’s Defense: Alcohol, Murder, and Medical Jurisprudence in Nineteenth-Century America*. Currently studying Italians in New Jersey, inspired by some of my own family history. And I always love reading up on what everyone is doing!


John C. Spurlock (Ph.D. 1987). I retired this year after 31 years at Seton Hill University. The university awarded me the going-away present of emeritus status. My time at SHU included 10 years as Chair of the Humanities Division. I taught American Civilization in Montenegro as a Fulbright Scholar. For several years I directed my university’s short-term study program in Mexico, and for several other years I directed our program in China. I remained a historian of U.S. sexuality, but because I was at such a small school I taught a wide variety of courses. This allowed me to pursue too many interests to name here. I now have some modest plans for continued scholarship, and also for teaching as an adjunct in SHU’s Genocide and Holocaust Studies program.

Martin Summers (Ph.D. 1997). I was recently promoted to full professor at Boston College, where I’ve held a joint appointment in History and African and African Diaspora Studies since 2009. My recently published book, *Madness in the City of Magnificent Intentions: A History of Mental Illness in the Nation’s Capital*, won the Cheiron Society’s 2021 Cheiron Book Prize for best monograph in the history of behavioral and social sciences. The book is a significant departure from my graduate training in race, gender, and sexuality in late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century United States. But I’ve fallen in love with the history of psychiatry and I’m currently conducting research for a monograph on social policy and African American mental health in twentieth-century urban America. This is pretty ironic, given that I took the mid-19th century America PDR with Gerald Grob but, at the time, had no interest in the field. Fortunately, I was able to talk with him about my research and his tremendous impact on the field and a generation of scholars before he passed.

John Thompson (Ph.D. 1982). I’m a retired inner city teacher, and a current education writer. My last book, *A Teacher’s Tale: Learning, Loving and Listening to Our Kids*, argued that corporate school reform drove meaningful instruction out of our high-challenge urban school, so it became the lowest-performing mid-high in Oklahoma. In contrast to my blogging, the book found few readers. I’ve cut much of the academic portions of the book, and restored students’ and teachers’ stories. My new publisher and I have agreed to hold the manuscript until a final decision, this fall, on the commutation hearing on my former student and basketball buddy, Julius Jones. Julius is a Black, former-Honors Student on Death Row, even though there is no hard evidence of his involvement in a horrible murder. (I also taught and played b-ball with the person who almost certainly committed the murder but who cut a deal with the prosecution.) Given the international attention that followed ABC’s The Last Defense documentary, I wouldn’t be surprised if Rutgers grads are following his case.

This last year, I’ve written less and reflected more on our country’s situation. I took advantage of the Tulsa Massacre Centennial to reread books on my old field of Oklahoma history, and get in touch with new generations of writers and activists. In just the last week, I had email exchanges with three researchers who I’d never met, and had coffee and/or beer with two Tulsa historians who are continuing to synthesize Oklahoma’s history of corruption, the theft of Indigenous people’s lands, Jim Crow, and violent suppression of Socialists (which had been the topic of my dissertation and first book.) These cross-generational conversations have been exciting.
Robert Brent Toplin (Ph.D. 1968). We were fortunate to study under a talented and inspiring group of teachers and scholars in the History Department. I am especially appreciative of assistance from a great mentor, Samuel Baily.

I would be delighted to hear from Rutgers-affiliated friends and colleagues. My personal email is RBTKLB@gmail.com.

After full-time teaching at Denison University and later at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, I retired in Charlottesville and taught several courses at the University of Virginia. My research interests continue. I am at work on a twelfth book that deals with the historical background to the Republican Party’s present crisis. To continue engaging with people interested in history, since retirement I’ve been teaching several courses for senior citizens in the OLLI program associated with the University of Virginia (the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute). My website, www.presentandpast.com, features my weekly op-eds. The articles draw on history for perspectives on current events. Several op-eds appeared in online news sites, including the History News Network. I’ve enjoyed creating history clubs in two communities, Charlottesville, Va. and Lakewood Ranch, Fl. Public interest in the programs has been gratifying. Each organization has more than 400 members. The Charlottesville Club offers a monthly webinar that features a talk and discussion by the author of a recently published book about history.

Laura Ann Twagira (Ph.D. 2013). I am very happy to share that my book Embodied Engineering: Gendered Labor, Food Security, and Taste in Twentieth-Century Mali was released this summer by the Ohio University Press. I also edited a special issue for Technology and Culture focusing on Africa. It came out last summer (https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/42703). I am now an associate professor (!) at Wesleyan University where I teach African history and global gender history. I am also the current head of African Studies.

Charles Upchurch (Ph.D. 2003). My second book, “Beyond the Law”: The Politics of Ending the Death Penalty for Sodomy in Britain, comes out with Temple University Press in September of 2021. It’s the first book to identify and analyze the earliest debates (1840-1) in any parliament where humanitarian arguments were used in an attempt to end the death penalty for sodomy, emphasizing the immorality of executing men for a private consensual act. It also documents how a long-term companionate same-sex relationship linked the families of the two men who co-sponsored the 1840-41 legislation. Despite what has been written, Jeremy Bentham did publish some of his arguments against the sodomy law as early as 1789, and following the trail of those writings has led to previously unknown series of debates in the early nineteenth century.

Arnout van der Meer (Ph.D. 2014). Despite the pandemic, I’ve had some good news as well this past year. I received tenure at Colby College and my book came out as well. As you might recall—gosh it has already been 7 years since I graduated from Rutgers!—I attended the graduate program in 2004-05 (MA) and 2007-14 (PhD) and was advised by Michael Adas, Bonnie Smith, and Matt Matsuda. After graduating I embarked on an adventure at Colby College (starting in the fall of 2014) in Maine as Assistant Professor in World and Southeast Asian history. I received tenure at Colby on January 1st, 2021.

With the benefit of hindsight, I am convinced it was the emphasis on both original research as well as outstanding teaching during my time in the graduate program that helped me get the position at Colby and now tenure. With regards to the former, my first book (based on my Rutgers' PhD dissertation) titled Performing Power: Cultural Hegemony, Identity, and Resistance in Colonial Indonesia (SEAP, Cornell UP) just came out. But in terms of succeeding at Colby, my experiences as an RA and the chance to teach my own courses at Rutgers were
just as significant. I would like to thank the history department once more for a wonderful experience that made all of this possible.

Dara Walker (Ph.D. 2018). I would like to share that I was recently awarded a postdoctoral fellowship by the National Academy of Education and Spencer Foundation. PSU did a write up on it: https://news.psu.edu/story/663060/2021/07/06/academics/dara-walker-named-postdoctoral-fellow-national-academy-education.

Carol Williams (PhD. 1999). This past spring I co-organized a modest exhibit of Kainawa (Blackfoot) beadwork (historical photographs, interviews with contemporary beaders, and bead-ed artifacts) with PhD candidate Hali Heavy Shield and senior undergraduate, Kalli Eagle Speaker. Short curatorial commentary about our intentions for the exhibit can be found at this link: https://www.facebook.com/GaltMuseum/posts/10159606431463643. The exhibit was hosted by a regional history museum Galt Museum and Archives from Feb to June 2021. However, due to closures resulting from COVID regulations in person access was restricted. As a result, we produced a number of video productions to expand access for the community. Here is a link to a conversational walkthrough of the exhibit https://www.galtmuseum.com/articles/exhibit-walkthrough-we-visit-with-kainawa-beadwork-a-new-way-and-the-real-way-of-design. Two Kainai beaders, Kalli Eagle Speaker and her sister Torry Eagle Speaker are featured in this walkthrough of the exhibit. Kalli Eagle Speaker was a co-organizer and a student who worked as my research assistant throughout the planning, installation and exhibition stages of the exhibit. The exhibit was supported by an Insight grant from Canada’s Social Science Humanities Research Council. The title of the exhibit in Blackfoot (followed by an English translation) is: ikisawaato’p Kainawa O’tookátákssin: Maana’pii ki niita’piitsitapii saatstakssin | We Visit with Kainaiwa Beadwork: A New Way and the Real Way of Design. The museum is packaging the exhibit for touring so that it may be installed at schools on the Blood Reservation and at smaller museums in the region. Teachers will be able to use in their curriculum.

I also completed an essay analyzing a selection of early 20th century photographs produced by Residential School administrators at two schools in Treaty 7 territory of the Siksikaitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples. Titled “Reading a Regional Colonial Photographic Archive: Residential Schools in Southern Alberta,” the essay is forthcoming in Adjusting the Lens: Indigenous Activism, Colonial Legacies, and Photographic Heritage coedited by Norwegian scholars, Sigrid Lien and Hilde Wallem Nielsen (UBC Winter 2021). I had published (in 2018) a prior essay on analyzing photographs produced by residential school administrators that offers a comparative look at Canadian and US based school systems. “Residential School Photographs: The Visual Rhetoric of Indigenous Removal and Containment” may be found in Out of Bounds: Photography and Migration, edited by Tanya Sheehan (Rutgers UP 2018). These two essays are timely as recent international attention cast on the recovery of human remains buried on the grounds of former schools has forced a national conversation about who is culpable for the high mortality of residential school children and youth. The gaze on this troubling history, and its intergenerational effect, was particularly valuable in Canada where some non Indigenous citizens remain sceptical about community and family claims that deaths of indigenous children and youth had occurred.

Finally, in my capacity as Director of the Centre for Oral History and Tradition (2017-2021), I and a team of faculty colleagues and graduate students at the Centre designed and hosted our first ever six week virtual Oral History Summer Institute (OHSI) which featured numerous renowned oral historians from across Canada and the United States. The Institute was a grand success. Other than that, my educational community like all communities across the Globe struggled with COVID. We grieve all those whom we lost to the virus or other related health issues. Many of us remain tentative about returning to in-person contact to teach at our Universities in fall 2021.

Adam Wolkoff (Ph.D. 2015) is an attorney at the State University of New York’s Office of General Counsel in Albany, New York, where he serves as Assistant Director of the SUNY Student Conduct Institute. In that role, he trains the Institute’s hundreds of member institutions on complying with Title IX and other federal and state laws governing campus response to sexual and interpersonal violence. Building on this work, Adam recently published “A Privilege to Speak Without Fear: Defamation Claims in Higher Education” in the Journal of College and University Law. He also adapted portions of his dissertation into a 2017 article in Law and History Review, “Every Man His Own Avenger: Landlord Remedies and the Antebellum Roots of the Crop Lien and Chattel Mortgage in the United States.”
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