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Notes From the History Department Chair

by Timothy Shannon

Call me Ishmael. Or perhaps Ahab. I am certainly not the whale. Regardless, summer has arrived in Gettysburg, and I am re-reading Moby-Dick, this time as an e-book. How’s that for a historian’s attempt to straddle the past and the present? Here in Weidensall, we do that every day. This past year seemed like a fortunate one for us: we wrapped up our redecorating and even got updated teaching technology in our seminar room, all while managing to avoid being banished to trailers in Constitution Parking Lot like the denizens of the Anthropology, Psychology, and Biology departments.

With the sesquicentennial of the Civil War underway, many of our faculty and students have been involved with some exciting programming for the campus and community. In April 2012, Professor Eric Foner from Columbia University came to campus for the Lincoln Lyceum and delivered a great public talk on Abraham Lincoln and slavery. Looking ahead to next year, there will be plenty of additional Civil War programming, including “An evening with Allen Guelzo and James McPherson” to discuss the Emancipation Proclamation on its 150th anniversary (Sept. 21), with Pete Carmichael serving as moderator. This year’s Fortenbaugh lecture (November 19) will feature Steven Hahn speaking on “The Dimensions of Freedom: Slave, Emancipation, Indian Peoples, and the Projects of the New American State.” Also, keep an eye out for an upcoming art exhibit at Schmucker Gallery titled “Visualizing War” and curated by student fellows at the Civil War Institute. The exhibit will run from August 29 to September 29, 2012, with a reception on September 11 at 6 pm and a Gallery Talk on September 20 at noon.

In 2012-2013, we look forward to welcoming Aaron Cavin to Weidensall Hall. Aaron recently finished his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, and he will be joining us as a one-year replacement for Professor Birkner, who will be on leave for the year. I should also note here that I will be on leave in the fall term, and Professor Lowy will be taking over as acting chair of the History Department during my absence.

This message is also an occasion for saying goodbyes. J. Gabriel Martinez-Serna, who served ably as our Latin American historian this past year, is moving on to a position at West Virginia University. Students and faculty enjoyed getting to know Gabriel over the past year, and we will miss his good cheer. But we do also look forward to welcoming back Professor Barbara Sommer from her two-year leave.

In the pages that follow you can catch up with your favorite History professors and learn about some of the research and teaching
projects that have kept them busy over the past year. We hope it has been a busy and productive year for you too. Plan now to attend Homecoming Weekend in fall 2012, when Dr. Melissa Zook (Gettysburg ’94) will deliver the History Department’s Alumni Lecture.

Even if you can’t make one of our big events, please stop by and see us whenever you find yourself in town or on campus. You can also use our web site to keep in touch, to learn about History Department events, and to tell us your news. We are always glad to hear about your recent accomplishments, personal and professional, whether via email, the web site, or (best of all) personal visits when you are back on campus. Until then, our best wishes for 2012-13.

Faculty News

Abou Bamba

Professor Abou B. Bamba completed his second year in the Department. During the course of the year, he added advising to his teaching responsibilities. On the scholarly front, he participated to the annual meeting of the South East Region African Studies Association (SERSA) in Chapel Hill, North Carolina in February 2012 where he presented a paper on French immigration to postcolonial Ivory Coast. Professor Bamba also gave a talk at Lebanon Valley College (LVC) in Annville, Pennsylvania in April 2012. The topic of this presentation was the dialogue diplomacy that the Ivorian government began with apartheid South Africa in the late 1960s. During the summer, he continued researching and writing for his book manuscript. His research trips included several trips to the Washington, DC area (Library of Congress and U.S. National Archives at College Park) and one trip to Michigan (Bentley Library and President Ford Library in Ann Arbor and the Special Collection at the Michigan State University Library in East Lansing). Finally, Professor Bamba drafted a journal article based on his talk at LVC which he has submitted to a peer reviewed journal.
Michael Birkner

The past year was especially gratifying in part because the history program is robust and our faculty enjoy the opportunity to work with highly motivated students. Historical methods has been Michael Birkner’s bailiwick for more than two decades and he continues to enjoy it immensely, working in new readings and devising new assignments for students to keep courses fresh. This past year in Methods he introduced several new projects that the students seemed to relish: one was an editing project relating to the papers of Frank Kramer, ’14, whose correspondence with friends during the first World War is in the college archives. Students transcribed and edited materials that were assigned them and went the extra mile in providing annotations. Another assignment, an offshoot of the popular “Hidden in Plain Sight” projects of several years ago, required students to choose an oil portrait on campus and tell its story. A larger project towards the end of the semester entailed collaboration with Pastor Stephen Herr, ’89, of Christ Lutheran Church. Students were given access to the papers of Stewart Herman, ’30, who was pastor of the American Church in Berlin from 1936-41 and who corresponded regularly with his parents in Harrisburg about what he was seeing and thinking about this experience. Each student was assigned roughly three months in Herman’s Berlin life to explicate, based on reading his letters and contextualizing his experience through other primary and secondary sources. Pastor Herr, who wrote a master’s thesis on Herman, was available for consultation both in class and via email.

Once again this year the Eisenhower Senior Seminar yielded excellent papers based on research in archives beyond Gettysburg. Three students were able, with support from the department and the Eisenhower Institute, to travel to Abilene, Kansas for a week’s work in the rich collections at the Eisenhower Presidential Library. One of Professor Birkner’s students, Sam Cooper-Wall, was named a George C. Marshall undergraduate scholar, for work he pursued on the relationship between Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson. Sam’s paper was among the strongest in a strong cohort of scholars selected from leading colleges and universities in the Mid-Atlantic states.

2011-12 was a busy and productive year in the realm of scholarship. One of Professor Birkner’s projects, an edition of an affecting farm diary during the early Depression, was published this summer by Ohio University Press under the title *Prosperity Far Distant: The Journal of an American Farmer*. Another book, *James Buchanan and...*
the Coming of the Civil War, collects essays on the period 1857-1861 written by some of the nation’s leading scholars. Professor Birkner co-edited the book with Shippensburg University Professor John Quist and also contributed an essay titled “James Buchanan’s Civil War.” Publication is slated for winter 2012-13. A third book project is moving forward with Rutgers University Press scheduling it for publication in Autumn 2013. This is a revised and expanded edition of Professor Birkner’s 1982 book The Governors of New Jersey: Biographical Essays. He has taken on two editorial partners to help with the logistics in this large project.

In addition to these book projects, Professor Birkner has an article coming out this October in a new history of New Jersey edited for Rutgers University Press by Maxine Lurie of Seton Hall University and Richard Veit of Monmouth University. His contribution to the book is the essay on New Jersey from the close of the War of 1812 to the Compromise of 1850.

This past year Professor Birkner contributed an essay to a new book on American presidents, politics and public policy from 1837-1861, edited by Joel Silbey of Cornell University. His assignment was “Crisis and Compromise in 1850.” The book Silbey is editing is part of a Blackwell series on American political history.

Another invited essay, on Dwight Eisenhower’s relations with Congress, was written a year ago and awaits further movement through the editor of a putative volume on that topic. The editor is James Thurber of American University and the publisher he has in mind is Texas A&M University Press.

Professor Birkner continues to write book reviews for CHOICE and to referee books and articles for scholarly publications. He writes periodically for the Concord Monitor and other popular publications and is often quoted in the media, including comments on “best” and “worst” presidents for the Harrisburg Patriot’s feature on President’s Day and observations about social media and the Battle of Gettysburg for the Associated Press.

In Fall 2011 Professor Birkner delivered a lecture at the Union league of Philadelphia on Eisenhower as President. In March 2012 I delivered a lecture on Eisenhower and Congress to a large audience at the Center for Civil Leadership and Responsibility of Camden County College
as part of a year-long series on the nation’s 34th president. He also gave a scholarly paper at the Pennsylvania Historical Association Meeting, focused on Gettysburg College, Dickinson, F&M, Ursinus and Muhlenberg Colleges and the question of athletic scholarships in the 1920s.

Aside from all of this Professor Birkner is a member of the Gettysburg Borough Council, serving currently as Council President. He is also serving on various college committees including co-chairing the Sesquicentennial Planning Committee and on the advisory council of the Eisenhower Institute.

He is delighted to be on sabbatical for 2012-13. Among projects on his docket is scholarship on the American newsman Martin Agronsky’s war reporting from Australia during World War II. Professor Birkner will spend the winter months as a visiting fellow at the University of Melbourne to advance that project.

William Bowman

For the 2011-12 academic year, Bill Bowman taught five different courses: Twentieth-Century World, Modern Russia/Soviet Union, and Europe 1914-45 in the fall semester and Modern Germany and a Senior Seminar on Nazism in the spring. He enjoyed working with students in his courses and especially on their research projects. Students in his senior seminar, for example, wrote strong theses and conducted research in the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

In the summer of 2012, David Wemer, a rising junior history major, will work with Bill on a Mellon grant project focused on the relationship of Poland and Ukraine in the last sixty years or so. This work is part of the college’s increasing emphasis on student-teacher collaboration.

Prof. Dina Lowy and Bill are once again at work on planning the 2012 summer institute for world history teachers to be held in July at the college. This year’s theme is Asia in world history. College and secondary-level teachers please take note and plan to join us some summer at a World History Institute (information is online).
In the past year, Bill published an article on Hakoah Vienna, a Jewish sports club in the December edition of the journal *Central European History*. The piece analyzed the international roles Hakoah played in the interwar period. He also published a review essay on Austrian national identity in the modern period with the *Journal of Modern History*. He presented papers on “Reform Catholicism and the Enlightenment” at the Wirth Institute for Austrian Studies in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in September 2011 and on “Hakoah Vienna” at the annual meeting of the North American Society for Sports History in Berkeley, California in June 2012. The last meeting provided Bill with an opportunity to visit his undergraduate institution, the University of San Francisco, with several college classmates.

Bill also worked with a number of students on applications for graduate schools, law schools, study abroad, and academic grants. Many of these applications were successful. Seeing history majors succeed in many endeavors beyond the classroom is a rewarding aspect of any academic’s life.

On the family front: Lucas had a very good first year studying music at Duquesne University (Bill has learned to navigate Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods and to enjoy its restaurants and museums); Matias survived his first year of high school and continues to play a lot of basketball and baseball; and Angela had a very good time in second grade. She remains the family’s best reader and learned to do pottery this past year.

**Peter Carmichael**

Peter Carmichael published “Soldier Speak” in *Weirding the War: Stories from the Civil War's Ragged Edges*, edited by Stephen Berry and published by the University of Georgia Press and "'Truth is Mighty & will eventually prevail:' Political Correctness, Neo-Confederates, and Robert E. Lee" in *Southern Cultures*, a journal published by the Center for the Study of the American South. Carmichael has also accepted the series editorship of *Civil War America* published by the University of North Carolina Press. Over the summer The Civil War Institute hosted a Gilder and Lehrman Conference for teachers on material culture as well as its annual June conference, which focused on the year 1862. For information on both events, see [http://www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/](http://www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/).
Scott Hancock

Scott Hancock attended a conference in Bangor, Wales, on Belonging to present a paper on the next stage of his research on the underground railroad examining how or if escaped slaves constructed new senses of citizenship in the North. He also completed a book review of David Ruggles: A Black Radical Abolitionist and the Underground Railroad in New York City for the Journal of the Early Republic, and a review of Antislavery and Abolition in Philadelphia for H-Law. He was invited to give two lectures to secondary school teachers in New York as a part of the Smithsonian’s Teaching American History last October and two more in May; a presentation to a NEH Summer Institute in Philadelphia in July, and a lecture to secondary school teachers at the Richard Bartol Educator’s conference at Gettysburg College in July.

Dina Lowy

Dina Lowy once again taught courses on Modern China, Tokugawa Japan, the Pacific War, and team-taught the now (in)famous “Bomb” course on the History and Science of the Atomic Bombings of Japan with Physics professor Sharon Stephenson. Dina continued to serve as faculty advisor to Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society.

Dina’s research project on love and marriage in prewar Japan is still in its early stages. In March she presented a paper entitled “What's Love Got to Do With It?: Defining Relationships in Early 20th C. Japanese Periodicals” at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Dina is still enthusiastically involved, along with fellow History professor Bill Bowman, with Gettysburg’s summer World History Institute for teachers and this year was promoted to director. The theme for summer 2012 was “Asia as the Crossroads of World History, 600-1800.”

Dina’s children continue to delight and exhaust her. Drew (now 10 and almost as tall as mom) loves sports and math and has developed a
fondness for Greek mythology, thanks to Percy Jackson. Kim (now 7) loves everything! – but especially art, dance, math, and reading. In her spare time, Dina runs a USTA tennis team, teaches jazzercise and trains as a ninja.

Karen Pinto

After pre-tenure leave in Spring 2011, Karen Pinto returned to teaching in 2011-12. This year Karen introduced a number of technological innovations into her courses. In her US-Middle East class last Fall 2011, she successfully experimented with the use of a live Skype conference between Gettysburg students and students and educators in the Middle East. Students loved this experience and greatly valued the opportunity to converse with people from the region they were studying. Karen plans to continue these Skype sessions. In Ottoman history, she experimented with the use of an Xbox game, Assassin’s Creed: Revelations, a first-person adventure in which students explore a sophisticated portrayal of late 15th century Constantinople complete with accurate material culture, rich street-level details including extensive spoken Turkish, and a realistic political milieu. Students were thrilled by the game and absorbed a great deal of historical detail almost effortlessly.

This past spring and through the summer of 2012 Karen worked on an original project with seven of her best first-year Islamic history students titled “Muhammad and Maps”, which maps the travels of the Prophet Muhammad during his lifetime across the Arabian Peninsula and into Jordan and Syria through a close reading of primary sources.

Magdalena Sanchez

Magdalena continues to do research in 2012.

Timothy Shannon

Tim now finds himself in the middle of his second term as chair. If the U.S. presidency is the model, then this is when the wheels start to come off and the scandals surface. So far, nothing out of the ordinary has happened, but who knows what he has been sweeping under the rug for the past four years?

In 2011-2012, Tim taught History 300: Historical Method for the first time (!), a baptism by fire for himself as well as his students. One great outcome from that course was a research paper written by Erin Richards on Gettysburg College students who participated in local USO activities during World War II. Erin and Tim hope to see a version of the paper published in the College’s Alumni magazine this fall. Tim also taught his senior seminar on Pennsylvania Indians this year, and one of his students in that course, Andy Smith, continued to work on his thesis by presenting it in the spring semester at the Undergraduate Research Seminar sponsored by the McNeill Center for Early American Studies (MCEAS) at the University of Pennsylvania. Tim and Andy spent two afternoons at the MCEAS discussing Andy’s research on the Moravian Indians of eighteenth-century Pennsylvania with other seminar participants from Johns Hopkins, UPenn, New York University, and other schools.

Some of Tim’s scholarly projects came to fruition in 2011-2012, and he continued to make headway on some others. His publications included two essays that appeared as book chapters: “This Wretched

Tim will be on leave in fall 2012 and will spend September and October in the UK. Most of that time, he will be in Edinburgh, conducting research in the Scottish National Archives, but he also expects to travel to archives in Aberdeen and London. He will miss being away from his family but is looking forward to the break from his teaching and chairing duties here at the College.

Barbara Sommer

Barbara A. Sommer, Associate Professor of History, spent the 2011-12 academic year on research leave. She is pleased to report that her essay “Adquirindo defendendo os privilégios concedidos pela coroa no norte do Brasil,” was published in Rio de Janeiro in an edited volume, Raízes do Privilégio: mobilidade social no mundo ibérico do Antigo Regime. In addition, her article “Why Joanna Baptista Sold Herself into Slavery: Indian Women in Portuguese Amazonia, 1755-1798” will appear shortly in the journal Slavery & Abolition. In January, Barbara was active at the American Historical Association meeting where she presented a paper entitled “Corresponding with the Queen: When Native Amazonians Impacted Policy, Pará, Brazil, 1780-1800,” and chaired a panel, “Brazilian Studies Committee: Historiographical Updates from Brazil,” for the Conference on Latin American History. She looks forward to her return to teaching this fall.
Allen Guelzo (Civil War Era Studies)

Allen C. Guelzo rounded out his eighth year as the Henry R. Luce Professor of the Civil War Era and Director of the Civil War Era Studies Program with the publication in May 2012 of *Fateful Lightining: A New History of the Civil War and Reconstruction* (Oxford University Press). This was accompanied by a spate of articles on “The Unturned Corners of the Battle of Gettysburg,” *Gettysburg Magazine* (July 2011), “A War Lost and Found,” *The American Interest* (September-October 2011), “Does Lincoln Still Belong to the Ages?” *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* 33 (Winter 2012), “Abraham Lincoln or the Progressives: Who Was the Real Father of Big Government?” Heritage Foundation Special Report #100 (February 10, 2012), and “The Spy and Robert E. Lee: Gettysburg’s Lost Order, June 28, 1863,” *Civil War Monitor* 2 (Spring 2012). He also wrote a brief piece for the College alumni magazine, *Gettysburg*, on the College’s most famous Confederate alumnus, James F. Crocker (in the Winter 2012 issue) and two articles on a ‘personal favorite’ historical topic, the centennial of the sinking of the Titanic, in “Pride Before Titanic’s Fall,” *New York Post* (April 12, 2012) and “Titanic Presumption,” *National Review* (April 16, 2012). During the year, he spoke at the College’s Civil War Institute, the Gettysburg Foundation’s Sacred Trust series, at the Union League of Philadelphia, and at a number of academic institutions: Christopher Newport University, St. Joseph’s University, West Chester University and Roanoke College. He also delivered the Nathan I. Huggins Lectures for the W.E.B. DuBois Institute at Harvard University. He has three more books in process – a new history of the battle of Gettysburg (to be published by Random House in 2013), an anthology of Lincoln’s speeches for Penguin Civic Classics (August 2012) and the book form of his DuBois Institute lectures for Harvard University Press.
Civil War Institute Summer Conference 2012

The Civil War Institute annual summer conference was held June 22-26, 2012, welcoming more than three hundred participants and nearly thirty speakers/tour guides. This year’s theme, *The War in 1862*, explored the development of the Emancipation Proclamation, naval operations in the western theater, the battle of Second Manassas, as well as Robert E. Lee’s Maryland Campaign. Conference participants enjoyed tours of Harpers Ferry, Antietam, Second Manassas, and Fredericksburg alongside experts in the field. With the sesquicentennial of the Battle of the Gettysburg approaching next year, the 2013 Civil War Institute will explore *The War in 1863*, with a special focus on the Gettysburg Campaign. An online schedule of events can be found on the CWI website: [www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference](http://www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference).

Pohanka Fellows

Twelve Gettysburg College students were selected as Brian C. Pohanka Fellows in 2012. The program’s namesake, the late Brian C. Pohanka, was a historian and avid Civil War re-enactor who had a passion for sharing Civil War history with the public. The Pohanka Fellowship program supports Gettysburg College students serving as interns at historic sites throughout the mid-Atlantic region, offering stipends to defray the cost of living during the course of their internships. The following Gettysburg College students served as our 2012 Pohanka Fellows: Natalie Sherif and Kristen Trout (Harpers Ferry National Historical Park); Val Merlina (Gettysburg National Military Park); Brian Johnson and Mary Roll (Stratford Hall – Birthplace of Robert E. Lee); Paul Rule, Emma Murphy, Gabby Hornbeck, and Becky Oakes (Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park); Erin Richards and Morgan Rouscher (Appomattox National Historical Park);
and Michele Seabrook (Manassas National Battlefield Park). Each of these fellows provided valuable services to the National Park Service and Stratford Hall during their summer internships, providing guided tours, staffing visitor center desks, conducting historical research, and sharing their passion for Civil War history with the public.

Fortenbaugh Lecture

The 51st Annual Robert Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture will be held on November 19 at Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater.

Steven Hahn received his Ph.D. from Yale University and is a specialist on history of nineteenth-century America, African-American history, the history of the American South, and the international history of slavery and emancipation. He is the author of *The Roots of Southern Populism: Yeoman Farmers and the Transformation of the Georgia Upcountry, 1850-1890* (Oxford University Press, 1983), which received both the Allan Nevins Prize of the Society of American Historians and the Frederick Jackson Turner Award of the Organization of American Historians, as well as of articles that have appeared in *Past and Present*, the *American Historical Review*, and the *Journal of Southern History*. He is also the coeditor (with Jonathan Prude) of *The Countryside in the Age of Capitalist Transformation: Essays in the Social History of Rural America* (University of North Carolina Press, 1985); and (with Steven Miller, Susan O'Donovan, John Rodrigue, and Leslie Rowland) of *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867. Series III: Land and Labor in 1865* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009).


Hahn writes regular review essays for *The New Republic*, and is currently at work on two major projects: *A Nation without Borders: The United States and Its World, 1830-1900* (to be published by the Viking Press), and *Colonies, Nations, Empires: A*
Hahn has been on the faculties of the University of Delaware, the University of California, San Diego, and Northwestern University before coming to Penn, and he has taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in American and trans-national history, winning three Distinguished Teaching Awards (including the Richard S. Dunn Award at Penn). He has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford; he has been appointed the Lawrence Stone Visiting Professor at Princeton University and the Pitt Professor at Cambridge University; and he is an elected Fellow of the Society of American Historians.

Hahn has been actively involved with projects that promote the teaching of history in the public schools and that make humanities education available to diverse members of the community.

The Michael Shaara Prize

Sharon Ewell Foster was announced the winner of the Annual Michael Shaara Prize for Excellence in Civil War Fiction for her book *The Resurrection of Nat Turner, Part One: The Witnesses* A Novel. The truth has been buried more than one hundred years . . . Leading a small army of slaves, Nat Turner was a man born with a mission: to set the captives free. When words failed, he ignited an uprising that left over fifty whites dead. In the predawn hours of August 22, 1831, Nat Turner stormed into history with a Bible in one hand, brandishing a sword in the other. His rebellion shined a national spotlight on slavery and the state of Virginia and divided a nation’s trust. Turner himself became a lightning rod for abolitionists like Harriet Beecher Stowe and a terror and secret shame for slave owners. In *The Resurrection of Nat Turner, Part 1: The Witnesses*, Nat Turner’s story is revealed through the eyes and minds of slaves and masters, friends and foes. In their words is the truth of the mystery and conspiracy of Nat Turner’s life, death, and confession. *The Resurrection of Nat Turner* spans more than sixty years, sweeping from the majestic highlands of Ethiopia to the towns of Cross Keys and Jerusalem in
Southampton County. Using extensive research, Sharon Ewell Foster breaks hallowed ground in this epic novel, revealing long-buried secrets about this tragic hero.

**Lincoln Prize**

The 2012 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, which includes an award of $50,000, will go to co-winners William C. Harris of North Carolina State University, for “Lincoln and the Border States: Preserving the Union,” (Kansas) and Elizabeth D. Leonard of Colby College, for “Lincoln’s Forgotten Ally: Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt of Kentucky” (UNC Press).

The Prize is awarded by Gettysburg College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The winners were chosen from 116 nominations. Each will receive $25,000 and a bronze replica of Augustus Saint-Gaudens's life-size bust, "Lincoln the Man" in a ceremony April 11 in New York City.

In his book, Harris covers Lincoln’s often desperate efforts to keep the border states within the Union during the first months of the Civil War, with a focus on three states: Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri. Harris’s study is thorough and well researched, and emphasizes Lincoln’s careful moderation in dealing with an issue that he himself believed was crucial to the survival of the country. Harris clearly develops the various aspects of loyalty in the three states under examination, and illuminates Lincoln’s emerging management style.

In her book, Leonard provides a thorough biography of a man who played a role in four presidential administrations, Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt of Kentucky. She portrays Holt as an interesting personality with strengths, weaknesses, quirks and integrity, and provides a new perspective on emancipation in Kentucky, as evidenced by Holt himself, a slave-owner, who later supported emancipation. The discussion of Holt’s role as judge advocate general in the Lincoln administration provides information about Lincoln’s wartime efforts regarding emancipation and civil liberties.

“This year's winners -- William Harris's ‘Lincoln and the Border States’ and Elizabeth Leonard's ‘Lincoln's Forgotten Ally’ -- both tell important stories in wonderfully readable prose, while deepening our understanding of Lincoln and the Civil War era,” said Gilder Lehrman Institute President James G. Basker. “These are both ‘must reads’ for anyone who cares about the complex political challenges Lincoln and his government faced during the worst crisis in our country's history.”
In the Spring semester of 2012, Phi Alpha Theta members attended numerous lectures and discussions across campus in support of the larger Gettysburg College community. The semester concluded with another installment of the very successful “Reel vs. Real” film night, which featured Clint Eastwood’s critically acclaimed biopic “J. Edgar.” Professor Michael Birkner served as the faculty guest speaker, commenting on Hoover’s multifaceted career and his enduring legacy.

World History Institute

The theme for this year’s institute was “Asia as the Crossroads of World History, 600-1800.” Ten teachers from as far at New Hampshire, Florida, and Colorado joined us the week of July 8th for some lively discussion of world history content, theory, and pedagogy. Keynote speakers included Prof. Pamela Crossley of Dartmouth College, Prof. Xinru Liu of the College of New Jersey, and our very own Prof. Dina Lowy. Prof. Bill Bowman and Prof. Michael Weber of the History Dept. also led workshops, and Prof. Marta Robertson of the Conservatory gave a wonderful Okinawan dance demonstration and mini-lecture on the comparison between dance at the Okinawan court and dance at the court of Louis XIV. We are gearing up for an Atlantic World theme for summer 2013.
Alumni News

1950

Alvin Rudisill

Alvin retired a year ago from the University of Southern California where he served for 50 years as the University Chaplain and Distinguished Associate Professor in the Schools of Religion and Medicine.

1951

William Rock

William is currently retired, living in Bowling Green, Ohio. He retired from his job as a European history professor in 1993, after 34 years of service at Bowling Green University.

1957

Joan Habecker Patches

Joan is currently preparing to publish her senior thesis which is a history of her home church. Salem Lutheran Church, Kissel Hill, Lancaster County, PA, will celebrate its 190th Anniversary next year, and Joan will be contributing a church history as an anniversary gift. Her plans are to write a new introduction and follow it with the original manuscript.

1958

Guy Graybill

Since graduating in 1958, he has lived in Snyder County with his wife, Nancy, and their four children. He is retired from teaching and has served four years as a county commissioner.

In 2004 he had his first of five books published. His first was a history of the state, KEYSTONE, followed by his history of Italian contributions to music—BRAVO!.

The Sunbury Press, of Camp Hill, published his last three books, beginning with a two-volume biography of Prince Farrington, a millionaire moonshiner/bootlegger from Clinton County.

Sunbury Press is now in the process of releasing his latest book, FROST!. All three of his latest books are available on Kindle and Amazon.

He has now attended more than two dozen book-signing events with one or more of his books at each. Between now and Christmas, he is expecting to attend another half-dozen such events.
He hopes to have those five books and at least one more by next summer, when he anticipates appearing in the Gettysburg College book store during his reunion weekend.

1959

Anita (Landgren) McDonough

Anita is living in St. Augustine, Florida enjoying what she calls “a history-lover's delight!” She enjoys living in the oldest city in America and is looking forward to being part of the forthcoming celebrations for its 450th year anniversary.

1963

Garrett McAinsh

In 2011 Garrett retired from his post as Distinguished Professor of History at Hendrix College. He now teaches sporadically at a school for senior citizens. He also gives lectures on cruise ships regarding the different European ports visited.

1969

Richard Diekmann

Richard has recently been called to be a minister of the Brookmeade Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Nashville, TN. He will be moving there in January, 2013.

Stephen Nelson

Stephen recently celebrated the publication of his fourth book about the college presidency: Decades of Chaos and Revolution: Showdowns for College Presidents (Rowman and Littlefield, 2012) last April. He is an associate professor of educational leadership at Bridgewater State University and a Senior Scholar in the Leadership Alliance at Brown University.

1970

Bill Tuceling

After 33 years as an archivist and librarian for the Federal government (and 7 years as a public and academic librarian before that), Bill retired from the US Government Accountability Office at the end of May, 2012.
1971

Ivan Punchatz

Ivan’s daughter Isabelle has transferred to Gettysburg College as a sophomore this fall semester. He was also again selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America (Best Lawyers and US News and World Reports) and Super Lawyers in New Jersey, specializing in health care law.

1972

Maggie Childs

This past year, Maggie spent much of her time horseback riding and hiking out west. She was also working on revising an anthology of readings for Eastern Civilization courses for M.E. Sharpe. She enjoyed revisiting ancient Chinese cultural history, via 19th century translations.

1973

J. Chris Arndt

Chris is the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. A long-time member of the Department of History at James Madison, he recently co-authored (with Michael J. Galgano and Raymond M. Hyser) Doing History: Research and Writing in the Digital Age, 2nd edition.

1974

James Wohlsen

After almost 30 years working to help other people set aside and invest money for retirement, he will finally be utilizing his own advice by retiring at the end of this year. After a 4 year tour of duty in the Air Force after graduation, he worked for a non-profit housing provider, a very short stint in his family construction business; 4 years as a business owner; and finally 28 years in the retirement plan industry, the last 16 with Fulton Financial Advisors (the trust division of Fulton Bank). He still plans to do some part-time consulting for Fulton and is also hoping to write a book. He and his wife Cyndie celebrated their 32 wedding anniversary in May and between our two children, we have 6 grandchildren.

1980

Kristin Gleeson

Kristin is a writer, artist and musician currently living in Ireland in the Gaeltacht of West Cork. This year, she has had two books published, an historical novel and a historical biography. The
historical novel, *Selkie Dreams*, is published by Knox Robinson Publishing and tells the story of a 19th century Irish woman haunted by her mother's death who travels to the Alaskan wilderness. The popularly written biography, *Anahareo: A Wilderness Spirit*, published by Fireship Press, explores the life of a Canadian First Nations woman who, along with her partner, Grey Owl, pioneered wilderness preservation in Canada. Last year Kristin’s scholarly essay on Anahareo, 'Blazing Her Own Trail,' was included in a work of collected essays entitled, *Recollecting: Lives of Aboriginal Women of the Canadian Northwest and Borderlands*, published by U. of Athabasca Press. This work won four awards including one from The Canadian Historical Association and The Western Historical Association.

**Eileen Brogan Maffei**

Eileen is currently teaching grade 7 U.S. History (American Revolution through Reconstruction) in Trumbull, CT. This will be her 28th year of teaching. Meanwhile her husband, Bob, is a Physical Education teacher and the head football coach at Trumbull High. Their son, Bobby, graduated from the University of Nebraska in 2011 with a degree in Spanish and Secondary Ed. and is currently the wide receivers coach and Director of Football Operations at Central CT State University.

**David Spence**

David is currently a professor of law at the University of Texas at Austin, where he has taught for the last fifteen years in both the Law and Business Schools. His area of focus is on regulation in the energy industry.

**1981**

**Gregory Schell**

Gregory is currently an attorney in Philadelphia with a civil practice throughout eastern and central Pennsylvania. For the past 7 years he has coordinated with the Office for Career Services to offer a summer internship at his office. In other exciting news, his son, Benjamin Schell became a fellow alumnus in May, 2012, earning a BA in Religious Studies.

**1983**

**Mary Collins**

Mary is now an Associate Professor of Creative Writing/Nonfiction and Director of the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development at Central Connecticut State University. Prior to joining CCSU in 2007, she did a great deal of historical writing for general audiences as a freelance writer and editor in Washington, DC, including National Geographic, the Smithsonian and the Discovery Channel. She is currently working on a tourism book on American Revolution sites for the state of Connecticut.
1984

Tony Barbera

Tony and his wife, Vicki (Class of ’83) recently moved their daughter Sophia into her freshman dorm at Gettysburg College. His daughter, Sophia will be part of Gettysburg’s Class of 2016, an exciting legacy for this Gettysburg alum.

1988

Matthew Anderson

Matthew is currently a serving Colonel in the U.S. Army as the Chief of Staff at the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington DC.

Andrew Sheely

Andrew is working on various events to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Confederate occupation of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania on June 28, 2013 - June 30, 2013.

Mechanicsburg is recognized as the northern most town occupied by the Confederate cavalry during its advance to determine the location of Union military positions near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The occupation ended on June 30, 1863 when the last of General Albert G. Jenkins's cavalry brigade were ordered south to Gettysburg prior to advancing on Pennsylvania's capital and disrupting the adjacent railway lines.

1989

Stephan Herr

Stephen has been serving as the pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Gettysburg since 1999. He recently enjoyed working with Dr. Birkner on a project for his Historical Methods students involving research on Gettysburg alumnus Stewart W. Herman, Jr.

1991

Jonathan Berkey

Jonathan is currently serving as chair of the Division of Social Sciences at Concord University. He received tenure and promotion to associate professor of history last year. His son Joel is 5 and about to enter kindergarten and his daughter Mary Ellen will turn 2 in November.

1992

Kevin Sheets
Kevin Sheets, associate professor of history at the State University of New York, Cortland, was awarded a $180,000 Landmarks in American History and Culture grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This award funds a K-12 professional development institute for 80 teachers to learn about the late 19th and early 20th century by spending a week at Camp Huntington, one of the first "Great Camps" in the Adirondack region of upstate New York.

1993

Carolyn (Yaschur) Haslinger

Carolyn was married on May 19, 2012 to Brian Haslinger, and the couple is now expecting their first child. She is also currently in her fourth year of a Ph.D. program in Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin.

1994

Andrew Edgerton

Andrew is currently living in D.C. with his wife Caroline Racz Edgerton (Class of 2001). The couple has a 2 year old daughter named Anna Amy, a German Shepherd named Major and another baby due in December. Andrew is currently working for the Fairfax County Police Department as a Helicopter Pilot in their Special Operations Division, where he transports police, medevac and SAR missions around the National Capital Region. His wife works as an Executive Recruiter here in DC for The Heiden Group.

Kathy Edwards

She has moved this year, with her family, from Fort Bliss, El Paso, TX to Wiesbaden Army Garrison in Wiesbaden, Germany. The Edwards family has been in Germany for nine months now and is expecting to be stationed there for another year. They are currently enjoying all of the travel opportunities which Europe provides. Kathy and her family are surrounded by history, with an 800 year old castle only a mile from their house. Kathy is currently teaching at the Wiesbaden American Middle School as a seventh grade special education teacher. Her husband, Nat, is getting promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in October and their three children are doing well and love their host nation.

Peter Vermilyea

Peter teaches history at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, CT and at Western Connecticut State University. He enjoys his role as director of the Student Scholarship Program for the college's Civil War Institute, and recently completed a run as the editor of the CWI Fellows' 901 Gettysburg Stories blog. He also maintains his own blog about local history at hiddeninplainsightblog.wordpress.com
1995

Chris Hart

Chris is currently in Melbourne, Australia where he is teaching history and English at Yarra Valley Grammar School. He recently completed his Master of Teaching at La Trobe University and is currently enjoying teaching students from grades 7 through 12. He cites his knowledge from Julie Hardwick’s class as being especially useful while teaching the subject of ‘Revolutions’ to his Year 12 students.

Stephen Petrus

In 2010, Stephen received his Ph.D. in American History from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. My research fields include 20th century urban politics and culture. While in graduate school, he published journal articles in Studies in Popular Culture and New York History and taught at several CUNY colleges, including Hunter, Lehman, and Baruch. Currently, he’s working on a book on Greenwich Village in the 1950s and 1960s that portrays community organizations in the iconoclastic neighborhood as engines of innovation which allowed people to combine their talents and ideas in creative ways. Recently, he won an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship to do curatorial work at the Museum of the City of New York, which he hopes will give him the opportunity to bridge the gap between academic and public history at a dynamic city cultural institution. For many years he has also led historical walking tours of New York neighborhoods such as the Lower East Side, SoHo, and Union Square for the company Big Onion. He resides in Brooklyn, where, in his leisure, he plays soccer on the Long Meadow in Prospect Park.

1996

Robert Johnston II

Rob enjoyed once more attending the Tony Awards (albeit as a seat filler) and having the good fortune to fill a seat that was otherwise vacant the entire show, getting to watch the entire awards from the 2nd row, and even getting on screen on TV a few times.

Alyson Jones

Alyson has now been Director of Fall Creek Public Library in Fall Creek, WI since 2011. On May 18, 2012, she and her husband Ryan (former Assistant Professor in the Sunderman Conservatory of Music) welcomed Susannah Margaret Jones into the family. She joins her older sister Winnie (3 years old). Alyson’s husband, Ryan, is now Associate Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Laura Turowski
Laura received her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh in May of 2011. She has recently started a new job as Head Librarian at St. John’s College High School in Washington, D.C.

1998

Marybeth Danowski

Marybeth and her husband welcomed their third daughter into the family this past November. She continues to teach U.S. History and World History, coach varsity softball, and advise the History Club which she helped to found. This year, she will also pick up a semester of 8th grade Social Studies. She’d also like to extend a congratulations to a fellow Gettysburgian, Matt McKenna (’95) on his recent induction into the Gettysburg Athletic Hall of Fame for swimming.

Brent Hege

Brent has been promoted to full-time Instructor of Religion and Philosophy at Butler University in Indianapolis, where he has been on the faculty since 2008. He enjoys introducing new students to the joys of the liberal arts in his First Year Seminar, entitled "Faith, Doubt and Reason," as well as teaching courses in world religions, philosophical ethics, and topics in contemporary Christian thought and continental philosophy. In between teaching and writing he practices the bewitching arts of home brewing as a hobby.

1999

Aynsley Hamel

Aynsley married John Mask in front of 75 friends and family at the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church in Lutherville, MD. They plan to honeymoon in northern Maine in October. Since June 2011, Aynsley has been with the University of Maryland School of Medicine’s Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, serving as the Coordinator of the entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

2001

Kris Nessler

Kris is the Associate Director of Experiential Education and Associate Head Coach of Men’s and Women’s Swimming at Gettysburg College.

2002

Brooke Parrish Becker

Brooke Parrish Becker, and her husband James welcomed their first child, a daughter named Molly, into their family on May 13th in Charleston, SC.
2003

Nancy Hillman

Nancy’s second daughter, Laura, was born this past June. Along with this exciting news, Nancy is on track to finish her Ph.D. in History (focusing on religion and race relations in the 19th-century American South) from the College of William & Mary.

Jessica (Wininger) Merkel

Jessica is a lawyer with Bunger & Robertson in Bloomington, Indiana, focusing on estate planning, estate administration, guardianships, and trust and will contests. She and her husband, Clint Merkel, celebrated their 8th wedding anniversary this July. Jessica, Clint and big sister Cecelia (3 years old) welcomed Calbert Quincy Merkel to the family on June 14, 2012.

Joseph Tucker

Joe continues to work at the US Department of State as the Negotiations Team Leader in the Office of the US Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. He travels regularly to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to observe the negotiations between the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan on arrangements between the two countries in the wake of South Sudan’s independence in July 2011.

2004

Jen Wessner Martin

In 2010, Jen was married and moved to Easton PA to continue working with DiscipleMakers at Lafayette College’s campus. She is now expecting her first child in February 2013.

David Thomas

David recently received a Master's Degree in Military History from Norwich University in June 2012.

2005

Karen Sause

Last year Karen was accepted into the History Ph.D. program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. This past academic year, she worked as a Teaching Assistant for the History Dept. and is looking forward to TAing the Native American History course. She also accomplished one of her lifelong goals this summer, when she hiked Mt. Katahdin, in Maine.
2006

Kristin Walters

Kristin received her MA in Teaching Secondary Education Social Studies May 2011, and has recently relocated to Pensacola, FL to teach US and World History at Pensacola High School.

2007

Caity Atwood

Caity, a Naval Aviator in the United States Navy, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on March 1, 2012 and earned the qualification of Aircraft Commander in the E-6B in May 2012. She is currently flying Navy E-6Bs out of Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

2008

Andrew Carlson

While completing his MA in military history at The George Washington University (May 2011), Drew finished a brief two year stint with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Beginning in the summer of 2012, Drew has begun working for the Department of Defense (DoD), where he enjoys having the opportunity to blend his career with his academic interests. While Drew looks forward to eventually returning to school for a Ph.D. in history, it may not be for some time as his fiancée and soon to be wife, Gretchen Michelson ('09), is currently working on her own Ph.D. in Music at the University of Virginia. Both hope to return to teach at Gettysburg at some point in the future.

Steven Nelson

Steven has just recently been accepted to, and started his Masters in Landscape Architecture at City College in the City University of New York system. His expected graduation year is 2015.

Jack Pittenger

Jack is currently pursuing an MA in Public History at Arizona State University, with an anticipated graduation date of Spring 2013.

2009

Jessica Canella

Frank Conserette (Class of 2009- and a fellow history major) and Jessica Cannella announced their engagement on July 6th 2012! They’re both so glad they took Professor Shannon's Senior Seminar where they sat next to each other and met!
Benjamin Jacobs

Benjamin graduated, magna cum laude, from American University Washington College of Law in May of 2012. He will be clerking for the Honorable Gregory E. Jackson at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, beginning in August of 2012.

2010

Jennifer Giambrone

For two years after graduation, Jennifer worked at the National Museum of Play in Rochester, New York, as the Documentary Content Manager for the Collections Team where she had the opportunity to work closely with the curators, catalog artifacts, write for the museum's blog (http://www.museumofplay.org/blog/play-stuff/author/jgiambrone/), and help to curate the museum's collection of oral histories.

In June of this year, she accepted a job in Rockville, Maryland, and moved to Washington, DC. She is now a Research Historian for History Associates, a history consulting firm that provides a range of historical services, including research and analysis for law firms and content development for museums and historical sites. She spends a lot of time at the National Archives and Library of Congress, and she has been enjoying it immensely so far.

Danielle Hiss

Two years after graduating from Gettysburg, Danielle has earned her Master of Science degree in Publishing from Pace University in New York, and is now working as a Case Manager for Alliance Worldwide Investigative Group in Clifton Park, New York.

Liz Johns

Liz earned a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May. This fall, she will start a new position as an Undergraduate Research Librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Jonathan Lawlor

Jonathon is currently beginning his second year at Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Jonathan is active member of the Widener community where he serves as a volunteer tax preparer for the volunteer income tax preparation assistance (VITA) program, a BARBRI student representative, and an officer of the campus's newly reinstated chapter of the American Constitutional Society.

Sarah Wixted

Sarah is to be married September 22 to James Beauregard Andrews, Class of 2011.
2011

Ryan Lester

Ryan is currently living in Atlanta, GA for a B2B sales training program with AT&T after working in Mexico for two months. He hopes to know by October where he’ll be relocating to next.

Lisa Ungemach

Lisa recently finished her term of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA. During her stint with AmeriCorps, she worked with a literacy program based out of the Arlington, TX Public Library system. In conjunction with that, she coordinated Citizenship Classes, taught a 3rd-5th grade girls fitness and nutrition class in the fall, spring, and summer, edited the curriculum for boys of the same age, started the boy's program in the summer, taught GED Social Studies classes, and planned a 5K fundraiser that had 258 registrants (60 more than the previous year) and raised $5,500—a $2,000 increase over the previous year.

She has since moved to Indianapolis, Indiana to start graduate school at Indiana University-Purdue University - Indianapolis (IUPUI). She is working towards a dual degree in Public History and Library Science in the hopes of becoming an archivist. She is also interning at the Michael Feinstein Great American Songbook Initiative in Carmel, Indiana, where the staff is preserving materials related to the Songbook and educating the public. She has recently started processing the Robert Boyer collection, which is one of the largest collections of Andrews Sisters' materials in the country.

2012

Kaitlyn Roman

Kaitlyn is currently participating in an Americorps program called City Year in the Boston flagship location. She will be working in the Trotter Elementary School in Dorchester, where she will be tutoring, mentoring and developing an after-school curriculum to support the Boston Public School system in fighting the drop out crisis.
Thanks to all our alumni who submitted their news! We look forward to hearing back from you in the years to come, and always welcome a personal visit to campus!

Send Us Your News!

Do you have some news you would like to share with the History department and your fellow History grads in next summer’s newsletter? If so, please fill in the information below and return this form to:

History department newsletter
Gettysburg College Campus Box 401 Gettysburg PA 17325

Or, visit us on the web at:  http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/history/alumni

Name ___________________________  Graduation Year ____
Address ______________________________________________
City ____________________ State ________ Zip ____________
Email Address: ________________________________

News: __________________________________________
HISTORY DEPARTMENT RECEPTION
May 2012
Congratulations, Class of 2012!

Prof. Peter Carmichael and Abe Apfel
Robert Miller and Family
Prof. Timothy Shannon and Daniel Willever
Donald Pratt and Allen Neskie
Katelynn
Prof. Karen Pinto and Sam Manelski
Christine Luthy and Family

Dallas Grubbs and Family

Andrew Mearns

Shannon Buchal

Austin Clark

Prof. Dina Lowy and Robert Kellert

Natalie Huso