Dear Friends:

Spring 2015 will be a time for the History Department to mull over its future(s). We’ll be talking throughout this spring about the courses we offer, about the structure of our major, and about what the current generation of students are looking for in their studies at Swarthmore, both from History and in general. Along the way, we’re planning to have a conversation with our current majors and minors about Jo Ann Guldi and David Armitage’s recently published book *The History Manifesto*, which argues that historians need to move back towards “big picture” thinking that critically engages with other forms of social analysis that have become dominant influences over policy making and political thought.

We’re excited about our dynamic new faculty members and have our fingers crossed that we’ll continue to be able to recruit additional new faculty in the near-term future.

This spring, we inaugurate a new Honors seminar taught by Farid Azfar, European Intellectual History. BuYun Chen is teaching a course on material and visual culture in East Asia, while Marjorie Murphy is teaching a first-year seminar on the Cold War, a topic that seems to have grabbed the attention of many current students, which also connects to Diego Armus’ new course on “dirty wars” and American policy in postwar Latin America.

Remember to drop us a line via email or on Facebook to let us know how you’re doing!

Timothy J. Burke  
Professor of History and Chair
Historian Tara Zahra ’98 has been among those awarded the MacArthur Genius grants this year. Zahra has written for The Nation, is currently a professor at the University of Chicago, and has two books – Kidnapped Souls: National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the Bohemian Lands, 1900-1948 (2008) and The Lost Children: Reconstructing Europe’s Families after World War II (2011) – in addition to working with Professor Judson on a new book on World War I and Austria-Hungary and working on her own book about “emigration from East Central Europe to Western Europe and the U.S.” from 1889 to the present.

Richard “Dick” Rosecrance ’52, who currently teaches at the Kennedy School at Harvard University, was recently published with colleagues by MIT with their book, The Next Great War: The Roots of World War I and the Risk of US-China Conflict. With this book, “Our objective is two-fold: to indicate the proximate causes of War in 1914; and to see if they might still apply to potential events in 2014. Our answer to the first question is that ‘little things mean a lot’ - World War I was by no means inevitable. There were many events which counterfactually might not have occurred with a much more peaceful result. The so-called systemic causes were not all-determining ones. Second - too much reliance on allies, too many repetitive crises, too little integration of the world economy, too much nationalism - could occur once again. Nuclear weapons deter nuclear

Diego Armus just had his most recent book, Del football al futbol/futebol: Historias argentinas, brasileras y uruguayas en el siglo XX (“From Football to Futbol/Futebol: Argentine, Brazilian, and Uruguayan Stories in the 20th Century”) published in April by Iberoamericana Vervuert, ahead of the World Cup. Professor Armus co-authored this book with Stefan Rinke of the Freie University of Berlin, and the book was released in Barcelona and Frankfurt.

Professor Armus is also in the midst of writing Buenos Aires Reader with Lisa Ubelaker Andrade ’06. Current honors student Amy DiPierro ’15 is assisting with the research for the book on modern Buenos Aires history, which will be published by Duke University Press.

Allison Dorsey is wrapping up her ambitious project for a one-time history course entitled “Black Liberation 1969” that is part of the College’s Sesquicentennial. This course aims to chronicle the life of the College in 1969, when students, particularly black students, staged sit-ins and strikes to fight for more representation in the faculty and student body. The culminating project for the students in this 1.5 credit course takes place on February 10, 2015, where they will present their research to the community. A database of the time through primary source documents will be made available on February 1st.

Professor Dorsey gave talks at Holy Family University, the African American Museum of Philadelphia – “Black Landownership among the newly freed: Strategies and Challenges” – and for

Student & Alumni News

Jen Moore with contributions from Roberto Vargas

Continued on page 5 . . .
Recent Events

We cosponsored a number of talks and events this fall, including:

**Abigail E. Owen ’99** returned to campus in September to deliver a talk, “al-Karaji’s Hidden Waters: Underground Channels and Global Connections,” co-sponsored by Islamic Studies, Environmental Studies, and the Film and Media Studies Department. The talk was for Professor Azfar’s “Histories of Water” course, being co-taught with Erica Cho of the Film and Media Studies Department. **Owen** is currently a Post-doctoral Teaching Fellow of History at the University of Oregon.

Also in September, the department co-sponsored a Latin@ Heritage Month event titled: “Fleeing Violence: Immigrant Children, Moral Obligations, and Political Implications.” Amy Gottlieb of the American Friends Service Committee delivered the talk about young children and families crossing the Mexican/U.S. border at unprecedented rates.

Just before break in October, the department cosponsored a talk given by Dr. Tarek Kahlaoui regarding the new government in Tunisia, which Dr. Kahlaoui has helped shape. Arabic, Art, Classics, Islamic Studies, Political Science, and the Provost’s Office all supported the event.

On October 27th, we hosted the annual Paul H. Beik Lecture. This year, alumnus **Thomas Laqueur ’67, H’14** gave a talk entitled “Why do we care for the dead?” Students were especially excited for the talk, as many of them have read Laqueur for history courses here. They showed their excitement by engaging with Laqueur during and after the talk. You can hear the talk here: [http://www.swarthmore.edu/news-events/listen-historian-thomas-laqueur-67-asks-why-do-we-care-dead](http://www.swarthmore.edu/news-events/listen-historian-thomas-laqueur-67-asks-why-do-we-care-dead)

On the same night, **Joshua Rosenzweig ’94** delivered a talk, “Arguing for Justice: Public Opinion, Legal Controversy, and the ‘Chinese Dream’. “ The Chinese Program in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures hosted Joshua for the talk, which the Department of History was also able to cosponsor.

On October 30th, **Professor Armus** brought in Carlos Osorio of the National Security Archive. The talk, “U.S. Documents: Justice and Transparency in Latin America,” was also sponsored by Latin American Studies, the Political Science Department, and the Swarthmore Libraries.

Dr. Edwin Mayorga of the Educational Studies Department worked with students, including our own **Nora Kerrich ’16**, to bring members of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers to speak at Swarthmore in November. The History Department cosponsored the event.

At the close of the semester, the Department of History worked with Film and Media Studies to present films created by students in their courses. The students in History 61: Histories of Water with **Professor Azfar** produced essay videos as a culminating project they worked on throughout the semester.

---

**Presenting at IWCA/NCPTW**

by Leo Rayfiel

This October I presented at the IWCA/NCPTW (International Writing Centers Association National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing Joint Conference) with fellow student Diondra Straiton ’14 and English Professor Jill Gladstein. All three of us presented initial findings from the WPA Census, a large-scale survey with over 200 questions that has been filled out by about 1621 colleges and universities in the United States. As an undergraduate research assistant during the summer and school year, I was funded through the Institute for the Liberal Arts to help with website design, data collection, and data analysis.

The IWCA/NCPTW was the first time that results from the WPA Census were presented to the larger community of writing professionals.
Sabbatical Story: Bob Weinberg

In October I helped host a workshop on ritual murder (also known as the blood libel). Hosted by the Program in Jewish Culture and Society at the University of Illinois with funding from the Leonard Nevzlin Research Center for Russian and East European Jewry of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the workshop brought together scholars from the United States, Europe, and Israel who are engaged in research projects about accusations lodged against Jews for the purported murder of Christian youths for ritual purposes in Eastern Europe, the Russian Empire, and the Soviet Union.

The workshop challenged the long-standing interpretation that ritual murder accusations were the product of deep-rooted antisemitic prejudice, motivated by ethnic hatred, spite, and resentment. An interdisciplinary group of scholars, working in the fields of history, folklore, ethnography, and literature, analyzed new ways of studying a topic that intersects with some of the most important themes in the history of Eastern Europe: popular religious and folkloristic practices; legal culture and growth and expansion of the state; the development of science and medicine; interethnic relations; economic change; gender and power, politics from both national and transnational perspectives; and memory studies.

I am working with conference co-organizers Eugene Avrutin (University of Illinois) and Jonathan Dekel-Chen (Hebrew University) to prepare the workshop papers for publication. Indiana University Press will publish the edited volume, which is tentatively entitled *The Worlds of Ritual Murder: Culture, Politics, and Belief in Eastern Europe and Beyond.*

In November, at the annual conference of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, I delivered a paper on the efforts of the Russian writer Maxim Gorky to combat antisemitism in Russia at the start of World War I. With the assistance of two other literary luminaries, Leonid Andreev and Fedor Sologub, Gorky published a questionnaire designed to offer insights into the relationship between antisemitism and Russian culture. They believed the responses to the questionnaire would help combat antisemitism by enlisting the active support of Russians on behalf of the struggle to achieve equal rights for Jews.

continued from “Faculty News,” page 2…

Reconstruction, Inc. – “The Black Struggle for Freedom and Citizenship in post-Reconstruction America” – this fall and is looking forward to the NEH Summer Seminar on Reconstruction this July.

Alexander Hazanov joined us as a visiting instructor this fall. Alexander hails from the PhD program at Penn and taught History 3a: Modern Europe, 1789-1918: The Age of Revolution and Counterrevolution.

You can “Like” us on Facebook for more regular updates about the Department:

https://www.facebook.com/swathistory

continued from “Presenting at IWCA/NCPTW,” page 3…

administrators and writing center directors. I focused on what the Census said about the different kinds of services writing centers provide to their students and what factors might affect the decision to offer certain services, Diondra looked at the role of goals and mission statements in writing centers, and Professor Gladstein looked at the different titles and job statuses of writing center directors. What excites me about the project is the way that it enriches discussions already taking place by contributing useful and accessible quantitative data. Everything we collected will be searchable on a public database. Our talk at the conference was a featured presentation, which meant that we presented on a main stage to an audience of about 100 people. In fact, some of the people there were big wigs whose papers I had read in my classes!

Most importantly, we all got to go to Disney World afterwards!

As always, you can find more information on our department website:

http://www.swarthmore.edu/academics/history.xml
Upcoming Events

We are looking forward to celebrating Pieter Judson’s career here at Swarthmore. Save the date of May 20th and email jen_moore@swarthmore.edu if you would like more information.

Allison Dorsey has planned a number of events for Black History Month related to her Black Liberation 1969 course. Drs. Kendi and Biondi will speak on February 5th and 26th respectively; the students present on February 10th; and Leandre Jackson ’75’s photo exhibit, “Proof of Black Life” will be on display from the 17th until March 15th.

We plan on having our thesis presentations in the first week of May this year. Our only thesis writer this year, Amy DiPierro ’15, will present on her research project, advised by Diego Armus.

conflict, but they do not deter war. Thus, a much closer relation with Europe, the world, and particularly China is necessary for the United States in the years ahead if we are to avoid another catastrophe.”

Sarah Duda ’14 has been blogging for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on food history. You can read her blog, “A Philly Foodie Explores Local History” at https://www.hsp.org/blogs/fondly-pennsylvania/a-philly-foodie-explores-local-history. She is now currently employed at both the Philadelphia History Museum and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

A number of our graduates have recently earned their PhDs or have informed us of new positions in academia. Emily A. Remus ’06 earned her PhD from the University of Chicago and is currently working as the Visiting Scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Monica Patterson ’97 recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

Hanna King ’15, who earned first prize for the Newton Book Collection Contest. Her collection, entitled “Plucked from a holy book: Ashkenazim on the margins,” features the works of Celia Dropkin, Kadya Molodovsky, and Rukhl Fishman among others. Along with some prize money, King and some family and friends will get an up-close tour of the rare books collection at the Library of Congress.

A number of our graduates have
Faculty Talks, 2015

March

3/13  Farid Azfar  Seminar in British History: “Terra Firma: The Disappearance of the Royal George and the Solid Grounds of the South Sea Company”  The Newberry Library  Chicago, IL USA

3/23-25  Diego Armus  Invited speaker at the Iberian and Latin American Social History International Conference  Mexico City, Mexico

3/27-28  Farid Azfar  Roundtable at the Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting: “London, Britain: The Role of the Capital in Studies of British History”  Johns Hopkins University  Baltimore, MD USA

Summer

June  Diego Armus  Invited Professor at Universita degli Studi, Roma Tre  Rome, Italy

7/12-8/1  Allison Dorsey  NEH Summer Seminar: “America’s Reconstruction: The Untold Story”  University of South Carolina  Beaufort

The department is interested in hearing from you!

We are especially in hearing about publications and internship experiences. You can share your story via the newsletter or simply tell us about it via email so that we can post the internship to our website. Email the department: history@swarthmore.edu.

Thank you!