Three Years of Exciting Growth for the Department
BY NANCY MacLEAN, CHAIR

Greetings to all of you former faculty and students in the Northwestern History Department. We have been so busy growing and launching new initiatives that this is our first newsletter in three years. There is much good news to share, as well as some saddening losses to report, which you will find in the pages that follow.

The short version is that we have added three new tenure-line positions so that we can better cover areas of the world in which we wanted more strength (modern Middle East and East Asia), hired several outstanding new faculty members, established graduate programs in East Asia and Latin America, founded a Center for Historical Studies, enjoyed record numbers of graduate applications across fields and impressive placement within them, welcomed new post-doctoral fellows in several fields, participated in numerous U.S. Department of Education-backed Teaching American History grant projects with area high school and junior high teachers, established new graduate prizes and research grants, and demonstrated, yet again, our deep commitment to excellence in undergraduate education by the unrivaled number of teaching awards our faculty and graduate students have won. In short, the department is much like you remember it—only bigger and more active than ever.

We have grown so much, in fact, that we are now in the midst of planning a thorough renovation of Harris Hall with the architectural firm Weese, Langley, Weese. The improvements will be so extensive that we will be moving out for two years to temporary quarters at 1800 Sherman Ave.

This long overdue gut renovation will make the entire building wheelchair accessible and all classrooms “smart” as it adds offices and gives this venerable old building a sorely needed face lift. We anticipate attractive new graduate student quiet-study, office, and lounge areas, as well as a new department seminar room, a suite for the Center for Historical Studies, and many other enhancements.

In all these efforts, we have enjoyed generous support from our alumni donors, the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences Dean, and the central administration. We thank all of you for making our current success possible.

I hope you will enjoy reading more in this issue of the newsletter. Please note especially the call for alumni news. Discussions among faculty and graduate students have revealed that we here are less interested in news of the current inhabitants of Harris Hall than in the students who have earned their degrees and gone on to interesting careers of their own. So please do send updates for the next issue of this newsletter. Your achievements will inspire the graduate students now in the program and sustain their faculty advisors. We are eager to hear from you!

SEND US YOUR NEWS AND BOOK TITLES!
Future editions of the newsletter will have two new features, “Alumni News” and “Alumni Bookshelf.” Please send us the titles of any books you have published in the last 5 years, along with any recent news you would like to share.

Send as separate posts to Eric West, e-west@northwestern.edu, with the subject lines: ALUMNI NEWS and ALUMNI BOOKSHELF.

The Center for Historical Studies (CHS)
The Center for Historical Studies, established in 2006, invites faculty members and graduate students who work with historical materials to participate in an ongoing conversation about the core concerns of the historical discipline. Through various lecture series and focused workshops, the Center explores shared problems related to theory, methodology, and evidence. These events attempt to reach out beyond the particular concerns of various subfields and examine common intellectual concerns that energize the practice of history. The Center organizes its programs in cooperation with the members of the NU history department. But it also aspires to draw into its affairs a broader range of scholars and members of the Chicago community.

CHS currently hosts eight annual lectures, two graduate workshops, a jointly-sponsored lecture on the history of the book with the University Library, receptions honoring the authors of new books, and lectures especially designed to help graduate students deal with professional challenges connected with the publication of monographs and articles and the winning of fellowships and grants. Each year the Center selects two graduate students to serve as Fellows of the Center. These men and women are asked to organize one-day workshops. Already planned are sessions on environmental history, legal history, and social history. For undergraduate History majors CHS offers the opportunity and means to work closely with primary historical materials under the guidance of faculty, doing actual archival research and learning how to transform raw data into historical interpretation. Our first undergraduate Leopold Fellows will be selected for 2008-2009.

Lecturers to date have included Natalie Zemon Davis, David Blackbourn, Sheila Fitzpatrick, Emilio H. Kouri, Dorothy Ko, Gyan Prakash, Megan Vaughan, and Stephen Pitti. The Center is currently administered by a director (T.H. Breen), an assistant director (Elzbieta Foeller-Pituch), and a faculty council.
**Welcome to New History Faculty**

**Sherwin K. Bryant (Ph.D., Ohio State University, 2005)** is a faculty member in Northwestern American Studies with a joint appointment in History, specializes in colonial Latin American History with a particular emphasis upon slavery, race, and the modern African Diaspora, and has a book forthcoming that offers the first comprehensive analysis of slavery and slave life in the north Andes (Ecuador and southern Colombia).

**Dyan Elliott (Ph.D. Toronto, 1989), John Evans Professor of History, is a historian of western Europe in the Middle Ages, who studies gender, spirituality, and sexuality. Elliott’s publications include Spiritual Marriage: Sexual Abstinence in Medieval Widowhood (1993); Palleri Brides: Pollution, Sexuality, and Demography in the Middle Ages (1999); and Proving Woman: Female Spiritualities and Devotion: the Middle Ages. He has just completed a dissertation entitled, “Secretary-Poets in Mughal India” and has a book forthcoming that of- fers a joint appointment in History and Religion. He studies the Library of Congress’s John W. Kluge Center.

**Regina Grafe (Ph.D. London School of Economics and Political Science, 2001) is a his- torian of early modern Spain with a special interest in economic history. Her recent book, A Taste of Marble: Sex and Slavery in the Atlantic, traces the trans- formation of northern Spain in the wake of the region’s integration into the English North Atlantic in the 17th and 17th centuries. She is working on a book project that seeks to unravel the sources of ponerous, painful slow economic, political and social integration between the late 17th and the early 19th centuries.


**Rajeeta K. Kinra (Ph.D. University of Chicago, 2008) special- izes in South Asian intellectual history, particularly in early modern north India. He has just completed a dissertation entitled, “Secretary-Poets in Mughal India and the Ethics of Persian: The Case of Chandra Bhan Brahman.”

**John A. Lynn will join the faculty as a Distin- guished Professor of Military History Part- time in the fall of 2009, teaching three courses a year. His interests center on the history of Western and non- Western military institutions and war- fare. His books include Women, Armies, and Warfare in Early Modern Europe: Battle: A History of Combat and Culture; The Wars of Louis XIV, 1667-1714; Giant of the Grand Siécle: The French Army, 1610-1715; and The Bayeux of the Republican: Motivation and Tactics in the Atlantic Exchanges: Fractured Families in the Religion Depart- ment. He holds a joint appointment in History. He studies American Catholicism in both histori- cal and ethnographic perspective, as well as theory and method for the study of religion. His prize-winning publications include The Madonna of 15th Street: Faith and Community in Italian Harlem, 1890-1950, Thank You, Saint Jude:

**Kate Masur (Ph.D University of Michigan, 2003) works on questions of race and citizenship in the nine- teenth-century United States and is especially interested in cities, social movements, and political theory, as well as slave emancipations throughout the Atlantic World. Her dissertation, Reconstructing the Nation’s Capital: The Politics of Race and Citizenship in the District of Columbia, 1862–1878, received awards from the University of Michigan and the American Studies Association. She is an editor of Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861–1867, vols. 3, 2: Land and Labor, 1866–1867 (under contract with Cambridge University Press) and most recently revising her dis- sertation for publication. Kate joined the Northwestern faculty in fall 2005 after spending the previous year as a fellow at the Library of Congress’s John W. Kluge Center.

**Robert A. Orsi (Ph.D Yale, 1983) is the first- holder of the Grace Cooke and Nagle Chair in Catholic Studies in the Religion Depart- ment; he holds a joint appointment in History. He studies American Catholicism in both histori- cal and ethnographic perspective, as well as theory and method for the study of religion. His prize-winning publications include The Madonna of 15th Street: Faith and Community in Italian Harlem, 1890-1950, Thank You, Saint Jude:

**Sarah M. S. Pearisall (Ph.D. Harvard, 2003) focuses on early American his- tory, and is especially concerned with the in- terconnections between Atlantic and Caribbean Anglophone colonization, settlement, and revolution, and issues of gender, the family, sexuality, and the household. She is currently completing a book tentatively entitled Atlantic Exchanges: Fractured Families in the Age of the American Revolution.

**Amy Stanley (Ph.D. Harvard, 2007) special- izes in the history of early modern Japan. She is particularly interested in women’s history, the history of gangsters and the underworld, and the formation of social policy in early modern cities and towns. Her dissertation, which she is currently revising for publication, explores official and popular attitudes toward the sex trade in provincial Japan between 1600 and 1868.


**Great Success for the Graduate Program (2006-2007)**

A cademic year 2006-2007 was an exceptionally successful one for our current gra- duate students. Our students won 9 internal full-year research and writing grants, including one recipient of Northwestern’s most prestigious gradu- ate honors, the Presidential Fellowship. Additionally, two students were awarded four-year Javits Fellowships and others have garnered research fellowships from ACLS, DDAD, IREX, the Fulbright Commission and the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies.

In terms of admissions, the depart- ment received a record 268 complete appli- cations, a continuation of the upward trend in absolute numbers that began in the fall of 2002. The enormous size of the applicant pool resulted in a espe- cially competitive rate of acceptance: in all we accepted a mere 25.2% percent of those who sought admission to the PhD program. In September 2007 we welcomed a broad group of students interested in studying African, Asian, European, Latin American and US history.

The Department has also intro- duced several new initiatives to improve graduate opportunities for research and writing. Thanks to the generous support of NU History Department alumni, this fall we awarded the first History Alumni Teacher-Mentor Awards to Charlotte Cahill, Karl Gunnther and Britt Petersen. The Department has also announced a new grant for disserta- tion research exploration. This grant, which is also funded by donations from our alumni, is intended for students to conduct research during the summer after their second-year. In spring, we established a new prize to honor Bill Heyck’s extraordinary record of training and mentoring graduate students, The Thomas W. Heyck Prize, an annual prize of $1000 for research travel involving the British Isles. Students and friends who would like to help permanently endow the prize may do so in their donor letters.
We mourn the loss since the last newsletter of three distinguished colonists and beloved History professors.

Harold Perkin, one of the leading social historians of his era, died in London on October 15, 2004, after a short illness. Perkin retired in 1997, having come to Northwestern as professor of history in 1985, with his wife Joan Griffiths Perkin, a highly regarded historian of women in Britain.

Harold Perkin was born in 1926 in Hanley, later renamed Stoke-on-Trent, in the Potteries. His father was a construction worker, but he also had relatives in other social orders, from the poorest of laborers to well-off factory owners. “This society-wide family” as he called it, was his inspiration for social history. A self-described “clever clogs from the terraces,” Perkin won a scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge in 1945. In his memoir, The Making of a Social Historian (2002), he recalled his family’s shock at seeing the university’s lecture theatre and the library.

Perkin was one of the leaders of the “social history revolution” of the 1960s and 1970s. He served as editor from 1958 of the well-known series Studies in Social History. He was also the founder and first chairman of the Social History Society of the United Kingdom from 1976 to 1985. But of course he was best known for his own works of social history. His first book was The Origins of Modern English Society, 1780–1880 (1969), which remains a standard interpretation of the 18th century, and it involved enormous research. (1969). This superb book was awarded the Los Angeles Times Book Award for History in 1970. Perkin’s second book, The Rise of Professional Elites (1976), was his best seller, and it was followed by The Making of the Modern World Economy (1986), which was a major contribution to the history of British universities and academia in the 20th century.

Richard W. Leopold, a preeminent U.S. diplomatic historian, died of natural causes on November 23, 2006, in Evanston, Illinois. He was ninety-four.

Among the hundreds of former students and friends who profoundly affected their lives are former Sen. George McGovern (D-SD), former Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-MO), Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), former assistant secretary of state Phyllis Elliot O’Day, historian John Morton Blum (Sterling Professor Emeritus at Yale University), journalists George Anne Geyer, and television producer/director Garry Marshall. Kolbe wrote, “I used to say with great pride that I learned American diplomatic history at the feet of one of the greatest scholars in the United States—Dick Leopold. I knew that statement would not be challenged in or out of academic circles….”

Leopold has not only mastered his field but he has had a lifetime passion to convey his knowledge to teaching at Northwestern. During World War II, he was commissioned as a naval officer and worked at the Office of Naval Records and Library in Washington, DC. After the war, he returned to Harvard for two years before joining the Northwestern University faculty in 1948. Over the subsequent three decades there, Leopold was instrumental in Northwestern’s successful effort to build one of the finest collections of American history scholars ever assembled at a single institution of its size. In addition to

Harold Perkin

IN MEMORIAM continued

endorsement, it became a lifetime of friendship, and for those who respond, it became a lifetime of friendship. McGovern noted, “I believe that every thoughtful student who studied under Professor Leopold’s direction would agree that this country has produced no more dedicated and competent professor. He has not only mastered his field but he has had a lifetime passion to convey his knowledge to teaching at Northwestern. During World War II, he was commissioned as a naval officer and worked at the Office of Naval Records and Library in Washington, DC. After the war, he returned to Harvard for two years before joining the Northwestern University faculty in 1948. Over the subsequent three decades there, Leopold was instrumental in Northwestern’s successful effort to build one of the finest collections of American history scholars ever assembled at a single institution of its size. In addition to
Richard W. Leopold

Reaching out to the Community: Public History at Northwestern

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consisted of three summer institutes hosted at Northwestern University, beginning in 2004, where teachers focused on the essential questions, themes and issues of American history, and a year-long Historians-in-Residence program, where teachers collaborated with University professors through classroom observations and workshops led by period specialists.

Led by Lane Fenrich, senior lecturer in history, as academic director, assisted by Nancy MacLean, professor of history, as senior academic advisor, Northwestern U.S. history faculty provided the content and leadership for the program. The project was such a success that several faculty members—including Henry Flantor along with Fenrich and MacLean—have gone on to work with other TAH efforts in the greater Chicago area.

Northwestern History graduate students and faculty now also serve every spring in judging for the Chicago Metro History Fair, reading and assessing the work of area junior high and high school students competing in the National History Day contest.

Leopold served on numerous governmental advisory committees, including those for the Secretary of the Navy, State Department, Army, Marine Corps, Atomic Energy Commission, CIA, and Library of Congress. He was also a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee for The Papers of Woodrow Wilson and of the board of directors for the Harry S. Truman Library Institute. He was president of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations in 1970 and of the Organization of American Historians in 1976.

In 1984, Leopold’s former doctoral students established the Richard W. Leopold Prize, which is awarded biannually. In 1990, former students, colleagues, and friends established the annual Richard W. Leopold Lecture at Northwestern in his honor. In 1997, more than 230 former students collectively endowed the Richard W. Leopold Professorship in American history at Northwestern.

He is survived by a nephew, John P. Leopold, who lives in Centennial, Colorado. A former student, Steven J. Harper, has written Leopold’s biography, Struggling Worlds: The Jewish-American Journey of Professor Richard W. Leopold, which Northwestern University Press is publishing in early 2008.

—Steven J. Harper

Mr. Harper is a Chicago attorney and a member of the Center for Historical Studies Advisory Board

Clarence L. Ver Steeg,

Professor of History

In memoriam

continued

Regrettably, we will be listing only a small number of people who made the university what it is today,” said Bill Heyck, Ver Steeg’s colleague. “He was very instrumental in helping Northwestern develop from a kind of regional university to a top-level national university.”

“Having a world-class library and science facilities requires physical space, buildings and students,” said John Ver Steeg, Clarence’s son. “Northwestern University needed that, so the library and the Lakefill were absolutely essential for Northwestern to go from being a fine school to one of the best in the country.”

—Clarence L. Ver Steeg and his wife Dorothy

Ver Steeg attained the rank of full professor in 1959, the same year he was visiting professor at Harvard University where he was the First Senior Member of the Center for the Study of Liberty in America.

Ver Steeg headed the University’s Faculty Planning Committee on the 1960s that developed strategic plans for academic and research focus for the increasingly ambitious institutions. These plans, now largely implemented, envisioned increased emphasis on graduate education and research.

Ver Steeg also led committees that planned the construction of the University’s VeId campus and the expansion of its main library. The Lakefill comprises about 40 percent of the university’s usable land. The Ver Steeg Lounge on the third floor of the library is named in his honor.

He was one of the small number of people who made the university what it is today,” said Bill Heyck, Ver Steeg’s colleague. “He was very instrumental in helping Northwestern develop from a kind of regional university to a top-level national university.”

“He never failed to inspire me with his aspirations,” he said. “He was very instrumental in helping Northwestern develop from a kind of regional university to a top-level national university.”

“At the height of the Vietnam war protests in 1968, Leopold led the successful effort to prevent Northamptons from dismantling its Naval ROTC program, even though virtually all other comparable academic institutions were doing so. He made a three-fold case in favor of retaining the program. First, it benefited the nation. He was concerned about the potential need to mobilize quickly in times of war; he was also concerned about a military whose officer ranks came exclusively from the service academies and the limited perspectives they offered. Second, the program benefited the university. He noted the many noteworthy program participants who had enriched the university and who would have been unable to attend Northwestern without the NROTC’s financial support. Third, he argued that NROTC helped the students who participated. He was unmovd by those who argued that the program itself somehow impoverished the academy’s support for a controversial war or ‘the teaching of killing.’”

“We do not ban the teaching of nuclear physics because someone might make a bomb; we do not avoid the study of Marxism because the student might become a Communist; and we do not discourage the study of sexual deviants because the student himself might become one. Many of the program’s graduates went on to become career officers, some rose to the rank of admiral.”

Ingrid Stafford, associate vice president for financial operations and treasurer, described Ver Steeg as a great member of the NU community who had a passion for excellence. ‘‘His beliefs in core values about institutions were reflected in his planning of the university library and his services as the graduate school dean,’’ Stafford said. ‘‘He basically just committed his career to the excellence of the institution.’’

John Ver Steeg said his father viewed his role in the library’s development as his greatest accomplishment. ‘‘He was a very self-starter. L. Ver Steeg distinguished with a great combination of sweetness and drive,’’ his son said. ‘‘My mom has been sick for two years, and he was a full-time caregiver until two weeks before he died. Heyck said Ver Steeg was his mentor and a national leader who always wanted the best for the university. ‘‘Whether we were building a department or new library, hiring new people or developing a graduate program, he insisted that we aspire to the highest standards,’’ he said. ‘‘He never failed to inspire me with his high ideals.’’

Ver Steeg was named dean of the Graduate School in 1975. In his 11 years as dean, the school made many improvements, including the expansion of research and the development of the life sciences. In 1986, he resumed his teaching responsibilities and continued to teach popular courses in American history until his retirement in 1992.

Northwestern recognized Ver Steeg’s contributions to the University by establishing the Clarence L. Ver Steeg Professorship in the Arts and Sciences. In 2006, and he and his wife funded an endowed position at Northwestern for the Dorothy Ann and Clarence L. Ver Steeg Distinguished Research Fellow award, the University’s first endowed recognition for excellence in research by a Northwestern faculty member.

A native of Orange City, Iowa, Mr. Ver Steeg attended Northwestern Junior College, now Northwestern College, in Orange City. He joined the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1942 and saw combat as a navigator in a B-24 squadron, participating in missions over Hong Kong, New Guinea and the Philippines. He accumulated more than 400 hours of combat flight experience and was awarded the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and five battle stars.

Ver Steeg received a bachelor’s degree in absentia from Morningside College in 1943 and received a master’s degree in political science in 1946 and a doctorate in history in 1950 from Columbia University in New York City. While pursuing his graduate degrees, Ver Steeg served as a lecturer and instructor in Columbia’s history department.

In addition to his wife of more than 63 years, Dorothy, Mr. Ver Steeg is survived by a son, John Ver Steeg, and daughter-in-law, Jane (Pierson) Ver Steeg, of Washington, D.C.; and a sister, Nelvina Ver Steeg of Orange City.

Faculty Bookshelf

MACLEAN


MUIR


SHERRY

Ken Alder published the first installment of his project on the history of the forensic sciences in March 2007. His book, *The History of an American Obsession*, was published by the Free Press and is currently slated for translation into Japanese. He continues to direct the Science in Human Culture program, and currently serves as the inaugural director of a new humanities program for Northwestern freshmen, the Kaplan Humanities Scholars Program, which debuted in fall 2007. He seems to have done quite well as a professor, and he continues to be well received in the academic community.

Henry Birnbaum was honored and pleased to be selected by the senior class to deliver the faculty address at the WCAS Convocation in June 2006. In both of the past two summers he has participated in federally-funded projects to improve the teaching of US history through collaboration between secondary school and college instructors. These projects have involved middle- and high-school teachers from Evanston and Elgin, Illinois. He continues to work toward completion of his long-term research on 19th century slums.

In the academic year 2006-2007, Francesca Frommer spent the spring at the University of California, Berkeley, where she served as the Director of Graduate Studies in the History Department. In that role he has directed the admissions, recruitment and review processes for the department. He is happy to report that recruitment proved very successful: in September 2007 the Department welcomed a broad group of students interested in studying African, Asian, European, Latin American and US history. Professionally, Frommer has served as chair and a member of the Fellowship Committee, and made progress on his two book projects: a comprehensive history of Czechoslovakia and a comparative examination of the postwar process of reintegration in Europe as a whole. At the undergraduate level he is director of the Germanic Studies program at Northwestern, where he teaches East European and Russian history, and is currently slated for translation into Japanese.

Peter Carroll spent the summer and spring of 2006 in Shanghai and Tahiti researching his new book project on suicide and...
**FACULTY NEWS continued**

work on “Crime and Migration in the South China Sea, 1856-1927” at various conferences. She is currently enjoying her final year as a Charles Denning McCorry-Mick Professor of Teaching Excellence.

**Nancy MacLean** published Freedom Is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace (Harvard University Press and the Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), which won several awards in 2007, including the Philip Taft Award in labor history and the William Hazeltine Prize in legal history. She has just completed *The American Woman's Movement, 1945-2000: A Brief History with Documents* (to be released in summer 2008 by Bedford/St. Martin’s). Having discovered that travel offers respite from the daily email avalanche, she has been speaking widely, at havens including Duke University, the University of Michigan, Santa Barbara, Washington University, the University of Michigan, UCLA, the University of Wisconsin, University of Texas at Austin, Princeton University, and Emory University.

**Kate Masur** joined the faculty in fall 2005, after a yearlong fellowship at the Library of Congress’s John W. Kluge center. She is working on a book published in the *Journal of American History.* Thanks to an NEH fellowship, during 2007–2008 she is on leave finishing her book on the reconfiguration of civil rights in the Civil War era.

**Sarah Mazza** served as president of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in 2005–06. This is ironic since she has recently begun a project in twentieth-century history, a study of crime and class in 1930s Paris which centers on a notorious female particular. In the fall between major projects she published pieces on methodological subjects like New Historicism (why don’t literary critics and historians talk about the same language, even when they seem to?) and Intersubjectivity (why do our dears and provosts want it even more than we do?). This year she is enjoying a leave at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in sunny Palo Alto.

**Joel Muñoz** continues, against all odds, to overload the extreme of Deering Meadow, between the non-overlapping spheres of the hyper-rational economists of Arthur Andersen Hall and cultural-intellectual history of Harris Hall. In the past year or so he has received to satisfy some extent both ends of this spectrum, winning the biennial Heineken Prize for Historical Sciences awarded by the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences in 2006, and being elected President of the Midwestern Economic Associations. His long-suffering book ms., *The Enlightened Economy: An Economic History of Britain, 1700-1850* has grown to monstrous proportions that will fill his publishers’ hearts (Penguin and Yale University Press) with shock and awe, but he still has some hope at this point to put the final “save” on it. To what his reader’s appetite, chunks of it have appeared or will appear in print in various edited collections and sink like so many stones in Lake Michigan.

**Ed Mual** continues to spend much time as he can in Italy, and although those are many temptation to keep an eye on the archives, he does manage to get a little work done. For the past few years he has been deeply involved in helping the new University of Primorska in Slovenia, which has been sending Slovene students to work at Northwestern and has taken him to Slovenia on numerous occasions. In March 2006 he delivered the first annual Bernard Berenson Lectures at Emory University.

**Sarah Pearsall** joined the Northwestern History Department in September 2005. She had previously been a member of the Department of Modern History, St. Andrews University, Scotland, as well as a Mellon/National Endowment of Humanities Fellow at the Newberry Library. Since then, she has been working on completing her forthcoming book with Oxford University Press, *Families All at Sea: Atlantic Lives and Letters in the Age of the American Revolution,* as well as a relator ed article for a collection to be published by the University Press of Virginia. She has presented material at numerous conferences in the United States and Europe, and also co-organized (with Tim Breen) a conference on the American Revolution held at Northwestern in April 2006.

**Susan Pearson** has been busy talking to audiences in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Chicago, Urbana, and Cologne about cruelty to animals and children. She has also published essays about the concept of cruelty and the history of animal rights activism.

**Dylan Penningroth** spent the 2006-07 year at the Newberry Library as an NEH fellow, working on his project “Law and Everyday Life Among Black Southerners, 1865-1930.” He managed to arrive in Washington DC just as a historic flood shut down the National Archives. While DC dried out, he moved to Richmond, Virginia, in search of legal records and vinegar barbecue. Penningroth served on two conference program committees (the Organization of American Historians and the Southern Historical Association). In 2007, he will be jointly appointed at the American Bar Foundation as a Research Fellow for a five-year term.

**Yohana Petrovskaya-Shtern** was happy to finally submit two of his books, *Dogfight into Modernity: Jews in the Russian Army, 1827-1917* to Stanford University Press, and *The Anti-Imprial Choice: the Making and Unmaking of the Ukrainian Jew to Yale University Press. He published a long paper at an international conference in London, *The Enlightenment in British and Continental Studies*, articles presented at international conferences in Oxford, Moscow, Tel Aviv, Washington, D.C., and San Diego, appeared at Chicago Public Radio with commentaries on the present-day Ukraine, and received an NEH Summer Grant to do the fieldwork on a new book project, *Making and Unmaking of the Ukrainian Jew* in summer 2006. In fall 2006 he will be jointly appointed at the American Bar Foundation as a Research Fellow for a five-year term.

**Carl F. Petry** has spent the academic year 2005–06 chairing a committee appointed by the WCAS Dean to examine curricular faculty resources relative to the Middle East, and to recommend hires. The committee’s recommendations is currently being acted upon by the central administration– and has resulted in a new Modern Middle East position in our department to be filled this year. Despite the time consumed by this project, he participated in conferences on medieval Egyptian history convened in Haifa, Jerusalem and Cairo during April. He read papers dealing with legal controversies over payment of blood money to compensate relatives of homicide victims, and gang activity in Mandal Cairo and Damascus (14th-15th centuries).

**David Schoenbrun** was a Senior Fellow in 2006-2007 at Northwestern’s Alice Berline Kaplan Humanities Center, where he worked on his manuscript project tentatively entitled, *Knowledge, Faith, and Power: A History of Qur’an Schooling in Bengal.*

**Cary Wills** lectured at the Clinton Library, addressed the Democratic House Caucus at its issue retreat, and published two books: *What Jesus Meant and What Paul Meant.*
**Two History Grads Win Delores Zohrad Liebmann Fellowships**

David Davidson values community. He aspires to a professorship at a small liberal arts college where he can cultivate a community of learners. At Northwestern, David impressed senior faculty with his aplomb at organizing a national conference on the American Revolution. His aptitude at this task coincides with David’s engaging personality. He has earned the affection and respect of his colleagues with his combination of humility and humor.

David has conducted funded research at numerous historical repositories. Although these research excursions allowed David to pursue the comparative scholarly benefits over crumbling folios and cafeteria borders form brief yet intense relationships between David and his collaborators among his historical subjects. David’s academic success follows in the same pattern; it allows him to expand his personal knowledge while enriching the intellectual life of our university and the historical profession.

Brian Maxson has followed his academic passions from small-town Michigan to Renaissance Florence. En route, he has encountered and conquered the many barriers standing in the way of a working class student with academic aspirations. Fortunately, Brian possessed the fortitude, and his professors possessed the foresight, to advance Brian’s intellectual and scholarly potential.

As an undergraduate, Brian inherited $3,000 from his grandmother. Instead of buying a used car or new stereo, he cut off his blue hair and bought airline tickets for Italy. He flew away from his adolescent rebellion to Florence, the site of 15th Century Europe’s Renaissance and his own. In Italy, he confirmed his passion for the period and place. Brian returned to Michigan State University convinced that he wanted to make Renaissance Florence the center of his academic career. With the guidance of his undergraduate adviser and now Northwestern Professor Edward Muir, he has caught up with and surpassed his peers.

Brian has worked to overcome the academic deficits of his childhood. With the guidance of first his undergraduate advisers and now Northwestern Professor Edward Muir, he has been able to complete his ascent from rural rebel to scholar. David’s first dissertation chapter demonstrates his aptitude at converting sound research into cogent argument. With the aid of the Liebmann Fellowship, this outstanding young man will be able to complete his ascent from rural rebel to sophisticated scholar.

Brian has interviewed over 100 people in Italy, including professional musicians, amateurs, and his compatriots. He has written and presented scholarly papers and articles for Italian journals and presented papers at both national and international conferences. He has also performed as a singer in two choirs and a semi-professional musician, the same pattern; it allows him to expand his personal knowledge while enriching the intellectual life of our university and the historical profession.

In between, Heyck was busy. He raised two marvelous children, of whom he is ridiculously proud. Now he is retired, with a Texan in the Oval Office, and the U.S. embroiled in a pointless war, this time in Iraq. He thinks there is less in this, but doesn’t know what it is.

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**SEND US YOUR NEWS AND BOOK TITLES**

If you have news or book titles for the newsletter, please send us the titles of any books you have published in the last 5 years, along with any relevant news you would like to share. Send as separate posts to Eric West, ewest@northwestern.edu, with the subject lines: ALUMNI NEWS and ALUMNI BOOKSHELF.
40+ years in Harris Hall, by Jock McLane

So much has changed since I arrived in Harvy Hall in 1961. It is not just the disappearance of the typewriter and the mimeograph machine. Our demography is transformed. The History Department contained about ten members then, all male. Our offices were on the upper two floors and Political Science was on the lower floors. Initially, life was more austere and I shared an office with Jim Sheridan, who also began in 1961. Neither of us ever received paternity leave.

Our senior colleagues were gracious to the newcomers, and it seemed that we all went to a colleague’s house for dinner almost every weekend. After dinner on some occasions, our wives retired to an almost every weekend. After dinner on some occasions, our wives retired to an almost every weekend. After dinner on some occasions, our wives retired to an almost every weekend. After dinner on some occasions, our wives retired to an almost every weekend.

Eventually, the history of the living room study in China, Uganda, South Africa, and many other places in Northwestern programs, and hundreds more attend study in China, Uganda, South Africa, and many other places in Northwestern programs, and hundreds more attend study in China, Uganda, South Africa, and many other places in Northwestern programs, and hundreds more attend study in China, Uganda, South Africa, and many other places in Northwestern programs, and hundreds more attend study in China, Uganda, South Africa, and many other places in Northwestern programs, and hundreds more attend.

There remains largely the same is that undergraduates like History courses. But now they can reach us by e-mail.

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Jock McLane

Henry Bienen and Bill Heyck

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