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A Word from the Chair(s)

The first semester of my second year as chair was dedicated mostly to implementing the department’s ambitious new hiring plan and to other faculty recruitment opportunities. Along with searches in Modern China and in Early Medieval Mediterranean, we pursued a target of opportunity appointment in the Modern Middle East, and a preselect appointment in East-Central Europe. Together with Africana Studies we sought a director for the future Center on Slavery and Justice, and, finally, we cooperated with the Watson Institute in a search for a new Diplomacy Studies appointment. Many of these initiatives are still on going.

As for now, I am delighted to welcome our new outstanding medievalist, Jonathan Conant, who brings with him also expertise in early Islam and North Africa.

Much of the hard work entailed in these searches was led brilliantly by Karl Jacoby, who replaced me while I was on leave in the spring semester. Before I let him conclude this report, I wish to thank Mr. Peter Green, whose generous contribution will greatly enhance our graduate program under the effective guidance of Robert Self.

I wish us all yet another successful year of teaching, writing, and welcoming new faculty members into our ranks.

— Omer Bartov

2011 marked an unexpected turning point for me. Having begun my relationship with the Brown History Department back in the 1980s as an uncertain first-year undergraduate studying History 1 with Donald Rohr, I returned to Brown’s History Department in the 1990s as an untenured assistant professor and become a tenured professor in the 2000s. Then, much to my surprise, in the spring of 2011, I was asked to fill in as Department Chair while Omer Bartov was taking some well-deserved leave in Taiwan.

As chair, one is first among equals. I was fortunate enough to have the help and patience of my colleagues as I set about learning the ropes of my new position. It was an especially dizzying time to be chair. As Omer notes in his letter, the History Department finds itself at the center of several important campus-wide initiatives relating to the Watson Center, Africana Studies, American Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies, among others. All of these initiatives, many of them still in process, promise to bring innovative new scholars to Brown and to connect the History Department even more integrally to intellectual life throughout the university.
The Department’s excitement at the arrival of new colleagues like our recently hired new medievalist, Jonathan Conant, was tempered by its bittersweet feelings upon the departure this year of Engin Akarli. Engin has been at Brown for fifteen years, most recently as the Joukowsky Family Distinguished Professor of Modern Middle East History. During his tenure at Brown, Engin quickly established himself as one of the most popular teachers in the History Department, with his classes on the modern Middle East drawing hundreds of students, and as a wise and considerate colleague. During the 2011-2 academic year, Engin will be in Turkey on a Fulbright Fellowship. For Engin and his wife, Tuna, this trip to Turkey completes a cycle of sorts. Originally from Cyprus, Engin came to the U.S. in 1969 to pursue graduate work at the University of Wisconsin and Princeton, and ended up remaining in the U.S. for the next forty years. When their fellowship year is over, Engin and Tuna plan to remain in Turkey. The Department wishes Engin and Tuna well on their new adventure, and only wish they were not going so far away. Fortunately, in this age of global interconnectivity, Engin should still be accessible on email. Former students and colleagues can reach him at Engin_Akarli@brown.edu.

Wishing you the best, wherever you may find yourself in 2011-2,

– Karl Jacoby
Cover Image/Conant
The Roman Forum

**The Roman Forum is a microcosm for the collapse of the empire in the West.** Roman emperors had long littered the forum with monuments to their victories over foreign adversaries and rebels against the imperial order, including the arches of Titus (background) and Septimius Severus (foreground), which respectively celebrated the suppression of a Jewish insurgency and a successful campaign against the Persian Empire. Severus’ arch, however, also foreshadows the military challenges that the empire would face along its eastern and northern frontiers in late antiquity – challenges that drew the emperors away from Rome and ensured that, from the late third century onward, the Eternal City was no longer regularly an imperial residence. Rome was, for the most part, left to the Senate, whose curia or meeting house (to the left, behind Severus’ arch) was rebuilt after a fire that swept through the forum in 283. Frontier conflicts in the third and fourth centuries gave way in the fifth to the establishment of autonomous “barbarian” kingdoms across the empire’s western Mediterranean provinces; in particular, the establishment of the Vandal kingdom in the territory of modern Tunisia, Algeria, and western Libya severed the tax spine that had fed Rome’s urban poor for free on tributary African grain. In fifty years, the city’s population was cut in half, from roughly 800,000 to about 350,000. Rome itself was also subject to attack. In 409 the city was sacked by a Visigothic army; in 455 the Vandal king led an expedition against Rome that resulted in the looting of the palace (located on the wooded hill in the right background) and the pillaging of the gilded bronze tiles from the roof of the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus (from the site of which this picture was taken). The city nevertheless remained important to the ideology of imperial power, and as late as the seventh century the emperor Phocas had a statue of himself erected atop a single standing column in the middle of the forum (right, middle ground). But late antiquity also saw the birth of a new vision of the city throughout the Mediterranean world, one that deemphasized the old civic and religious structures of the pagan past, and gloried instead in ecclesiastical architecture. In the seventh century the Senate House itself was converted into a church dedicated to St. Hadrian, and as the new city of medieval and early modern Rome was born, many of the forum’s other classical buildings were similarly converted to ecclesiastical use – or else mined for their brick and marble, which were used to adorn new edifices in a city now subject to Papal authority. In my book, I studied the afterlife of Romanness in the face of imperial collapse from the perspective of Rome’s North African provinces. Spending a year at the American Academy in Rome gave me an invaluable opportunity to reflect on these transitions from the very different perspective of the imperial center.

– Jonathan P. Conant

We might say that in looking carefully at a context of a painting almost 400 years old, we can recognize not only its unique brilliance, but some of the elements common to our own world as well.
Recent Faculty Books


Recent Faculty Books


New Faculty

Jonathan P. Conant will be joining the faculty as assistant professor in the fall of 2011. His research focuses on the interregional integration of the Mediterranean and the transition from antiquity to the middle ages. His book, Staying Roman: Conquest and Identity in Africa and the Mediterranean, 439-700 (Cambridge University Press, in production), represents the first historical examination of the fate of Roman identity in the region of modern Tunisia and Algeria after the collapse there of Roman power, from the Germanic Vandals’ capture of the territory in the early fifth century, through the sixth-century Byzantine reconquest, down to the Islamic invasions of the Maghrib in the late seventh and early eighth centuries. He has also written shorter pieces on the dissemination of North African saints’ cults into medieval Western Europe and the Byzantine Empire, on rural literacy in late fifth-century North Africa, on documentary practice in late Roman Africa, and on the North African Jewish community under the Vandal regime. His second book, tentatively entitled The Carolingians and the Ends of Empire, ca. 751-888 seeks to reassess the Carolingians’ understanding of the aims and responsibilities of empire in light of their wide-reaching external relations and of the long-term survival of Roman ideas in the medieval West.

Visiting and affiliated faculty

Shiva Balaghi, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities at Cogut Center for the Humanities
Christopher Barthel, Visiting Assistant Professor
Haydon Cherry, Visiting Instructor
Caroline Frank, Visiting Lecturer
Vitor Izecksohn, Visiting Fulbright Professor
Konstantinos Kornetis, Visiting Assistant Professor
Jane Lancaster, Visiting Assistant Professor
Adrian Lopez-Denis, Visiting Assistant Professor
Rebecca More, Visiting Scholar
Jeremy Mumford, Visiting Assistant Professor
Timothy Walker, Visiting Assistant Professor
Colin Wilder, Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Political Theory Project

THANK YOU!
Faculty Activities

**Engin Akarli’s** “Islamic Law in the Ottoman Empire” appeared in *The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History*. His “Maslaha: From ‘Common Good’ to ‘Raison d’état’ in the Experience of Istanbul Artisans, 1730-1840” was published in *Essays in Honor of Kemal Karpat*. He delivered papers on “Ottoman Historiography” at Koç University in Istanbul in December; “Trans-religious Relations among Istanbul Artisans” at Brown University in October; “Paradigmatic Implications of the Decline Discourse in Ottoman Historiography” at American University of Beirut in December, 2010, and “An Islamic Law in a Multi-religious Empire: The Ottoman Case,” at George Mason University in March 2011. Finally, Akarli was awarded a senior Fulbright fellowship to advise the newly established History Department of Istanbul Sehir (City) University and to conduct research on legal cases involving endowments of commercial buildings in eighteenth-century Istanbul.

As department chair during the fall semester **Omer Bartov** found himself engaged – along with many colleagues – in numerous efforts to recruit new faculty members. This was an exciting albeit exhausting semester and Bartov was glad to take a planned leave at National Taiwan University during the spring semester, while Karl Jacoby replaced him as chair with great verve and efficiency. While writing a chapter in his new book and teaching a class of smart Taiwanese students, Karl led the hire of our new medievalist, Jonathan Conant, and the on-going efforts to fill positions in such diverse areas as Modern China, the Modern Middle East, East-Central Europe, as well as joint hires in Diplomatic Studies and the planned Center for Slavery and Justice. Professor Bartov hopes that some if not all of these will be brought to a successful conclusion in the coming year, his last as department chair.

**Cynthia Brokaw** is a historian of late imperial China, specializing in the study of publishing and book culture. In the fall of 2010, “From Woodblocks to the Internet: Chinese Publishing and Print Culture in Transition, circa 1800 to 2008” a volume of essays on modern Chinese print culture edited with Christopher Reed, was published by Brill. Professor Brokaw’s current project, “Chinese Book Culture on the Qing Frontier,” focuses on the role that woodblock publishing and the spread of book culture played in the integration of frontier regions into the Qing Empire and the early Republican nation.

**Paul Buhle** is now putting together a hasty anthology called “It Started in Wisconsin” for Verso Books, while producing comic-art volumes (the latest is “Yiddishkeit” from Abrams Books) and a little volume on his boyhood hero, “Robin Hood” (PM Press).

**Caroline Castiglione** is working on the completion of “Accounting for Affection: Mothering and Politics in Rome, 1630-1730,” a book-length project under contract with Palgrave Macmillan. In April she gave an invited lecture related to the project at the University of South Florida: “At the Nexus of Impossibility: The Medical and the Maternal in Seventeenth-Century Rome.” She has developed several new courses this year, including Word, Image, and Power in Renaissance Italy, an interdisciplinary course co-taught with Professor Evelyn Lincoln in Art History.
Howard Chudacoff has been continuing work for his current book project on major turning points in the history of modern intercollegiate athletics. He made a research trip to the NCAA archives in Indianapolis and has been writing chapters. He also gave several lectures based on his recent book, “Children at Play.”

Harold J. (Hal) Cook was delighted to have joined the Brown History Department last year as the John F. Nickoll Professor in History. His chief current research interest is examining how ideas were exchanged between Europe and East Asia in the early modern period (as usual working with examples from medicine), on which he published one paper and finished another, among other results. He also published two shorter pieces and a historiographical sketch for Isis. Papers were presented at several venues and he has been a co-founder of a new Brown interest group (for the history of medicine) and an international society (History of Medicine in Southeast Asia); and he has been made a member of the editorial boards of the Bulletin for The History of Medicine and the American Historical Review. A book project on the knowledge economy of early modern Europe is gestating.

Douglas Cope is preparing a manuscript on the informal economy in eighteenth-century Mexico City.

Carolyn J. Dean is stepping down from her position as Senior Associate Dean of the Faculty to become the interim director of the Watson Institute for International Studies. Her last book, “Aversion and Erasure: The Fate of the Victim after the Holocaust” was published by Cornell University Press in December, 2010.

Linford D. Fisher is grateful to have spent this past academic year as a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the Massachusetts Historical Society. This time away from Brown allowed him to revise and complete his book manuscript, “The Indian Great Awakening: Rethinking Native Christianization in Early America,” which should be out with Oxford University Press in 2012. Linford was also grateful to receive two fellowships towards his next book project, which is an in-depth study of the varieties of servitude and slavery among Africans and Indians in colonial New England. These fellowships allowed him to work with several graduate students on research this summer as well as to take a few research trips, including to Bermuda in June 2011.

MARY GLUCK continues exploring problems of Jewish assimilation in Central Europe as well as urban cultures and bohemian identities. She co-authored an article with Lajos Csaszi entitled “The Budapest Cow Parade,” coming out in a volume on Hungarian Cultural Studies using theoretical and ethnographic methods to explore the nature of popular public art and its contributions to urban citizenship. She completed an article, “Dressing Up: Bohemia, Commerce and the Creation of the Artist’s Life,” commissioned by editors of a volume on Fashion and Art published by Berg Publishers in 2011. In September, she delivered the Mosse Lectures at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, dealing with related themes of Jewish flaneurs, humor and popular entertainment in fin-de-siècle Budapest. For Fall 2011, she received a Senior Fellowship at the International Center for Cultural Studies in Vienna to work on current book project, “The Invisible Jewish Budapest: The Making of a Central European Metropolis.”

ELLIOTT GORN taught his classes, wrote a little, and went to Coney Island.

JAMES N. GREEN received an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship to work on “Exiles within Exiles: Herbert Daniel, Brazilian Gay Revolutionary,” that reconsiders connections between issues of class, politics, and identity in Brazil and their relationship to everyday performances of gender and sexuality. “Exiles within Exiles” is a biography of Herbert Daniel, a former medical student, guerrilla fighter, political exile, and AIDS activist. An American Philosophical Society Franklin Sabbatical Research grant allowed him to finish oral histories and archival work for the project in Brazil. Green also chairs the Thomas E. Skidmore Book Prize Committee that honors the eminent Brown professor emeritus of Brazilian history. Co-sponsored by the Brazilian National Archive and the Brazilian Studies Association, the prizewinner will receive a $5,000.00 award for the best book in Portuguese on modern Brazilian history, to subsidize the book’s translation into English and its publication by a U.S. academic press.

This year FRANÇOISE HAMLIN was on teaching leave after receiving a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Award. She finished “Crossroads at Clarksdale: The Black Freedom Struggle in the Mississippi Delta after World War II” (University of North Carolina Press, 2012) and started work on another book-length research project. She also wrote two articles, presenting her work multiple times. She lectured at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Center for the Study of the American South, and was the Black History Month keynote at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. Hamlin chaired panels in three national conferences: the Berkshire Conference for Women Historian, the Labor and Working-Class History Association’s 100th Anniversary commemoration of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, and the Haitian Studies Association Conference. Lastly, she serves as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Africana Studies, as an Advisory Board member for the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, and as First and Second Year Advisor.
Tim Harris published two articles: ‘Popular, Plebeian, Culture: Historical Definitions’, in Joad Raymond, ed., The Oxford History of Popular Print Culture, Volume 1: Beginnings to 1660 (Oxford University Press) and ‘England’s “little sisters without breasts”: Shaftesbury and Scotland and Ireland’, in John Spurr, ed., Anthony Ashley Cooper, The First Earl of Shaftesbury 1621-1683 (Ashgate). Harris is working on forthcoming study of “The Stuart Kings and the Age of Revolutions” for Oxford University Press. From late May until end of July he was a visiting research fellow at the Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin. (In addition to drinking lots of Guinness, making it down to Blarney to kiss the stone, and up to Drogheda to visit the site of the Battle of Boyne.) On leave during academic year 2011-12 at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, he would be pleased to hear from former students living in the area.

Patricia Herlihy, Professor Emerita, is enjoying a second retirement. Her book “Vodka: A Global History”, Reaktion Press, London is in press. She continues to work on her biography of Eugene Schuyler (1840-90) for which she received an Andrew W. Mellon Emeriti Fellowship. In July, she went to her native city San Francisco for 10 days and made her first visit to Fort Ross ninety miles north of San Francisco so that she would have a sense of a once Russian place for her book review of “Russian America: An Overseas Colony of a Continental Empire, 1801-1867” by Ilya Vinkovetsky. Her review is in press with the Journal of Interdisciplinary History. In September-October she lectured on a Brown Alumni cruise on the Black Sea, touring Greece, Romania, Ukraine, and Turkey. Her grandson David Herlihy, a senior concentrator in chemistry, loves Brown as does sister Anna, a sophomore concentrating in computer science.

Evelyn Hu-DeHart will be a Visiting Scholar at Tsinghua University in Beijing, September through January, hosted by the Department of Foreign Languages/Literature, and the Center for Chinese Entrepreneur Studies. She and co-editors at Brown signed a contract with NYU Press to publish a new book, tentatively entitled “Ciencia Política: The Scientific Analysis of Latino Politics in the U.S.” The unique quality of this collection is that all research articles are based on one data set, the Latino National Survey. While at Tsinghua University she plans to begin writing a book synthesizing the history of Chinese who migrated/settled overseas, from the 16th century to present. The book will utilize the rich scholarship produced on Chinese in Southeast Asia and North America, as well as her own primary research on Chinese in Latin America and the Caribbean. During her time at Tsinghua, she welcomes any visitor from the Department to Beijing!
This was Nancy Jacobs’s final year as Director of Undergraduate Studies and the year when the History Honors Workshop was inaugurated. In the Workshop, students at all stages of the thesis-writing process come together to read and discuss each other’s work. Also in 2010-11 her manuscript for the first volume of “Africa’s Long Twentieth Century: Africa during Colonial Rule” was accepted by Cambridge University Press. The volume includes more than 120 primary sources – documents, photographs, interviews, song lyrics – arranged as a narrative on the history of sub-Saharan Africa from the mid-19th century until 1955. Many entries in this book were generated in collaboration with students. In recognition for her work as DUS and for incorporating students into research for “Africa’s Long Twentieth Century,” this spring she was awarded the Harriet W. Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning. The citation is accessible here: http://brown.edu/Administration/Sheridan_Center/award/recipients.html - Jacobs <http://brown.edu/Administration/Sheridan_Center/award/recipients>

In addition to serving as interim chair, Karl Jacoby gave talks at the University of Pennsylvania, Southern Methodist University, and Indiana University. He wrote an op-ed for the Los Angeles Times about the controversy over naming the operation against Bin Laden “Geronimo” http://articles.latimes.com/2011/may/10/opinion/la-oe-jacoby-geronimo-20110510 and continued to research his current project on slavery along the U.S.-Mexico border.

While continuing work on his book, “Uncertain Mandate: The Federal Role in Education from the 1940s to the 1980s,” Carl Kaestle participated on a task force that made recommendations to Congress about the reauthorization of the Department of Education’s research operations, and he gave the keynote address at a celebration of the life and work of William Taylor, a civil rights lawyer who died last year. Taylor, who began his legal career working on the second Brown decision for the NAACP, later served as chief of staff of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. His papers will be housed at George Washington University, which sponsored the event.

In 2010-2011 Burr Litchfield continued his new study of Portuguese language and history in the Portuguese Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. He presented a paper: “A New Area of Interest for Florentine Patricians under the Medici Duchy: The Iberian and Atlantic Worlds” in a conference at the University of Groningen (Netherlands) in March. He and his partner Gardner Chace were in Italy in May. He commutes to Providence frequently to use the Brown and John Carter Brown Libraries. He and his partner continue to live in Westport Massachusetts.
Steven Lubar has been director of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology this year. The collections are now more easily available for faculty use, and history professors have been among those who have begun to use them for teaching. The Museum produced several student-curated exhibits on historical themes this year and next year will commemorate the 375th anniversary of the founding of Providence with an exhibition on Native and English material culture in 17th century Rhode Island. Lubar continues as head of the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage, focusing this year on the links between public history and public art. They will expand that work internationally next year and were delighted to receive a grant from Brown’s Office of International Affairs for research projects in global humanities to extend our collaboration to urban cultural heritage projects in Istanbul, Hong Kong, Dublin, and Capetown.

Maud Mandel was on leave in 2010-2011 to complete her monograph on Muslim/Jewish relations in North Africa and France from 1948 until contemporary times. Talks from that project included a presentation at the annual Association for Jewish Studies Conference in Boston in December 2010. She continues to lecture regularly on the rebuilding of Armenian and Jewish life in post-war France, including in the upcoming year at Boston University and the University of Michigan. She has also begun research on her next monograph on inter-ethnic relations in 20th century Marseille, France.

James McClain spent the 2010-2011 in Kyoto, where he was affiliated with the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies and held an appointment as an Invited Professor at Doshisha University. During the year he travelled to China and South Korea on several occasions, where he gathered material to use in courses at Brown and for his book project on the Japanese middle class in the twentieth century. He also was able to spend a week in North Korea.

With his retirement from the European University Institute on 1 July 2010, in his grand-daughter’s words, Tony Molho became professor emeritus square. After spending the autumn seeing his edition of Matteo da Panzano’s ricordi through the press, starting 1 January 2011, he was Visiting Fellow at Columbia University’s Italian Academy where he worked on his history of European historians in their American exile, from 1933 to 1968. For the year 2011-2012 he will be Global Distinguished Professor at NYU, splitting his time between New York City and Florence. Concurrently, he is co-editing a special issue of Jewish History on the history of Jews in Salonika, from the 15th to the late 20th centuries, and continues on the selection committee of the European Research Council. So, one way or another, he is doing his best to apply an Italian saying, that, at his age, one must learn to ingannare il tempo.
Tara Nummedal spent the 2010-11 academic year at the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA, where an ACLS Burckhardt Fellowship supported her current book on the alchemist and prophet Anna Zieglerin, “The Lion’s Blood: Alchemy, Gender, and Apocalypse in Reformation Germany.” She gave talks on this project at Washington University in St. Louis, UCLA, Stanford, USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, and the Academia Sinica in Taipei, and two related essays have just appeared in the June 2011 issue of *Isis* and in *Secrets and Knowledge in Medicine and Science, 1500-1800*, ed. Leong and Rankin. Nummedal continues to serve as the President of the New England Renaissance Conference and is a member of the editorial board of the journal Osiris, as well as the Executive Committee of the History of Science Society.

Caroline Cortina received her history PhD in May 2011 – the last student to do so under James Patterson’s partial direction. Congratulations, Chrissy! Patterson expects a book of his, tentatively titled “The First Year of ‘The Sixties’: How 1965 Changed America” to appear (Basic Books) some time in 2012.

Ethan Pollock continued to teach courses on the history of Russia and the USSR and to work on his book manuscript, “Without the Bania We Would Perish: A History of the Russian Bathhouse.” As part of his research on that project, he wrote an article that uses statistical analysis to test oft-made claims about the public health benefits of the bathhouse in the Russian Empire. His reviews this year appeared in *Metascience* and the *Times Literary Supplement*. For fun he participated in a workshop in Munich, Germany on the “Intellectual History of the Cold War.”

Kurt Raaflaub, David Herlihy University Professor and Professor of Classics and History emeritus, continues work on two large and a few small research projects. The Mellon Foundation awarded him a Mellon Emeritus Fellowship. In March he gave at Brown a programmatic lecture on one of these projects, followed by five prepared comments and general discussion. Another of his lectures compared Thornton Wilder’s *The Ides of March* with works on Julius Caesar’s dictatorship by two German authors: Bertold Brecht and Walter Jens. Lecture trips took Raaflaub to South Korea for a meeting of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean ancient historians, and to St. Petersburg and Moscow. He has published an edited volume on *The Roman Empire in Context: Historical and Comparative Perspective*. There are few dull moments in his life but he is always reachable on email [Kurt_Raaflaub@Brown.edu].

Amy G. Remensnyder enjoyed teaching her classes and being the Director of Brown’s Program in Medieval Studies. She also published four articles and a co-edited volume of essays entitled “Why the Middle Ages Matter: Medieval Light on Modern Injustice” (Routledge).
Joan Richards spent the 2010-2011 academic year as a Visiting Fellow Commoner at Trinity College in Cambridge England. Behind this somewhat arcane designation, lies a very quiet and productive sabbatical year at one of the oldest colleges in the world. Over the course of nine months focused on writing she completed two articles and moved her book on the development of rationality in the Frend/De Morgan family to the verge of completion. She is looking forward to finishing the book this fall, even as she resumes her teaching at Brown.


Kenneth Sacks presented a number of talks on Hellenistic history and historiography and continues to work on the intersection of philosophy and spirituality in antiquity, broadening out to include early Islamic neo-Platonism.

Robert Self spent 2010-2011 putting the finishing touches on his book manuscript, which is scheduled to be published by Hill and Wang in 2012. His research took him to Little Rock, Arkansas – where the Clinton Presidential Papers, though still in the early stages of being processed, yielded fresh insights – as well as Chicago and Madison, Wisconsin. He gave talks or papers at Harvard University, Temple University, and California State University, Fullerton and presented a paper at the American Society for Legal History annual conference in Philadelphia. His co-authored textbook, “America’s History,” appeared from Bedford/St. Martin’s in January, and he gave several talks related to its launch: in Huntington Beach, California, Miami, and Dartmouth, Massachusetts. He spent much of the year learning the duties of Director of Graduate Studies and working with the new dean of the Graduate School to place the department’s PhD program on a sound footing.
Naoko Shibusawa finished an article, “The Lavender Scare and Empire: Rethinking Cold War Antigay Politics,” for a special issue on gender and sexuality in Diplomatic History. She was invited to give talks or participate in conferences in Giverny, France, Cambridge University, SUNY-Binghamton, and the University of Chicago. She served on the program committee for the 2012 annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians and became a member of the Gender & History Collective. Service at Brown included: freshman advising, sophomore advising, concentration advising, UTRA advising, Mellon Mays advising, Sheridan Faculty Liaison, Sheridan Center board, Third World Center board, search committee for the director of the Third World Center, the Committee on Faculty Equity and Diversity, and the Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsible Investment Policy.

During the past year Thomas Skidmore’s attention has been taken up with the retranslation of all his books on Brazilian history and society by a leading publishing house in Brazil. The first one has now come out and is beautifully done. The next one should follow before the end of 2011. The royalties will finance a prize to be awarded every two years to a young Brazilian scholar writing on a topic and time period covered by Professor Skidmore’s work. The prize has been announced and Jim Green (who arranged the whole thing!) tells Skidmore that several excellent manuscripts have been submitted. Skidmore was also pleased to enjoy the success of two of his Brown graduate students—Jerry D’Avila, whose appointment to a history professorship at the University of Illinois included becoming Director of the Institute of Brazilian Studies there; and Brian Bockelman, who published a featured article on Argentine cultural history in the American Historical Review.

Kerry Smith continues to work on a book about the 1923 Great Kanto earthquake and the construction of catastrophe in modern Japan. These topics, tragically, gained new relevance after Japan’s multiple disasters of March 2011. Smith organized a campus-wide “teach-in” on the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear “accidents,” and spoke about the history of earthquakes and disaster in Japan as a guest on NPR’s The Takeaway. He also appeared on CNN and other media outlets. Smith continues as Chair of East Asian Studies.

Tracy Steffes, assistant professor of Education and History, was on leave this past year enabled by fellowships from the National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She completed work on her book, “School, Society, and State: A New Education to Govern Modern America, 1890-1940,” which will be published by University of Chicago Press in spring 2012. Steffes participated in the National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education sponsored by the Teagle Foundation and presented her work at Amherst College and the American Educational Research Association annual meeting in New Orleans.

In 2010-11, Michael Steinberg published six short articles, including essays on Wagner’s operas Das Rheingold and Die Walkuere for the Teatro alla Scala, Milan, and the Berlin State Opera, on whose joint productions of the Ring cycle he is serving as dramaturg. He offered lectures at the Universities of Cape Town, Haifa (at a conference on “Race and the Humanities”) and California/Berkeley (as a respondent to Leon Botstein’s Tanner Lectures on Human Values) the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (at a conference on “The Exegetical Imagination”) and the Nexus Institute Annual Conference in Amsterdam. He continues as director of the Cogut Center for the Humanities and in spring 2011 was the Edwin and Shirley Seave Faculty Fellow at the Pembroke Center.
The first year at Brown was particularly busy for Adam Teller. He took his research on 17th century Polish-Jewish refugees a major step forward, working on conditions in the leading Lithuanian town of Sluck. He also completed a study on eighteenth century attitudes to the rabbinate, which was particularly challenging because it combined a range of sources - from Polish archives, Jewish community records, and rabbinic literature. He was delighted to see the completed English translation of his book on the Jews’ economic life on the Radziwill estates, soon to be ready for publication. Teller presented work in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Jerusalem. In the department, he was engaged in two searches, one dealing with modern eastern Europe, the other with a post-doc in German-Jewish history. Finally, teaching: as well as his regular courses, Teller gave a seminar in the Hillel on Talmudic attitudes towards love and sexuality between men.

Michael Vorenberg continues to work on his book about the impact of the Civil War on American citizenship. A final batch of celebrations of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth and a new batch devoted to the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War kept him busy giving talks and publishing essays. Some of the highlights were a lecture at Colby College; a workshop with the American Bar Association; an essay on France and the American Civil War in “The Global Lincoln” (Oxford University Press); and an essay on the relationship between rights and citizenship in “The Promises of Liberty” (Columbia University Press).

In May 2011 Gordon Wood published “The Idea of America: Reflections on the Birth of the United States” and first two volumes of a projected four-volume set of “The Writings of John Adams” in the Library of America. He led several seminars for school teachers and presented lectures around the country and Berlin. He presented seminars for state judges at Idaho Falls and Corpus Christi. In September 2010 he participated in the National Book Festival in Washington and in spring, 2011 was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama, the Churchill Bell by Colonial Williamsburg, and Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. Award by the Society of American Historians. He is a member of Brown’s 250th Anniversary Committee, a member the Scholarly Council of the Kluge Center of Library of Congress, served on the editorial boards of several Founding Fathers projects, and chairs Faculty Liaison Committee of the John Carter Brown Library.

After an intensive year and a half of research in India, Pakistan and Britain, Vazira Zamindar returned to teach full time in 2010-11. However, when the fall semester started, the gravity of the floods in Pakistan, and the poor international response to the humanitarian catastrophe there, led Zamindar to join students in organizing a teach-in and developing educational materials with Choices. The struggle to be a more engaged intellectual in our difficult world shaped much of Professor Zamindar’s busy academic year – teaching, serving on numerous committees, giving talks and attending conferences. This struggle continues to preoccupy her as she contemplates the year ahead.
Undergraduate Program

This year our students spoke up for us. In tough economic times, the study of History may seem like a luxury few can afford. At colleges and universities around the country, History, like other subjects in the Humanities and Social Sciences, has faced declining enrollments. The recent growth of more professionally oriented disciplines suggests that college students, much like other Americans, are concerned about jobs and are choosing paths of study that are more readily marketable to employers. While many History Department courses remain popular among the general student body, the number of History graduates at Brown has fallen.

The Department decided to address concerns about the professional benefits of studying History and so, our students, current and past, spoke up for us in a video. They spoke of the fulfillment they found in the study of History and provided alternative perspectives about concentration and career choices. In some ways, it even surprised us, their teachers, that the lessons of studying the past were so broadly applicable to a range of professions.

Current students discussed the flexibility in the program. They listed a wide range of subjects of specialization and praised the openness that allowed them to follow their interests, in particular places and periods, or more in subjects such as globalization, environment, and science. They were in wide agreement that the study of History meant developing methods of analysis rather than memorizing what is already known. Lisa Qing, (Brown ’11) commented: “I feel that in classes here instead of being told what happened, you’re asked to consider a bunch of things that could have happened and you’re taught to ask questions, like “how did that happen?”” Both current students and alumni stressed that History was a project of crafting narratives, through creative thinking and good evidence.

Alumni now working in law, media, finance, business, and medicine described how the study of History had prepared them for their professional lives. Molly Thomas-Jenson (Brown ’02) now an attorney in public interest law in Brooklyn, went so far as to describe her education in History as “an incredibly applicable skill set. . .It taught me how to think and how to problem solve and how to look at and understand a new situation.”

Former students now working in business and medicine were most specific about the connections between their undergraduate study and their work. Steven Wallace (Brown ’83), now CEO of The Omanahene Cocoa Bean Company, said “What a small business person really does and what any business person does, is – you have to make decisions with imperfect information. And that’s the study of History! You have all sorts of historical record. . .and you have to put it together and take these bits of stone and glass and arrange them in a mosaic that makes sense.” Dr. Rachael Bedard (Brown ’05) said something similar about her profession:

When you study a subject in History and then write about it, what you’re doing is sort of getting an idea from many perspectives about something that happened and then you’re recreating your own narrative of that story. That skill, learning to do that well, is very very much like what you do as a doctor. So, you gather facts from your patients and then you create a narrative that explains what’s going on with them. And in the same way that in History that sort of leads you to a thesis, I think in doctoring that leads you to a diagnosis.”

Students and alumni agreed that the study of History heightened their social and political awareness. The study of the past inspired them as contemporary citizens, and they drew upon what they had learned as they assessed contemporary matters. But what’s more, it helped construct who they were as adults. Jon Ebinger (Brown ’84) summarized for many when he said, studying History “helped to mold the person I am today.” Rachael Bedard put History at the center of the Brown ethos: “Brown historically has been this incredibly strong liberal arts institution and I think it’s at the heart of what makes Brown special, to study History there.”

We thank our alumni and students for their words and congratulate our alumni on their achievements. You, our alumni are the best professional-consulting resource we can offer to current students, and we hope to draw on you more often. For starters, you can “like” The Brown University History Department page on Facebook. Once again, we will be hosting a roundtable with returning alumni in October. Any of you who would like to join a future discussion, please contact Professor Doug Cope, incoming Director of Undergraduate Studies at Robert.Cope@ brown.edu. In the meantime, you can watch our video on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1d9-8wKhjA.

– Nancy Jacobs
Honors Recipients

Susana Aho
*Breaking the Silence: The 1979 OAS Human Rights Commission Visit to Argentina and the Problem of the Disappeared*
Advisor: James Green

Aaron Bartnick
*Building Britannia Verulamium, Vindolanda, and the Romanization of Britain*
Advisor: Lisa Mignone

Matthew Brag
*Myths, Meinertzhagen, and the Effects of Fraudulence on the Historical Imagination: The Legacy of British Intelligence’s False Claims during World War I*
Advisor: Kostis Kornetis

Jerry C. Choi
*Identities in Diaspora: An examination of the Ethnic Chinese Communities in British Columbia since 1858*
Advisor: Robert Lee

Jennifer Grayson
*As I saw in my time: Abbasid Baghdad, Saadya Gaon, and the Synthesis of Jewish Philosophy, 750-942*
Advisor: Michael Satlow

Katherine Hyland
*Progress toward Gender Equity in Intercollegiate Athletics during 1970s: Case Studies and Comparison of Four Institutions Pursuing Different Pathways to Coeducation*
Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

Clare Kim
*Math Derived, Math Applied: The Establishment of Brown University’s Division of Applied Mathematics, 1940-1946*
Advisor: Luther Spoehr

Gabrielle Kim
*A House Divided: Pre-Post Liberation and the Struggle for Nationhood in Korea, 1919-1950*
Advisor: Kerry Smith

Evan Pelz
*Jew(ish?): Ethiopian Jewry and the Alliance Israélite Universelle’s Construction of Jewish Identity, 1867-1908*
Advisor: Maud Mandel

Lisa Qing
*The Royal Rogue: James Hind and the Politics of Theft in the English Revolution*
Advisor: Tim Harris

Lindsay Reed
*A Place for Women: The Growth and Development of the Providence Lying-In Hospital, 1884-1934*
Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

Sarah Rosenthal
*He that resisteth the king resisteth God: The Dissolution of the Monasteries and the Creation of an English Reformed Identity*
Advisor: Tim Harris

Max I. Straus
*Novel Crimes Against a Novel Sovereign: Sovereignty, Due Process and the Law of Treason in Early Modern England*
Advisor: Tim Harris

Simon van Zuylen-Wood
*The End of Ideology and the Beginnings of Neoconservatism: Daniel Bell to Norman Podhoretz*
Advisor: Robert Self

Chelsea Waite
*The American Drink: Coffee and Mass Consumption in America from World War II to 1960s*
Advisor: Robert Self

Margaret C. Weeks
*Negotiating Marginalization: Survival and Activism in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro in the 20th century*
Advisor: James Green

Rachel Weiler
*Blood Baptism: German Jewish Dueling Fraternities, 1886-1922*
Advisor: Mary Gluck
Award Recipients

The Christian Yegen Thesis Prize for an outstanding thesis

Matthew Brag
*Myths, Meinertzhagen, and the Effects of Fraudulence on the Historical Imagination: The Legacy of British Intelligence’s False Claims during World War I*
Advisor: Kostis Kornetis

Sarah Rosenthal
*He that resisteth the king resisteth God: The Dissolution of the Monasteries and the Creation of an English Reformed Identity*
Advisor: Tim Harris

Max I. Straus
*Novel Crimes Against a Novel Sovereign: Sovereignty, Due Process and the Law of Treason in Early Modern England*
Advisor: Tim Harris

Margaret C. Weeks
*Negotiating Marginalization: Survival and Activism in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro in the 20th Century*
Advisor: James Green

The David Herlihy Prize for best student in Medieval, Renaissance, or Ancient History

Jennifer Grayson
*As I saw in my time*: Abbasid Baghdad, Saadya Gaon, and the Synthesis of Jewish Philosophy, 750-942
Advisor: Michael Satlow

Pell Medal Award for excellence in United States History

Clare Kim
*Math Derived, Math Applied: The Establishment of Brown University’s Division of Applied Mathematics, 1940-1946*
Advisor: Luther Spoehr

The John L. Thomas Memorial Award for best thesis in the History Department

Gabrielle Kim
*A House Divided: Pre-Post Liberation and the Struggle for Nationhood in Korea, 1919-1950*
Advisor: Kerry Smith

Samuel C. Lamport Prize in International Understanding for best paper on international understanding with emphasis on cooperation and tolerance

Evan Pelz
*Jew(ish?): Ethiopian Jewry and the Alliance Israélite Universelle’s Construction of Jewish Identity, 1867-1908*
Advisor: Maud Mandel

Daniel Wiener
*Reconstructing Public Memory: Modern Israeli War Film and the Formation of Anti-Conflict Identities* from E. Akarli’s course, Identity Conflicts in Modern Middle East History

Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Premium in History as the outstanding undergraduate in history

Lisa Qing
*The Royal Rogue: James Hind and the Politics of Theft in the English Revolution*
Advisor: Tim Harris

The Gaspee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Award for best paper written as a class assignment in an American history course

Chelsea Waite
*The American Drink: Coffee and Mass Consumption in America from World War II to 1960s*
Advisor: Robert Self
Graduate Program

It has been a year of both great change and welcome constancy in the History Department’s graduate program. Our biggest news comes from a long-time benefactor of the department, Peter B. Green, AM ’80 P’98 P’01. Mr. Green has made an extraordinary investment in graduate education in the department, creating an endowment fund that will provide two full Ph.D. fellowships every year (those holding the fellowships will be designated “Peter Green Doctoral Scholars”) and will support additional research, conferences, symposia, and other activities related to graduate education. This generous gift will enable the department to stabilize its annual incoming cohort at a level sufficient to maintain a strong, competitive Ph.D. program. I want to thank Peter Green, as well as Rajiv Vorha, who was instrumental in sheparding the gift in the months before he stepped down as Dean of the Faculty last spring.

In other news, our new Dean of the Graduate School, Peter Weber, has revised the accounting system for all graduate programs on campus, a complicated process that we nonetheless believe has placed the program on a stronger footing moving forward – it will, for instance, allow the department greater flexibility in its use of fellowships and teaching assistantships. Dean Weber has also created a more systematic and transparent process for students to apply for funding in their sixth year – a critical development for History students, who rarely complete the Ph.D. degree within the five-year period of guaranteed university funding, due to the heavy demands of exam preparation, travel, and archival research.

Because keeping students funded and moving smoothly through the program toward, and through, their dissertation research and writing is a constant priority, all of these developments are welcome news.

Looking ahead, there are additional projects in the planning stages. Because virtually all of the department’s communication with potential students and others outside of Brown now occurs through the department’s web site, we will undertake a full revamping of the graduate sections of the site in the coming year. We want to create a site that provides the necessary information, is easy to navigate, and effectively communicates to potential students who our faculty are, the nature of their research, and how various programs of study might be put together. This includes getting better at broadcasting the department’s strengths, both within and across traditional fields. We also plan to develop a new graduate brochure and other informational materials that reflect the changes to the program undertaken in the last few years.

We’ve thus been graced with lots of very welcome changes. At the same time, the program has continued to move forward on its already strong foundation. Last spring, 6 promising PhD students, from among the top 9% of 200 applicants, accepted our offer to pursue the PhD in our graduate program.
We are enthusiastically looking forward to beginning our work with them in September. In May, 2011, the department graduated 9 doctoral students – an additional 9 PhD students received AM degrees upon the successful completion of the first-year of their doctoral studies. At least one and possibly two other PhD students will complete their degrees by September 2011. We congratulate all of these students heartily and wish them well as they embark on the next phase of their career.

At the risk of repeating myself too much, I’d like to revisit something I wrote last year. More than ever, academic careers in the humanities are challenging. But so, too, are we daily made aware of how necessary a part of global life is first-class instruction in contextual, analytical, and synthetic thinking, precisely the kind of education provided by scholars in the humanities. As the department sustains its ambition to be one of the very best places in the United States to do doctoral work in History, I am inspired by our students – by their creativity, their optimism, their deep engagement with ideas, and their continuing commitment to the best research and teaching practices. A year later, I am no less inspired and heartened by them.

The ultimate goal of all of our efforts remains helping our students to become exceptional and enthusiastic historians who can impart their knowledge, understanding, and love of history to their readers as well as students. The foundation of our program has been strengthened of late, and our amazing faculty continue to be our deepest, richest resource. I look forward to another year!

– Robert O. Self

The 30th William F. Church Memorial Lecture

Carlos M. N. Eire

Riggs Professor of History and Religious Studies at Yale University

spoke on

“Relinquishing Eternity: The Protestant Reformation and the Secularization of the West”

Thursday, October 19, 2010
Doctor of Philosophy, 2010–2011

Christopher Barthel
Contesting the Russian Borderlands: The German Military Administration of Occupied Lithuania, 1914–1918
Director: Omer Bartov

Caroline Cortina
“To Serve the Race…and Redeem the South”: Gender and the Southern Interracial Network, 1919-1949
Director: James T. Patterson

Lara Couturier
Accessing Opportunity: The Shifting Debates over College Access, 1945-2010
Director: Mari Jo Buhle

Thomas Devaney
An ‘Amiable Enmity’: Frontier Spectacle and Intercultural Relations in Castile and Cyprus
Director: Amy G. Remensnyder

Elisa Gollub
Many Perestroikas: A Social History of Collective Farm Privatization in Russia
Director: Abbott Gleason

Eileen M. Jacxsens
Learning, Literature and Poetics, and the Formation of Monastic Culture in the Carolingian World
Director: Amy G. Remensnyder

Oded Rabinovitch
Anatomy of a Family of Letters: The Perraults, 1640–1703
Director: Tara Nummedal

Gabriel Rosenberg
Breeding the Future: The American 4-H Movement and the Roots of the Modern Rural World, 1914–1948
Director: Mari Jo Buhle

Emily Anne Wicken
Recasting the Criminal: Scenes of Colonial Violence in the West Indies and Ireland, 1790–1800
Director: Tim Harris
Master of Arts, 2010–2011

Patrick Chung
Zachary Dorner
Brian Druchniak
Christopher Gillett
Rachel Gostenhofer
Liise Lehtsalu
Jennifer Wells
Theresa Williams
Keeping Up

The Brazilian National Archive in Rio de Janeiro and the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) have decided to establish the Thomas E. Skidmore Prize for the Best Book in Brazilian History to honor Professor Skidmore’s contribution to the study of modern Brazilian studies. Skidmore, the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Professor Emeritus of Latin American History and Professor Emeritus of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at Brown University, has been a leading scholar of Brazilian history and culture since the 1960s. Companhia das Letras, Brazil’s leading publisher, has just reissued a new translation of his collected works. This biannual award will recognize the best monograph in the Portuguese language written over the previous six years about twentieth-century Brazilian history with a $5,000 prize to subsidize the translation of that work into English so that it can reach an international audience. James N. Green, Brown Professor of Brazilian History, will chair the award committee. The first book prize will be announced in December 2011.

Victoria Harris’s book Selling Sex in the Reich has just been awarded the 2011 Women’s History Network Book Prize, an annual £500 prize for a first book in women’s or gender history. The Women’s History Network (UK) Book Prize is awarded for an author’s first single-authored monograph which makes a significant contribution to women’s history or gender history and is written in an accessible style. The book must be written in English and be published the year prior to the award being made.

Retirement

(Above) Engin Akarli appreciating great company: Tuna Akarli, his spouse, and Martha and Artemis Joukowsky, benefactors of his position and so many others that truly enrich Brown University.

(Left) Engin Akarli and his wife, Tuna, at the luncheon this spring at the Brown Faculty Club celebrating Professor Akarli’s retirement.