

Past Times

The Department of History @ Wake Forest Newsletter
vol. 2, no. 1 (June 2010)

Highlights of Service and Scholarship



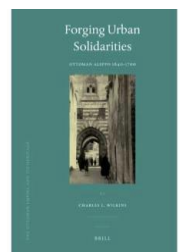
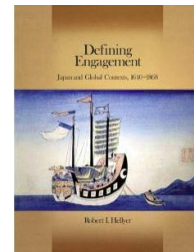
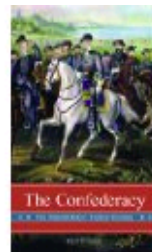
The history department is glad to welcome **Michele Gillespie**, Khale Family Associate Professor, back to the department after her service as the Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives.



Emily Wakild received a National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend award for her book project, “An Unexpected Environment: National Park Creation, Resource Custodianship, and the Mexican Revolution.”



Monique O'Connell was promoted to Associate Professor and has been granted tenure. She was also elected to the Board of the Renaissance Society of America for a three year term as Electronic Media Chair.



We thank **Jeff Lerner** for his stewardship of the University's Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) during the past three years. **Sue Rupp**, professor of European political and cultural history, now takes the reins and will serve as the TLC Faculty Co-Director for 2010-2013.

Three professors in the department published books last year: **Paul Escott**, *The Confederacy: The Slaveholders' Failed Venture*; **Robert Hellyer**, *Defining Engagement: Japan and Global Contexts, 1640-1868*; and **Charles Wilkins**, *Forging Urban Solidarities: Ottoman Aleppo, 1640-1700*. Congratulations!

In Memoriam



Though six months have passed since the death of **Stephen Vella**, native of Brooklyn, New York and Assistant Professor since 2006, the loss is still painful. We will never forget his intellect, concerned and comforting gaze, and hearty laugh. He was 34.

Stephen started his term at Wake under the most unfortunate circumstances, newly diagnosed with a very aggressive form of cancer. Yet he pursued the teacher-scholar ideal with courage and resolve. Stephen received his AB from Princeton University, and his MA and Ph.D. from Yale University. His dissertation, “Gentlemanly Conquerors: The Domestication of the Indian Frontier and the Fashioning of Imperial British Identity, 1790-1850” (2006), was awarded Yale’s distinguished John Addison Porter Dissertation Prize. An expert on the social and cultural history of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Great Britain and the British Empire in South Asia, Stephen brought an exciting array of new courses to the department, including two upper-level seminars “The British Empire” (HST 311) and “Rethinking British Cultural History, 1707-2007” (HST 390) and a First Year Seminar, “Visualizing Britain’s Empire, c. 1600 to the present.” His gentle art of persuasion and mesmerizing intellect won the love, respect and admiration of his students. He also expanded the University’s library collection in these areas, winning a Presidential Grant for the purchase of the British Online Database.

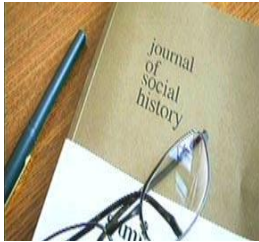
Stephen conducted research with sources in Bengali, French, Italian and Spanish as well as English. He asked how the loss of the thirteen American colonies and the building of a second empire in South Asia changed British identity. The central thrust of his analyses was to show how newspapers, particularly through their focus on imperial wars, served as the principal medium through which this altered sense of “British-ness” was constructed. While historians recognize the impact newspapers had on political, cultural, and social life in early nineteenth-century Britain, Stephen was the first to use them comprehensively, intelligently and fruitfully. He also aspired to touch and teach historians beyond his own field by venturing broader historical interpretations and attempting to capture the “proper form” of representing the past. He produced a number of fine articles and was in the process of completing his book manuscript while on leave in 2009-2010 before succumbing to his illness on January 30, 2010.

With funds from the College and individual contributions from colleagues in History and other departments of the college, the History Department has established the “Stephen Vella Memorial Fund” to commemorate his legacy. It will be given as a research grant to an exemplary student to visit archives to complete a senior thesis and/or honors thesis.

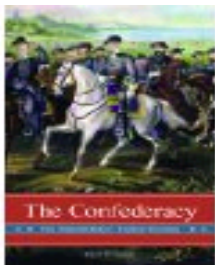
Recent Faculty Publications



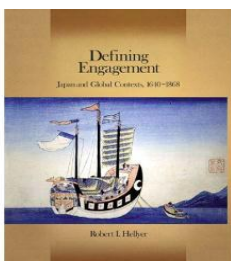
Lisa Blee, “Mount Rainier Narratives and Indian Economies of Place, 1850-1925,” *Western Historical Quarterly*, 40:4 (Winter 2009): 419-443.



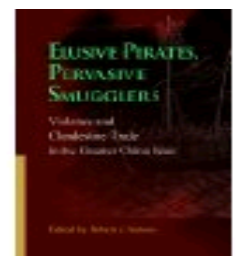
Simone Caron published two articles on her scholarship on women’s health and reproduction in Rhode Island. “‘Killed by Its Mother’: Infanticide in Providence County, Rhode Island, 1870-1938” will appear in the fall 2010 issue of the *Journal of Social History* (forthcoming fall 2010). “‘I Have Done it and I Have Got to Die’: Coroners’ Inquests of Abortion Deaths in Rhode Island, 1876-1938,” was published in *The History of the Family* 14 (Spring 2009): 1-18.



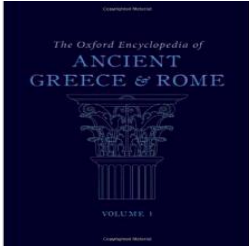
Paul Escott published *The Confederacy: The Slaveholders’ Failed Venture*, through Praeger/ABC-CLIO in January, 2010, and an article, “‘We Must Make Free Men of Them’: Patrick Cleburne’s bold plan to free slaves to fight could have changed the war,” in *Civil War Times*, June 2010.



Robert Hellyer published his monograph, *Defining Engagement: Japan and Global Contexts, 1640-1868* (Harvard East Asian Monographs, 2010), and an article, “Poor but Not Pirates: The Tsushima Domain and Foreign Relations in Early Modern Japan,” in Robert Antony, ed. *Elusive Pirates, Pervasive Smugglers: Violence and Clandestine Trade in the Greater China Seas* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, July 2010).



Recent Faculty Publications (continued)



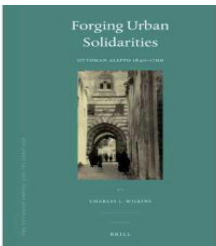
Jeffery Lerner contributed entries on “Greece: The Hellenistic Age,” “Pergamum,” and “Seleucids” to *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome*, ed. Michael Gagarin. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.



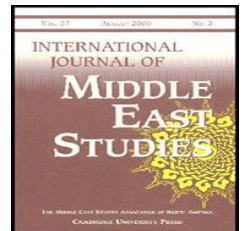
Nathan Plageman, “Accra is Changing, Isn’t It?: Urban Infrastructure, Independence, and Nation in the Gold Coast’s *Daily Graphic*, 1954-57,” *International Journal for African Historical Studies*, 43:1 (2010), pp. 137-159.



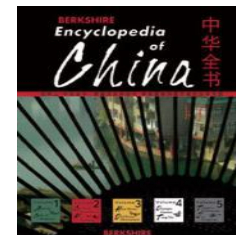
Emily Wakild, “*Border Chasm: International Boundary Parks and Mexican Conservation, 1935-1945*,” *Environmental History*, 14:3 (2009).



Charles Wilkins published his monograph, *Forging Urban Solidarities: Ottoman Aleppo, 1640-1700* (Brill, 2010), and a review of Virginia Aksan and Dan Goffman, eds., *The Early Modern Ottomans: Remapping the Empire* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2006) in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 41:4 (2009): 499-502.



Qiong Zhang’s article, “From ‘Dragonology’ to Meterology: Aristolian Natural Philosophy and the Beginning of the Decline of the Dragon in China,” appeared in *Early Science and Medicine* 14:1-3 (2009): 340-368. She also contributed the following entries in Linsun Cheng et al. eds., *Berkshire Encyclopedia of China* (Great Barrington, MA: Berkshire Publishing Group, 2009): “Bian Que” (a legendary early physician) and “Huangid nejing” (Inner Canon of the Yellow Lord, an ancient Chinese medical classic).



Faculty About Town: Talks & Travels

Lisa Blee was invited to give her paper, “‘I Came Voluntarily to Work, Sing and Dance’: Varied Experiences and Meanings from Inside the Eskimo Village,” at “Race and Empire at the Fair,” a Centennial Symposium on the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle in 1909, sponsored by the Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest and University Libraries, held at the University of Washington, October 2009. She also spoke at the American Society for Ethnohistory (October 2009) and the American Society for Environmental History (March 2010).

Simone Caron presented “Medical Discourse on Alcoholic Women” to the Social Science History Association in Long Beach, CA, (October 2009).

Robert Hellyer spent his fall 2009 leave conducting research in Japan, India, and Europe.

Michael Hughes served as the faculty director of the Wake Forest University study abroad program at the Flow House in Vienna, Austria, in fall 2009. The University purchased the three-story villa, formerly the U.S. consulate, in 1998. It was named in honor of Vic and Roddy Flow of Winston-Salem whose generous donation made the acquisition possible.

Jeffery Lerner presented “Writing History as an Active Learning Exercise,” at the Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, Hawaii (January 2010) and “Ai Khanoum under Nomadic Hegemony,” at the Seventh International Conference on History, Athens, Greece (December 2009).

Monique O’Connell led the Wake Forest study abroad program at Casa Artom, Venice, Italy, in spring 2010. Casa Artom, purchased by the University in 1969, flanks Venice’s Grand Canal and once housed the American consulate. She used her Stroupe Faculty Fellowship to attend a conference in Istanbul, Turkey, where she conducted research for her next book project on the Mediterranean. She also gave an invited lecture at the University of Athens.

Nathan Plageman presented “‘It’s Our Music’: Dance Band Highlife, Gender, and National Culture in Ghana, 1957-1965,” at the 2010 Meeting of the Canadian African Studies Association (May 4-7, 2010) and “Popular Music, Authority, and Gender in the Gold Coast c. 1900-1935,” at the African Studies Association, (November 2009). He was invited to present “‘Being a Bandsman’: The Occupational, Social, and Gendered Realities of Highlife Musicians, 1945-1975” to the African Studies Seminar of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (October 2009) and “Why ‘the Music Mattered’: Popular Musical Recreation in Independence Era Gold Coast/Ghana” to the Department of History, African Studies Program, and First-Year Program, at Saint Lawrence University, Canton, NY (March, 2010). His paper, “‘It’s Our Music’: Dance Band Highlife, Gender, and National Culture in Ghana, 1957-1965” was pre-circulated and presented by proxy to the “Revising Modernization Conference” at the University of Ghana, Legon (July 2009).

Faculty About Town: Talks & Travels (continued)

Rais Rahman presented “*Madrastas, Maktabs, and Schools: Muslim Education in Qasbati Colonial India*” at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia, PA (March 2010); “*Libaas and Muslims: Decoding the Dress Code in Colonial South Asia,*” at the Biennial Boston College Conference on the History of Religion (March 2010); and “*The Qasbah of Amroha: Muslim Intellectual Life in Colonial South Asia*” at the fall meeting of the New England Historical Association, Burlington, VT (October 2009). He also conducted research in London and India.

Emily Wakild is co-teaching Wake Forest’s Tropical Diversity Program in Peru, a one-month summer abroad program on the environment and history of Peru.

Alan Williams delivered a public lecture entitled, “Other Ways of Dying: The Marquis de Ferrieres and the Early French Revolution” at Butler University in Indianapolis (January 2010) and a public talk, “An Atheist’s Perspective,” at Wake Forest’s “Voices of Faith and Belief Series.” He also delivered his paper “Self, Social Identity and Class: The Marquis de Ferrieres 1789-1791” to the Western Society for French Historical Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder (October 2009) in addition to serving as a commentator for three papers at the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era in Savannah, Georgia (February 2010).

Theresa Ventura was invited to present on the politics of food and famine in the Philippine American War at the annual meeting of the Canadian History and Environment Summer School in Montreal, Canada (May 2010).

Qiong Zhang presented “Reinventing the Ideal of ‘Scholar-Physician’: A Seventeenth-Century Chinese Doctor’s Engagement with Western Learning” to the American Historical Association in San Diego (January 2010) and “Science and the Devil in the Early Jesuit and Chinese Christian Crusade against Heterodoxy” at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (March 2010). She was invited to present a paper, “Matteo Ricci’s World Maps in Late Ming Discourse of Exotica,” at an international symposium entitled “Travel and Translation: Writing China after Matteo Ricci, 1600-1800,” sponsored by the Institute of Humanities and Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies of Seoul National University, South Korea (June 2010).

New Tenure-Track Faculty in History

The department welcomes its newest faculty, Jake Ruddiman, who will be joining us in fall 2010. Dr. Ruddiman received his Ph. D. from Yale University. His research specialty is colonial America.

Faculty Awards



Department Fellow

Robert Hellyer, Assistant Professor of History, is this year's winner of the history department's Stroupe Faculty Fellowship.

Rais Rahman won a Course Development Grant from the University's Teaching and Learning Center. He will use the grant to develop a First Year Seminar entitled "Exploring India through Travel and Travelogues." He has also received an Archie Grant (summer 2010) to pursue research in India and England.

Theresa Ventura was awarded Columbia University's Bancroft Dissertation Prize for the best humanities or social sciences dissertation on an American topic defended in 2009.

Emily Wakild received a National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend award for her book project, "Revolutionary Nature Conservation in 1930s Mexico".

Qiong Zhang received an Archie Grant for summer 2010.

From the Faculty

Monique O'Connell, Associate Professor of History, shares her study abroad experiences, both as student and teacher:

I first traveled to Italy in the fall of 1994, when I studied abroad in Florence. That experience was followed by many other trips, but in many ways it is still that first encounter with Italian culture that has left the biggest impression on me. This past spring, I was able to relive some aspects of my own study abroad experience through the eyes of the nine students I took to study in Casa Artom, in Venice. For me, Venice has not been a foreign or exotic place for quite some time, since it is the principal focus of my research and has been, for varying periods over the past decade, my home. But as I listened to my students describe their own Venetian experiences, I was reminded of or introduced to new aspects of the city, making the semester very rewarding for me both intellectually and personally.

I taught two courses that took our environment and experiences as their subject. I adjusted my HST 106, Medieval World Civilizations, to focus on medieval travel narratives and travelers, and the students were thus able to compare and contrast their own travel experiences with those of past travelers. Our discussions in this course were wide ranging and included a number of thoughtful reflections on the ways technology has changed the experience and meaning of travel in the contemporary world. Many of the students commented that they approached their own journeys with more awareness and reflection as a result of our focus on medieval world travelers.

From the Faculty (continued)

The second course, History of Venice, drew the most direct connections between the classroom and the contemporary city. It was an adaptation of the one that Jim Barefield, my predecessor here at Wake Forest, taught to generations of Wake students in Venice. It encouraged students to actively engage with the city and to make its unique topography their own with assignments such as diagramming a typical Venetian parish or going on a scavenger hunt in the city. Many of the program's alumni speak fondly of this scavenger hunt, and residents of the Dorsoduro neighborhood in Venice are likewise familiar with the sight of Wake Forest students searching for a particular campo or calle. (My own first interaction with the university came on a narrow street in Venice, as a wild-eyed group of Wake Forest students on the scavenger hunt stopped me and desperately demanded where they might find a representation of St. George). My expertise is in late medieval and Renaissance Venice, but the course took us from the founding of the city to the present day, something which forced me to step back from the specialization of my own discipline and see Venetian history as part of broader patterns.

While the classes were an important part of the semester, the most unexpected and rewarding aspect of my semester abroad happened outside the classroom. The faculty apartment in Casa Artom is somewhat separated from the student areas, but as I went about my daily life I passed students in the kitchen, in the hall, and in the living room. I thus discovered a side to students that is not usually visible in the classroom. I was able to get to know all nine as individuals, an experience that reminded me of the rich and varied passions and personalities that often hide behind the sometimes uniform façade of students.

Robert Hellyer, Assistant Professor of History, tells of his second book project on the history of green tea in Japan & the world:

I am researching a project with the working title: "Everyone's Cup of Green Tea" which looks at Japan's export of green tea to the US in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During the peak years of the trade, Japan exported to the US 70 to 90 percent of all the tea it produced. I am researching the growers (on small family farms), the workers who processed the tea at port cities, the merchants who shipped it, and the Americans, largely Midwest farmers, who consumed it – namely everyone who went into making the tea trade possible.

Student News

Phi Alpha Theta Awards Banquet

Dr. **Paul D. Escott** was the keynote speaker at the April 28, 2010 Phi Alpha Theta History Department Awards Dinner. The department selected **Anna G. Nicodemus** as the recipient of The Forrest W. Clonts Award for Excellence in History. Nicodemus served as Phi Alpha Theta president during 2009-2010.

Student Paper Prizes

Forrest W. Clonts Research Prize in European History: **John P. Moody**, “The Suspicious Accession of Alexander the Great”

David W. Hadley Prize for Historical Writing on the 100 Level: **Mary Katherine Raffaniello**, “Drowning Nationalism with Unification: Postwar Leaders’ Experimentation with Supranational Communities to Avoid War and Devastation”

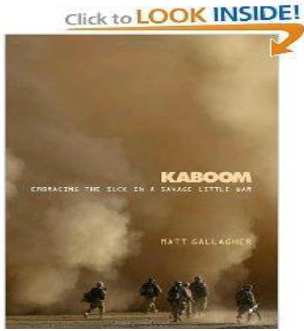
Chilton Pearson Research Prize in United State History: **Melissa M. Velarde**, “Poverty and Politics: Polemics and Programs in Mexico and the United States”

W.J. Cash Award for Studies in Southern History: **Anna G. Nicodemus**, “Prudential Unionism: Southern Sentiment, Unionist Reasoning, and Maryland's Allegiance in Early 1861”

Richard Worden Griffin Research Prize: 1) **Victoria C. Niblock**, “Miss(ing) Representations of Slave Women on the Gold Coast and in Jamaica”; 2) **Beth Ann Williams**, “Faith: Education Reform in Post-Independence Kenya, 1963-1970”



News from the Front



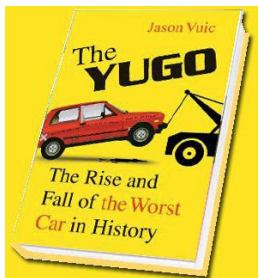
Matthew Gallagher, class of 2005 history major, served in the United States Army from 2005 to 2009, with a commission in the armored cavalry. He spent 15 months in Iraq and has published a book on his experience called *Kaboom: Embracing the Suck in a Savage Little War* (Da Capo Press, 2010). This fall, Gallagher enters the Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Culture program at Columbia University where he will pursue a graduate degree.

Jason Vuic, class of 1994 history major, received his Ph.D. from Indiana University-Bloomington in 2005 and is now an Assistant Professor of History at Bridgewater College, Virginia.

Rachel Avon Whidden, major in history and communication, earned her Ph.D. in Communication Studies from Iowa State. She is now an Assistant Professor of Communication at Lake Forest University.

Featured Alum

Jason Vuic (BA, 1994) is an Assistant Professor of History at Bridgewater College in Virginia. Upon graduating from Wake Forest, Vuic lived for several years in both Serbia and Croatia and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Zagreb in 2001. He earned his MA in European History from the University of Richmond in 1996 and his Ph.D. in Balkan and East European History from Indiana University in 2005. From 2002 to 2006, he served as Assistant Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at Ohio State University before moving to Bridgewater with his wife, who is also an historian, in 2006.



As a scholar, Vuic's focus is on the popular culture of socialist Yugoslavia. In March, he published his first book, *The Yugo: The Rise and Fall of the Worst Car in History* (Hill and Wang, 2010). The book was reviewed by *The Economist*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Post*, the *Washington Post* and some 50 other web and print publications. Vuic also appeared on Fox and Friends, NPR's Weekend Edition and NPR's Marketplace, CSPAN's Book TV, and Bloomberg News. His next book is on the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics.

Keep in Touch! The department would love to hear from you. Send us an email (gammonlc@wfu.edu) with any updates, news, or just to say hello.