Letter from the Chair

As I expected, the first year of my tenure as department chair has been an eventful and busy one. The central task that confronted me was preparing for and conducting our decennial self-study project. Thanks to the help of several colleagues, we were able to amass and articulate information about every aspect of how the department functions. When the three outside evaluators chosen by the administration came for their on-site visit in April, they were presented with this information and given the opportunity to interview faculty and students. As the Newsletter goes to press I have not yet received the report of the evaluators, but my preliminary feeling is that they went away with a positive sense of what the department is about.

In addition to the activity generated by the self-study, life in the department continued with its usual vibrancy. The faculty distinguished themselves once again in both scholarship and teaching. Professors Gábor Ágoston, Catherine Evtuhov, Andrzej Kaminski, Erick Langer, Aviel Roshwald, Nancy Tucker, and John Voll published new books during this academic year, while the newest member of our department, Professor Adam Rothman, just signed a contract with Harvard University Press for his first book. Members of the faculty have also brought recognition to the department through their receipt of various prizes. Professor Tommaso Astarita was honored for his work in the classroom by being awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching; Professor Richard Stites was one of three recipients of the Graduate School’s newly created Lifetime Distinguished Research Award; and Professor John McNeill received the World History Association Book Prize and took the runner-up position in the BP Natural World Book Prize competition for his recently published work, Something New Under the Sun. Faculty members are also undertaking new initiatives in teaching. Professor Carol Benedict is developing a new general education course on the Pacific World in Modern History and Professor McNeill will host a summer workshop at Georgetown on teaching world history.

The department has also been fortunate this year to have had a series of distinguished visiting faculty. As part of our ongoing program in Australian and New Zealand studies we hosted Professors Eric Eklund and Patricia O’Brien from Australia, and Michael King as Fulbright Visiting Professor of New Zealand Studies. Additionally, it was our good fortune to have Clive Foss of the University of Massachusetts be our guest as the Royden B. Davis Professor for the spring semester. Professor Foss delivered the annual Davis Lecture, speaking on his specialty of Byzantine history to a large and very appreciative audience. Finally, the department also hosted three
visiting foreign researchers: from Russia, Professors Tatiana Alentieva and Olga Kocheleva; and from Austria, Ms Regine Bogensberger. In the coming academic year we look forward to having two additional visitors from abroad in the persons of Friedrich Lenger as the Adenauer Professor in History and José M. Portillo who will be the Prince of Asturias Distinguished Visiting Professor in Spanish Studies.

Our graduate program has also continued to maintain a strong national profile. In terms of placements, Elizabeth Drummond has accepted a position at the University of Southern Mississippi and Steve Tamari at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, while Theresa Velcamp and Elizabeth Koch-Janik have both received post-doctoral fellowships at UC San Diego and George Mason University, respectively. Three of our former students, Argyrios Pisiotis, Jeffrey Veidlinger, and Nancy Yanoshek all received faculty teaching awards from their institutions. Among our current graduate students Catherine Blair received first prize and Nadya Sbaiti second prize for best papers by graduate students at the regional conference of Phi Alpha Theta. At the same conference one of our undergraduate majors, Victoria Golebiowski, won second prize in her category. It also should be noted that our chapter of Phi Alpha Theta learned this spring that it received the national award for the best chapter of 2000, a testament to the efforts of its members and to the work of their faculty advisor, Professor Sandra Horvath-Peterson. As one can see from all of our accomplishments the department remains active and vital, but like any such entity it is also subject to changes. Thus, while I am pleased to welcome the distinguished historian of modern France, Richard Kuisel, to our ranks as a long-term adjunct professor, I am sorry to have to announce that we are losing one of our Latin Americanists, Professor Thomas Klubock, to SUNY Stonybrook, and to inform many friends and former students that our distinguished, long-time colleague in the Middle East field, Professor John Ruedy, has announced his intention to become an emeritus member of the faculty at the end of the next academic year. We wish Professor Klubock well at his new institution and look forward to honoring Professor Ruedy for his years of devoted service to the department and to Georgetown.

I encourage you to peruse the Newsletter for additional and more detailed information about what has been happening in the department over the last year and to let us know any news concerning events in your own lives that you would like to share.

James Collins
Chair

HISTORY AT GEORGETOWN NEWSLETTER 2001

Editors: Gábor Ágoston, James Millward and Jordan Sand

Proofreading and Mailing: Elizabeth English

Cover Drawing: David A. Hagen (M.A., 1987)
2000 Quigley Lecture-Seminar
Explores Nations and Nationalism

On November 3rd and 4th, the Department of History proudly hosted the 2000 Quigley Lecture and Seminar, an event which honors the memory of the late Carroll Quigley, one of the most popular lecturers in the department’s history. The featured speaker for the 2000 lecture was Benedict Anderson, the renowned Cornell University historian. Anderson is the author of dozens of articles and several books, perhaps the most famous of which is *Imagined Communities*, a groundbreaking study of the origins and nature of nationalism. Anderson’s stimulating lecture was entitled “How Can a Nation Be Good?” Incorporating a variety of contemporary references, it explored the processes by which nationhood and its moral imperatives are being refashioned continuously in our own times. Following his lecture, an audience of 200 listeners (including many from neighboring colleges and universities) considered critical evaluations of the corpus of Professor Anderson’s work delivered by three outstanding scholars: Lauren Berlant, Department of English, University of Chicago; Florencia Mallon, Department of History, University of Wisconsin; and our own Aviel Roshwald.

On Saturday morning, November 4th, Anderson, Berlant, Mallon, and Roshwald reconvened for a roundtable discussion of the history and future of nationalism. This seminar attracted more than 30 graduate students, History faculty, and members of other departments. All agreed that the event was a high point of the Fall, 2000 semester. Plans will soon be underway for the 2002 Quigley lecture and seminar.

The “Book-a-Month Club”—Georgetown History’s Publishing Streak

1999-2000 was an exceptionally productive year for scholarship in the Georgetown History Department. As the Blue & Grey noted in a feature article in April, 2000, in thirteen months, the full-time and adjunct faculty published thirteen books.

Teaching at the American University in Cairo

Judith Tucker

*Judith Tucker was a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the American University in Cairo, spring semester, 2000*

I spent the spring semester, 2000, as a visiting professor in the Department of History at the American University in Cairo (where one of my colleagues was Michael Reimer, a graduate of our Ph.D. program). AUC is a liberal arts university that enrolls primarily Egyptian students in its undergraduate program, and a mix of Egyptians and international students in its graduate programs. It has an American-style curriculum and the language of instruction is English.
During my stay, I taught two courses, both at the graduate level. One of them, an interdisciplinary course entitled Gender Discourses in the Middle East: History and Anthropology, was team-taught with Cynthia Nelson, an anthropologist well-known in Middle East circles who has been teaching at AUC for some 30 years. The course drew AUC graduate students from Sociology, History, and Middle East studies as well as a number of auditors from AUC and other Egyptian universities. We covered a range of discourses on gender in the Middle East as we explored nationalist, religious, legal, and medical approaches to women and gender issues. Cynthia and I worked together on many of the sessions, and we also were fortunate enough to have a number of guest speakers. Local researchers and activists in fields that ranged from Qur’anic interpretation to rural development and health care made the course as much of a learning experience for me as for the students. This course was actually a great opportunity to explore a variety of issues of interest on the contemporary scene and connect with very dynamic and activist women in Egypt.

My other course was a bit more conventional. I taught a seminar in twentieth century Middle East history for the Middle East Studies program - an M.A. program analogous to the Master of Arts in Arab Studies at Georgetown. The main difference was the diversity of my ten students: I had students from Egypt, Sudan, the United States, South Africa, and Norway in the class. The mix of academic cultures was a challenge, but made for a lively class room as Arab nationalist, transitional South African, Norwegian socialist, and positivist American approaches repeatedly came into conflict. The absence of a dominant or mainstream view was a real advantage when it came to teaching about the variety of historical narratives!

In addition to my teaching, I attended several lectures and conferences sponsored by university and independent organizations in Cairo. I spoke on my own research to the Women and Memory group, an independent research group dedicated to the retrieval of women’s history in Egypt. I also participated in the establishment of a new Institute for the Study of Gender at AUC and will continue to serve on the advisory board.

On a more personal note, life in Cairo for myself and my family was a nice change from sedate Washington. Cairo itself is huge (roughly fifteen million people), and an old city with many benefits—cultural life, a steady stream of conferences and events, fantastic architecture representing almost every Islamic era; these resources more than compensate for the noise, traffic, and pollution featured in this ever-expanding city.

Comparative Colonialism–A Very Personal Perspective

John Ruedy

John Ruedy has been teaching North African history at Georgetown since 1965

Early in 1946, the United States Army put me on a troopship headed for the American territory of Puerto Rico. There, an eighteen year old enlisted man, I was assigned to work in the office of the Commanding General of the Antilles Department, located on the grounds of San Felipe del Morro fortress. This architectural marvel was placed under construction in 1537 and today—as a national monument—still impressively guards the entrance to the Bay of San Juan and to the capital city of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

When my wife Nancy and I decided to spend last Christmas there, we knew that it would be a warm and relaxing experience, and I suspected that for me there would be a bit of nostalgia as well. Both expectations born out. It was a truly wonderful holiday. But I had no idea how a vacation would connect with the worker in me. Having spent most
of my academic career wrestling with issues of colonialism, independence, and post-colonialism in North Africa and the Middle East, it had not once occurred to me to factor in my very first experience with colonialism or to wonder how Puerto Rican society had dealt with that colonialism since I parted company with it at the end of 1946.

In 1946 the country was ruled by a governor appointed by the President of the United States. There was no elected legislature. The economy, which had been in dreadful shape all through the thirties, was devastated with the closing down of shipping lanes during World War II. The naked and dirty children with bloated bellies and sores all over their bodies whom I saw daily in the slums of El Fanguito and la Perla created a picture I have never forgotten, even as a child myself of the great depression. Principal sources of income in the 1940s were transfers by the Puerto Rican communities on the continent and service in or to the U.S. armed forces. The only language of instruction in the public school system was English, of which few teachers on this overwhelmingly rural island had command. The result was that more than eighty-five percent of Puerto Ricans remained illiterate. I remember students going on strike at the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras demanding that the language of instruction be changed to Spanish. I was on their side and I became convinced that Puerto Rico would soon begin a struggle for independence. How wrong can you get?

When Nancy & I flew into San Juan, we landed at Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport. The airport is named after the island’s first elected governor, chosen by his compatriots only two years after my departure. Muñoz Marín presided over the drafting of a commonwealth constitution—approved by the U.S. Congress in 1952—which has turned Puerto Rico into a remarkably functional autonomous territory of the United States where participation in the political process is lively and widespread. As we rode along in the shuttle taking us to our resort on the northeastern corner of the island, we found ourselves on a traffic-choked freeway lined with pharmaceutical firms, electronics manufacturers, shopping malls, and overflowing parking lots. “What a mess we’ve made of our environment,” one local said to me a few days later. The population of the island, excluding Puerto Ricans whose permanent residence is on the continent, is now about 4,000,000. GDP per capita in the year 2,000 was about $9,800, making Puerto Rico the richest country in the Caribbean, exception made for a few sparsely populated tourist islands.

Although English and Spanish are both official languages in Puerto Rico, the language of instruction in public schools was changed to Spanish in the early 1950s and English was taught as a second language. Today 90% of Puerto Ricans over fifteen are literate and a majority are functionally bilingual. This bilingualism is reinforced by the fact that Puerto Rican communities on the continent continue to prosper and that Puerto Ricans by the thousands travel annually between the States and their homeland. One day at a gift shop, I decided in my residual Spanish to regale a clerk with my memories from a half century before. She listened patiently and thanked me for sharing these things with her, then, switching to English, she explained that “I was born and raised in Massachusetts, and only came back here three years ago. I don’t know much about what happened here before that.”
Puerto Rican Spanish, while structurally closer to Castillian than most western hemisphere dialects, is now overwhelmed with Americanisms. The most popular sport is baseball, little leagues and all. Santa is everywhere and newspapers are overwhelmed with advertisements of gifts for la Navidad. The minute Santa heads north, the stores start pushing gifts for the Fiesta de los Reyes. Speed limits are posted in miles per hour while distances on road signs are measured in kilometers. They don’t like Castro very much but they still find ways to visit their relatives in Cuba when they want to. In the 1993 plebiscite on the question of Puerto Rico’s political status, 4.4% of voters favored independence.

Now let me return to North Africa where I really belong. In the same period when Puerto Rico was making the transition to commonwealth status, nationalist movements in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco geared up to end generations of authoritarian rule by France. They doggedly resisted all offers by France to accord them internal autonomy under an umbrella of French sovereignty. They were bent on freedom, which could only come through independence. Within a few years all three countries gained independence. Nearly a half century later, political freedom for their peoples is still a distant vision, while cultural, intellectual, gender, economic, and other freedoms are parcelled out in varying, but extremely limited ways by the ruling establishments.

With regard to economic development in Morocco and Tunisia, tourism and transfers from nationals living abroad--mostly in the former métropole--are the largest sources of income, while off-shoring of labor intensive industries like textiles is growing in importance. Per capita GDP in Tunisia is about $5,200 and in Morocco $3,600. In Algeria, a rentier state whose economy is overwhelmingly dependent upon hydrocarbon exports, the per capita GDP is $4,700. Distribution of this wealth is so unbalanced, however, that, according to an article in Le Monde on March 13, 40% of the nation’s population live below the poverty line. These per capita GDPs range from 37% to 53% of those in Puerto Rico where the American flag still flies alongside that of the Commonwealth.

One of the greatest ironies I see is in the radically different results triggered by the return to the native language in North Africa and Puerto Rico. In all North African countries, Arabic became the sole official language at the moment of independence. It was progressively phased in as the language of instruction in public schools as the years went by. As of the year 2000, adult literacy stood in Morocco at 43.7%, in Algeria at 61.6%, and in Tunisia at 66.9%. In each of these countries, however, French remains a sine qua non of upward mobility for most individuals. This is because of its importance in the business world, the sciences, technology, tourism, and many liberal professions. The majority of newspapers continue to appear in French, as does a significant percentage of the scholarly and scientific work required for growth and development. Yet, ironically, it is primarily middle and upper middle class families who have access, through expensive private education, to that language. The populist nationalism which drove French out of the official public sphere, has ended up broadening the gap between rulers and ruled, rich and poor, and
unfortunately, the secular and religiously oriented.

I have for several years been taken with the post-colonialist focus on the concept of cultural hybridity. In post-colonial models, all peoples and cultures need to be seen as hybrids who are constantly changing due to interaction with others. The process intensifies, however, within colonial relationships, and does not end when the political connections are relaxed or severed. If I could possibly come up with an appropriate methodology, I would like to do a study comparing hybridization processes and outcomes in Puerto Rico and North Africa. It would need to deal with a diversity of issues, including heritage, class, gender, language, information, and mobility. But as I think it through, what started out as an article is quickly becoming several!

The Century of Human Hegemony
An Interview with John McNeill

Professor John R. McNeill has spoken about his prize-winning book, Something New Under the Sun, in several radio interviews. The comments below were excerpted from his conversation with George Liston Seay, on Dialogue, a public affairs program presented by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and aired on Public Radio International. The program aired during the week of 29 January-4 February, 2001.

GLS: To me the central argument of your book is that humans have usurped the role that microbes played for about the past three and a half million years in affecting the course of environmental change. This is certainly an unprecedented development.

JRM: Yes… of course human beings have been affecting the environment in at least modest ways for as long as there have been human beings. But for the majority of earth history it’s been microbes who have been, as I put it, “lords of the biosphere.” In modern times, that role has been transferred to human beings, where it will stay for the foreseeable future.

GLS: What strikes me from your book is the point that this state of affairs is complicated by the fact that we’ve gotten used to it, used to the benefits we think we derive from it, and used to rapid growth in the population and economy.

JRM: Yes, and that’s interesting in at least two respects. First, it’s a reflection on our limited lifespans. Those of us who are born in the 20th century have only known a very peculiar moment in the world’s history, a moment of enormous expansion in economies, in energy use, in all sorts of things—a time of enormous swirl and flux in the world’s ecology. And because we only live three score and ten years, it’s easy for us to assume that this is the ordinary state of affairs. It isn’t. If we lived 700 years or 7,000, we would understand this in a way that we cannot, unless we look at the past very carefully.

GLS: That leads me to think that some of the assumptions we might be glibly making, such as the fact that we have a stable climate and cheap water, are really the wrong assumptions.

JRM: They will be wrong assumptions sooner or later—it’s unclear how soon. With respect to climate, it may well be that we have already entered into a period of comparatively rapid climate change of our own making. That’s not absolutely certain,
although most of the evidence points in that direction. And this is the second reason why this is an interesting observation: we have gotten used to this flux and swirl. We have gotten used to steady tides of economic growth and population growth, and sooner or later some of these tides are going to cease or perhaps reverse themselves. And then, all the thinking and the institutions and the politics that have grown up around this age of exuberant expansion are all going to have make some adjustments. That may be a difficult passage.

GLS: We just can’t continue going the way we are going and expect a good outcome.

JRM: There can be no logical doubt about that. We are on an unsustainable path, or rather have been on an unsustainable path for some time. That’s not to say, however, that we are necessarily in for some collapse or catastrophe. Paths can be changed. Indeed, the trends of the 20th century are not going to be reproduced in the 21st. It’s quite unthinkable, for instance, that human population could quadruple in the 21st century. That would take us up to 24 billion people. It’s just not going to happen. The trends are going to change. Whether they change in gentle and benign ways that don’t cause much dislocation and hardship, or abrupt and wrenching ways, remains to be seen. But they are going to change.

GLS: Your book has many stark reminders, but also gives us some heartening news. You describe how some cities have been able to correct their problems with air pollution.

JRM: Some environmental problems are surprisingly easy to reverse—some of them, not all. Urban air pollution is one of those most susceptible to reversal. In this country, St. Louis was the trendsetter. In 1940, St. Louis politicians, industrialists, journalists, angry housewives, and others, got together and organized a fairly effective air pollution reduction program, which Pittsburgh copied after the second world war to address its own, more serious problem.

GLS: Turning to water, I was very interested to learn that something like 98% of our liquid fresh water resources lie deep underground, in the aquifers, from which we draw them up for our own use, and that we’re over-exploiting those aquifers on almost a worldwide basis.

JRM: I would say this is becoming the most critical environmental issue, because it translates into political frictions and bad health very easily. People have been pumping water up for a long time, but especially with fossil fuels it’s cheap to pump it up from greater depths, so aquifers have been run down on every continent. Some of the most disturbing examples of that are in the United States. The high plains sit on a big aquifer, the Ogallala aquifer, about half of which is now gone, because it has been used to irrigate fields and pastures on the high plains. Without that, the cattle economy and the wheat economy of the high plains of the United States would be hard to maintain.

GLS: Politics is an underlying theme this book. I was impressed to read how many times dams and water management projects are done for political reasons, and can lead to environmental disasters such as the Aral Sea. The Aswan Dam, for example, had enormous unintended consequences in Egypt.

JRM: A lot of environmental changes happen as unintended consequences of actions taken for completely other reasons—a lot of which are political. This may be no more true with respect to water than with respect to air, or soils, or living things, but it sure is obvious in the case of dam building. In many countries—India, China, Egypt, the old Soviet Union, and not least the western part of the United States—dam-building took on a political aspect. Prestige projects gave convincing evidence of the government commitment to modernization and improving the lot of farmers. And so it was often good politics to build dams, even if, ultimately, it meant that a lot of people had to be moved—sometimes millions of people in the case of Indian and Chinese dams—or that the downstream river was completely changed ecologically, and species might go extinct. And the dams used for irrigation purposes might lead to the salinization of farmers’ fields—as in the Aral Sea region. All kinds of things can happen when you
dam up a river and reorganize the plumbing of a landscape, and very little of it is foreseen.

GLS: I was struck by how common unintended consequences were in practically every realm of human endeavor throughout the century, and how often the law of irony seemed to be working. Human inventiveness itself led to these unintended consequences, didn’t it? With air conditioning, for example?

JRM: Yes, through the efforts of Thomas Midgley, whose career gives a good example of the principle that in ecology you can’t do only one thing. Midgley was a chemist born in western Pennsylvania in the 1880’s. Early in his career, when he was working for a division of General Motors, he had the bright idea of putting lead into gasoline, which made the gas burn more efficiently, allowed higher octane and higher compression engines—it was a great idea! But of course it meant, inadvertently, that over the course of the next sixty or seventy years billions of tons of lead would be emitted into the atmosphere, and in crowded cities with traffic problems—say, Bangkok—this produced neurological damage, particularly in children. Midgley in my estimation is the single organism in the history of the earth most consequential for the environment, and not just because of his invention of leaded gasoline.

GLS: Why else?

JRM: In the late twenties, he was asked to develop a new refrigerant, because in the old days refrigeration was done with ammonia, which was flammable, and lots of accidents took place. So Midgley invented the first chlorofluorocarbons—freon was the name he gave the first one. This solved the refrigeration problem very nicely. But, what no one knew, or could know in 1929-30, was that eventually, after doing their work as refrigerants, CFCs would work their way into the atmosphere, percolate up to the stratosphere, damage the ozone layer, and subject life on earth to higher levels of ultraviolet radiation: unintended consequences.

GLS: Where does all this leave us? What’s the importance of it? What can we do about it?

JRM: As a historian, I’m very cautious about trying to predict the future, and I don’t go very far down that line. It does seem to me that the paths of recent history are unsustainable, and that humankind and its environmental position at the beginning of the 21st century are either in a crisis or on the brink of a crisis. Whether it’s one or the other perhaps isn’t all that important. What this implies is that business as usual is going to change, and that the responsibility all of us face is to try to see that that happens in ways that are not disruptive, dislocating, wrenching and painful. It seems to me that’s quite achievable, but it will require a good deal of clear thinking, a good deal of diplomacy, a good deal of education, and probably some luck as well.
Graduate Student Life

A Candid Interview with Meredith Oyen, President of the GSO

Meredith Oyen is a second-year Ph.D. candidate in American diplomatic history. Since May 2000, she has served as president of the Graduate Student Organization. Her colleague Simone Ameskamp asked her to reflect on life at Georgetown, her responsibilities as GSO, and some of the salient issues of the day.

SA: Why did you decide to come to Georgetown?
MO: I really wanted to move to D.C., and I’ve had a strong interest in Georgetown in particular for years, even before I investigated schools, programs, or degrees. After I’d received my acceptances and knew my options, I looked much more closely at who I’d be working with and what the program would be like to make my decision. It was the right one.

SA: What do you dislike about living in Washington, DC?
MO: I’m generally very pro-D.C., and I love the convenience of the Smithsonian Museums (especially Natural History). I’ve had a lot of adventures here that I might not have had elsewhere. But, of course, there is that whole issue of having no voting representative in Congress...

SA: You teach ESL. What is the biggest challenge you face?
MO: The diversity of the students. In my current class, I have 15 students from 13 countries, who speak at 15 different levels of proficiency. Finding activities that everyone can benefit from is always tricky. Of course, that’s also what makes teaching English so much fun. But it doesn’t help that classes are Friday nights, so I’m usually pretty punchy and my thought-processes are, as a result, sometimes hard to follow (for me and my students).

SA: You also support National History Day. Why?
MO: The National History Day competition for 6th through 12th grade students comes close to being the perfect academic competition. Of course, like everyone else in the department I have an interest in seeing history not only well-preserved, but also well-taught to young scholars. But even more importantly, I think, History Day trains students in the kinds of skills they’ll need for life: they conduct research (and discover where and how to find new information), synthesize and write about the information they’ve collected, creatively present their research and arguments, and do all of this under a deadline. The added incentive of progressive school, regional, state/citywide, and national competitions adds to the fun and the quality of the projects. Of course, I also have a personal interest in the program -- I competed for four years in junior high and high school, and that experience was what motivated me to change my college major to history from paleontology.

SA: How did you become interested in your minor, Chinese history?
MO: My father has an old friend who is an engineer and who collects Chinese textiles. When my sister and I were little, he and his wife would visit and he would teach us binary math and hexadecimal, and then they would both tell us stories about Chinese history. My sister is finishing up her Ph.D. in material science engineering; after a brief and ill-fated foray into the geological sciences, I chose the other route.

SA: What was the most hilarious moment in your grad school career?
MO: There have been so many... I accidentally serenaded a member of the faculty with my own personal rendition of “Blue Moon” once.

SA: On how many committees are you serving?
MO: Not counting subcommittees or anything internal to the GSO, six.

SA: What is it like to be president?
MO: Well, the power and influence is limitless... Actually, most of my work involves acting as a conduit between various parts of the administration and the graduate student body. I attend meetings and report the information back to the GSO, then bring the grad student perspective to the various administrators I meet with. A huge part of the job is making sure that the GSO will be strong—both in spirit and in budget—after I leave. The latter is looking good, and I hope the former will too.

SA: How would you describe your constituency?
MO: In theory, at least, the GSO serves all (roughly) 3,000 graduate students on the Main Campus. Unfortunately, not all of the departments send representatives to our meetings (in spite of all the threats, bribes, and charm we’ve used to try to lure them in), so it is a bit more limited. I hope, however, that any graduate student with a problem, concern, or idea would go, if not first, at least eventually, to the GSO.

SA: Would you like to sub for George W. Bush or Martin Sheen?
MO: The GSO presidency is presently the limit of my political ambitions.

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2001 FACULTY PROFILE

In order to provide readers with a closer view of the department faculty and their work, the Newsletter annually profiles individual faculty members and introduces short selections from their writing. This year, we profile European diplomatic historian Aviel Roshwald, who has just been appointed full professor.

Aviel Roshwald Reflects on the Sources of National Identity

Nationalism is easy to talk about, as long as it’s someone else’s. Reflecting on the central theoretical issue in his research and teaching, Aviel Roshwald remarks that he finds too many discussions of nationalism to be antiseptic and detached. Then, with a characteristic mix of insight and playfulness, he adds, “maybe that’s because a lot of it’s written by alienated Jews like me.” In a scholarly career that started at a precocious age, Roshwald has restlessly pursued an intellectual course from abstract issues to questions intimately tied to his own personal and intellectual formation, moving from political science to political history, then to the history of nationalism and the fundamental question of the nature of national identity itself.

The child of Polish-born Israeli parents living in Minnesota, Roshwald grew up in a strangely divided environment. Outside of the house he lived in the world of a typical midwestern American youth (the
sort of life captured in the Coën brothers’ movie “Fargo”). At home, Middle Eastern politics filled the air, and conversation often turned on what it meant to be Jewish. Every two or three years, he spent summers in Israel, which nurtured in him the feeling that he was permanently connected to Israel, yet at the same time confirmed that he was not quite Israeli himself. Culturally isolated from their surroundings, Roshwald’s parents were, in his words, “their own movement in Judaism—everyone else was either too orthodox or too liberal.” The strong Jewishness inculcated in him despite his family’s uprooted life—or perhaps because of it—became central to his sense of self, yet left him daily confronting the paradoxes of national identity.

Quickly bored by a high school where the history teacher quizzed students on such trivia as the name of Andrew Jackson’s mule, Roshwald entered the University of Minnesota at the age of fourteen, planning to major in political science. He soon found himself alienated from that field’s deductive approach as well, and turned to history. He went on to Harvard for graduate school, and there began the work for his dissertation and first book, *Estranged Bedfellows: Britain and France in the Middle East During the Second World War*. This study of Mideast diplomacy examined the behavior of regional imperial officials involved in what Roshwald describes as an “anachronistic game of colonial rivalry” while World War raged in Europe. By the author’s own account it was an eccentric topic, perhaps befitting his eccentric intellectual career. “The beauty of history is its magnificent irrelevance!” Roshwald laughs. Yet the work also demonstrated something of broad significance: the lag between geopolitical transformation and political consciousness. It thus provided an insight into politics only available from the archival study of history: that contingencies such as the persistence of elites acting on outmoded assumptions or personal vendettas may explain a political situation that rational analysis cannot.

Roshwald taught at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, Tufts, and Pomona College before coming to Georgetown in 1991. In addition to teaching European history and the history of international relations, he has taught a freshman pro-seminar and an upper-level colloquium on nationalism. Several years ago, he introduced the course “World War I as Historical Watershed.” One day toward the end of the semester, Russian historian Richard Stites saw the syllabus and casually suggested they put together a book on the subject. Equally casually, Roshwald said “sure.” Within a few minutes, Stites returned with a written proposal. The eventual result was *European Culture in the Great War: the Arts, Entertainment, and Propaganda, 1914-1918*, a collection of 14 essays edited by Stites and Roshwald. In contrast to the wealth of research on the effects of the war, this innovative volume focused specifically on social cultural developments during the war years. With this tighter chronological focus, it encompassed greater geographical extent, examining wartime culture in Eastern European countries as well as in the better-known West. Here Roshwald worked on the subject of Jewish cultural identity as a scholar for the first time, contributing an extended essay that examined the wartime experience of Jews in Eastern and Central Europe.

A second book-length study followed the edited volume with remarkable rapidity. This time, with the encouragement of his colleagues, Roshwald decided to tackle the question of nationalism and the emergence of national identities through a broad synthesis of movements in Europe, Russia, and the Middle East during and following World War I. Inspired by the writing of Isaiah Berlin, Roshwald chose this key period in the formation and propagation of modern democratic principles to illuminate the historical relationship between liberalism and nationalism. Here he demonstrated the ultimately self-contradictory nature of liberal nationalism. The most ethnically inclusive attempts to form civic consciousness, like the Czechoslovakism of Masaryk, he pointed out, still alienated ethnic minorities, while the most successful efforts, like the Turkish nationalism of Kemal Ataturk, were ruthless in their cultural assimilation programs. Yet tracing the history of ethnic nationalism’s excesses did not lead him to conclude that politics must reject all notions of the ethnic nation, for the human need for “a communal
framework of identity” persists, and liberal
democratic states depend upon it. The tension
between liberalism and nationalism, Roshwald
writes, calls for “imaginative compromises and
idiosyncratic improvisations.” The new regimes of
the post-World War I era failed to recognize the
necessity for a certain degree of ideological and
institutional “messiness” in nation-state formation,
but the experiment, he concludes, is not yet over.

In academic year 1999-2000, as he continued to teach
and write on nationalism, Roshwald directed the
Jewish Studies Initiative, leading Georgetown in its
first step toward developing a program in Jewish
Studies. His efforts bore fruit in the hiring of
historian Cecile Kuznitz, who now directs the
Initiative and teaches courses in Jewish history.

The last two years have been particularly happy ones
for Aviel Roshwald. In addition to tenure and two
major publications, his personal life has been blessed
by his marriage in October, 1999 to Alene Moyer,
Assistant Professor of German at the University of
Maryland. As stepfather to her two sons, Martin and
Joseph, he finds now that whatever professorial
affectations he may assume in the course of the day
are quickly deflated in camel rides and wrestling
matches back at home. His wife’s growing interest
in ethnolinguistics provides a further stimulus to his
research on ethnicity and nation.

Faculty Sampler: Aviel Roshwald on the
Forging of Nations in World War I

The most striking example of how wartime exile in
the Allied countries could propel a hitherto respected
but relatively powerless figure into the seat of power
is that of Tomáš Masaryk. By 1914, Masaryk had
come to the conclusion that the Austro-Hungarian
state was too retrograde and authoritarian to be
susceptible to reform. Its alignment with Wilhelmine
Germany in the war only reinforced his sense that
full independence rather than autonomy within a
German-dominated Central Europe represented the
only meaningful form of self-determination for the
Czech nation. By the same token, the war seemed to
open up the first realistic possibility of breaking up
the Habsburg empire. To this end, in December
1914, Masaryk left Austria-Hungary for Switzerland,
where he began to plan a campaign from abroad on
behalf of Czech independence...

While there were strong elements of continuity
between Masaryk’s pre- and post-1914 positions, the
process of inventing a state in the diplomatic
cyberspace of wartime exile certainly helped shape
his program, and had a far-reaching impact on the
institutions and political dynamics of interwar
Czechoslovakia. Masaryk’s decision to openly attack
the legitimacy of the Habsburg state was itself a
function of the war. More interesting is the manner
in which his wartime circumstances shaped the
future of relations between Czechs and Slovaks.

Unencumbered by direct involvement in the political
life of his homeland, Masaryk was free to take his
ideas on the Czech-Slovak connection to their logical
conclusion by advocating the creation of a
Czechoslovak nation-state.

Masaryk’s effective wartime constituencies were
Western elites and Czech and Slovak immigrant
communities. Both groups proved receptive to his
ideas on Czech-Slovak affinity. His Anglo-French-
American audience was sympathetic to his rhetoric
about the need to forge a common national identity
among the two Slavic peoples on the basis of the
Czechs’ liberal-democratic values, with the new
Czechoslovakia to become a bastion of the West in
German-dominated Central Europe. For their part,
the Czech and Slovak communities of the United
States were much more aware of their similarities in
the context of their common encounter with American
urban life than were their brethren in the old
country. It was in Pittsburgh, of all places, that
Masaryk met with American Czech and Slovak
leaders to issue a joint declaration calling for the
creation of an independent Czechoslovakia. The Pittsburgh Declaration of 1917 was an effort to lend Masaryk’s efforts the legitimacy of popular approval by the largest community of Czechs and Slovaks living outside the Austro-Hungarian empire. Yet while Masaryk regarded it as an affirmation of his vision of Czechoslovak unity, the document also contained assurances of Slovak autonomy within the framework of the future state—assurances that were to remain unfulfilled. As such, it was to be the subject of increasingly venomous disputes during the interwar years.

The problem with Masaryk’s program was that it could easily be taken as little more than a façade for Czech cultural imperialism. Masaryk clearly regarded Czech culture as the ideal medium for the dissemination of progressive values to the Slovaks. He seemed uncertain over how to deal with the fact that Slovak was linguistically distinct from Czech. In his wartime propaganda, he referred to Slovak as nothing more than a dialect of Czech, while promising that this dialect would be used in Slovak schools and administration. He made no mention of employing Slovak at the level of higher education, and insisted that the linguistic issue would not constitute a stumbling block, indeed, that “there can be no language question, because every Slovak, even without an education, understands Czech and every Czech understands Slovak.” The latter observation was quite true, yet it also reflected the rather naïve obliviousness on Masaryk’s part to the “narcissism of minor difference” that can play so powerful a role in the formation of national identities and the generation of ethnic conflicts.

Aviel Roshwald, Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires: Central Europe, Russia and the Middle East, 1914-1923 (London and New York: Routledge, 2001).
courses, which include one colloquium and four other courses on international history, a colloquium in comparative history, and six courses in a self-designed concentration, approved by each student’s advisor, to include at least one colloquium or seminar. The twelve courses must include at least two and no more than four courses from other Departments.

The Department has expanded its offerings of general education courses. Since 1998 we offer courses in World History and in the History of the Atlantic World, and in the Spring of 2002 we will offer a course on the Modern History of the Pacific World. The general education requirements in History for the School of Foreign Service, which recently were lowered from four courses to three, are still in the process of being revised. Twelve students this year are enrolled in the Senior Honors Seminar, directed by Professor Howard Spendelow.

Tommaso Astarita
Director of Undergraduate Studies

The Graduate Program

The graduate program has achieved its goal of attaining national excellence. Measured by our record in placing our graduates, we rank among the top twenty programs in the country. Although U.S. News & World Report continues to undervalue our program by failing to credit our placement success, we moved up several places in their rankings, which are based on a reputation survey.

Nineteen students entered the Ph.D. program this year (2000-01), almost twice as many as entered the previous year. The program also continues to be highly selective. This year, we offered admission to less than thirty percent of our applicants. Two years ago, the Graduate School began its University Fellowships, a university-wide program that offers higher stipends than “regular” assistantships. The first year, both of the History Department’s nominees were awarded fellowships, and last year two of our three nominees won fellowships. This year, one of our three nominees was awarded a University Fellowship and another was named an alternate.

Funding remains a key issue. Under current funding we are able to provide full assistance (stipend plus tuition) for four years to around seven students a year. We have also begun providing a de facto fifth year of assistance to selected students either through funding their research for a year or through a Davis Fellowship. In addition, we generally provide tuition scholarships to many other students. Nevertheless, we continue to lag behind our peer programs in the level and duration of financial assistance. In addition, we need to improve the quality of our financial assistance to include health insurance, language training, and a service-free first year.

On the other end of the program, several students have completed their degrees this year, and we continue to have success in placing our graduates. In addition to their academic preparation, many of our graduates have benefited from Davis Fellowships, which allow them to teach an advanced undergraduate colloquium of their own design. Although the Graduate School no longer designates funds for the Davis Fellowships, the History Department has continued to fund four to six Davis Fellows a year out of our overall allocation from the Graduate School. In most cases, we are able to fund Davis Fellows for two semesters, thus providing a writing semester in addition to the teaching semester. In addition, many of our students are able to gain teaching experience as adjuncts in sections of European Civilization, and next year some will be able to teach sections of World History.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Catherine Evtuhov will take over as Director of Graduate Studies in July.

David S. Painter
Director of Graduate Studies
Recent Doctorates (Ph.D.’s completed, 2000-2001)

CARAFANO, James J. (B.S., United States Military Academy at West Point, M.A., Georgetown)
“‘Waltzing into the Cold War’: US Army Military Operations in Occupied Austria and the Limits of Military Power, 1945-1955”

HILL, Richard (B.A., Georgia State, M.A., Georgetown)
“Pearl Harbor Month: Why the United States Went to War with Germany”

“Chinese Reaction to the Portrayal of China and Chinese in American Motion Pictures prior to 1949”

Phi Alpha Theta Activities

Georgetown’s Beta Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta continues to be quite active. The 1999-2000 year concluded with two major events. On March 25th, the chapter held a Spring Banquet and Candlelight Induction Ceremony with 41 people—students, parents and faculty—in attendance. Guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Edna Greene Medford of Howard University, who gave a slide-illustrated lecture on “Slavery from the Perspective of New York’s 18th century African Burial Ground.” In early April 2000, ten of our students gave a total of eleven papers at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Only three paper prizes were awarded at that conference, but our students captured all them: a first-place prize for the best graduate paper (Kate Sampsell), and two undergraduate paper prizes: first-place for Lauren Boccardi, and second-place for W. Brent Haas for his two papers. At the end of the year, the final count for new initiates to Beta Pi Chapter was 86. As a testament to the quality of student involvement in Phi Alpha Theta, national headquarters awarded the Beta Pi Chapter a “Best Chapter Award” for 1999-2000. The chapter will receive a framable certificate for this, and a monetary donation will be made to Lauinger Library, in Beta Pi’s name, for the purchase of some history monographs. Georgetown students also made an exceptional showing at the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference in April, 2001, taking three out of five prizes awarded. First place in the graduate paper competition went to Catherine Blair for her paper, “State and Society in Sixteenth-Century Lithuania: A Comparison of Lithuanian Statutes of 1529 and 1588.” Second prize went to Nadya Sbaiti for her paper “Reconstructing Arab History: The History Layla Al-Sabbagh.” In the undergraduate competition, Victoria Golebiowski won second prize for a paper entitled “The Construction of a Renaissance Identity: The Self-Portraiture of Sofonisba Aguissola.”

So far this academic year, Beta Pi Chapter has sponsored four major activities. In September, when the Red Cross announced that the local blood supply was “dangerously low,” several chapter members and faculty advisor Professor Horvath-Peterson donated as a group to this important cause. In early October, the chapter held another booksale to exhaust the supply of books left over from last year’s booksale. Once again, and thanks in part to donations from several faculty members, the chapter netted over $300. At the end of October, the chapter hosted a Halloween Party, once again inviting Professor Goldfrank to speak on the man behind the Dracula legend, the cruel Vlad Tepès. Finally, on November 9th, the chapter sponsored a walking tour of historic Georgetown with Professor Ronald Johnson as guide. About a dozen students braved the drizzle and rain that afternoon for the walking history lesson, but they were well rewarded with a “new” discovery, the existence of the old “White Horse Tavern” at 1524 33rd Street. According to the bronze plaque on the building, this former tavern “…was a popular meeting place of Thomas Jefferson and other notables. It was here that Major John Cox [at the time, mayor of Georgetown] entertained General Lafayette [probably during his 1824 tour of major east coast cities] with a dinner of reed-birds, followed
by dancing to music from the balcony.” The rain-soaked Phi Alpha Thetans returned to campus in the highest of spirits and with a promise from Professor Johnson that he would take them on another one of his walking tours in the near future.

Faculty Publications, Papers and Research

In the spring of 2000 Assistant Professor Gábor Ágoston received a Junior Faculty Research Fellowship from Georgetown, which allowed him to complete several chapters of his book on Ottoman military technology, and a longer article about the Ottoman conquest in the Balkans. He published two books in Hungarian: A tizenhetedik század története [History of Hungary in the Seventeenth Century], co-authored with Teréz Oborni, and Magyarország története 100+1 tételek [History of Hungary in one hundred and one chapters], co-authored with Robert Hermann. The first book is the seventh volume of a new ten-volume Hungarian History, which is also used as an undergraduate textbook at many universities and colleges of the country. The second one was originally written in 1996 for the Hungarian Radio, and its audio version is available from the website of the Kossuth Radio. His essays and articles published in 2000 include “The Costs of the Ottoman Fortress-System in Hungary in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries” in Ottomans, Hungarians and Habsburgs in Central Europe. The Military Confines in the Era of Ottoman Conquest, edited by Géza Dávid and Pál Fodor, “The Ottoman-Habsburg Frontier in Hungary (1541-1699): a Comparison,” in The Great Ottoman, Turkish Civilization vol. 1. Politics, edited by Güler Eren, et al (also published in Turkish translation); “Osmanlı _mparatorlu_u’nda Harp Endüstrisi ve Barut Teknolojisi (1450-1700)” [Arms Industry and Gunpowder Technology in the Ottoman Empire, 1450-1700] in Güler Eren, Kemal Çiček, Cem O_uz eds., Osmanlı Cilt :6 Te_kilat; (in Turkish); “La strada che conduceva a Nándorfehérvár (Belgrade): L’Ungheria, l’espansione ottomana nei Balcani e la vittoria di Nándorfehérvár” in La campana di mezzogiorno. Saggi per il Quinto Centenario della bolla papale edited by in Zsolt Visy. He was the co-organizer and panelist at a seminar entitled “Hungary’s First Millennium” organized jointly by the History Department, the BMW Center for German and European Studies and CERES of Georgetown University and the Hungarian Embassy and held at Georgetown on April 17, 2000.

After a year’s break, Professor Tommaso Astarita is again the Department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies. He was promoted to the rank of Professor in the Spring of 2000. In November, he received the College’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, in recognition of his creative use of classroom materials such as slides, videos and musical recordings in holding the interest of about 70 students at one time in “European Civilization.” He is beginning research on a project on the workers’ guilds in early modern Naples. This year he is teaching a new colloquium on autobiography and identity in early modern Europe.

Y2K was quite a productive year for David Goldfrank. He finished and delivered to Cistercian Publications—in virtual desktop publishing form—the revised and expanded edition of The Monastic Rule of Iosif Volotsky, which was in print by the end of the year. He wrote several papers: “Muscovy and the Mongols: What’s What and What’s Maybe,” (published in Kritika, NS 1.2 Spring 2000, 259-68); “Aristotle, Bodin, and Montesquieu to the Rescue: Making Sense of the Despotism Issue” (for a Festschrift for Hans Jakob Torke, to be published by Forschungen zur osteuropäischen Geschichte); “The Holy Sepulchre and The Origin of the Crimean War,”
(invited paper for a volume on Russian military history to be published by Cambridge University Press). He also participated in several conferences, including the International Congress on Slavic and East European Studies in Tampere, Finland. Then in Helsinki, he reestablished ties going back thirty-two years with the Slavonic Library and helped lay the groundwork for a collective volume on the Russo-Japanese War. And early in 2001, Goldfrank and the Russian History textbook gang (Professors Evtuhov and Stites here and Lindsey Hughes in London) finally sent off a complete draft to Houghton Mifflin. Goldfrank has now launched a new major project, which ought to complete researches he commenced as he was doing his Ph.D.—Low Rhetoric and High Power: Russia's Iosifite Century, 1470-1570. His undergraduate teaching in Y2K was exclusively world history: the second half of the survey, the introductory globalization course for SFS international history majors, and a first year SFS pro-seminar on slavery in world history.

Professor Ronald Johnson is currently on sabbatical working on his co-authored (with Abby A. Johnson of the Liberal Studies Program) study of “Death, Burial, and Memorial at Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C., 1807-1980.” His (and her) chapter on “Funereal Pageantry and National Unity: The Death and Burial of John Quincy Adams” appeared in Ceremonies and Spectacles: Performing American Culture (2000), published by Amsterdam University Press. Last year, he joined with Abby in presenting a paper on “The Cemetery as Garden: Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., 1807-1900” before the European Association of American Studies in Graz, Austria. This fall, Professor Johnson stepped down from serving as director of American Studies, after serving 17 of the last 21 years in that capacity.


Cecile E. Kuznitz joined the department in the fall of 2000 as Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish History/Jewish Studies and Director of the Sam Eig Jewish Studies Initiative. The previous summer she completed her dissertation, “The Origins of Yiddish Scholarship and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research,” at Stanford University. In her first year at Georgetown, Cecile taught “Introduction to Jewish Studies” as well as two courses on modern Jewish history. She also organized several public events, including a symposium on Polish-Jewish history in the twentieth century held in memory of Jan Karski. Off campus, she presented papers entitled “The Dilemmas of Engaged Scholarship: The Work of the YIVO Institute in Interwar Vilna” at the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies; “Ansky’s Legacy: The Historic-Ethnographic Society and the Study of Folklore in Vilna” at the conference “Between Two Worlds: S. Ansky at the Turn of the Century” at Stanford University; “Nokhem Shif – The Odysseys of a Yiddish Scholar” at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; and “Politics, Popularization, and the Making of Yiddish Culture” at the University of Maryland.

Michael Kazin’s America Divided: The Civil War of the 1960’s (co-authored with Maurice Isserman) appeared in paperback in July, 2000. It was named one of the best books of 2000 by The Washington Post. Michael continues working on his study of William Jennings Bryan and his followers (under contract with Knopf), for which he was awarded a senior faculty fellowship for the next academic year. He gave a paper on the subject at the AHA in Boston.
Associate Professor Erick D. Langer spent last summer as a Fulbright scholar in Salta, Argentina. There he taught the inaugural course at the National University of Salta for their new Master’s program in Frontier Studies and did research on the behavior of indigenous groups on the Chaco frontier during the independence wars. Professor Langer co-authored a new world history text, *Experiencing World History* (New York: New York University Press, 2000), and expects that once this has been discovered, he will be asked to teach a World History course at Georgetown. He prepared a revised edition of *Formulación de proyectos de investigación*, the previous edition turned out to be a best seller (in Bolivian academic terms!) and sold out. Professor Langer also published an article on the twentieth-century history of Chuquisaca (Bolivia) on CD-ROM and wrote an article on the economic history of the Gran Chaco for the *Encyclopedia of Economic History* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming). He presented papers at the Latin American Studies Association, the American Historical Association, Instituto Histórico “Dr. Emilio Ravignani” (Buenos Aires, Argentina), National University of Tucumán (Argentina), National University of the Center (Argentina), University of Texas (Austin), Foreign Service Institute, and York University (Toronto, Canada). Lastly, he organized an all-day conference sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies on “The Politics and Economics of Oil: Venezuela and Latin America in Comparative Perspective,” held on February 9, 2001.

Assistant Professor Amy E. Leonard spent last summer in Strasbourg, France, doing research and recovering from her first year of teaching European Civilization. Upon her return she gave a conference paper, “Nuns as Whores: A Common Trope,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in October, and then helped organize and participate in a roundtable seminar on “Female Religious Communities” at the Early Modern Women conference at College Park, MD. In the Spring she will be presenting another paper at a special conference on Church History on the topic of women, the Reformation, and Church History today, as well as giving a lecture for the Smithsonian Associates Program on the religious geography of Europe. She is currently working on an article on female religious orders, due in May, for a Blackwell volume on the Reformation, edited by Ronnie Po-chia Hsia. After that she will be excitedly looking forward to her junior sabbatical leave next Spring.

U.S. historian Joseph McCartin joined the department in 1999 from SUNY-Geneseo. He is now at work on two book projects. One examines the ill-fated 1981 strike of PATCO, the union of federal air traffic controllers broken by President Ronald Reagan. The other is a documentary collection tracing the history of American labor.

In the past year, James Millward has continued work on his history of the Xinjiang (eastern Turkestan) region in northwest China, and has focused more attention on the separatist crisis in the area. He has also been preparing for publication of a volume he has edited on Chengde, the Qing dynasty’s Inner Asian capital. Millward delivered presentations on Chinese modern history, Mongolia, Xinjiang and Tibet, and Chinese minority issues to a Yale seminar for high school teachers of Asian studies, and spoke on Qing dynasty eclecticism and cosmopolitanism before the International Chinese Snuff Bottle Association (text and illustrations from this presentation will appear in an upcoming issue of
Association’s journal). In 2001, Millward launched a new course that employs *The Dream of Red Mansions* (Hong lou meng, also known as *Story of the Stone*), China’s greatest novel, as the core text to examine the social and cultural history of 18th century China, a time and place not unlike our own, both for its great prosperity and for the ominous clouds on the horizon. He continues to teach his survey of Central Eurasia and to participate in offering the core “intersocietal history/globalization” course for students in the Masters program of the School of Foreign Service.

**John McNeill**’s *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the 20th-century World* came out in 2000 with W.W. Norton in the U.S. and with Penguin in the U.K. British historian Eric Hobsbawm noted it as the most original book he read in 2000. It won the World History Association book prize, was selected as “book of the month” by the World Bank Development Group, and will be translated into 7 languages. In the spring of 2000, McNeill enjoyed a sabbatical, spent in Christchurch, New Zealand, where he was a Canterbury Fellow at the University of Canterbury. He gave papers or lectured at the World Bank, Yale University, George Washington University, the U.S. Naval Academy, the Woodrow Wilson Center, the National Parks Service, the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, the Foreign Policy School of the University of Otago (New Zealand), the International Congress of Historical Sciences (Oslo), the New Zealand Association of University Women, the Library of Congress, and the annual meetings of the American Society for Environmental History and the American Historical Association. He also published two articles and four book reviews, was appointed to the Board of Editors of the British journal *Environment and History*, and was named series editor for Cambridge University Press’ series in environmental history. He is working on a new book about the political and military importance of yellow fever in the Americas, 1650-1900.

In 1999-2000, **Kathryn Olesko** continued to work on her two book projects, *Precision in German Society: Westphalia to Divided Berlin* and *Science in Germany: Reason for Profit*. While in Germany she examined the growth of regional “centers of scientific excellence” since 1989. She delivered “Deceptions of Vision: Optical Illusions in German Society” at the Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference and at a conference on *Romanticism and Visual Culture* at St. Hugh’s College, Oxford University. At the BMW Center for German & European Studies and the Program in Science, Technology and International Affairs Faculty Seminar, she spoke on “Student Protest, Gutenberg, and ‘Green Cards’: Historical Roots of Germany’s Present Crisis in Science.” For the Georgetown University Forum she gave a broadcast interview on “Gender & Science”. In May she attended Georgetown’s “Teaching, Learning, & Technology Summer Institute”. She is Editor of the History of Science Society’s annual journal, *Osiris*, was elected to a three-year term on the Society’s Executive Council.

**Aviel Roshwald**’s new book, *Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires: Central Europe, Russia and the Middle East, 1914-1923*, has just been published (January 2001) in both hardcover and paperback editions by Routledge. Over the past year, Roshwald gave papers by invitation at a University of London conference on Jewish national identity and at the Georgetown History Department’s Quigley forum, which featured Benedict Anderson, the Cornell University scholar of nationalism, as the main speaker. He also published a review article entitled “A Price above Rubies? The Value and Meaning of Survival in Modern Jewish History” in *European History Quarterly*. He intends to continue torturing his students, colleagues, and himself with the dilemmas and contradictions of ethnic politics and nationalism in modern history.

Over the past year Associate Professor **James Shedel** has continued to serve on the official jury for the Austrian State Prizes in History and as a member of the Board of Editors of the Austrian History Yearbook. During the fall semester of 2000 he attended the conference, *Paradigma Zentraleuropa: Pluralitäten, Religionen und kulturellen Codes*, held at the Université Catholique de l’Ouest in Angers,
France where he delivered the paper, “The Problem of Being Austrian: Religion, Law, and Nation from Empire to Anschluß”. Two publications by Prof. Shedel also appeared this year. They are: “Tradition, Law, and Space in the Austrian Rechtsstaat” in The Borders and National Space in East Central Europe and “Sonderweg, Myth, or Heritage? The Rechtsstaat and Modernity in Habsburg Austria” in Ambivalenz des kulturellen Erbes. He also continues to work on the research for his book on the role of the Austrian Rechtsstaat in the modernization of Austria.

Richard Stites received a Senior Faculty Research Grant from the Graduate School and will spend next year in Helsinki, St. Petersburg, and Moscow, finishing his book on Russian culture in the early nineteenth century. He, Catherine Evtuhov, David Goldfrank, and their colleague in London, Lindsey Hughes have sent in their finished manuscript, some 1600 pp. to Houghton-Mifflin: the Rise and Fall of the Russian Empire: People, Cultures, Events, Forces. In 2000, Richard published “The Creative Provinces in Early Nineteenth Century Russia,” in Modernization in the Russian Provinces, edited by Natalia Baschmakoff and Paul Fryer, “Soviet Russian Wartime Culture: Freedom and Control, Spontaneity and Consciousness,” in A People’s War: Popular Responses to World War II in the Soviet Union edited by Robert Thurston, and “Provincial Days in the 1930s: Festivals of Collusion?” in Kritika, 2 (Summer, 2000). He also gave the Carls Lecture in History at Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, entitled “The Intertwining of Russian and American Popular Culture.”

During the 1999 to 2000 academic year, Nancy Bernkopf Tucker published two long articles: “Dangerous Liaisons: China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the United States in the New Millennium,” in China Briefing edited by Tyrene White, and “Security Challenges for the United States, China and Taiwan at the Dawn of the New Millennium,” in Project Asia, published by the Center for Naval Analysis; two policy-related shorter essays, “The Taiwan Factor in the Vote on Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China and Its World Trade Organization Accession,”

National Bureau of Asian Research, which appeared on the NBR website and in the bulletin NBR Analysis, and “Options for U.S. Policy Regarding U.S.-Taiwan Relations,” American Foreign Policy Interests 22 (August 2000); as well as a variety of brief comments on American foreign policy in Asia in the 21st century, such as “Looking Ahead: Major Events That May Effect Cross-Strait Relations,” in Taiwan Strait Dilemmas edited by Gerrit W. Gong, and “Future Choices and Suggestions,” in United States-Taiwan Relations: Twenty Years After the Taiwan Relations Act edited by William Boyer and Jaw-ling Joanne Chang. She also appeared on television and radio frequently and participated in briefings on China and Taiwan for the Department of State, Department of Defense and the National Intelligence Council. In the autumn of 1999, she completed her service on the Department of State Historical Advisory Committee on Diplomatic Declassification. As this newsletter goes to press her annotated and edited book China Confidential, which looks at Sino-American relations since 1945 through oral histories recorded by American diplomats, has just been released.

Professor John Voll’s book, Makers of Contemporary Islam, co-authored with John Esposito, is about to be published by Oxford University Press as this newsletter goes to press.
During the academic year 2000-2001, Associate Professor John W. Witek, S. J., continued to teach in the Department while also serving as acting chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. He has edited Religion and Culture: An International Symposium Commemorating the Fourth Centenary of the University College of St. Paul, published by the Instituto Cultural de Macau and the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History, University of San Francisco. The fifteen essays explore various aspects of the first Western-style university college in Asia, originally established in 1594 for the training of Jesuits and Japanese lay-persons for the mission in Japan. When that mission closed in the early seventeenth century, the college became a training center for the China mission. His keynote address “Christianity and China: Universal Teaching from the West,” delivered at an international conference in 1999, appeared in China and Christianity: Burdened Past, Hopeful Future, edited by Stephen Uhalley and Xiaoxin Wu. Additionally, he contributed several essays to the The Handbook of Christianity in China, Volume One: 635-1800, which is part of the series Handbook of Oriental Studies (Handbuch der Orientalistik) Section 4: China. He was recently elected for a three-year term as second vice-president of the American Catholic Historical Association. He is a member of the University Faculty Senate and Chair of its governance committee.

ALUMNI NEWS

David Abshire (Ph.D., 1959) is president of the Center for the Study of the Presidency here in Washington. He has kindly provided the department with a copy of Triumphs and Tragedies of the Modern Presidency: Seventy-Six Case Studies in Presidential Leadership, a report examining the successes and failures of past American presidents. Prepared in 2000 for the president-elect, the report is the first of its kind.

Peter Baker has made a generous donation toward the department’s Quigley Lecture fund. He fondly remembers Professor Quigley and others of his era, who made great contributions to history.

Susan Buck-Morss (Ph.D., 1975) is Professor of Political Philosophy and Social Theory in the Department of Government at Cornell. She published a new book in May 2000 titled Dreamworld And Catastrophe: The Passing of Mass Utopia in East and West. It analyzes strong similarities of mass culture in the U.S. and U.S.S.R. and implies a reinterpretation of the meaning of the cold war. She also published the article “Hegel and Haiti,” in Critical Inquiry (summer 2000), presenting new archival evidence to show that Hegel got his idea for the famous master-slave dialectic by reading about the Haitian Revolution in 1804 (in his favorite monthly political journal, Minerva). Hisham Sharabi will find this interesting, she writes.

John D. Buenker (M.A., 1962, Ph.D., 1964) has been awarded a Fellowship for College Teachers from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He will be working on a biography of Charles McCarthy, director of the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau and author of The Wisconsin Idea. He has also signed a contract with Copley Publishing to produce a volume on the Gilded Age and Progressive Era in the Sources of the American Tradition series. In the past academic year, he published a review essay in the Journal of Urban
History, as well as several articles in the revised edition of the *Handbook of American Women’s History*, and in *The Encyclopedia of American Violence*. He gave papers at the AHA and several other conferences, and spoke to audiences around Wisconsin as a member of the state Humanities Council’s Speaker’s Bureau. He was awarded for Exemplary Service at the University of Wisconsin Parkside’s fall convocation.

**David H. Burton (M.A., 1951, Ph.D., 1953)** retired in May 2000 from the History faculty at St. Joseph’s University. He served there from 1953, and was Chair of the Department from 1976. He is presently editing the Collected Works of William Howard Taft, to be published in eight volumes by Ohio University Press. Volumes 1 and 2 will appear in 2001. Among his most successful books are *Theodore Roosevelt: Confident Imperialist* (1968), *American History—British Historians* (1976), which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and *The Learned Presidency* (1988), which was noticed by *Choice* as one of the outstanding academic books of the year.

**Edward R. Case (M.A., 1977)** returned in November 2000 from an overseas assignment in Stuttgart to become Vice President of Armstrong Holdings, Inc., a Fortune 500 manufacturer of building products located near Philadelphia. **Professor Patrick Kelly (Ph.D., 1969),** who was doing research in Freiberg, joined Ned in a regional chess tournament in Nuremberg. They earned a plus score on average (individual results were not disclosed!).

After teaching for two years as a visiting assistant professor of history at Boise State University, **Peter Cole (Ph.D., 1999)** has moved to a tenure-track position at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. Other highlights of the past year include rock-climbing in Idaho, Utah, Nevada, New Hampshire, and New York, and participating in a five-week summer seminar sponsored by the NEH at Harvard’s W.E.B. DuBois Institute on the history of civil rights.

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**George H. Curtis (Ph.D., 1972)** retired from the nation’s presidential library system in 1996, but remains involved with presidential libraries. He frequently gives classes on the subject and in the past year has conducted several Elderhostel tours of the Truman and Eisenhower libraries. In the coming year the program will be expanded to include the Hoover Library in West Branch, Iowa, and the Gerald Ford Birthplace Site in Omaha.

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**Lawrence Davidson (M.A., 1969)** reminds us that he is a proud founding member of the Georgetown University Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). He is now a full professor at West Chester University in West Chester, PA. West Chester is one of...
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**Rebekah C. Beatty Davis (Ph.D., 1999)** represented the Foreign Agricultural Service on the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2000. In June, she left her job as Assistant to the National Food Security Coordinator at the Foreign Agricultural Service to accept a position as an International Program Specialist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In this new position, Rebekah does international relations work in support of the Space Shuttle Program and NASA’s Chief Health and Medical Officer, and works with European countries on issues related to the human exploration and development of space. Together with Amy Staples and Nick Cullather, Rebekah has organized a panel titled: “Supermarket to the World.” for the 2001 OAH Conference. Rebekah will be presenting a paper on food and power in international relations from P.L. 480 to the World Food Conference.
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**Douglas R. Egerton (Ph.D., 1985)** continues at Le Moyne College. In 2000, he published chapters in *Antislavery Violence in Antebellum America* and *Slavery in the Francophone World*. His 1999 essay on black abolitionist Denmark Vesey won a prize from the *South Carolina Historical Magazine*. He gave talks in Charleston, Charlottesville, Richmond and Buffalo, and published several book reviews. He continues on the editorial board of *The Historian*.

**Hafez Farmayan (Ph.D., 1953)** retired in September, 2000 from his position as Professor of History and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He remains there as Professor Emeritus, continuing his research and writing.

**John D. Finney, Jr. (Ph.D, 1967)** is a Senior Foreign Service Officer with 35 years of service in the Department of State. From 1996 to 1999, he served as Political Advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations. In July, 1999, he deployed with the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he served as Political Advisor. Since September, 2000, he has been back at the Department of State, in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. He thoroughly enjoyed his tour of duty in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He tells us the graduate program in History at Georgetown has been of “immeasurable benefit” throughout his Foreign Service career.

**Patrick J. Flood (M.A., 1964)** taught courses in International Relations and Professional Writing and conducted faculty workshops in Public Administration in Uzhgorod, Ukraine during the Fall 2000 semester. He also published a chapter on “The U.S., the U.N. and Human Rights: Policy Choices” in *The United States And Human Rights: Looking Inward And Outward* (U. of Nebraska Press, 2000), and has a chapter on “Impunity v. Accountability for Wrongs under International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law” in *International Humanitarian Law: Origins, Challenges and Prospects* (Edwin Mellen Press, forthcoming). In June 2000, he presented a paper on “Life after Communism: Democracy and Abortion in Eastern Europe and Russia” at the annual meeting of University Faculty for Life, held at Georgetown. Patrick earned his Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in...
1995 after completing a career as a US Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State.

James L. Fowler (M.A., 1980) is presently Director of Corporate Security at Unilever United States, Inc. in New York. October 2000 saw the 25th Marine Corps Marathon, which has been held in Washington annually since Jim inaugurated the event. He was a colonel in the Marine Corps at the time, having completed a law degree at Georgetown and been twice wounded in Vietnam. He came up with the idea for the race as a way to improve public relations after the war. The Corps immediately approved it, and appointed him race director. The number of participants has grown enormously over the years. The Washington Post ran a feature on Jim, “The Marine Officer Who Brought Corps Values to the Marathon.”

Bruce Goodpasture (M.A., 1964) is retired from the Small Business Administration, but continues to teach “Publishing Management,” a course in the Graduate School of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Hubertus Jahn (Ph.D., 1991) began his new job as lecturer in Modern Russian History at the University of Cambridge. He also became Fellow of Clare College. “Otherwise not much to report,” he writes with undue modesty.

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Dina Rizk Khoury (Ph.D., 1987) is now Associate Professor of History at George Washington University. She is also director of the Middle East Studies Program. She spent her sabbatical year in Turkey on an NEH/ARIT grant doing research for her book on popular politics in early modern Ottoman Baghdad and Basra. Her book, State and Provincial Society in the Ottoman Empire, Mosul 1540-1834, won the Fuat Koprulu Prize and the British Middle East Studies Society Prize for the year 1998. Her son elder Zayd is a freshman at William and Mary and her younger son Waleed is a freshmen at Edmund Burke School.

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Michael Krause (Ph.D., 1968) is Chief Logistics Officer and Founder of FreightDesk.com of Bethesda, MD and Amesbury, MA. Prior to his current position, he produced the strategic logistics plan for Amazon.com, and worked as the chief logistical planner for the U.S. military during the Persian Gulf War. His experiences in that conflict led him to formulate the concept of the Logistics Anchor Desk, many principles of which are being embedded in FreightDesk.com technologies and within other industries. Dr. Krause also serves on the Army Science Board. He has written three books and numerous articles, and has taught at West Point and the National Defense University. He is married to Deborah Smith-Krause of Buffalo, New York and they have two daughters and five grand-children.

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Ronald D. Landa (Ph.D., 1971) helped organize a conference held in June 2000 jointly sponsored by the Library of Congress and the Department of Defense on Project Open House, a program to microfilm Cold War records in military archives in Poland, Hungary, and Romania. In October he retired after 27 years as a federal government
employee, 14 with the Department of State’s Historical Office and 13 as a historian with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). He continues to work as a consultant with the OSD Historical Office.

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Roland V. Layton (M.A., 1961) has retired from teaching, but reports that he keeps up the skills learned from his fine Georgetown professors—Helde, Wilkinson, Sharabi, and Penn—by editing the annual *Journal of the Greenbrier Historical Society* in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

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The peripatetic Paul Lorentzen (M.A., 1957) spent a year doing even more traveling than usual. He made four trips across the Atlantic, visiting Denmark, Germany and England, sightseeing in Southern Wales, and taking nostalgic walks in London, where he was on active duty with the U.S. Navy in 1947-50. Back in Columbia, Maryland, he moved house, and enjoyed the “liberation” of giving up three quarters of his possessions in the process.

Wayne Limberg (Ph.D., 1974) continues to head the Russian foreign policy and western republics division in the State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He has a chapter on the Ogaden war in a forthcoming volume published by Penn State Press on U.S.-Soviet crisis management during the Cold War.

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Michele Marincovich (M.A., 1972, Ph.D., 1977) is Assistant Vice Provost at Stanford University as well as Director of its Center for Teaching and Learning. In May of both 1999 and 2000 she spent two and a half weeks in China lecturing to a touring group of Stanford graduates and other friends of the university on a Stanford Alumni Association “suitcase seminar.” In 1999, together with a colleague at Stanford, she launched the I-RITE (Integrating Research Into the Teaching Environment) initiative, a new program for graduate students. They have presented the program at conferences on higher education both domestically and overseas, and are currently discussing pilot projects with several universities. Recent publications include “Using Student Evaluation Data to Improve Teaching” in *Changing Practices in Evaluating Teaching; “Making Teaching Evaluations Contribute to Teaching Improvement,”* in the Spring 2000 issue of *The Department Chair;* and her keynote address at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Conference on Problem-Based Learning in Singapore, which appeared in *Problem-Based Learning: Educational Innovation Across Disciplines.*

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Laura J. Mitchell (M.S.F.S./M.A., 1993) had a very eventful 2000. In June, she returned to the U.S. after living in Cape Town, South Africa for three years. In July, she married Graham Proctor in a ceremony near her parents’ home in Northern California. In August, she started teaching African History and World Civilizations at the University of Texas, San Antonio. She received a Ph.D in African History from UCLA in 2001.

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In August, 2000, Charles P. Neimeyer (Ph.D., 1993) became Dean of Academics at the US Naval War College in Newport, RI.

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Katerina Nizharadze (PhD., 1998) started her new job as tenure-track Assistant Professor of Russian History at Kennesaw State University in fall of 2000.

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David M. Petrou (M.A., 1973) is president of one of the Washington area’s largest independent public relations agencies, with staff in both Washington and Baltimore. The firm represents a broad range of regional, national and international clients. This year, the agency won first place at the International
Business Communicators awards dinner. His avocation remains choral singing, and he is presently a first tenor in the principal chorus of the National Symphony Orchestra, The Choral Arts Society of Washington. He also serves on their Board of Directors and is chair of the Touring Committee. Last summer, he led the chorus to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where they closed the Music Festival of the Grand Tetons, with a performance of Verdi’s “Requiem,” which was broadcast on National Public Radio this past October.

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Michael P. Onorato (Ph.D, 1960) is Emeritus Professor of History at California State University, Fullerton. In 2000, the reprinted edition of Edo McCullough’s Good Old Coney Island was published by Fordham University Press with an extended epilogue by Michael. He also edited and transcribed Life without Steeplechase Park: The Diary and Papers of James J. Onorato, 1967-1971, published by Pacific Rim Books, and published a revised edition of Another Time, Another World: Coney Island Memories, with a new foreword and epilogue (Oral History Program, California State University, Fullerton, 2000). In addition to these publications, he wrote numerous book reviews relating to the Philippines, his principal area of expertise. pacrimbks@aol.com

Argyrios Pisiotis graduated from the Department of History with a Ph.D. in August 2000. In May 2000 he was hired to the position of Assistant Professor of the History of Modern Russia/U.S.S.R. in the Department of History at Kent State University. In summer he delivered the paper “Dissident Russian Orthodox Clergy and Parishioners in Revolution, 1905-1917” at the VI World Congress of Central & East European Studies in Tampere, Finland. In November 2000 he delivered a paper on “Literate Brokers of the Late Imperial Russian Countryside” at the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Since starting at Kent State in August 2000, Argyrios has taught History of World Civilization, as well as colloquia on the history of Russian Orthodoxy and Modern Russian Culture.
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In September 2000, Ian Reifowitz (Ph.D., 2000) began a four-year appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Monmouth University. His article “Nationalism, Modernity, and Multinational Austria in the Works of Joseph Roth,” appeared in Austria in Literature, edited by Donald Daviau. In April, he gave a paper on “Inventing a Nation: Joseph Samuel Bloch and the Cultivation of a Supraethnic Austrian Identity,” at the Association for the Study of Nationalities Conference at Columbia. He participated in the German Studies Association conference in October, 2000 together with several Georgetown colleagues, including co-panelist Elizabeth Drummond. There he delivered the paper, “Threads Intertwined: German National Egoism and Liberalism in the Austrian Consciousness of Adolf Fischhof.”
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Robert Rinehart (Ph.D., 1975) continues as Chairman of Northern European Area Studies Programs in the School of Professional and Area Studies, Foreign Service Institute. In 2000, he lectured to the European Seminar at the London School of Economics on “Created Memories and the Politics of Identity in Finland,” and participated in the annual convention of the Association of International Educators (NAFSA) in San Diego. He also addressed the Education Committee of the Finnish Parliament on issues in American education. During fall, 2000, he welcomed several members of Georgetown’s history department—Professors Collins, Kuisel, and Horvath-Peterson—as speakers in his courses at FSI. Robtrine@aol.


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Martin Sweig lives in retirement in West Palm Beach, Florida. He remembers his Georgetown days with much pleasure.

Anthony B. Toth (Ph.D.) received a D.Phil. in Modern Middle Eastern Studies from Oxford University in Spring 2001. His thesis examined economic change among the bedouin of northern Arabia between 1850 and 1950. He lives in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife and three children.

Joseph L. Wieczynski (Ph.D.) retired from Virginia Tech in 1999, after 31 years of service to that institution, and now lives in Sarasota, Florida.

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