The 2016-17 academic year brought a flurry of transitions at NYU, with a new University President (Andy Hamilton), Provost (Katy Fleming), and FAS Divisional Dean (Gigi Dopico). In the History Department, we now have a new chair (me), Director of Graduate Studies (Stefanos Geroulanos), Director of Undergraduate Studies (Andrew Sartori), and six new resident faculty: Robyn d’Avignon (African History), Ellen Noonan (Archives and Public History), Martin Bowen (Latin America), Brandon Schechter (Military History), Jean-Frederic Schaub (Europe), and Soonyi Lee (Modern China).

Our administrative team now includes a new Department Chair’s Assistant (Maura Puscheck), Graduate Program Administrator (Chelsea Rhodes), and student workers (Tabby Wakabari and Lindsey Chung), in addition to our veterans, Guerline Semexant (Global Program Administrator), Latoya Coleman (Graduate Program Assistant), and Karin Burrell (Department Manager).

I want to wish a warm welcome to everyone who has recently joined our department and to all those returning after what I hope was an enjoyable summer. Changes in the office staff might seem a bit confusing at first to returnees, because the only person many of you will recognize in the main office is Chelsea Rhodes, who has however been promoted to become Graduate Program Administrator, so she now oversees the Graduate Program. If you want to make an appointment to see me, please ask Maura to find us a good time.

I want to begin my three years in the Chair’s office by thanking Barbara Weinstein for serving us so wonderfully as Chair for the past three productive years and for leaving History at NYU in great shape. Amidst a tumultuous 2016 presidential campaign that is so ever-present in the news, we are now facing head-on the enrollment challenge that Barbara described in our last
Newsletter, by striving to make history more practically useful for students who seek to understand the world around them better than everyday popular media might allow. I think the general decline in college enrollments in Humanities disciplines that she described does provide a meaningful context for our program, but I also think that we can do a lot more to improve the value and popularity of History at NYU.

As Barbara says, it is certainly true that college students are not attracted in droves to History and to other Humanities disciplines by the expectation that our courses will lead to lucrative careers; but I also think it is true that History enrollments suffer among students of business, media, social science, and STEM disciplines from History’s high school reputation as boring, obscure, tedious, and irrelevant. We should embrace the challenging project of making good History more visibly useful and compelling as public knowledge for students with no interest whatsoever in History as a discipline or vocation.

With that goal in view, we have picked up the opportunity offered by CAS to offer two credit courses, which help students make college more affordable. NYU college tuition covers 18 credits, but students outside science disciplines typically take four 4-credit courses. At no extra cost, they can add a 2-credit course, every term, to accelerate progress to graduation.

Our first two credit course will be “History in the Headlines,” which students can add any time before the end of Add/Drop. It will be an exciting public event, open to anyone, every Monday evening. It will feature a diverse collection of History faculty who will make presentations and lead discussions of topics in headlines and hot public debates, to bring deep historical knowledge into everyday life, and bring History alive for students. For more information, see the History Department website.

We are also exploring ways to make it easier for students who get excited by History to find their way into the History Major and Minor and to combine their college work with the pursuit of a Master’s degree in History, which would again address affordability. We are reviewing our Archives and Public History program with the idea of expanding the program into a more fulsome engagement with New York City through teaching partnerships with local institutions and online media. We plan to launch a History Portal Website in conjunction with “History in the Headlines,” which we hope will become a valuable resource for students and teachers in high schools and colleges where students from diverse backgrounds will be attracted to studying History at NYU. Stay tuned for future developments in later Newsletters.

“*We have a lot to do in order to combine the well-established scholarly excellence and productivity of our department with outreach efforts among students and the public to make good History more readily available, affordable, diverse, and inclusive.*”

Making higher education more affordable helps to increase NYU’s diversity and inclusiveness, and these goals are major subjects of concern in our department. In our curriculum, we have many courses that deal with problems of inequity, exclusion, marginality, discrimination, prejudice, and injustice, in many parts of the world; and we are deeply engaged in efforts to overcome these problems in our own community. As part of university efforts, we have our own Diversity Committee, with our Department Manager, Karin Burrell and Prof. Ada Ferrer serving as Co-chairs. The committee is comprised of faculty, staff, and a PhD graduate student representative. The mission of the committee is to identify which aspects of department culture and governance could be improved to create a curriculum that explicitly address racial inequity and encourage
collaborative relationships among undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and staff to engage topics of racial literacy.

One indication that we need to address racial inequity more explicitly in our curriculum came last Spring, when a delegation of students reported to the CAS Dean that they could not find the topic of race in our listing of courses. We might usefully address this problem and also make our curriculum more intellectually coherent by identifying themes that weave through so many of our courses; and two obvious themes are empire and inequity in their racial, gender, and cultural dimensions.

We have a lot to do in order to combine the well-established scholarly excellence and productivity of our department with outreach efforts among students and the public to make good History more readily available, affordable, diverse, and inclusive. I look forward to working on this project as Chair for the next three years.

Cheers,

David Ludden

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**FACULTY NEWS**

**Brigitte M. Bedos-Rezak's** book, *Sign and Design: Script as Image in Cross-Cultural Perspective* (300-1600 CE), co-edited with Jeffrey Hamburger, was published this summer by Harvard U. Press's Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection. The volume addresses the pictorial dimension of writing systems from cross-cultural and multidisciplinary perspectives. Scholars specializing in history, art and literature, paleographers and anthropologists consider imagistic scripts of the ancient and medieval Near East, Europe, Byzantium, and Latin America, and within Jewish, polytheistic, Christian, and Muslim cultures. They engage with pictographic, ideographic, and logographic writing systems, as well as with alphabetic scripts, examining diverse examples of cross-pollination between language and art.

**Fred Cooper** is back in New York, teaching about empires, after spending over a year in Berlin and Paris. In the last phase of his time in Europe, he gave talks at the German Historical Museum, Humboldt University, and the Technical University in Berlin, and L’Institut des Mondes Africains and Sciences Po in Paris. He has been working on revising the Lawrence Stone lectures, which he gave in April, into a book to be published by Princeton University Press. The most recent translation of his book with Jane Burbank, *Empires in World History*, appeared this summer, this one in Korean. He also published the final chapter of a book of essays on citizenship in Africa, a short piece in *Journal of Modern European History*, and a couple of book reviews.

For five weeks in July, **Martha Hodes** served as Scholar-in-Residence at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University of Berlin. There she presented a paper, “The Uncertainty and Risks of Racial Classification in the Nineteenth Century,” at an international faculty-
graduate student workshop on “Risk and Uncertainty in America,” and delivered a lecture on “The Politics of Personal Responses to Lincoln’s Assassination.” Earlier in the summer, Martha served as Scholar-in-Residence for the History Scholar Award Program of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, accompanying fifteen nationally selected graduating college seniors around New York City for four days of lectures and visits to archives, including discussing her latest book, *Mourning Lincoln*, with them. Also this past summer, Universal Pictures released the Civil War film “Free State of Jones,” for which Martha served as a consultant to director Gary Ross.

**Daniel Jütte** officially joined the department on September 1 and is currently implementing a research fellowship at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (CRASSH) at the University of Cambridge. He was invited to be one of eight speakers in honor of Stephen Greenblatt at the award ceremony of the 2016 Holberg Prize in Norway. He also gave media interviews about his research to various media outlets, such as the New Books Network and Deutschlandradio.

**Thomas Sugrue** is spending the 2016-17 academic year as an Andrew Carnegie Fellow of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, conducting research on the history of the American real estate industry. He gave keynote addresses at the 2016 meeting of the American Association for State and Local History, the fortieth anniversary celebration for the Nanzan University American Studies Program in Nagoya, Japan, the first City/Cité conference of the Institut Français, and delivered Notre Dame’s annual Cushwa Center Lecture. His book, with Glenda Gilmore *These United States: A Nation in the Making, 1890 to the Present* is now in paperback with W.W. Norton.

**Barbara Weinstein’s** book has been awarded the Warren Dean Memorial Prize by the Conference on Latin American History for the best book or article on Brazilian history published in 2015.

**Larry Wolff** published a new book in August: *The Singing Turk: Ottoman Power and Operatic Emotions on the European Stage from the Siege of Vienna to the Age of Napoleon* (Stanford University Press).

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**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

[Image of Nicole Eustace]

Congratulations to **Nicole Eustace**, who was featured on the NYU Facebook page addressing the question, “Is the National Anthem Racist?”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK1wJXbbZ50

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**WHAT ARE OUR RECENT RETIREES UP TO?**

**Richard Hull** has been spending his time in Upstate New York on his vineyard with his wife and grandchildren.
WHAT ARE OUR RECENT RETIREES UP TO?

Daniel Walkowitz spent much of the summer at his house in the northern Catskills while writing and walking. He also performed a modern dance choreography with a community group at Andes Day, a nearby town. Last year at the National Humanities Center, Daniel completed the draft of *The Lost World of Jewish Socialism: A Tourist Guide*. In the book, he takes readers to eleven cities (and two shtetls) in eight countries to look and listen for stories of people like his paternal grandmother, a secular Bundist. He is also finishing the editing of a book, *The Culture of Work in the Modern Era* (since 1920).

Peter Wosh spent much of the summer chasing ballparks throughout the United States, taking in baseball games (as well as museums, monuments, and other public history sites) in Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Cleveland, and Chicago. Here he is with his wife, Pat, enjoying the friendly confines of Wrigley Field, thanks to his generous retirement gift from the NYU history department. Peter also had a fabulous retirement bash at the Society of American Archivists (SAA) conference, courtesy of APH program alumni. Now that autumn has settled in, he has returned to editing a book series for SAA, as well as researching a variety of other projects and involving himself in historic preservation activities in New Jersey.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR ANDREW SARTORI

The 2016-17 academic year has begun. Please make sure to check out the activities of the undergraduate History Society. You might also think about becoming involved in the department’s undergraduate history journal, *The Historian* -- including submitting a research paper for possible publication. We ask that you please continue to be patient with the department as we continue to search for a new Undergraduate Program Assistant. And finally, don’t hesitate to talk to me about our faculty mentorship program.
**Karishma Bhagan’s** water purification unit/project *Matone de Chiwit* received the New England Biolabs Humanitarian Duty Award. Karishma was also nominated as a student leader for the NYU Leadership Initiative, and spoke at the Leadership panel on October 18th.

**Omar Etman** is a senior majoring in history and journalism. Over the summer he wrote and published a story for PBS News Hour on the experiences of Black Muslim college students who have learned to navigate the precarious intersection of two marginalized groups. After graduation, Omar’s thinking about teaching, or going back to Egypt to write, or maybe returning to school. He’s still figuring it all out!

Since graduating in May from our department, **Jeffrey Ngo** has resumed his studies at NYU as an M.A. student of Global Histories in the Draper Interdisciplinary Program. He is currently writing a revisionist history of Hong Kong’s sovereignty as his master’s thesis, supervised by Professor Jane Burbank. He has also continued his work as a pro-democracy activist for Hong Kong, his hometown. Last month, he co-authored with Joshua Wong—the prominent student-activist who *TIME* dubbed the face of Hong Kong’s protest—an op-ed published by the *Wall Street Journal* arguing for Hong Kongers’ right to self-determination. The duo also traveled to Washington, D.C., where they lobbied for a legislation to support human rights and democracy in Hong Kong. They met with members of Congress from both political parties, including House Minority Leader and former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas, and Representative Tim Walz of Minnesota. “Studying history has been vital to my ongoing work because it is informed by my historical knowledge,” Jeffrey said. “Whether in writing op-eds or in speaking with Washington politicians, I have repeatedly invoked the history of global decolonization, of the Cold War, and of Sino-American relations to explain why self-determination is a right Hong Kongers deserve.” Hyperlink to Jeffrey’s WSJ article: [http://www.wsj.com/articles/hong-kongs-protest-leaders-demand-self-determination-1478721911](http://www.wsj.com/articles/hong-kongs-protest-leaders-demand-self-determination-1478721911).

This summer, undergraduate student **Alexander Smith** received the 2016 Gilder Lehrman History Award, a national honor that recognizes fifteen outstanding students concentrating in history. Smith, a recent White House intern and the current president of NYU’s Historical Society, attended a five-day conference in New York City with the award recipients and prominent academics in the field. The conference included guest lectures, site visits and a special tour of the Gilder Lehrman archives. "It was a remarkable experience and I genuinely enjoyed meeting fellow scholars from across America," Smith said. "I hope to continue pursuing opportunities such as this in the future and would definitely recommend this program to those interested in American history."
GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Elizabeth Banks (advisor, Yanni Kotsonis) was recently awarded a grant by the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) to support research in Moscow.

Congratulations to Alex Boodrookas (advisor, Zachary Lockman) for being accepted for a Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship for FY 16!


Laura Quinton (advisor, Guy Ortolano) was an inaugural Summer Graduate Fellow at the Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU this past summer.

TRUMP TEACH IN

On Thursday, November 11th, the Department of History helped organize a "teach-in" on the election of Donald Trump to the presidency. Over twenty scholars and students, most associated with NYU, spoke for about five minutes each, addressing many concerns related to the election, including its larger historical context, race and racism, the reemergence of the KKK as an historical force, anti-Semitism, misogyny, Islamophobia, foreign policy related to Iran, China, Germany, and Mexico, and trade. Speakers outlined what might be Trump's legislative and regulatory agenda, and how it would affect climate change, war, deportations, and immigration. The event was extremely well attended, with the speakers live-streamed into a number of overflow rooms. Organizers hope to follow up in two directions: by hosting panels that further put Trumpism into context; and by supporting organizing that resists Trump's (and the Republican Party's) agenda.
ALUMNI NEWS AND JOB PLACEMENT

Lale Can (advisor, Robert McChesney) was awarded a Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship to finish her book, provisionally titled Citizens: Central Asian Pilgrims and the Hajj in the Late Ottoman Empire. She is also a Visiting Scholar this fall at the Remarque Institute. Lale has two publications coming out:
2) “The Subjects of Ottoman International Law,” Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, forthcoming November 2016. This is co-authored with Michael Christopher Low, for a special issue of the journal that they co-edited.

Paul V. Kershaw (advisor, Marilyn Young) accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

Shira Klien (advisor, Molly Nolan) graduated in 2012 from the joint History-Judaic Studies program. This year Shira was accepted to the Paula E. Hyman Mentoring Program, which pairs junior and senior scholars in Jewish Women’s Studies for a year of mentorship. Shira Klein received the USC Shoah Foundation International Teaching Fellowship for 2016-2017, for using the Visual Holocaust Archive in her courses.

Mairin Odle (advisor, Karen Kupperman) won the Society of Early Americanists prize for her essay "'Pownced, Pricked, or Paynted': Tattoos and Indigenous Literacies.” She is currently teaching at the University of Alabama.

Tracy Neumann (advisor Thomas Bender) will publish her book Remaking the Rust Belt: The Postindustrial Transformation of North America, in June.

Amy Weiss (advisor, Marilyn Young) has been named the Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education at the College of Saint Elizabeth, located in Morristown, New Jersey.

STAFF NEWS

Guerline Semxeant has been working with us since November 9th, 2015 as a temporary Global Administrator. As of September 2016, she has become a permanent contract employee! Guerline is doing an amazing job and has proven to be a great team player. Please join us in officially welcoming her and congratulating her!

Chelsea Rhodes has been promoted from the Undergraduate Program Assistant to the Graduate Program Administrator. Chelsea has been a wonderful addition to the department since 2012 and we are very excited to have her grow within our department. She returned to our department in July after completing maternity leave and having a baby girl, Vera.
We are delighted to welcome Maura Puscheck to the staff as the new Assistant to the Chair of the Department of History. Maura moved to History from the Wasserman Center for Career Development, where she worked as the Assistant to the Executive Director. Before Wasserman she received her B.A. in International Studies from Macalester College and then moved to New York to work as a paralegal at a white-collar criminal defense firm. Working on several cases involving securities fraud was enough to drive her away from the legal profession for good, and she began a master's program in the Media, Culture, and Communication department at Steinhardt this fall. Welcome, Maura!

Please welcome our new student workers!

Tabby Wakabari, is a senior majoring in Business Economics and Finance. Fun facts: Tabby has lived in four continents and enjoys exploring bookstores, making memes, and watching cat videos on YouTube. She is also earning a minor in Media, Culture and Communication (MCC).

Lindsey Chung, is majoring in Liberal Studies, transferring to CAS for Computer Science and Psychology. Fun Facts: Lindsey has never broken a bone in her body and still has all her wisdom teeth! She also loves dogs & babies.

On the weekend of November 11th, our staff went on a retreat to Washington, D.C., to visit the NYU DC campus, as well as the new Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. They went on tour of the NYU-DC campus and enjoyed a two day pass to the Museum.
A MESSAGE TO OUR ESTEEMED ALUMNI

Although you have graduated, the Department of History hopes you will always remain an integral part of our vibrant academic community. Drop us a line and let us know where your career in history has taken you. Not only are we genuinely interested in how you are doing, but we strongly feel that your advice and expertise is an indispensable asset to our current students. Send us an update or a submission for our next newsletter to:

history.dept@nyu.edu

Hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,
The Faculty and Staff of the NYU Department of History

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

To be added to the Department of History Info and Opportunities Listserv, e-mail history.announcements@nyu.edu. This list is recommended for prospective and current history graduate students, faculty, or members of the New York City community who wish to learn more about the following:

- History—and—humanities related events in the New York City area
- History-related conference information and calls for papers
- Fellowships and scholarships
- Job postings for scholars and historians

To be added to our newsletter mailing list e-mail your name and address to history.announcements@nyu.edu or call our office at 212.998.8600.