Welcome to 2018, another year of hope and struggle in challenging times. The new tax bill is not as bad as it could be, thanks to mass lobbying. A major Mellon grant will enable our faculty and students to expand their prison education and reentry programs for people caught in the grip of mass incarceration. We work in many ways to make NYU History more affordable, accessible, diverse, and relevant. Dreamers might dream a bit more peacefully thanks to the impact of brave work that includes many of our faculty and students, whose DACA Forum and Information Session, last term, continued our intense engagement with our community. To weave that engagement more seamlessly into our everyday academic life, we have secured a grant from the Dean’s Research Fund for a one-year pilot program called New York Diaspora City, to develop research, archiving, teaching, fieldwork, and community learning focused on the immigrant New Yorkers who have made the city what it is, from its very beginning.

New York is a global city, as much as it is an American city. It has over three million residents born outside the United States. Half of all New Yorkers speak a language other than English. Half the Queens population is “foreign-born” in the 2010 Census. We have more Chinese residents than any city outside China; more people with West Indian ancestry than any city outside the West Indies; more Dominicans than any city other than Santiago, and more Puerto Rican residents than any city in the world. Africans have formed dense communities in Harlem, Queens, and the Rockaways. Asians are the fastest growing foreign-born local population, at 1.23 million, in 2012, forming 15% of the total; and in fact, our New York Diaspora City project began as we designed a three-year Luce Foundation grant application on “Port Cities in Global Asia,” focusing on New York in a project that connects NYU campuses in New York, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai.
Hard work has brought good news. You will see in this Newsletter reports of various prizes and awards. We are officially expanding the doorway into our major by offering a range of Workshop pre-requisites and we are welcoming more students from Liberal Studies and transfer students by accepting more transfer credits to satisfy Major requirements. We have launched a MA Program Committee to help us grow the MA program and expand the academic reach and influence of World History, Archives and Public History, and the History of Women and Gender across our curriculum.

Our valiant staff once again threw a gala Holiday Party: this year’s theme was “The Roaring Twenties,” and it was great fun, as always. The Marilyn Young Memorial fund is thriving; we have formally dedicated KJCC 607 to Marilyn; and the first annual Marilyn Young Memorial Conference brightened up our winters on February 23rd. We had a successful Wordpress workshop in the Fall, where graduate students learned how to make their own professional portfolios. Our 2018 admissions season is well underway, with booming excellent applications and a successful Prospective Students Day that occurred on March 2nd.

Spring is filled with job talks in Latino/a and Ottoman History. Though we are sorry to have lost Joe Lee abruptly to retirement, he is healthy and happy, and we have launched a search for an historian of Ireland who focuses on the Atlantic World. There are lots of things happening to make your Winter and Spring fun and productive. Stay tuned and have a great semester.

Cheers,

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"We work in many ways to make NYU History more affordable, accessible, diverse, and relevant."

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**FACULTY NEWS**

**Brigitte M. Bedos-Rezak** was invited to present her current research on Communication and Materiality in the medieval West at the Casa Velasquez (Madrid, "Listes et Temps"), in the keynote address she delivered at the NYU French Graduate Conference ("Object-ing [to] Documents"), and at the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies ("Mediality of Skin and Wax"). Her book, *Faces of Charisma; Text, Image, Object in Byzantium and the Medieval West*, co-edited with Martha Rust (NYU-English), is in press and expected to be in print early in 2018.

**Zvi Ben-Dor Benite and Stefanos Geroulanos** have coedited (together with Prof. Nicole Jerr of the US Air Force Academy English Deptartment) the book *The Scaffolding of Sovereignty: Global and Aesthetic Perspectives in the History of a Concept*, which appeared with Columbia University Press in June 2017.

In the centenary year 2017, **Jane Burbank** gave four lectures on the Russian revolution at, among other places, Princeton and CUNY. These talks related to the theme of her first monograph, *Intelligentsia and Revolution: Russian Views of Bolshevism, 1917-1922* (1986), which explored the multiple perspectives of people who lived at that time. Jane combined her current work on Russian law with the attention to the 1917 revolution in lectures on "Why Communism Had to Have Courts" (European Congress on World and Global
History, Budapest) and "1917: A Revolution in Law?" (Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Convention, Chicago). She presented her research on the Russian legal tradition and on empire in lectures, keynote talks, and roundtables at the Kennan Institute in Washington D.C., the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität (Bonn), the University of Bremen, the Humboldt University (Berlin), Herrenhausen Palace (Hanover, Germany), and Helsinki University. Her article, "Supervising the Supervisors: Bureaucracy, Personality and Rule of Law in Kazan Province at the Start of the 20th Century" was published in Acta Slavica Iaponica. Meanwhile a Chinese translation of Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference, written with Frederick Cooper, was published in Beijing, the eighth translation of this book.

Among Fred Cooper's activities this fall was presentation of the Merle Curti lectures (three of them) to the History Department of the University of Wisconsin on the theme of "Empires and Citizenship." He also participated in the annual summer school of the German-funded center on Work and Human Life Course in Global History, this year held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In addition to working with advanced doctoral graduate students from around the world during that summer school, he gave a keynote talk on "The Rights of Labor, the Rights of the Citizen, and the End of Empire." A debate on his book "Citizenship between Empire and Nation" (2014) came out in the journal Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Stefanos Geroulanos has been elected Co-Executive Editor of the Journal of the History of Ideas.

Over the summer, Martha Hodes delivered the keynote address for the History Scholar Award Program of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City; served on a panel, "Reconstruction and the Lost Cause: American Women and the Aftermath of the Civil War," for a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, at the New-York Historical Society; and participated in a panel, “Storytelling, Memory, Imagination: Narrative and the Writing of History” at the 2017 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women. This Fall, Martha delivered the 12th Annual Gilder Lehrman Lecture at the Chapin School in New York City, and chaired a panel on “Civil War and Reconstruction” for the inaugural conference of the Lapidus Center for the Study of Transatlantic Slavery at the New York Public Library’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and History. At the 2018 annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Martha chaired a panel on “Race and Nation: A Case Study of Taking Scholarship to the Public” and served as commenter for a panel on “Experimenting with New Dramatic Histories.”

Daniel Juette received the annual prize of the journal European History Quarterly for his article “‘They Shall Not Keep Their Doors or Windows Open’: Urban Space and the Dynamics of Conflict and Contact in Premodern Jewish-Christian Relations.” The award carries a cash prize and the publisher (SAGE) will soon release an announcement and make the article open-access available. He also enjoyed settling in in New York City and teaching a brand new Core Curriculum course titled “Urban Life in the European City, Ancient to Early Modern.” In November, he gave an evening lecture at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (NYC); he was also invited to be one of six contributors to the American Historical Review conversation on “Walls, Borders, and Boundaries in World
History” (published in the December 2017 issue). In conjunction with NYU’s Urban Humanities Initiative, he is currently planning a series of events for 2018.

Linda Gordon had a panel discussion at the book launch for her new book titled, *The Second Coming of the KKK: the Ku Klux Klan and the American Political Tradition*, at NYU’s Institute for Public Knowledge, in October.

In November 2017, Paul Mattingly will publish a book, *American Academic Cultures* with the University of Chicago Press. The book combines original research with a synthesis of the published literature over the last generation. While each chapter focuses on singular individuals, institutions or events, the book makes a case for distinct larger cultures in different historical eras that give rise to distinctive ways of knowing and organizing knowledge from 1740 to the present.

Tim Naftali was quoted in two articles entitled, “*Why this historian thinks Charlottesville will go down as a pivotal moment in President Trump’s political collapse*’ and ‘*He is stubborn and doesn’t realize how bad this is getting’.*

Ellen Noonan was nominated for an Emmy Award for work on *Mission US*, a multimedia project that immerses players in U.S. history content through free interactive games.

Guy Ortolano has been named Astor Visiting Lecturer at Oxford University for Trinity Term 2018. In May, as a Visiting Fellow at St. John’s College, he will give four events in five days, including a public lecture on his forthcoming book on the politics of urban planning in modern Britain.

Kim Phillips-Fein’s book *Fear City: The New York City Fiscal Crisis and the Rise of Austerity Politics* (Metropolitan Books, 2017) was named one of the ten best books of 2017 by *Publisher’s Weekly*. *Fear City* was also a finalist for the Brooklyn Public Library Literary Award.

Leslie Pierce’s book, *Empress of the East: How a European Slave Girl became Queen of the Ottoman Empire*, was published by Basic Books this fall. Two book events were held on campus, at the Keverykian Center for Near Eastern Studies and the Center for the Humanities. The book was also a *New York Times Book Review* Editors’ Choice pick.

Susanah Romney recently won the annual prize from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women for best article on women and gender for 2016 for her recent piece in the *William and Mary Quarterly*, titled “‘With & Alongside his Housewife’: Claiming Ground in New Netherland and the Early Modern Dutch Empire.”
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES, PROFESSOR REBECCA GOETZ

Here we are, more than halfway through the 2017-2018 academic year! Watch in March for invitations to join Phi Alpha Theta (the history honor society). Also check out the activities of the undergraduate History Society and our department’s undergraduate journal, The Historian. We have some changes coming to the history major for academic year 2018-2019. We will be offering Workshops in place of History 101. While Workshops are still required, majors will be able to choose a Workshop in a time period and geographical area in which they are interested. Information sessions were held to discuss on this change in late March before registration.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Alexandar Smith ’18 published an article in the Huffington News titled, Why Your Liberal Arts Degree is Underrated. After he graduates this Spring semester, he will start a job at Facebook.

Christina Beros ’18 will start working for Teach for America in Los Angeles this Summer.

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNIS NEWS

James Clements has founded a not-for-profit theatre company What Will the Neighbors Say? (www.wwtns.org) in New York, with a mission to provoke questions through untold stories. Clements’ plays are historical dramas, often based on subjects and disciplines he studied at NYU. The company has performed to critical acclaim in cities across the US, Canada and the United Kingdom, and will stage the New York premiere of his original play, “The Diana Tapes,” this Spring at HERE Arts Center. The play, based on the life of Princess Diana, originated from his undergraduate honors thesis, and was described by Broadway World as “intricate and compelling” during a previous production.
### GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Juliana Amorium Goskes (advisor, Brigitte Bedos-Rezak) received the Birgit Baldwin Fellowship awarded by the Medieval Academy of America for her dissertation project: "Sharing the Throne: The Queen's Body, Representation, and Performance (France, 1223-1435)," for the academic year 2018-2019.

Katie David (advisor, Jane Burbank) received the ASEEES Cohen–Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship for a year of dissertation research in Russia and Ukraine. Katie was accepted to the International Forum for Young Scholars of Soviet and Post-Soviet History and Culture.

Elise Mitchell (advisor, Jennifer Morgan) received a Graduate School of Arts and Science Dean’s Student Travel Grant and a Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant to present her research at an upcoming conference, “Medicine and Healing in the Age of Slavery” (Rice University). She will also present her research at the University of Edinburgh’s Eighteenth-Century Research Seminar in 2018.

Wendi Muse (advisor, Barbara Weinstein) received the Public Humanities Fellowship for academic year 2017-18. Her project for the fellowship involves a community-based discussion series and digital platform regarding the history of leftists of color. She has also received the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship and will be traveling to Brazil, Portugal, and Mozambique next year to continue her fieldwork.

Rachel Nolan (advisor, Greg Grandin) was awarded a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women’s Studies and a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for academic year 2017-2018. Her article "Innocents," for Harper's Magazine, won a citation from the Overseas Press Club. Rachel has accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University.

Ben Davidson (advisor, Martha Hodes) presented a paper entitled "Young People’s Experiences of Reconstruction and the Legacies of the Civil War," in Washington, D.C. at the American Historical Association annual meeting in January 2018.

### JANUARY 2018 GRADUATES

**Doctoral Program**
- Robert Cole
- Ebony Jones
- Larissa Kopyoff

**Master’s Program**
- Jennifer Gargiulo
- Marty Katherine Willis
- Kaitlyn Tanis
- Jennifer Dorfman
Roaring 20s Holiday Party

On Monday, December 12th the History Department hosted our annual holiday party. The theme was The Roaring 20s.

The History Department Staff: Maura Puscheck, Jackie Menkel, Christen Douresseau, Chelsea Rhodes, Guerline Semexant, Karin Burrell, Latoya Coleman, and Jasmine Mann

The Bake-Off Judges: Elizabeth Ellis (Faculty Judge), Daniel Cummings (Graduate Judge), Jackie Menkel (Staff Judge), Raymon Needham (Tween Judge), Jack Needham (Tween Judge), and Tyler Burrell (Undergraduate Judge)

Winners of the Bake-Off: Ahmed Hafezi (Graduate Student), and Kyle Shybunko (Graduate Student).

Not Pictured: Norman Underwood (Faculty)

Guests enjoying the party!
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**Selda Altan (advisor, Rebecca Karl)** will be teaching at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania on a one-year visiting assistant professor contract.

**Filip Erdeljac (advisor, Larry Wolff)** completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and will be a visiting assistant professor at the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies at NYU in the fall.


**Marysia Jonsson (advisor, Larry Wolff)** began a post-doctoral fellowship at Cornell University in the fall.

**Julia Rose Kraut (advisor, Thomas Bender)** is a 2017-18 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow at the New-York Historical Society. She is currently completing her book manuscript on the history of ideological exclusion and deportation in America.

**Soonyi Lee (advisor, Rebecca Karl)** has accepted the offer of a tenure-track position teaching East Asian History at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Prior to her appointment, Soonyi taught as a visiting assistant professor at Eckerd College (Florida), Mount Holyoke (Massachusetts), and at NYU.

**Alexander Manevitz (advisor, Martha Hodes)** began his second year as a Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies at Trinity College, in Hartford, Conn.

**Melissa Milewski (advisor, Martha Hodes)** teaches American History at the University of Sussex in England, published *Litigating Across the Color Line: Civil Cases Between Black and White Southerners from the End of Slavery to Civil Rights* with Oxford University Press (2017). As a result of the violence, segregation, and disfranchisement that occurred throughout the South in the decades after Reconstruction, it has generally been assumed that African Americans in the post-Reconstruction South litigated few civil cases and faced widespread inequality in the suits they did pursue. In this work, Milewski shows that black men and women were far more able to negotiate the southern legal system during the era of Jim Crow than previously realized. She explores how, when the financial futures of their families were on the line, black litigants throughout the South took on white southerners in civil suits and, at times, succeeded in finding justice in the Southern courts.

**Max Mishler (advisor Martha Hodes)** is currently both a post-doctoral fellow at the Columbia Society of Fellows at Columbia University and a tenure-track Assistant Professor of History at Brandeis University. He is dividing his time between the two appointments.

**Tejasvi Nagaraja (advisor Nikhil Singh)** completed his PhD from NYU’s History Department in Summer 2017. In Fall 2017, he started a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University’s the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University.

**Peter Wirzbicki (advisor, Martha Hodes)** completed a four-year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago and has accepted a tenure-track job as Assistant Professor of History at Princeton University, to begin Fall 2017.

**Robert Tittler (MA Class of 1965)** was elected to the Royal Society of Canada, Canada’s highest academic honor. Currently he works on the social history of English art and architecture and hold an adjunct position in Art History at Carleton University, Ottawa.
Betty Banks (advisor, Yanni Kotsonis) and Professor Robyn d'Avignon organized a workshop, "Soviet Union-Africa: Technology, Ideology, Culture" which was held at NYU's Jordan Center and Africa House on October 13th, with additional support from the Humanities Initiative and the History Department. A set of excellent papers on cameras, radios, varied collective work traditions, diplomatic visits, schemes of knowledge, political activism, development aid, and language policies, plus a fascinating documentary on nuclear physics sparked conversations among scholars from several fields who, in the course of their research, had found Africans, Soviets or Soviet technology in a place they hadn't expected. Moving beyond specific interactions, they considered too how Soviet-African connections contributed to, reshaped and/or disrupted decolonization, the growth of technical expertise, shifting political imaginations, the “fall” of socialism, the rise of international organizations, development and corresponding changes in global political economy in the second half of the twentieth century, and forged new connections among Africanists and Russianists in the NYC area and beyond.
Please welcome our student workers!

**Christen Douresseau** is currently a freshman in the Liberal Studies Core Program. Upon completion she plans to pursue a degree in Economics through CAS.

**Fun Fact:** Christen plans to attend law school after completing her Bachelors degree. When she's not at the History Department she can be found exploring the city.

**Jasmine Mann** is a second-year masters student in the Department of Politics and is in the process of completing her thesis on American identity politics. She continued on at NYU after graduating from CAS in May, 2017 with a double major in Politics and Classics.

**Fun Fact:** Jasmine is a proud cat mother of two rescued calicoes, Laila and Portia, though she grew up with dogs and is now adjusting to the cold and cunning feline nature.

In October, the staff had a work retreat day at Richard Hull’s orchard/warehouse in upstate New York.

The staff spent the day having a tour of the vineyard, picking apples and having lunch with Richard and his wife, Jo.
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 INFO...

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 call for papers
- Fellowships and scholarships
- Job postings for historians and other scholars

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.