

News from the Director

By Alan McPherson



- **Fall 2021 Lecture Series**
- **Fall 2021 Prizes**
- **New: The Emerging Scholar Graduate Award!**
- **Spring 2022 Lecture Series Announcement**

In my physical absence during a sabbatical, I entrusted the day-to-day management of CENFAD largely to Davis Fellow Casey VanSise, and he did not disappoint! From organizing talks to editing the newsletter you see on your screen, Casey acquitted himself with grace and creativity. With the generous help of five of my faculty members, who stepped in to host the lectures (see the Davis Fellow's more detailed message), Casey not only revived the in-person lectures that CENFAD is known for but also ushered in the era of the hybrid CENFAD lecture. For the first time, lectures this semester could be seen live in person or online. This trend might just have legs. Another novelty that CENFAD has been



working to develop has been to make *Strategic Visions* more multimedia since it is now exclusively distributed digitally. In keeping with this initiative, several interviews in this edition include accompanying videos.

I also wanted to thank Chair of the Department Petra Goedde and other colleagues, who largely managed the awards that CENFAD gave out this fall.

Thanks again to everyone who helped CENFAD and showed up at its talks this semester. Happy Holidays, and I'll be back in January!

Fall 2021 Lecture Series

Our first lecture of the Fall 2021 semester was delivered by Dr. Antulio J. Echevarria II, professor of strategy at the US Army War College. On September 9, he presented a lecture entitled "[Reconsidering the American Way of War from the Revolution to Afghanistan](#)," partly based on his 2014 book *Reconsidering the American Way of War: US Military Practice from the Revolution to Afghanistan*. Considering the roughly contemporaneous US military withdrawal from Afghanistan, it was a topical and timely presentation in several respects, exploring the "American way of war" as a national military tradition, how it has fared since the end of the Cold War, and how effective it has been against the challenges of the twenty-first century.

On October 6, Dr. Judkin Browning, a history professor at Appalachian State

Strategic Visions: Volume 21, Number I

University and co-author (with Dr. Timothy Silver) of the 2020 book *An Environmental History of the Civil War*, presented the lecture “[Slogging to Richmond: Environmental Influences on the Union’s Failed Peninsula Campaign, 1862.](#)” Browning examined how natural factors such as weather, geology, disease, and nutrition converged with the personal command styles of Union and Confederate commanders to bring about the defeat of Union General George McClellan’s forces in their failed 1862 bid to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, illustrating the role that the environment often plays in human conflict.

Only two weeks later on October 20, there was another presentation, “[Calamitous Encounters: U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance in the ‘American Century.’](#)” by Dr. Julia Irwin, an associate professor of history at the University of South Florida. True to the title, Irwin’s lecture examined US responses to external catastrophes primarily during the first two-thirds of the twentieth century, thereby showcasing the origins of US foreign disaster assistance provided by government, military, and private voluntary organizations. She devoted particular attention to case-studies from Cuba, Haiti, and Yugoslavia, and the way that disaster aid has been leveraged for foreign policy purposes historically and contemporarily.

On November 4, Dr. Glenn E. Robinson, professor of defense analysis at the Naval Postgraduate School, presented his lecture “[Global Jihad and Movements of Rage.](#)” based on his recently-released 2021 book *Global Jihad: A Brief History*. In the lecture, Robinson stated that there have been four separate variations of global jihad since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, with the most recent iteration involving “personal

jihad” relying on information technologies to indirectly motivate individuals to perpetrate stochastic terror attacks. He also compared global jihad to many non-Islamist violent political movements over the past century to argue for the overall concept of “movements of rage.”

Finally, on December 6, Joseph “Joe” Weisberg, a CIA intelligence veteran, television screenwriter-producer, and creator of FX Network’s critically-acclaimed series *The Americans* (2013-18), delivered [a lecture](#) based on his eponymous 2021 book *Russia Upside Down: An Exit Strategy for the Second Cold War*. In the presentation, Weisberg contended that Russian/Soviet policy and motivations have been misunderstood by many in the United States, while making a case against US responses that would contribute to a new “Cold War” with Russia by suggesting that we are fighting an enemy with whom we have few if any serious conflicts of interest, with ineffective and dangerous tools to boot. On this basis, he examined ways that the United States and Russia might productively move forward with forging a better relationship.

Fall 2021 prizes

In October, the following two graduate students won CENFAD research awards:

- Ryan Langton earned a Jeffrey Bower Endowed Research Scholarship of \$1,000 to pursue research on his project, “Ambivalent Empire: Intermediaries Negotiating Colonialism on the Trans-Appalachian Frontier, 1720-1776.”
- Stanley Schwartz won a John Votaw Endowed Research Award in the amount of \$1,000 in support of research for his dissertation project

Strategic Visions: Volume 21, Number I

on how volunteer and regular officers in the Civil War perceived and interacted with each other.

Some of the planned research may be delayed due to the pandemic.

Congratulations!

New: The Emerging Scholar Graduate Award!

For the second year in a row, CENFAD is able to announce a new grant for graduate students. This one aims to enhance the connection between CENFAD and the History Department's Master's students. The official announcement follows here, but I also wanted to give props to Patrick Daley, assistant dean of development at Temple, who got the ball rolling this time around.

Please help to spread the word among any undergraduates who may be considering Temple's History Program for an MA. For one deserving applicant, it has just become a bit more affordable!

Thanks to the generosity of Todd Davis (Temple History PHD), CENFAD is delighted to announce its Emerging Scholar Graduate Award, a new scholarship for applicants to the Temple University MA Program in History. The purposes of the award are to recruit and support MA-level students interested in diplomatic and military history and to do so especially among underrepresented candidates, including women.

Each year, one awardee will receive \$12,000 in tuition remission over a two-year period (covering about one 3-credit course per semester at in-state rates). The inaugural scholarship will be awarded in Spring 2022 for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic

years. If the awardee's GPA is below a 3.5 after his/her first year of studies, second-year funding is subject to review.

There is no application procedure. All students admitted to the MA program, including the MA Concentration in Public History, will automatically be considered. The awardee will be notified at the time of admission to the MA program.

Spring 2022 Lecture Series Announcement

Finally, in Spring 2022, we will be back to hosting six scholars per semester (and maybe more!), starting the very first week of classes. Please join us online or in person:

- Thursday, January 20, 4:00pm EST in Weigley Room (914), Ninth Floor, Gladfelter Hall
"Robert E. Lee as Confederate Strategist, Tactician and Logistician."
Allen Guelzo, Senior Research Scholar, Council for the Humanities, Princeton University
Zoom Link:
https://temple.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sG8DRMq4Tk2H0p5NbpVM0A
- Tuesday, February 8, 4:30pm EST in Weigley Room (914), Ninth Floor, Gladfelter Hall
"Oilcraft: The Myths of Scarcity and Security That Haunt U.S. Energy Policy."
Robert "Bob" Vitalis, Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania
Zoom Link:
https://temple.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iS6oQG6dQ8emyY-xoeiqgA

Strategic Visions: Volume 21, Number I

- Thursday, February 24, 4:00pm EST in Weigley Room (914), Ninth Floor, Gladfelter Hall, “*Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War.*”
Elizabeth R. Varon, Professor of American History, University of Virginia
Zoom Link:
https://temple.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7HKyViGURraR1Lb12x2abA
- Tuesday, March 15, 4:30pm EST in Weigley Room (914), Ninth Floor, Gladfelter Hall
“*The Atlantic Realists: Empire and International Political Thought Between Germany and the United States.*”
Matthew Specter, Professor of History, University of California at Berkeley
Zoom Link:
https://temple.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wHKmEZ_cTQWurSmHcUW59Q
- Monday, March 21, 4:30pm EST in Weigley Room (914), Ninth Floor, Gladfelter Hall
“*With Masses and Arms: Peru's Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement*”
Miguel La Serna, Professor of History, University of North Carolina
Zoom Link:
https://temple.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_f6ukzuabQ5Sc1yu6RY84Pg
- Monday, April 4, 4:30pm EST in Weigley Room (914), Ninth Floor, Gladfelter Hall
“*No Globalization Without Representation: U.S. Activists and World Inequality.*”
Paul Adler, Assistant Professor of History, Colorado College

Zoom Link:

https://temple.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aHCUwI4jQyKPICU_7JGIzQ