

Note from the Davis Fellow



Dear CENFAD Community,

It is hard to believe that another academic year has now passed and that my time as the incumbent Thomas J. Davis Fellow for 2021-22 is drawing to a close this summer! Unfortunate though such recent events themselves are in several obvious respects, this semester in particular was quite a serendipitously intriguing time for me to find myself in the Davis Fellow position, as the world enters a new geopolitically-tumultuous era given Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24 and continues at the time of me writing this note. Whatever the long-term outcome of the Russian invasion and the world's varied responses thereto ultimately ends up being, you can be sure that it will only further emphasize the importance of studying dynamics of force and diplomacy on a global scale. This happens to be a purpose that lies at the very heart of CENFAD's existence, and something that it is already well-positioned to do as a product of the intellectual and topical diversity that it routinely promotes and gives voice to!



Such intellectual and topical diversity is certainly in evidence in CENFAD's regular lineup of speakers. This semester, with the exception of our first lecture on January 20 featuring [Dr. Allen C. Guelzo](#) (which was Zoom-exclusive in keeping with Temple University's efforts to stymie an expected COVID-19 wave at the time), CENFAD persisted with the tradition of hybrid lectures that was inaugurated last semester.

Following Dr. Guelzo's January lecture, CENFAD also hosted [Dr. Robert "Bob" Vitalis](#) (February 8), [Dr. Elizabeth R. Varon](#) (February 24), [Dr. Matthew Specter](#) (March 15), [Dr. Miguel La Serna](#) (March 21), and [Dr. Paul Adler](#) (April 4). Additionally, on March 14, CENFAD held a special event featuring *The Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist [Trudy Rubin](#), scheduled in response to the aforementioned Russian invasion of Ukraine. Unlike last semester, though, I got to work directly with CENFAD director Dr. Alan McPherson, who had returned from sabbatical, to coordinate these events. I am exceedingly grateful to have received his guidance in helping to successfully see this semester's CENFAD colloquium schedule through to fruition!

Regarding the contents of this issue of *Strategic Visions*, readers will find five separate interviews that I conducted in both print and video format with several of our guest lecturers on their respective books and research contributions: [Dr. Vitalis](#), [Dr. Varon](#), [Dr. Specter](#), [Dr. La Serna](#), and [Dr. Adler](#). Thereafter, readers will also encounter "The Stable Republic of Brazil," a short essay by retired Temple Associate

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Professor Emeritus of History, [Dr. Philip Evanson](#), regarding the economic policies and political circumstances of Brazil under the current administration of President Jair Bolsonaro. Finally, two book reviews by Temple History PhD candidates are featured in this issue: Ariel Natalo-Lifton's review of Tanya Roth's [*Her Cold War: Women in the U.S. Military, 1945-1980*](#), and Graydon Dennison's review of Ian Tyrrell's [*American Exceptionalism: A New History of an Old Idea*](#).

With that, I wish all the best to Ryan Langton when he succeeds me as the Thomas J. Davis Fellow for the 2022-23 academic year!

Sincerely,

Casey VanSise