

News from the Director

By Alan McPherson



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The issue of *Strategic Visions* before you almost did not see the light of day. Early in the Spring semester, the Temple graduate student workers' union, TUGSA, went on strike. As a loyal member, CENFAD's Davis Fellow, Ryan Langton, withheld his labor from the university. For about six weeks, CENFAD carried on its colloquium series, but without any video or Zoom capabilities and with smaller audiences. For that reason, three of the talks below—by Engerman, Reichardt, and Vindman—contain no links.

Most endangered during the strike was this publication, which relies almost entirely on graduate students' writing and editing. Thankfully, TUGSA and the administration reached terms and ended the strike, and we have Ryan and his contributors to thank for finishing the issue on time and featuring its usual high-quality content.



Please catch up on how the CENFAD community is doing on Page 6.

AHA Reception

Taking advantage of the American Historical Association meeting in Philadelphia in early January, CENFAD took the lead in hosting a Temple reception at the Marriott. The room was packed! Alums, faculty past and present, and friends from all around stopped by to have a drink, reminisce about their days on campus, and learn about our ongoing successes. Do you recognize any faces from these photos?



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Spring 2023 Colloquium

CENFAD once again hosted several highly interesting—and some high-profile—speakers. The invasion of Ukraine continued to concern students and faculty, who turned out in large numbers for two talks. The first, on January 24, was by Mitchell Orenstein, a political scientist from the University of Pennsylvania, who [discussed](#) “Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine: Hybrid War, Cold War, or the Start of World War III?” Based on his book *The Lands in Between: Russia vs. the West and the New Politics of Hybrid War*, Orenstein’s talk argued that Russia’s war was not only military but included economic sanctions, energy blackmail, and disinformation. You can see CENFAD’s interview with Orenstein [here](#). In his own assessment of “The War in Ukraine One Year In,” Col. Alexander Vindman, former Director for European Affairs for the National Security Council, would not have disagreed with Orenstein. But he emphasized that the Western military alliance supporting Ukraine cannot waver in the face of “the biggest country in the world” invading “the biggest country in Europe.” Vindman catapulted to fame when he testified against the president in Donald Trump’s first impeachment. Thanks go out to Prof. Artemy Kalinovsky for inviting Col. Vindman as part of his course on Ukraine.



Col. Alexander Vindman (above) discusses the war in Ukraine with a filled Weigley Room (below).

The American Revolutionary War also produced two talks this semester. The first, on February 21, was by Alec Zuercher Reichardt, a historian from the University of Missouri, who spoke on “Path Diplomacy and Infrastructural Power in Eighteenth-Century North America.” The second, on April 25, was on “Securing Borders: The Champlain Valley to Coos Country, 1778-1779,” and [featured](#) Duquesne University’s professor emerita of history Holly Mayer. Both made the case for the importance of roads and geography in the military and political decisions during the Revolution. CENFAD also [interviewed](#) Dr. Mayer.

On February 13, David Engerman, a historian from Yale University, shared findings from his latest book, *The Price of Aid: The Economic Cold War in India*, demonstrating that India was a hotbed of ideas about development coming from all sides during the Cold War as well as a contested terrain for those ideas.

On March 14, Marc Selverstone, a historian from the University of Virginia, [presented](#) his new book, *The Kennedy Withdrawal: Camelot and the American Commitment to Vietnam*, weighing in on the debate over whether President Kennedy would have withdrawn troops from Southeast Asia. Selverstone counted himself among the skeptics.



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Finally, in what was likely a first, on March 28 CENFAD hosted a television producer. In an interview format, Natasha Lance Rogoff talked about her memoir, *Muppets in Moscow: The Unexpected Crazy True Story of Making Sesame Street in Russia*, relating her years creating a post-Cold War Russian version of the popular children's television program with all the financial and cultural roadblocks one can imagine—even a car bomb!



Alan McPherson (left) interviews Natasha Lance Rogoff (right). Pictured behind them is Zeliboba, one of the Muppets designed for the Russian production of *Sesame Street*.

Army War College Visit

Thanks to Profs. Jay Lockenour and Gregory Urwin, CENFAD once again hosted a panel from the Army War College in Carlisle. On February 7, to the delight of “American military culture” students at Temple, the panelists discussed “Future Challenges in the Indo-Pacific for the U.S. and Its Allies.”

Spring 2023 Prizes

In March, the following six graduate students won CENFAD research awards:

- **Ethan Cohen** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$2,000 in support of his dissertation research in Morocco and Spain.
- **Graydon Dennison** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$500 in support of his dissertation research at Yale University.
- **Anthony Guerrero** won the Richard Immerman Award in the amount of \$1,500 in addition to a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the

amount of \$1,000, both in support of his dissertation research in Maryland and Virginia.

- **Joseph Johnson** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$2,500 in support of a Spanish-language acquisition program in Guatemala.

- **Brandon Kinney** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$2,500 in support of his dissertation research in Germany.

- **Alexandra Southgate** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$2,000 in support of her dissertation research in Texas and Maryland.

- **Casey VanSise** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$2,500 for his dissertation research in Bolivia.

The following students received CENFAD funds to present their work at academic conferences:

- **Amanda Summers**, at the Mid-Atlantic Conference on Latin American Studies in Salisbury, Maryland, and the Rocky Mountain Conference on Latin American Studies in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- **Duncan Knox**, at the conference of the Society for Military History in San Diego.
- **Ariel Natalo-Lifton**, at the conference of the Society for Military History in San Diego.
- **Grace Anne Parker**, at the conference of the Society for Military History in San Diego.

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- **Ilyssa Yahmi**, of the Political Science Department, at the International Studies Association annual meeting in Montreal, Canada, and the European Conference on African Studies in Cologne, Germany.

In addition, **Grace Anne Parker** will be the Berger Fellow next academic year, and **Kaitlyn Ley** from Rowan University won the Sherman Prize for undergraduate research.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Second CENFAD Emerging Scholar

Again this year, thanks to the generosity of Temple History PhD Todd Davis, CENFAD helped in attracting a promising Master's student with the Emerging Scholar Graduate Award. The award aims to recruit and support MA-level students interested in diplomatic and military history and to do so especially among underrepresented candidates, including women.

The Emerging Scholar incoming in the 2023-2024 academic year will be Elías González, whose research interests lie in the complicated relations between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Welcome to the CENFAD community, Elías!

Thanks to the Davis Fellow

Finally, I want to heartily thank Davis Fellow Ryan Langton, who administered CENFAD with aplomb during a year that should have been smooth after a full recovery from COVID-19 but instead was made uncertain and painful by the mid-semester strike. Thanks for hanging in there, Ryan!

Next year's Davis Fellow will be Joseph Johnson, whose interests center on U.S.-Latin American relations and especially the creation of a nuclear-free zone in South America. Welcome to CENFAD, Joe!