

News from the CENFAD Community

Tyler Bamford (Ph.D., Temple, 2019), a historian with the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, D.C., co-edited *Best Beloved: The Wartime Letters of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz to His Wife, Catherine*, which his agency released on November 19, 2024. This important reference work is No. 11 in the Contributions to Naval History Series. Tyler, who graduated from Temple University in 2019, published his first book, *Forging the Grand Alliance: The British and American Armies 1917-1941*, with University Press of Kansas in 2022.

Dr. John A. Bonin (Ph.D., Temple, 2006) retired in November 2023 after serving three years a Special Government Employee focused on traveling the world as the principal instructor in the Theater Army Staff Course. Bonin performed a total of 50 years of government service including 30 years as an Infantry Officer in the Army. Recent publications include coauthoring “Corps: A Case Study in Deterrence for Split-Based Headquarters with Regionally Aligned Forces” by Military Review March-April 2024 and the forthcoming monograph “TWhere does this title end? It needs a close quotesompson’s Rifle Battalion: The Original Unit of the Army of the United Colonies (Now the United States Regular Army)”, USAWC Press April 2025. Dr. Bonin currently serves on the Army 250th Birthday Committee for the Army Heritage Center Foundation in Carlisle and recently served as a reviewer for the 2025 Russell F. Weigley-Army Heritage Center Foundation Award. “In October 2023 the Army Strategist Association awarded Dr Bonin the Gold Order of Saint Gabriel for over twenty years of support to Army Strategists as an instructor in the Basic Strategic Art Program.”

Dr. Alexandre F. Caillot (Ph.D., Temple, 2023) has published his first book with LSU Press. It is based on his dissertation and is entitled, *Late to the Fight: Union Soldier Combat Performance from the Wilderness to the Fall of Petersburg*.

Ethan Cohen was awarded the CHAT Graduate Student Fellowship for 2025-26.

Richard Immerman, former CENFAD Director, continues to struggle to live up to his status as retired. *Thinking Otherwise: How Walter LaFeber Explained the History of US Foreign Relations*, which he co-edited, came out this past fall with Cornell University Press. Columbia Press will publish his co-edited *The Jervis Effect: The Scholarly and Legacy of Robert Jervis*, this coming fall. Having received the Norman and Laura Graebner Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations last summer, the organization, of which he served as the 40th president almost two decades ago, selected him as its next executive director. He will begin in August and serve for five years. Then he will try this retirement thing again.

Joseph Johnson (Ph.D. Candidate) has been busy after his year as CENFAD’s Thomas J. Davis Fellow last year. He participated in the 2024 George Washington Cold War Group Graduate Student Conference last May before attending the University of Erfurt Graduate Student Colloquium in Erfurt, Germany. He then returned to the classroom, teaching “Superpower America” in Summer 2024 and “The Global Crisis” in Fall 2024. During Spring 2025 he began a research semester, allowing him time to travel to the National Archives and more, completing research for his dissertation, “Moving Mountains: Project Plowshare, Peaceful Nuclear Explosions,

and US Foreign Policy, 1957-77.” He recently received the 2025 Richard K. Davis and Karen L. Davis-Rylander Award for Latin American Studies. This award will support research in Panama during the upcoming summer, where he will explore archival materials to further his dissertation. Joseph recently participated in the 2025 Business History Conference held in Atlanta, GA, utilizing research from the Temple University Libraries Special Collections Research Center to discuss the influence of the military industrial complex in Silicon Valley. At this conference, he also presented on a panel with **Jake Wolff** (Ph.D. Candidate) about “The Cold War at Work: The Relationship Between National Defense and Labor Planning in the United States, 1940- 1990”. Their papers—on defense sector tech and interstate highway construction, respectively—drew upon archival research trips funded by CENFAD grants. He was also invited to participate in a graduate student symposium at his alma mater, Oglethorpe University, where he presented his current research and discussed the pursuit of a doctoral degree in history with undergraduates.

Carly Goodman, former Davis Fellow, began a tenure track job as Assistant Professor of History at Rutgers University-Camden. Her first book *Dreamland: America’s Immigration Lottery in an Age of Restriction* (UNC Press, 2023) won the First Book Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, and the Edgar S. Furniss Book Award from the Mershon Center for International Security Studies at The Ohio State University. She continues to serve as Senior Editor at Made by History at TIME Magazine.

Dr. Richard Grippaldi (Ph.D., Temple, 2011) presented the paper “Scions of the Republic: Claims of Revolutionary Service in West Point Cadet Applications, 1819 - 1827” at the 2025 Society for Military History Annual Meeting, held at Mobile, Alabama.

Dr. Jay Lockenour is looking forward to the publication of his essay in the anthology on teaching US military history that grew out of a workshop at the University of Kansas’ Center for Military, War, and Society Studies. “Teaching United States Military History with Film,” in *Teaching United States Military History, Military, War, and Society in Modern American History*, Cambridge University Press (forthcoming). The essay is based on the course, *Battleground Cinema*, which he developed at the United States Air Force Academy in 2014 and his long experience teaching film at Temple University.

Shawn David McGhee (Ph.D., Temple, 2022) continued his publishing spree on America’s founding with an article in the online *Journal of the American Revolution* – “[German Soldier, American Rebel: Christopher Ludwick’s Pursuits of Happiness in Revolutionary Pennsylvania](#)” – which appeared on September 24, 2024.

In March 2025, **Alan McPherson** published his twelfth book, *The Breach: Iran-Contra and the Assault on American Democracy*, from the University of North Carolina Press. Several Temple undergrads and grads contributed to its research, and it is dedicated to Temple’s students. In May 2024, McPherson published “‘Above the Written Law’: Iran-Contra and the Mirage of the Rule of Law,” in *Law and History Review*. In February 2025, he co-published, along with Chilean historian Hugo Harvey-Valdés, “Reflections on Imperialism, Anti-Americanism, and New Diplomatic Histories: A Dialogue with Alan McPherson on the Dominican Crisis of 1965,” in *Humanidades*, a journal published by the University of Montevideo. In June 2025, he will (finally!) publish his first article in the *Journal of American History*: “‘Two Visions of Government’: Iran-Contra and the Congressional Debate over American Democracy.” In spring 2025, he also had a

chapter, “The Long, Hot Cold Wars of Asia—and Latin America,” included in *Cold War Asia: Unlearning Narratives, Making New Histories*, edited by Masuda Hajimu. He was an invited speaker at Villanova University, the Dominican Studies Institute, West Point Military Academy, the University of Oklahoma, and Yale University, and he presented at conferences in Bogotá and San Francisco. In May-June 2025, he will be Temple’s History Department visiting professor at Erfurt University.

Dr. Ariel Natalo-Lifton (Ph.D., Temple, 2024) was hired as the Temple University postdoctoral fellow for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

Dr. Kelly J. Shannon (Ph.D., Temple, 2010), former Davis Fellow, spent the 2023-2024 academic year as a National Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. She then left her faculty position at Florida Atlantic University and is now a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Middle East Studies (IMES) at George Washington University through 2026. She is also a member of the Iran Strategy Project Working Group at the Atlantic Council and recently co-authored a piece in the *New York Times* about the importance of including human rights in any U.S. negotiations with Iran: “[Trump Shouldn’t Forget the Iranian People](#)” appeared on April 12.

Lucas de Souza Martins, Ph.D. student, chaired the 30th edition of the James A. Barnes Graduate History Conference, the largest of its kind in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region. The event brought together scholars from across the country and beyond. In addition to this accomplishment, Martins was appointed as an Adjunct History Professor at Villanova University, where he teaches “Global Brazil,” an undergraduate course designed to engage students with the modern history of Brazil. Over the past year, Martins provided expert commentary on the results of the recent U.S. Presidential

election for major media outlets, including CNN Brasil, Radio France Internationale, and CNBC’s Times Brasil. He also became a Research Fellow at the Washington Brazil Office and participated as a panelist in discussions on U.S.-Latin America relations at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Brazil’s Mackenzie Presbyterian University.

Gregory J.W. Urwin, Professor of History, published an op-ed in the Sunday, March 9, 2025, edition of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on “[America’s Status Is Intertwined with Ukraine’s Fate](#).” Urwin delivered invited lectures at the 2024 annual conference of the Little Big Horn Associates and to the African Americans in the Civil War Era Round Table, Inc. The Museum of the American Revolution enlisted Urwin as a humanities scholar and member of the scholarly committee to help shape its upcoming special exhibition on “The Good Americans: Loyalists at War and Peace,” which will run from 2027 to 2028. Finally, Urwin is pleased to report that his oncologist upgraded him to cancer survivor last September.

Jake Wolff (Ph.D. Candidate, Temple) was awarded a 2025 summer research fellowship by the Arizona Historical Society. This opportunity arose from conversations with archivists at a conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico this past summer, where Jake presented a paper on interstate border checkpoints constructed during the New Deal. CENFAD had supported the conference travel. While in Tucson and Flagstaff this coming July, Jake will study highway construction in the US- Mexico borderlands between 1916 and 1939. He also presented on a panel with **Joseph Johnson** (Ph.D. Candidate) about “The Cold War at Work: The Relationship Between National Defense and Labor Planning in the United States, 1940- 1990” at the Business History conference at Atlanta this March. Their papers—on defense sector tech and interstate highway

construction, respectively—drew upon archival research trips funded by CENFAD grants.

Dr. Ralph Young has been in high demand since the publication of *American Patriots: A Short History of Dissent*. He has been interviewed by several media outlets to discuss the history and significance of dissent in the United States, with recent commentary on topics ranging from the Vietnam War to the ongoing Gaza protests. These interviews are linked below.

- **Vietnam Veteran News Network**, February 26, 2025, podcast with Andy Pham on *American Patriots: A Short History of Dissent* [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)
- **Philadelphia Inquirer**, June 20, 2024, interviewed by Will Bunch for a column on [“Why Can’t America March Against the Far Right Like in France?”](#)
- **Qué pasa en el mundo**, Colombian accent YouTube Channel, Bogotá, Colombia, May 12, 2024, interviewed by Rodrigo Rodríguez-Morales on [“¡Los Estudiantes protestan por sí solos!”](#) ([English version](#).)
- **Le Figaro**, Paris, France, May 5, 2024, interviewed by Hélène Vissière for an article on [“Présidentielle américaine: la campagne de Biden chahutée par la fièvre pro-palestinienne des campus.”](#)
- **Radio Canada**, May 4, 2024, interviewed by Ximena Sampson for an article on [“Student demonstrations: What parallels between 2024 and 1968?”](#)
- **Washington Post**, May 3, 2024, quoted in an article [“Troops fired on Kent State students in 1970. Survivors see echoes in today’s campus protests.”](#)
- **L’Espresso Magazine**, Milan, Italy, May 3, 2024, interviewed by Manuela Cavalieri and Donatella Mulvoni for an article on “In tenda contro la Guerra a Gaza.”
- **Business Insider**, May 2, 2024, interviewed by Katie Balevic for an article on [“Universities are making it worse with their ‘overreaction’ to pro-Palestinian protests.”](#)
- **The Guardian**, May 1, 2024, interviewed by Adam Gabbatt for an article on [“What do the US protests mean for Joe Biden in November?”](#)
- **Times Higher Education (THE)**, London, England, May 1, 2025, [interviewed](#) by Patrick Jack for a column
- **PennLive/Harrisburg Patriot News**, April 10, 2025, [interviewed](#) by columnist John Baer for a column