

Note from the Davis Fellow



By Marcella Aline Toledo

It is remarkable how quickly this academic year has passed! Serving as the 2025-2026 Davis Fellow has been a role of great significance to me, as it has shaped my intellectual and professional development in lasting ways. Throughout the year, I have had the privilege of engaging with scholars from a wide range of backgrounds, and I am deeply grateful for their willingness to share their work, professionalism, and kindness. I am especially thankful to Dr. Greg Grandin, whom I had the honor of inviting, for his outstanding contributions to the field of Latin American history.

This edition of *Strategic Visions* features the regular section “News from the CENFAD Community,” highlighting members’ achievements, along with a reflection by

former Davis Fellow Dr. Silke Zoller on how the fellowship shaped her career.

In addition, I had the pleasure of speaking with Dr. Gregory J. W. Urwin as he prepares for retirement. Our conversation reflects on his distinguished career as a military historian and mentor. I am likewise grateful to my colleagues Samantha Sproviero, Carrilee Bryan, and Berk Cebeci for their contributions. Samantha and Carrilee reflect on how CENFAD funding has supported and advanced their research, while Berk examines Turkey’s role in Cold War alliance politics.

I also had the opportunity to interview Dr. Aileen Teague about her book *Policing on Drugs*, which she presented at CENFAD last January. Finally, I contributed with a report on the 2026 War and Peace Symposium held in April. I take this occasion to also thank Dr. Petra Goedde and Dr. Lee-Ann Chae for their guidance throughout the planning process. It was a privilege to witness such a significant event come together behind the scenes.

This whole experience would not have been the same without the guidance of Dr. Alan McPherson. His clear direction and steady support made the work not only manageable but genuinely rewarding. I am deeply grateful for his mentorship and look forward to continuing to learn from him. As my tenure comes to an end, I look forward to

CENFAD's continued growth and its ongoing mission to foster dialogue across the fields of diplomacy and military history. Readers can follow CENFAD's social media channels ([Instagram](#), [Bluesky](#), [LinkedIn](#)) and [subscribe](#)

[to its newsletter](#) for updates and announcements. I conclude by wishing the next Davis Fellow, William Hafer, every success in the year ahead!

News from the CENFAD Community

In 2026 former CENFAD director **Dr. Richard H. Immerman** published *The Jervis Effect: The Scholarship and Legacy of Robert Jervis*, which he co-edited with Stacie E. Goddard and Diane N. Labrosse. Along with Jack L. Snyder, Immerman and Labrosse have begun collecting essays for another volume, *Chaos Unleashed: The Second Trump Administration and the Future of the Liberal International Order*. As with the Jervis volume, these essays will initially appear as an H-Diplo/RJISSF forum, after which the editors will select those for inclusion a volume. With Genevieve Lester, Immerman's successor as the DeSerio Chair at the U.S. Army War College, he is also editing a volume on the future of the Intelligence Community.

As evidence that he has not defected to political science, Immerman now serves as executive director of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. As a consequence, he can be found on the 9th floor of Gladfelter Hall much more frequently than at any time since his retirement.

Dr. Alan McPherson, Freaney Professor of History and Director of CENFAD, spent much of the 2025-2026 year giving talks related to his March 2025 book, *The Breach: Iran-Contra and the Assault on American Democracy* (North Carolina). Hosts included Yale University; Erfurt University, where he was a visiting professor for Temple; the universities of Sydney and LaTrobe in Australia; Villanova; Williams College; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Chapman University; American University; the University of Houston; Louisiana State University; the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Nichols College; and the University of Nevada in Reno. He also presented work at conferences in Washington, Serbia, South Korea, and Chicago, and was the keynote speaker at a graduate student conference at Texas A&M University. In June 2025 he published "'Two Visions of Government': Iran-Contra and the Debate Over American Democracy," in the *Journal of American History*. He was also interviewed dozens of times in national and international media over the US intervention in Venezuela.