

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.

Dr. Kelly J. Shannon (Ph.D., Temple, 2010) has joined the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) at Georgetown University as the HRC Oral History Fellow on the Hillary Rodham Clinton Oral History Project.

Dr. Ronald J. Granieri has recently been appointed is Chair of the Department of National Security and Strategy at the US Army War College in Carlisle, PA, and has also just published a new book, *Adenauer's Heirs: The CDU/CSU from Detente to Reunification*, from Oxford University Press.

Dr. Gregory J. W. Urwin, Professor of History, is retiring as general editor of the *Campaigns and Commanders Series*, which he has helmed since its founding by University of Oklahoma Press in 1998. Urwin established himself as Oklahoma's most active series editor, soliciting many manuscripts and publishing eighty of them. C&C titles have been invariably well reviewed, and many became prize winners. Three more books that Urwin recruited and vetted for the series will appear in the coming year. University of Oklahoma Press will celebrate Urwin's tenure at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History with a reception from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M., Friday, March 27, in the Crystal Gateway Marriott's Arlington Ballroom, Salon 1-3, 1st Level, Arlington, Virginia. Urwin delivered invited lectures this past year for "The Revolutionary Speaker Series" at

Brandywine Battlefield Park, African American Civil War Era Round Table, and Baltimore Civil War Round Table. He also commented on a paper panel at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History. The Museum of the American Revolution appointed Urwin to the Scholarly Committee that is shaping a new exhibition, "[Loyalists: Americans against the Revolution](#)," which will run from November 6, 2027 to September 4, 2028. This group of American, Canadian, and indigenous scholars provides guidance to museum curators and staff on exhibition themes and content, including the identification and interpretation of appropriate artifacts.

Joseph Johnson (PhD Candidate) recently presented his dissertation research during the Temple University 3 Minute Thesis Competition. His time was spent instructing sections of American Military Culture this year and was recently awarded a Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) to conduct international research during the upcoming summer. He has also been selected to participate in the SHAFR Summer Institute in June, where he will share work from his dissertation with other doctoral candidates and researchers before presenting at the SHAFR Summer Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Kevin J. McNamara (M.A., 1994, Temple; B.A., 1989, Temple) published [“The Paradox of Great Power Diplomacy.”](#) *Modern Age: A Quarterly Review*, March 9, 2026, a review of *Great Power Diplomacy: The Skill of Statecraft from Attila the Hun to Kissinger*, by A. Wess Mitchell (Princeton University Press, 2025), a former Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia and former CEO of the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), Washington, D.C. McNamara, a student of Russell Weigley’s, authored *Dreams of a Great Small Nation: The Mutinous Army that Threatened a Revolution, Destroyed an Empire, Founded a Republic, and Remade the Map of Europe* (New York: Public Affairs, 2016).

Marcella Aline Toledo (PhD Student) contributed a chapter to the anthology *Dall’Italia al Sud America. L’idea di “Fraternité” e il Mutuo Soccorso fra gli Emigranti in Argentina e Brasile* (From Italy to South America: The Idea of ‘Fraternité’ and Mutual Aid among Emigrants in Argentina and Brazil), published in August 2025. The volume emerged from a conference held at the University of Siena (Italy), her alma mater, in which she participated as a moderator in November 2023. Her chapter, titled “Il Contesto Storico della Cooperazione Transcontinentale: il Panamericanismo e il Brasile nella Costruzione delle Relazioni tra l’Ispano-America e gli Stati Uniti” (The Historical Context of Transcontinental

Cooperation: Pan-Americanism and Brazil in the Construction of Relations between Spanish America and the United States), examines pan-Americanism and highlights Brazil’s distinctive role in inter-American relations.

Dr. William Ashbaugh (PhD, 2000), professor of history at SUNY Oneonta, and Shintaro Mizushima (Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan) published the article “The First Anime Isekai: Aura Battler Dunbine’s Origins and Cold War Fears” in the collection of essays they co-edited, the first volume dedicated to exploring stories of Japanese protagonists sent or reborn in another, usually medieval fantasy world: *Exploring Isekai: Mapping Worlds through Anime, Manga, and Light Novels* (Bloomsbury, 2026). The article focuses on how the first anime isekai was created in 1983, from the general series director’s attempts to focus on Western ideas to that of his staff throwing in elements of Japanese history and culture against his wishes. As science fiction does not predict the future but instead describes the present, it also serves as a cautionary tale about the horrors of nuclear war during the renewal of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

Casey VanSise (Ph.D. Candidate) presented his research work at two graduate history conferences in March 2026. At the Thirty-First Annual James A. Barnes

Conference that took place at the Center City campus of Temple University (March 13-14), he delivered a presentation entitled “*Rosagolpistas* and Red-Brown Flirtations: US Efforts to Counteract Soviet Bloc Outreach to Military Regimes in the Americas, 1977-89,” based on a draft version of the fourteenth chapter of his envisioned seventeen chapter dissertation. This Barnes Conference presentation examined the ways in which various anti-communist military governments in the Western Hemisphere during the Cold War, principally those in Panama (1968-89), Peru (1968-80), Suriname (1980-87), and even far-right regimes in Argentina (1976-83) and Bolivia (1980-82), cultivated closer ties with the Soviet Union and its allies, and the ways in which the US government under the administrations of Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan responded to these developments. Casey also delivered a presentation at the Forty-Eighth Annual Warren Susman Graduate History Conference hosted by the History Department at the New Brunswick, NJ campus of Rutgers University (March 27). As an offshoot of his dissertation research, the paper that he presented at the Susman Conference, “Bringing Light to the Cases of Juan Antonio Navas Pájaro and Rita Irene Wald Jaramillo,” concerned the respective extrajudicial death and disappearance of two student dissidents in Panama (the torture and murder of Navas Pájaro under the civilian government of Marco Aurelio Robles

with the complicity of the Panamanian intelligence agency DENI and the US Central Intelligence Agency on May 31, 1966, and the presumed abduction of Wald Jaramillo under the military government of Omar Torrijos on March 27, 1977), both of which tend to be overlooked in existing English- and Spanish-language historiography regarding human rights and political persecution in Cold War-era Panama.

Lucas de Souza Martins (Ph.D. Candidate) was awarded SHAFR’s Samuel Bemis Dissertation Research Grant, as well as Temple University’s Richard K. Davis and Karen L. Davis Rylander Award for Latin American Studies, supporting archival research in both Brazil and the United States for his dissertation on U.S.-Latin America relations. Lucas published a [review](#) in the Harvard Review of Latin America of Dr. André Pagliarini’s recent book, *Lula: A People’s President and the Fight for Brazil’s Future* and authored an [op ed](#) for *Al Jazeera* analyzing the current state of Brazilian democracy. He continues to serve as a frequent guest analyst on CNN Brasil and CNBC’s Times Brasil, offering commentary on international affairs and U.S. politics. In the classroom, Lucas taught Latin American History at the Community College of Philadelphia as an adjunct professor. He also presented his research at the annual SHAFR Conference, where he discussed U.S.-Colombia relations in the early 1990s.