

News from the Director

By Alan McPherson



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New Web Page

Greetings from the Ninth Floor of Gladfelter Hall! The fall 2018 semester is coming to an end, as is another half-year of activities at CENFAD. Since I have taken over as Director a year and a half ago, CENFAD has been humming along with the usual fascinating speakers, dedicated graduate students, and a successful conference on Cuba in war and peace.

You may notice our new [web page](#), redesigned along with all the other ones in the College of Liberal Arts. We took the opportunity to streamline it by highlighting the three most important contributions that CENFAD makes to the Temple community—hosting scholars, funding student research, and publishing the newsletter you're currently reading. We are also highlighting this year's Non-Resident Fellow, Eric Moore of the University of Oklahoma.

Fall 2018 Colloquium

The just-concluded Fall 2018 Colloquium series has a special focus. Apart from the first two talks, all the others were by Temple PhDs who recently published their first book. We invited them so that they could present their work to the next generation of Temple scholars while their former advisors—especially Richard Immerman and Gregory Urwin—looked on with pride.

On September 5, our first lecturer was an exception to this pattern. A personal request by Mike Fischer, this year's David Fellow, Professor of History David Foglesong of Rutgers University spoke about "American Interventions in Revolutionary Russia: Methods, Motives, Memories." A specialist of U.S.-Russia relations, Foglesong urged historians to expand their sense of the U.S. intervention there after World War I beyond the U.S. expedition to Siberia.

On September 17, CENFAD quickly organized a gathering for Alejandro Bendaña, a historian and former Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United Nations for the Sandinista government of the 1980s. Bendaña was on his way to New York to lobby against the current Nicaraguan government. He stopped by to talk about "The Nicaraguan Civic Insurrection: A Historical Perspective," framing the current unrest in his country as a historically informed response to his former *compañero*, President Daniel Ortega, who, in Bendaña's thinking, has seriously steered off the Sandinista path of fostering social democracy.

Days later, on September 20, the first of five former Temple PhDs visited CENFAD. Matthew Shannon, Assistant Professor of History at Emory & Henry College, discussed his new book, *Losing Hearts and Minds: American-Iranian Relations and International Education during the Cold War*. It is a study of how US educational exchange programs attracted Iranian students in order to improve their view of the United States but instead ended up making them more critical of U.S. foreign policy, thus contributing to the rift between both nations.

The Control War: The Struggle for South Vietnam, 1968-1975 is the title of Martin Clemis's book and of the talk he delivered to CENFAD on October 3. An Assistant Professor of History and Government at Valley Forge Military College and Assistant Director of Research at the H. R. McMaster Center for Security Studies, Clemis made the case that the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong partly won by establishing greater control over the rural civilians of South Vietnam than the U.S.-allied South Vietnamese military ever could.

Kelly Shannon's talk, two weeks later on October 17, was inspired by her own book, U.S. Foreign Policy and Muslim Women's Human Rights. Shannon, an Associate Professor of History at Florida Atlantic University, focused in her talk on the 1990s and the Bill Clinton administration. That White House, especially because of the work of First Lady Hillary Clinton and of transnational women activists, achieved a rare feat in U.S. history by placing the goal of achieving Muslim women's human

rights above the extraction of natural resources, in this case new oil and gas pipelines. You can see an interview with Prof. Shannon here.

On November 15, Jason Smith, Assistant Professor of History at Southern Connecticut State University, discussed his own work, *To Master the Boundless Sea: The U.S. Navy, the Marine Environment, and the Cartography of Empire*. In the book and talk, Smith blends his love of naval history with an innovative look at the goal of mapping the constantly changing environment of the oceans, in the greater mission of expanding U.S. power abroad.

Finally, on November 29, Associate Professor of History at Louisiana Tech University Drew McKeivitt presented his book, *Consuming Japan: Popular Culture and the Globalizing of 1980s America*. This pathbreaking cultural history presents the myriad ways in which Americans experienced the "Japan panic" of the 1980s. VCRs, anime, new auto plants, and so much more forced Americans to recalibrate their relationship with the former enemy.

Thanks to all our Fall 2018 speakers, and congratulations to all the first-time authors!

Fall 2018 Prizes

In other CENFAD news, in October, the following two graduate students won fellowships to advance their dissertation research in spring or summer of 2019:

- Alexandre Caillot won a John Votaw Endowed Research Award to visit several area archives in support of his dissertation project on the performance of Union soldiers who filled newly-raised regiments fighting through the Civil War's final year.

- Eric Perinovic won a Jeffrey Bower Endowed Research Fellowship to support research at the NATO Archive in Brussels, Belgium, as part of his larger dissertation on U.S.-German relations during the Cold War.

Congratulations to the winners. Their continued determination to explore the past of diplomatic and military history speaks to the core mission of our center.

Spring 2018 Lineup

Please join us starting in January for an impressive lineup of speakers, including our Non-Resident Fellow, Erik Moore.

Wednesday, January 23 at 3:30 PM in 914 Gladfelter Hall (Weigley Room). **Melani McAlister**, Professor of American Studies and International Affairs at George Washington University.
“The Kingdom of God Has No Borders: A Global History of American Evangelicals.”

Tuesday, January 29 at 10 AM in 914 Gladfelter Hall (Weigley Room). **Colonel Edward A. Kaplan, USAF and the US Army War College**. A round-table discussion of US military history and military culture.

Wednesday, February 6 at 3:30 PM in 914 Gladfelter Hall (Weigley Room). **Erik Moore**, CENFAD Non-Resident Fellow and Postdoctoral Associate at the University of Oklahoma Humanities.
“Activists and Insurgents: Human Rights Advocacy During the Contra War, 1981-1988.”

Thursday, February 21 at 3:30 PM in 914 Gladfelter Hall (Weigley Room). **Eliga Gould**, Professor of History at the University of New Hampshire.
“Harry Washington’s Peace: Slavery and Freedom in the United States’ Founding Treaty.”

Thursday, March 14 at 3:30 PM in 914 Gladfelter Hall (Weigley Room). **Ali Ahmida**, Professor of Political Science, University of New England. “The Ghosts of Colonial Past and the Crisis of Post-Qadhdhafi Libya.”

Thursday, April 4 at 3:30 PM in 914 Gladfelter Hall (Weigley Room). **Nancy Mitchell**, Professor of History at North Carolina State University. “Jimmy Carter in Africa: Race and the Cold War.”

Wednesday, April 24 at 3:30 PM in 914 Gladfelter Hall (Weigley Room). **Mark Lawrence**, Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin.
“In the Shadow of Vietnam: Lyndon Johnson and the Third World.”

Please join us for as many talks as you can. If you’re an instructor, please incentivize your students to attend. See you in the spring!