

News from the Director



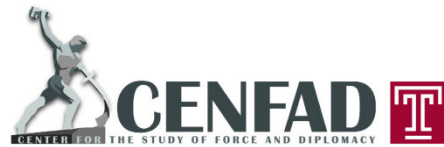
By Alan McPherson

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As Davis Fellow Brandon Kinney notes, we were not expecting this ending to the semester. As Director, I sincerely hope that the entire CENFAD community is keeping safe (and sane!) during this trying pandemic.

Those of us who have the good fortune of remaining employed should endeavor to reach out to those who are suffering and offer whatever help we can while remaining safe ourselves. Once we get through this—and we will—it will also behoove those of us who think about force and diplomacy to imagine how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected international relations. Perhaps we will emerge a more peaceful and harmonious globe.

For now, please see news of how the CENFAD community is holding up [here](#).



Spring 2020 Colloquium

Because of the sudden closure of Temple's campus in mid-March, CENFAD had to cancel the planned talks by Daniel Immerwahr and David Engerman. *Strategic Visions* does have a [review](#) of Immerwahr's new book by Graydon Dennison, however. We will wait until we have a clear idea of Temple's plans for the fall semester before we publicize our Fall 2020 talks, but Immerwahr and Engerman should be prominent among them.

Luckily for CENFAD, our invited speakers were front-loaded in the semester and therefore most had already visited campus before its closing. We hosted four fascinating talks on diverse topics, each one garnering an audience in the dozens.

On February 6, Tim Sayle of the University of Toronto and a Temple PhD in History, [discussed](#) his new book, *Enduring Alliance: A History of NATO and the Postwar Global Order*. As Stanley Schwartz notes in his [review](#), Sayle's project focuses on NATO's general success in working to shore up the democracies of and keeping the peace in Western Europe. He is interviewed [here](#).

One week later, Sarah Snyder of American University visited temple to [talk](#) about her most recent title, *From Selma to Moscow: How Human Rights Activists Transformed U.S. Foreign Policy*. Her emphasis was on the backgrounds and worldviews of those who bridged the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s and the human rights movement of the 1970s before Jimmy Carter made those rights a priority in his foreign policy. CENFAD also [interviewed](#)

her.

On February 19, Chouki El Hamel of Arizona State University, author of *Black Morocco: A History of Slavery, Race, and Islam*, discussed “Slave Soldiers and Maroonage in Morocco in the 18th Century” in the context of Prof. Ben Talton’s graduate course on global slavery. Prof. El Hamel highlighted the agency of escaped enslaved persons in Morocco in establishing communities.

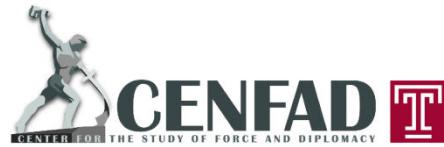
Finally, on February 27, Pablo Rubio, a visiting scholar from Chile at Georgetown University, [discussed](#) “Reagan, Pinochet, and the Return to Democracy in Chile.” The talk was co-sponsored by the Temple program in Latin American Studies. His research in the most recently declassified documents helped him argue the links between the 1980s democratic struggle and the latest social crisis in Chile.

Spring 2020 prizes

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

- Alexandre Caillot won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$1,300 to research at the Maine Historical Society and the Maine State Archives in support of his dissertation on the late Civil War.
- Mike Fischer won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$3,450 to research in archives in California, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C., in support of his dissertation on the US military intervention in Russia.
- Josh Stern won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy in the amount of \$5,000 for research in archives in Ithaca, Princeton, College Park, and New York in support of his dissertation research on US labor intervention in Chile.

Some of the planned research may be delayed due to the pandemic.



The following two students won CENFAD conference travel grants:

- Ariel Natalo-Lifton won \$1,000 in support of her research presentation at the annual conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations in New Orleans in June 2020.
- Josh Stern also won \$1,000 in support of his research presentation at same conference.

Unfortunately, the SHAFR conference in New Orleans was canceled because of the pandemic. But Natalo-Lifton and Stern will be able to use their award for a future conference.

Congratulations!

Diplomatic History

Diplomatic History, SHAFR’s (Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations) flagship journal, made a smooth transition to Temple University last summer. The onsite staff consists of Assistant Editors Brian McNamara and Keith Riley, Editor Petra Goedde, and me as Associate Editor. We are joined by Assistant Editor Daniel Morton-Bentley and Editor Anne Foster from Indiana State University. Because of the inter-state composition of the editorial team, everyone was already well versed in conducting online meetings. Thus we had to make only minor adjustment after the shutdown of the University on March 15th

The first “official” Temple issue arrived in January of this year: Volume 44, Number 1. Check it out, because it contains a brilliant article by our former colleague Vlad Zubok and reviews of books written by two Temple History PhDs, Matthew Shannon’s *Losing Hearts and*

Minds (Cornell, 2017) and Michele Louro's *Comrades Against Imperialism* (Cambridge, 2018).

Non-Resident Fellow, 2020-21

In the coming academic year, CENFAD will host Robert Karl as a Non-Resident Fellow. Karl, a Harvard University PhD and a member of the Princeton University faculty from 2010 to 2019, is a historian specializing in injustice, impunity, and violence in Colombia. As Non-Resident Fellow, he will come to campus to give a talk, contribute to *Strategic Visions*, and mentor Temple graduate students.

Funding the Immerman Fund

After Dr. Richard Immerman retired from the History Department and from the directorship of CENFAD in 2017, several of his past students wanted to and pay tribute to the impact Immerman made on their careers. After several of them started a nucleus fund, one then suggested he would make a commitment for matching dollars to grow the base of supporters of such a fund; others, including the History Department, followed his lead to add to a matching fund. The Immerman Fellowship Fund is an endowed fund, generating research support for graduate students for generations to come.

Please join me in making a contribution in support of our students and in honor of Dr. Richard Immerman.

Gifts can be made online at www.giving.temple.edu. When selecting a funding option, scroll down to "Other" as an open box and type "Immerman Research Award – 511097." Gifts can also be mailed to Temple University, Institutional Advancement, P.O. Box 827651, Philadelphia, PA 19182-7651. Please write "Immerman Research Award - 511097" in the memo.

Thanks to the Davis Fellow

Finally, I want to warmly thank Brandon Kinney for his invaluable services as CENFAD's Davis Fellow in 2019-2020. He has been the logistical



master behind all our events and the reason that this newsletter is of such high quality. Following in the footsteps of impressive predecessors, Brandon has kept the bar very high. He even had time to learn Russian and medal in a national Russian essay contest! Best of luck on comps and your prospectus!

Next year's Davis Fellow will be Josh Stern, whose interests center on U.S.-Latin American relations and especially labor and intervention. Welcome to CENFAD, Josh!