

News from the Director



By Alan McPherson

- **Save the Date: Gettysburg Conference, April 6th, 2024**
- **Fall 2023 Lecture Series**
- **Fall 2023 Prizes**
- **Emerging Scholar Award**
- **Spring 2024 Lecture Series Lineup**

This fall semester, CENFAD and its community were back to post-pandemic normal, having all our activities on campus and many of our graduate students engaged in overseas research and writing. We had especially well-attended talks, and our partnerships on campus continued to thrive. Our big project was the preparation of a one-day conference in April. See below!

Save the Date: “All Roads Lead to Gettysburg” Conference, April 6

On Saturday, April 6, 2024, CENFAD will host a one-day conference on the Battle of Gettysburg at Temple’s Center City campus titled “All Roads Lead to Gettysburg.” With the help of my colleague, **Gregory Urwin**, we have set out several themes, from commanders to Lincoln to public history, and we are currently inviting about 15 scholars, from seasoned veterans to promising students, to present. Temple-associated faculty and students will be chairing all the panels. Thanks to our co-sponsors in the **History Department, the Political Science Department, and the Society for Military History**.

Please spread the word: all panels will be free and open to the public, and breakfast and lunch will be provided. Details to follow in early 2024!

Fall 2023 Lecture Series

CENFAD's talks are now broadcast simultaneously on Zoom, from which audiences can ask questions, and the link is on the posters advertising the talks. [Videos](#) of all the events below are now embedded in CENFAD's [lecture series page](#).¹ This semester, our six speakers gave their presentations in person.

Our first guest was **Aaron Sullivan** of Rider University, a Temple PhD who [presented](#) on his book, *The Disaffected: Britain's Occupation of Philadelphia During the American Revolution*. On September 8, Sullivan visited a classroom and told a Weigley Room audience that the likely position of most Philadelphians, when facing war and occupation, was not to side with either belligerent. Instead, they sought to protect themselves or to benefit from whichever force held sway over the city. To this group, the revolution was "neither a glorious cause nor an unnatural rebellion but a tragic disaster, best avoided."

Our next guest, on September 21, came out of a collaboration with the **Feinstein Center for American Jewish History**. **Eric Alterman**, a historian, journalist, and CUNY distinguished professor of english and journalism at Brooklyn College, [discussed](#) his new book, *We Are Not One: A History of America's Fight over Israel*. In an interview with Feinstein

Director **Lila Berman**, Alterman explained American Jews' evolution of views toward Israel, from paying little attention to it before the 1967 Six-Day War to making it a major component of their identity and even allying with conservative Christians.



Next up was **Mel Leffler**, professor emeritus of history at the University of Virginia and author of *Confronting Saddam Hussein: George W. Bush and the Invasion of Iraq*.

¹ Editor's Note: Due to ongoing technical difficulties, some of our lectures are not currently available online. Please check the website in the future for updates.



On October 9, Leffler, based on his numerous interviews with Bush administration officials, argued that “fear, power, hubris, and administrative dysfunction shaped decisions.” His “fear” argument, suggesting that Bush officials sincerely considered themselves to be in a Pearl Harbor-like emergency in Iraq, caused the liveliest debate between Leffler and his audience.

On November 6, Rowan history professor **Debbie Sharnak** talked about her own new book, *Of Light and Struggle: Social Justice, Human Rights, and Accountability in Uruguay*. During their country’s dictatorship from 1973 to 1985, Uruguayans suffered the highest rate of political prisoners in the world. Sharnak focused on activists, transnational movements, and policymakers who worked together—and sometimes against each other—to move the country back to democratic rule.

On November 16, **Beth Bailey**, a former Temple history professor now at the

University of Kansas, [discussed](#) the U.S. Army’s response to racial conflict within its ranks. Her book, *An Army Afire: How the U.S. Army Confronted Its Racial Crisis in the Vietnam Era*, recounts Army concerns that such conflict would undermine war aims, especially in Vietnam. She found military leaders “surprisingly creative in confronting demands for racial justice.”

Finally, on November 29, **Dina Fainberg**, professor of modern history at City, University of London, came to campus to promote *Cold War Correspondents: Soviet and American Reporters on the Ideological Frontiers*.



She reminded us that, “in an age of mutual acrimony and closed borders, journalists were among the few individuals who crossed the Iron Curtain.” Both sides operated from distinctive sets of truth created by their cultures and their institutions.

Fall 2023 Prizes

The following graduate students won CENFAD research awards:

- **Ethan Cohen** won a John Votaw Endowed Research Grant of \$2,200 for research in Madrid.
- **Mathias Fuelling** won a \$1,000 Marvin Wachman Fellowship for travel to Prague for the 2023 Summer School in Economic History run by the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences.
- **Steps Kostas** won a Jeffrey Bower Endowed Research Fellowship of \$600 for research at various Pennsylvania Archives.
- **Ryan Langton** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship of \$1,300 for research at the New York Historical Society and the New York Public Library.
- **Lucas Martins** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship of \$1,800 for research in Colombia and Brazil.
- **Andrew Santora** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship of \$2,000 for research in

Germany.

- **Samantha Sproviero** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship of \$650 for German script course fees.
- **Casey VanSise** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship of \$2,100 for research in Bolivia.

This is the second-highest number of students earning a research award since I took over CENFAD (the highest was Spring 2023). These numbers demonstrate the CENFAD community's continuing dedication to archival research, including in international archives, and promises a bumper crop of high-level dissertations in the years to come.

In addition, the following students received CENFAD funds to present their work at academic conferences:

- **Carrilee Bryan**, at the Urban History Association conference in Pittsburgh.
- **Amanda Summers**, at the American Historical Association conference in San Francisco.

Congratulations to all!

Emerging Scholar Award

Thanks to the generosity of **Todd Davis** (Temple History PHD), CENFAD funds a yearly Emerging Scholar Graduate Award, a scholarship for applicants to the Temple University MA Program in History. The purposes of the award are to recruit and support MA-level students interested in diplomatic and military history and to do so especially among underrepresented candidates, including women.

Each year, one awardee receives \$12,000 in tuition remission over a two-year period (covering about one 3-credit course per semester at in-state rates). If the awardee's GPA is below a 3.5 after his/her first year of studies, second-year funding is subject to review.

The competition is now open for the 2024-2025 academic year, and the deadline to apply to the Temple MA Program in History is February 15, 2024. There is no application procedure. All students admitted to the MA program, including the MA Concentration in Public History, will automatically be considered.

Spring 2024 Lecture Series Schedule

Come join us for another great lineup! All lectures will be held in the Weigley Room, Gladfelter 914, at 4:30pm.

Thursday, January 25: **Michael Brenes**, author of *For Might and Right: Cold War Defense Spending and the Remaking of American Democracy*

Thursday, February 15: **Jessica Kim**, author of *Imperial Metropolis: Los Angeles, Mexico, and the Borderlands of American Empire, 1865-1941*

Wednesday, February 28: **Elisabeth Leake**, author of *Afghan Crucible: The Soviet Invasion and the Making of Modern Afghanistan*

Thursday, March 21: **Fabian Klose**, author of *In the Case of Humanity: A History of Humanitarian Intervention in the Long Nineteenth Century*

Wednesday, April 3: **Greg Daddis**, author of *Pulp Vietnam: War and Gender in Cold War Men's Adventure Magazines*

Wednesday, April 17: **Stephanie Freeman**, author of *Dreams for a Decade: International Nuclear Abolitionism and the End of the Cold War*