

Note from the Davis Fellow



I have had a wonderful time during the past semester working as the Thomas J. Davis Fellow for CENFAD. Since this position provides a bit of relief from the responsibilities of teaching and grading, it has offered many new challenges to fill my days. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to work with the great scholars who continue to participate in our annual lecture series. I would like to personally offer my thanks to Dr. Aaron Sullivan, Dr. Eric Alterman, Dr. Melvyn Leffler, Dr. Debbie Sharnak, Dr. Beth Bailey, and Dr. Dina Fainberg for sharing their research with our community. It was a magnificent experience working with all of these individuals.

You can read interviews with Dr. Debbie Sharnak and Dr. Beth Bailey in this edition of *Strategic Visions* where I discuss their recent lectures and books. I also have two unique conversations featuring long-time CENFAD community members, including former CENFAD director Dr. Richard Immerman, and current Temple professor Dr. Gregory Urwin available in this newsletter. Dr. Immerman spoke with me about planning and executing the Walter LaFeber Memorial Conference sponsored by Cornell University this past October, while Dr. Urwin spoke with me about our upcoming CENFAD conference, “All Roads Lead to Gettysburg,” and the continued historical interest in the Battle of Gettysburg. There are also three book reviews at the end of this edition that heavily center on Latin American foreign relations, but they exemplify some of the great work and thinking completed by our graduate students. This semester provided unique opportunities to interview scholars, plan a conference, and generally assist Dr. McPherson with running CENFAD. I look forward to the opportunity to continue working in this position in the spring semester. Remember to share news with CENFAD so we can share your accomplishments in the spring edition!

Sincerely,
Joseph Johnson