

# News from the Director



By Alan McPherson

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This semester had its usual share of great scholarly talks and fascinating research projects moved ever closer to completion by Temple’s grad students. Please catch up on how the CENFAD community is doing [here](#).

Most public—and most time consuming!—was CENFAD’s “All Roads

Lead to Gettysburg” conference, held in our Center City campus on Saturday, April 6. Sixteen scholars in five panels, each chaired by a Temple faculty or graduate student, demonstrated the still-vibrant field that is Gettysburg studies.

## **All Roads Lead to Gettysburg**

I began planning this one-day conference well over a year ago when I realized that my colleague, Dr. Greg Urwin, had one eye on his retirement. I wanted to honor his lifetime of distinguished work on military history, which has included the Civil War, and also take advantage of the draw that he would be for historians of any military topic, including the most famous battle of the Civil War.

The result was more than we expected: About 80 attendees filled the conference room, many from around Philadelphia and Gettysburg itself, but many others joining us from as far away as West Point, Alabama, Indiana, Arizona, Oklahoma, and even England. Graduate students joined seasoned scholars in hashing out the many “roads” of Gettysburg, from its traditional tactical studies to Lincolniana, memory, and international reverberations.

All in all, this successful conference will hopefully engender many publications and a continuing interest in the battle and its site. I want to thank Dr. Urwin for coming up with the concept of the conference along with helping me recruit presenters. The History and Political Science Departments at Temple were crucial financial co-sponsors, as was the Society for Military History. The chairs of each

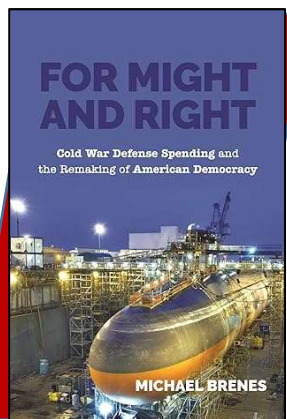
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panel went above and beyond. And finally, Davis Fellow Joseph Johnson did most of the legwork to make the conference run smoothly, and he did it all with élan and poise. The many thanks we got from participants are mostly a reflection of Joseph's hard work.

### Spring 2024 Colloquium

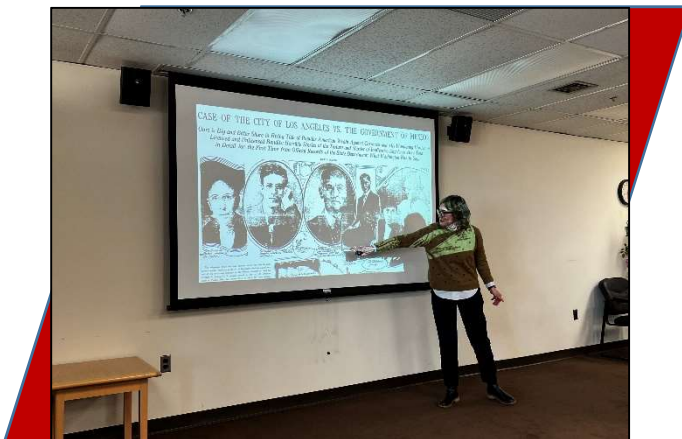
A series of high-quality speakers graced us with their presence this semester, again testifying to the variety of interests that our department nurtures.

On January 25, our first speaker was Yale University's **Michael Brenes**, whose book *For Might and Right: Cold War Defense Spending and the Remaking of American Democracy* [argues](#) that defense spending has been crucial in holding together much of American democracy in the Cold War. For more on his book, see *Strategic Visions's* interview with Dr. Brenes [here](#).



February saw three talks scheduled close together. The first was on the fifteenth, by **Jessica Kim**, historian at Cal State Northridge and author of *Imperial Metropolis: Los Angeles, Mexico, and the Borderlands of American Empire, 1865-1941*. Her [talk](#) attracted a

rare combination of students of foreign relations with students of U.S. urban history, making for one of the largest crowds seen in a while at a CENFAD talk.



Dr. Jessica Kim delivering her CENFAD lecture (Credit: Dr. Alan McPherson)

A week later, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Anne Foster**, co-editor of *Diplomatic History* (produced here at Temple) and professor of history at Indiana State University, [joined us](#) to discuss *The Long War on Drugs*. Her short book about a large topic illustrated all the ways that the “war” has been mis-defined and poorly run for a century.



Dr. Anne Foster gives her lecture while C-Span records (Credit: Dr. Alan McPherson)

Barely six days after Foster, we heard about Afghanistan from **Elizabeth Leake** of Tufts University. Her new

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*Afghan Crucible: The Soviet Invasion and the Making of Modern Afghanistan*, [argued](#) for the long-term impact of the 1980s occupation of the crucial yet indomitable landlocked nation. Thanks to Artemy Kalinovsky for suggesting Leake's visit.



Dr. Elisabeth Leake presenting on her work (Credit: Dr. Alan McPherson)

Historian **Fabian Klose** of the University of Cologne, Germany, visited on March 21 to [discuss](#) his own book, *In the Case of Humanity: A History of Humanitarian Intervention in the Long Nineteenth Century*. There is growing interest in creating an exchange program with Cologne that might allow both departments' graduate students to benefit from expanded resources. Thanks to Petra Goedde for suggesting him.



Dr. Fabian Klose speaking at CENFAD

On April 3, I was particularly delighted to hear **Greg Daddis** of San Diego State University [talk](#), first because I had assigned his *Pulp Vietnam: War and Gender in Cold War Men's Adventure Magazines* to my graduate course, and second because the book contains such fascinating illustrations. He made a convincing case that men's pulp magazines from the early Cold War conditioned soldiers to feel frustrated in Vietnam and thus commit atrocities.

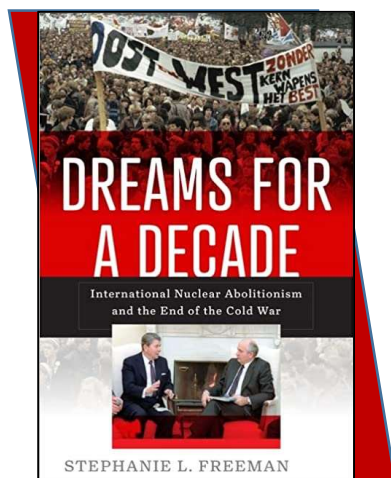


Dr. Greg Daddis presents (Credit: Dr. Gregory Urwin)



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Finally, on April 17, **Stephanie Freeman** of the Office of the Historian at the State Department joined us, on the advice of Joseph Johnson, to discuss her new book, *Dreams for a Decade: International Nuclear Abolitionism and the End of the Cold War*. Her book argues persuasively that those who argued for the reduction of nuclear weapons, from the streets to the summits, played an outsized role in ending the Cold War. Freeman gives more details in her [interview](#) with *Strategic Visions*. Unfortunately, due to a camera malfunction, Dr. Freeman's lecture is unavailable.

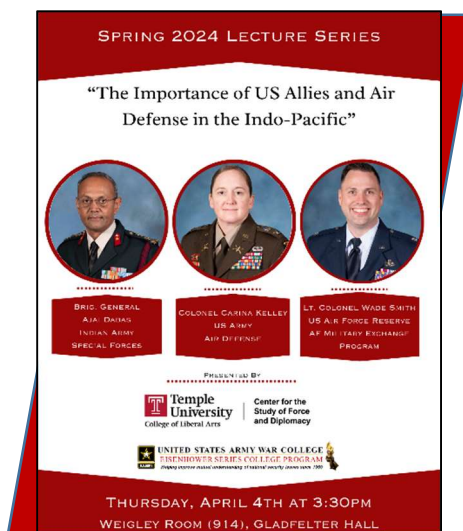


### War in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: What Can It Accomplish?

On February 23 and 24, CENFAD helped sponsor Assistant Professor of Philosophy **Lee-Ann Chae**'s continuing conferences on "Challenging War." This year's theme, "War in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: What Can It Accomplish?" touched on conflicts from Gaza to Ukraine and on topics as varied as the ethics of war, just war concepts, and "masculine ignorance." We hope it continues!

### Army War College Visit

Thanks to Profs. **Jay Lockenour** and **Gregory Urwin**, CENFAD once again hosted a panel from the Army War College in Carlisle. Panelists included **Brigadier General Ajai Singh Dabas**, **Colonel Carina Kelley**, and **Lieutenant Colonel Wade Smith**. On April 4, the panelists discussed "The Importance of US Allies and Air Defense in the Indo-Pacific"



### Spring 2024 prizes

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

- **Joseph Johnson** won a Wachman Fellowship of \$3,300 for his dissertation research in New York, Washington, and Charlottesville.
- **Audrey Rankin** won a Wachman Fellowship of \$2,500 for her dissertation research in Spain.

- **Alex Southgate** won the Richard Immerman Research Award of \$2,000 for her dissertation research in England.
- **Jake Wolff** won a Wachman Fellowship of \$3,000 for his dissertation research in Kansas, Washington, and New York.

The following six students received CENFAD funds to present their work at academic conferences:

- **Graydon Dennison**, at the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Historians in Willemstad, Curaçao.
- **Duncan Knox**, at the Society for Military History in Arlington, Virginia.
- **Lucas Martins**, at the Congress of Brazilian Studies in San Diego, California.
- **Grace Anne Parker**, at the Society for Military History in Arlington, Virginia.
- **Alex Southgate**, at the Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference in Helsinki, Finland.
- **Jake Wolff**, at the Agricultural History Society in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**Congratulations to all the winners!**

## **Third CENFAD Emerging Scholar**

For the third year in a row, thanks to the generosity of Temple History PhD Todd Davis, CENFAD helped in recruiting an incoming MA student with the Emerging Scholar Graduate Award. The award aims to support MA-level students interested in diplomatic and military history and to do so especially among underrepresented candidates, including women. The 2023-2024 incoming Emerging Scholar will be **Ella Scalese**, who is interested in combining international affairs and public history. Welcome to the CENFAD community, Ella!

## **Thanks to the Davis Fellow**

Finally, I want to heartily thank Davis Fellow Joseph Johnson, who faced a particularly arduous workload because the Gettysburg conference fell during his tenure. But, as I wrote above, he handled it with grace, and, if academia doesn't pan out, he might have found his calling as an event organizer! Joseph's good cheer and encyclopedic knowledge of food made him a delightful attendee at CENFAD dinners!

Next year's Davis Fellow will be **Grace Anne Parker**, whose interests center on women in the military and especially those who served during the Korean War. Welcome to CENFAD, Grace Anne!