

News from the CENFAD Community



Dr. Alan McPherson speaking at the "All Roads Lead to Gettysburg" Conference

Dr. Alan McPherson Temple University

Besides remaining Director of CENFAD, **Alan McPherson** had an active publishing year. Since spring 2023, he published three peer-reviewed single-author articles: "Sandino in Mexico: The Perils of Anti-Imperialist Alliances," in *The Latin Americanist*; "Protecting a President and Graymailing Courts: Iran-Contra and Obstruction of Justice," in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*; and "The Most Marketable Political Commodity': Oliver North, Iran-Contra, and American Domestic Politics," in *Modern American History*. He got a fourth article accepted for publication in the *Law and History Review* titled "'Above the Written Law': Iran-Contra and the Mirage of the Rule of Law." He also had two book chapters

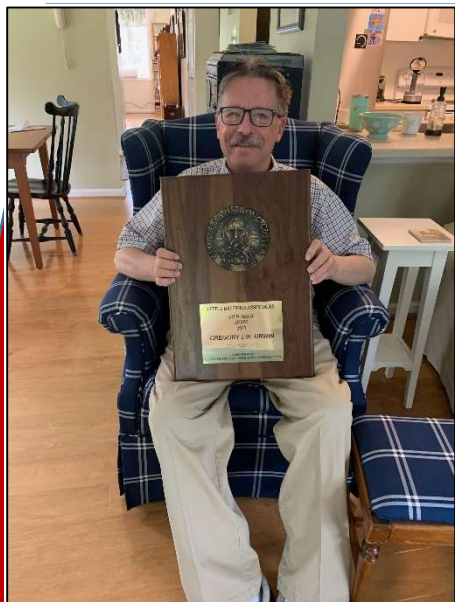
published: "U.S. Public Diplomacy Responses to Anti-Americanism in 1960s Latin America," in [*U.S. Public Diplomacy Strategies in Latin America during the Sixties: Time for Persuasion*](#), edited by Francisco Rodríguez-Jiménez, Lorenzo Delgado, and Benedetta Calandra for Routledge, and "Prólogo," in [*El Americano imposible: Estados Unidos y América Latina entre la modernización y la contrainsurgencia*](#), edited by the same team for Sílex in Madrid. He presented at conferences in Vancouver, Canada; Arlington, Virginia; and San Francisco. In fall 2023, Catalonia Press of Chile published the Spanish-language version of *Ghosts of Sheridan Circle* titled *Matar a Letelier: el crimen que puso al banquillo el régimen de Pinochet*. Finally, he signed a contract with the University of North Carolina Press to publish his next book, *The Breach: Iran-Contra and the Assault on American Democracy*, in spring 2025.

Dr. Matthew K. Shannon Emory & Henry College

Matthew Shannon has completed a new book that will be published and available for purchase in June. The book is titled [*Mission Manifest: American Evangelicals and Iran in the Twentieth Century*](#). The book focuses on the centrality of evangelical missionaries to US-Iranian relations in the decades prior to the 1970 Iranian Revolution. In the book, Dr. Shannon outlines how US foreign relations became entangled with messianic ideals of Christian evangelicalism by examining the influence of missionaries on religion, development programs, international education, and cultural associations. Dr. Shannon's book is

Strategic Visions: Volume 23, Number II (Spring 2024)

available through Cornell University Press.



Dr. Urwin with Jay D. Smith Award (Credit: Dr. Gregory J.W. Urwin)

Dr. Gregory J. W. Urwin *Temple University*

Gregory J.W. Urwin, professor of history, received the 2023 Jay D. Smith Award last June from the Little Bighorn Associates for his first book, *Custer Victorious: The Civil War Battles of General George Armstrong Custer*. The LBHA reserves the Smith Award for Custer classics that it missed honoring closer to their publication. Originally released in 1983, *Custer Victorious* has remained in print continuously for forty-one years.

Urwin organized a panel on “Image Development, Tactical Innovation, and POWs in the West: New Research on the American Revolutionary War” for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, which was held in Arlington, Virginia, April 18-21. He also presented a paper for that panel titled “Necessary to be Practiced by a

Battalion Going on American Service’: Reconstructing the Revival of the British Light Infantry.”

Finally, Urwin helped organize CENFAD’s recent successful conference, All Roads Lead to Gettysburg, held at Temple University Center City, April 6, 2024.



Brandon Kinney, PhD Candidate *Temple University*

Brandon Kinney, a former Davis Fellow and current PhD candidate at Temple, has been busy writing during the 2023-24 school year. As a recipient of the Dissertation Completion Grant for the spring semester, he is hoping to defend his dissertation, “West German-American Fête Diplomacy, 1945-1955,” during the summer. In the past school year, Brandon has had two peer-review articles published: “‘Poor Devils’: German Contributions to American Flood Relief and the Early Cold War,” in *Cold War History* and “Transnational Organizations and Canadian-American Environmental Diplomacy, 1890-1930,” in *Diplomacy and Statecraft*. He has also recently had two articles accepted for publication that are currently under production: “Fête Diplomacy and The American Military Government’s

Cultural Mission in Postwar Germany,” in the *Journal of Military History*, and “The ‘Bridge Character’: Carl Schurz and Memory in German-American Rapprochement,” in the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*.



**Ryan Langton, PhD Candidate
Temple University**

Ryan Langton, a former Davis Fellow, was awarded the David Center for the American Revolution Predoctoral Fellowship at the American Philosophical Society for the 2024-2025 academic year. He will also have an article, titled "The Murder of Justice: Personal Networks and the Meaning of Justice in Trustee-Era Georgia," appear in the forthcoming edition of *Native South*.



**Lucas de Souza Martins, PhD Student
Temple University**

Lucas de Souza Martins (PhD Student, Temple) became a [Graduate Fellow](#) at the Wilson Center's Cold War Archives Research (CWAR) Institute last Fall. The two-semester long program trains graduate students through a combination of online seminars, discussions, and in-person research experience at Cold War archives. This coming summer, Martins is scheduled to present his research on the relationship between President Jimmy Carter's administration and Brazil at Eotvos Lorand University (Budapest, Hungary) in May, and also at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Conference in Bogotá, Colombia in June. In addition, during the past academic year, he provided commentary on the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election to major media outlets at home, such as [CNN Brazil](#), [Jovem Pan News](#), and [Radio Bandeirantes](#).

**Casey VanSise, PhD Candidate
Temple University**

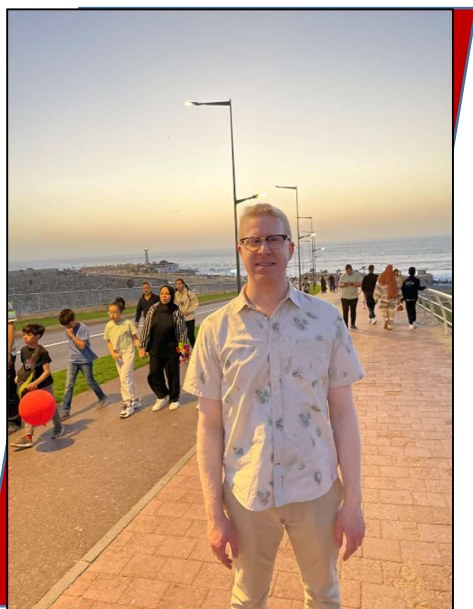
Casey VanSise, a Temple History PhD Candidate and former Davis Fellow

(2021-22), received both a Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) and a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy from CENFAD in Fall 2023. Additionally, in March 2024, he won the Richard K. Davis and Karen L. Rylander-Davis Research Award offered by Temple University's College of Liberal Arts in support of his intended research in the Andes.

To have your news included in future editions of *Strategic Visions*, make sure to contact the current Davis Fellow via email or through social media!

Research Reports

This section contains brief reports from student who have benefitted from CENFAD provided funding in completing their research. To find out more about the funding opportunities offered by CENFAD, please look at our [funding page](#).



Ethan Cohen, PhD Candidate Temple University

I have benefitted several times from CENFAD funding, having previously received the Jeffrey Bower Endowed Research Fellowship, two Marvin Wachman Fellowships in Force and Diplomacy, and the Richard Immerman Research Award.

I am currently researching in Tangier, where a tourist brochure from 1929 matches nearly verbatim contemporary marketing for the city, stating “Here the Orient is discovered... utterly different civilizations have been drawn together... gateway of Morrocco... charm... threshold of the East.” Freudian historian like Anne McClintock would have a field day!

The idea of “utterly different civilizations” operates as the uniting theme of my chapters in progress. Also, my search for women in the archive has led me to colonial hospitals and schools. With a little creativity this archive is rich, except for the total absence of women of color in their own words.

As I connect the colonial with the metropolitan, for example through 1920s hygiene discourse around North Africa, I think I can show how profoundly colonialism affected culture.

Brandon Kinney PhD Candidate Temple University

It is due to the generous funding and incredible of donors and the Center for the Student of Force and Diplomacy that students like me are able to conduct the latest historical research in diplomatic and military history.