

Note from the Davis Fellow



By Grace Anne Parker

As the semester winds down, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all the scholars who shared their research with the CENFAD community this spring. We were honored to welcome Dr. David Suisman, Dr. Kate Epstein, Dr. Samuel Moyn, Dr. Osamah Khalil, Dr. Michael Kimmage, and Dr. Heather Venable. Each speaker delivered a fascinating and timely talk that sparked meaningful conversations and was met with enthusiastic attendance.

The range of topics we explored this semester reflects the depth and diversity of force and diplomacy studies today. From music as an instrument of war and twentieth-century technology theft, to the ethics of warfare, U.S. foreign policy from Kennedy to Biden, the origins of the war in Ukraine, and the evolving role of airpower — our speakers challenged us to think critically about how war, security, and statecraft shape the world we live in.

CENFAD's ongoing commitment to scholarly engagement and public conversation would not be possible without Dr. Alan McPherson's exceptional leadership. He does a wonderful job running the Center and fostering a

dynamic intellectual environment—one that enriches not only Temple University but also the broader academic community.

I'm especially grateful to Dr. McPherson for the opportunity to serve as this year's Davis Fellow. His mentorship and support have been invaluable — I truly couldn't have asked for a better boss! This role has allowed me to engage with leading scholars in the field and grow professionally and personally.

It's been a busy and fulfilling semester! In addition to my work with CENFAD, I've served as Barnes Club President and was honored to receive the People's Choice Award for my 3-Minute Thesis presentation, *Scrubbing History: Women's Struggle for Equality in the U.S. Armed Services, 1948–1953*, as seen in the photo.

I was also lucky to conduct interviews with two of our speakers. Dr. Kimmage offered insightful analysis on the War in Ukraine and how two U.S. presidential administrations have responded. Dr. Khalil discussed his new book and reflected on the evolution of U.S. foreign and military policy in the post-9/11 era.

This edition of the newsletter also features a profile of Abby Lewis, the new Director of the Center for European Studies, and a contribution from Ella Scalese, recipient of the CENFAD Emerging Scholar Award, who shares more about her research interests and academic journey.

Finally, I want to warmly congratulate the incoming Davis Fellow, Marcella Aline Toledo. I know she'll bring great energy and insight to the role, and I wish her all the best in the year ahead.

It's been an incredible experience working with CENFAD — thank you all for being part of it!