

## News from the Director

By Alan McPherson



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With this issue ends my second year as CENFAD director, and it has been as much of a pleasure as the first year. The spring semester colloquium series featured fascinating and diverse guests, and our graduate students continue to inspire us by earning prestigious prizes and fellowships (see “News from the Community” for additional details). Also, *Diplomatic History* is coming to Temple!

### Spring 2019 Colloquium

As always, most of our CENFAD speakers were suggested by fellow faculty members and students, and this semester’s lot was an impressive one.

The series kicked off on January 23 with Melani McAlister, Professor of American Studies and International Affairs at George Washington University. She spoke about her new book, *The Kingdom of God Has No Borders: A Global History of American Evangelicals*, arguing that U.S. evangelicals

engaged beyond our borders proved to have a more ambiguous and complex set of interactions abroad, seeing themselves changed by the world as much as they hoped to change it. Thanks to Professor Petra Goedde for helping to invite McAlister.

Six days later, Colonel Edward A. Kaplan of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army War College, brought a handful of his best students for a roundtable discussion of their most recent research on U.S. military strategy and history. Thanks to Temple Ph.D. student Taylor Christian for organizing this event.

On February 6, CENFAD hosted Erik Moore, Postdoctoral Associate at the University of Oklahoma and CENFAD Non-Resident Fellow, to discuss his manuscript now under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press, “Activists and Insurgents: Human Rights Advocacy During the Contra War, 1981-1988.” He argued that U.S. non-governmental organizations found success influencing the Congress and even the Ronald Reagan administration by using a human rights-based strategy to attempt to end the U.S.-supported war against Nicaragua. You can also read an interview with Moore [here](#).

“Harry Washington’s Peace: Slavery and Freedom in the United States’ Founding Treaty” was the title of the talk by Eliga Gould, Professor of History at the University of New Hampshire. His talk focused on the ways in which the American Revolution interacted with the wider world. Thanks to Professor Jessica Roney for the suggestion and for introducing Gould. You can read an interview with him on [page 13](#).

On March 14, Ali Ahmida, Professor of Political Science at the University of New England, joined CENFAD to discuss “The Ghosts of Colonial Past and the Crisis of Post-Qadhdhafi Libya.” Ahmida explained that the present chaos following the ouster of Qadhdhafi follows political patterns established during colonial times. Thanks to Professor Peter Gran for suggesting Ahmida.

Andres Etges, Senior Lecturer in American History at the Amerika-Institut of the University of Munich, visited CENFAD on March 26. His talk, “From Confrontation to Détente?: Controversies about a planned Cold War Museum at Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin,” discussed the multiple clashing motivations that have gone into the planning of a Cold War museum in this most symbolic of cities. Thanks again to Petra Goedde for the suggestion!

On April 3, Professor of History at North Carolina State University Nancy Mitchell spoke about *Jimmy Carter in Africa: Race and the Cold War*, her prize-winning masterful new book. In her book and talk, she makes the case that President Carter was far more of a cold warrior than previously thought, using fine-grained case studies of Rhodesia and the Horn of Africa also to demonstrate the importance of race in these diplomatic crises. You can read an interview with Mitchell here.

And finally, on April 15, CENFAD co-sponsored a talk by former Temple Ph.D. and current professor of history at Salem State University, Michele Louro. Louro discussed her new book, *Comrades against Imperialism: Nehru, India and Interwar Internationalism*, demonstrating the fascinating pre-World War II connections between India’s Nehru and the many other anti-imperialists around the world.

Regrettably, the last planned talk, by Mark Lawrence of the University of Texas at Austin, had to be postpone until the next academic year. Please join us for Lawrence’s talk and many others in 2019-2020!

### Spring 2019 Prizes

In March, the following two graduate students won CENFAD funds to advance their research:

- Alexandre Caillot, to present "Why Keep Up the Fight: Motivations for and Perceptions of Service from Late-War Union Volunteers, USCT Soldiers, and Occupation Troops," at the annual conference of the Society for Military History to be held in Columbus, Ohio.
- Andrea Siotto, to present "Intelligence in the Trenches: Knowledge and Observation of the Enemy in the British Trenches during the First World War," also at the SMH conference.

Congratulations!

### *Diplomatic History*

To those who have not heard yet, I am also happy to announce that the History Department at Temple will be, starting in summer 2019, the new home of the scholarly journal *Diplomatic History*. Professor Petra Goedde will be co-editor along with Professor Anne Foster of Indiana State University. I will serve as associate editor. *Diplomatic History* will also provide assistant editor jobs to two Temple University students and make of the department an even more attractive place to study U.S. international history!

### **SHAFR Conference**

Please note that the annual conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (the organization that publishes Diplomatic History) will take place in Arlington, Virginia, June 20-22, 2019. CENFAD will be a major sponsor of the conference, and I encourage the entire CENFAD community to consider attending.

### **Thanks to the Davis Fellow**

Finally, I want to warmly thank Mike Fischer for his invaluable services as CENFAD's Davis Fellow in 2018-2019. He has been the logistical master behind all our events and the reason that this newsletter is of such high quality. Following in the footsteps of impressive predecessors, Mike has kept the bar very high indeed. Best of luck on Russian, comps, and your prospectus!

Next year's David Fellow will be Brandon Kinney, whose interests center on U.S.-German relations during the Cold War. Welcome to CENFAD, Brandon!