

# History Happenings

Graduate Edition

*A newsletter published by the Department of History  
The University of Memphis*

Vol. 5, no. 3

April 2009



# Welcome to the Graduate Edition of History Happenings

Our graduate students are the lifeblood of the History Department. They not only teach their own courses, grade exams and papers in large lecture-hall classes, and take their own classes, but they also display impressive commitments to engaging communities – the department, the university, the city – in conversations about the meaning of history.

They also pursue fascinating avenues of original research. Among the department's strengths are southern history; Egyptology; African American History; Critical Race Studies; and Women, Gender, and Family Studies. Please join us in congratulating these recent recipients of the Ph.D. in History, and please see the following pages for the accomplishments and endeavors of many current and former graduate students. Prepare to be impressed!

Yuan Gao, 2009. *Deconstructing the Provincial Identity: A Case Study of Post-Mao Shaanxi*.  
Advisor: James M. Blythe; Adjunct Co-Mentor: Lung-kee Sun

Ed Hamelrath, 2008. *From Dictatorship to Democracy: A Reform of the German Volkspolizei in the State of Saxony after the Fall of the GDR, 1989-1994*.  
Advisor: Daniel Unowsky

Whitney Huey, 2008. *Virtue and Authority: A Consideration of Catherine of Siena's Letters as Political Theory*.  
Advisor: James M. Blythe

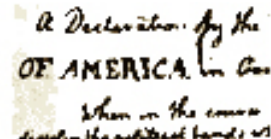
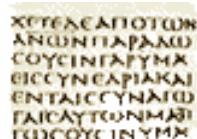
Matthew Mason, 2008. *A Partial Presentation of the Past: A Critical Examination of Wisconsin Death Trap*.  
Advisor: Dr Janann Sherman

Donna Reeves, 2008. *Battle for an Image: Black Memphians Define Their Place in Southern History*.  
Advisor: Janann Sherman

Larry Powers, 2008. *George C. Krick — American Guitarist: 1871-1962*.  
Advisor: Dr Charles W. Crawford

Keith Sisson, 2008. *Giles of Rome's Hierocratic Theory of Universal Papal Monarchy*.  
Advisor: James M. Blythe

Jonathan Weems, 2008. *A Challenge Constantly Renewed: Medicare and the Struggle for National Health Insurance*.  
Advisor: Janann Sherman

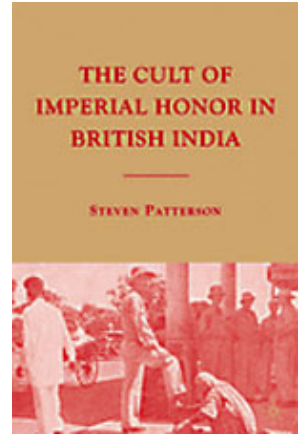


# *Where Are They Now?*

## Steven Patterson, Ph.D. 2003

“This book provides a better understanding of how aristocratic ideas and behavior, most notably those associated with the many meanings of honor, made the Raj for Anglo-Indians and British officials more comprehensible and workable, often ironically in the case of those with little if any association with such an aristocracy. That irony helps provide a refreshingly new approach to the study of Anglo-Indians and the other white rulers of nineteenth- and twentieth-century British India. In doing so, it will also be of assistance to students of imperialism and colonialism in general, as aristocratic adaptations and references to ‘character’ were not unique to the British or to the Raj.” So writes Peter H. Hoffenberg, an Associate Professor of History at the University of Hawaii Manoa, about *The Cult of Imperial Honor in British India*, a new book by Dr. Steven Patterson, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2009.

Dr. Patterson received his Ph.D. from the Department of History at The University of Memphis in 2003. His dissertation, “Tin Gods on Wheels: Gentlemanly Honor and the Imperial Ideal in India,” won the department’s award for outstanding dissertation in 2004. He now teaches at Lambuth University in Jackson, Tennessee.



Dr. Patterson recently answered our questions about his book, his experience at The University of Memphis, and his career.

### *Tell us about your new book.*

The notion of imperial honor helped sustain the British Raj in colonial India. “No man may harm me with impunity” was an ancient theme of the European aristocracy; British imperialists of almost all classes in India possessed a similar vision of themselves as overlords belonging to an honorable race. Ideals of honor condoned and sanctified their rituals, connecting them with status, power, and authority. Honor, most broadly, legitimated imperial rule, since imperialists ostensibly kept India safe from outside threats. Yet at the individual level, honor kept the “white herd” together, providing the protocols and etiquette for the imperialist, who had to conform to the strict notions of proper and improper behavior in a society that was always obsessed with maintaining its dominance over India and Indians. Examining imperial society through the prism of honor therefore opens up a new methodology for the study of British India.

### *What type of research did your book entail?*

I did a study trip to London for five weeks one summer, primarily at the British Library. I also used some oral histories that are housed at LSU, and The University of Memphis awarded me research money for a trip down there during my first semester of graduate school. The oral histories are sources that no other historian, to my knowledge, has examined, though the originality of my book is the articulation of honor in an imperial context in British India, and not as much on unexamined sources.

### *Who did you work with at the University of Memphis, and how did that shape your book?*

My book is about 80 percent based on my dissertation. My committee was Abe Kriegel, Jonathan Judaken, Janann Sherman, and Theron Britt (from the English Department), as well as Lynn Zastoupil from Rhodes College.

I took research seminars with Abe Kriegel and Jonathan Judaken. Abe Kriegel shaped much of the writing and the historiography. He was always very incisive as well as very demanding in the research seminars, but I learned how to defend

my work because of him. It took some courage to present a paper in his class, and my intellectual skin is now a lot thicker because of him, but I am grateful also for his encouragement.

Jonathan Judaken really pushed me to look at sources in new ways. For example, my dissertation had a chapter that examined how imperial postcards distilled imperial ideology, and Judaken helped me with using those as sources, which is something I would not have considered without his help. The postcard chapter did not make it into the book, but I used one card for the cover art, which I think is very compelling.

### *How have you found teaching at Lambuth College?*

Lambuth has been a good experience for me, overall. I began here in 2003 and the timing was right, as I defended my dissertation the same month I interviewed here. This year, I just received tenure and promotion to associate professor, so it's been a good fit. And I have been able to develop new courses while here. Last year I taught a seminar on George Orwell, so the flexibility has been good, and I have picked up a lot of administrative experience, co-chairing our SACS committee and also directing our FYE (Freshman Seminar) class. Also, I just found out that a history major here was accepted into the M.A. program at the University of Chicago, so I now have a better understanding of how thrilling it is to have a student make his way into the profession.

### *What is your next project?*

My editor wants me to develop something book-length on the oral histories, so that will probably be next.

## Graduate Happenings

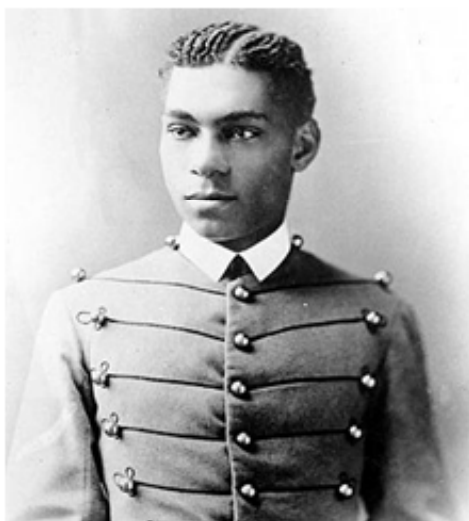
**Daryl A. Carter** participated in a panel discussion entitled "Brother President?: The Barack Obama Phenomenon" and presented a paper entitled "A Missed Opportunity: President Clinton's Race Initiative" at the 2008 annual meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life

and History. He also served on several panel discussions at East Tennessee State University on Constitution Day 2008: "Public Perceptions of Race and Gender in the 2008 presidential campaign" and "Bill Clinton, Politics, and Race in the 1990s." Mr. Carter had a book review accepted at the *Journal of African American History*, due for publication later this year, and a book chapter entitled "Jungle Fever and The Mainstream Media: Bold, Beautiful, and Unnecessarily Maligned" in *Pimps, Wimps, Thugs, Studs and Gentleman: Essays on Contemporary Masculinity*, which will be published in the fall by McFarlane & Company, Inc. He became ABD in August, defended his dissertation prospectus in October, and accepted a position at his beloved alma mater, East Tennessee State University, as a tenure-track assistant professor of history. Currently, besides his faculty responsibilities at ETSU, he is working on his dissertation, "William Jefferson Clinton and African Americans, 1992-2001," and preparing three articles for submission for publication.



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unbecoming an officer. He spent the rest of his life contesting the charges and trying to regain his commission. The trip was funded by the History Department's Endowment Fund.

**Reginald Ellis** was hired during the academic year of 2008-2009 as a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Florida A&M University, where he taught Introduction to African American History, the African American Experience, Selected Topics in United States History Since 1865, and Florida History. Prior to his appointment, Reggie was selected as a finalist for the Southern Regional Educational Board dissertation fellowship for the state of Tennessee. While working at his alma mater, Reggie has continued to make progress on his dissertation entitled "Shepherding His People to High Moral Grounds: James Edward Shepard and His Struggle to Usher Black North Carolinians into the Twentieth Century." Desiring to remain active in his scholarship, Reggie presented the second chapter of his dissertation at the Southern Conference for African American Studies this past February, with the hopes of presenting another chapter of his study at the Association for the Study of African American Life and Heritage (ASALH) during the fall of 2009.

**Dianna Owens Fraley** is currently a full-time History faculty member at Middle Tennessee State University, teaching on-line for the university from her home in Missouri. She is also researching and preparing her dissertation prospectus on Adolphine Fletcher Terry, a 20th-century social activist in Arkansas.



**Joe Jackson Frazer** accepted the position of Assistant Professor of History at Judson College. This position entails oversight of the History/Political Science budget, teaching the normal courseload, reviewing of the History/Political Science course inventory, and supervising the adjunct professor in Political Science. Joe was appointed by Dr. David Potts, the President of the College, to the Chapel Committee for the spring semester. Sara Kiser, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Academic Dean, appointed Joe as the Faculty Fulbright Campus Representative for the Council of International Exchange of Scholars and as the Faculty Representative to the SACS Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 21, 2009. Joe chaired the European History Session of the Phi Alpha Theta conference held on February 7, 2009, at the University of West Alabama. One of his students, Mary Amelia Taylor, presented her paper, "The Rise and Fall of the 'Dead Towns' of Claiborne and Manistee," in another session. At the beginning of March, Joe participated in a radio broadcast for Prime Time America for the Moody Radio Network, in a program dealing with



the Huguenots. Joe is currently in the preliminary planning stages of taking a student group to Europe. Despite rumors to the contrary, Joe is still working on his dissertation, which encompasses looking at the interaction of the institutional elements of the Parliament of 1572: the Crown, the Lords, and the Commons. Joe is planning on writing throughout the spring and summer and hopes to defend his dissertation in the fall semester.

**Sheena Harris** presented at the Western Association of Women Historians at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California on April 1, 2009. Her paper was titled "Margaret Murray Washington: At the Head of the Black Elite." The current president of the Graduate Association of African



American History, she is also going on the study abroad trip to Ghana this summer.

**Shirletta Kinchen** defended her prospectus during the fall semester and is currently working on her dissertation, a project examining the Black Power Movement in Memphis, Tennessee. The History Department's Endowment Fund is

helping support her upcoming research trip to the Library of Congress.

**Natalie Koho** received a B.A. cum laude in Art History from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. After living in Albania and China for three years, she is working on a Masters in History. Her research focuses on the intersections of state propaganda and culture in Communist countries with a particular interest in government funded art such as posters and monuments.



**Jack Lorenzini** presented “We Didn’t Reject the System, the System Rejected Us’: The SDS Failure to Obtain a Charter at Memphis State University, 1968-1970” at the 12th annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives conference at Virginia Tech University. Jack’s article was recently published in *West Tennessee Historical Papers*. His earlier article, “Lest We Forget: Reactions to the Jackson State College Shootings of May 1970,” is being considered for publication in the *Journal of Mississippi History*. Jack will be reading AP US History exams in Louisville, Kentucky, for Educational Testing Services.

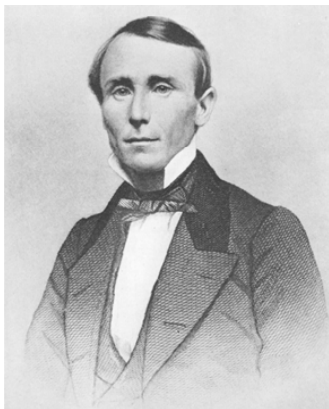
**Michael Lejman** won the Outstanding Paper Award (and seventy-five dollars!) at the 12th Annual Brian Bertoti



Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference at Virginia Tech University on March 21, 2009. His paper was called “The Left Reacts: French Leftists and the 1989 Revolutions in Eastern Europe.”

**Laura Perry** was initiated in April into the Pinnacle National Honor Society, and she was one of twenty-one students chosen from the U of M student body to represent the university in 2009 in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She once again helped judge the Tennessee History Day finals at AutoZone Park, and she has been active in the community as well. This summer she will grade AP US History exams for a second year in a row. She is also planning on attending a workshop entitled “Quantitative Historical Analysis” in June and July at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor,

through the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. She lives with her husband Alex, five cats, and a goofy retired racing greyhound named Jenny, who all tolerate her while she is reading for comprehensive exams.



**Tonya Parham**, an M.A. student, presented her paper “William Walker: Putting the ‘Man’ in Manifest Destiny” at the regional Phi Alpha Theta conference held in February on the campus of Austin Peay University in Clarksville, Tennessee.

**Amy Piccarreto** presented “British Perspectives of Jewish Refugees: From the Evian Conference to the Battle of Britain” at the 2009 Phi Alpha Theta conference held at Austin Peay State University. This summer she will be traveling to London and Edinburgh to conduct additional research for her essay that examines the changing roles and connection between royal legitimacy and religion during the Jacobite Rebellions.



**Ben Pope** will finish his first year of the master’s program this spring. He is currently researching and writing on the development of the British Liberal critique of imperialism. This summer he will travel to Ghana to do primary research on the development of the imperial critique in West Africa. He plans on synthesizing this research in his master’s thesis, creating a comparative study of responses to British imperialism in Africa, Europe, and the United States.

**Tammy Prater** had an article accepted for publication in May’s issue of *The Southern Historian*: “‘To Share in All the Blessings of Our Freedom’: The Concerned Women of Memphis and Shelby County and the Embodiment of

Great Society Ideology.” She also presented her paper, “Self, Soul, and Support: English Women Writers on Religion and Women’s Education 1670-1710,” at the regional Phi Alpha Theta conference held at Austin Peay University, and had an article on Kate Waller Barrett published in the *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Finally, she took a break this semester from her history teaching duties in the UT Martin dual credit program and is excited about the prospect of finishing her coursework this semester.

**David Turpie** (M.A. 2004) had an article entitled “From Broadway to Hollywood: The Image of the 1939 University of Tennessee Football Team and the Americanization of the South” published in the *Journal of Sport History*. The article is an outgrowth of research he did for his M.A. thesis on college football’s “mythical” national championship in 1938 and 1939. David is now a fourth-year doctoral student at the University of Maine, beginning research on a dissertation that examines southern opposition to the Spanish-American War and the postwar annexations of the former Spanish islands.



**Darius J. Young** accepted a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Florida A&M University. This past fall Darius attended the Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Tampa, Florida, as a requirement of his Southern Regional Educational Board Doctoral Fellowship. In February, he presented a paper entitled “The Quiet Crusade: Robert Church Jr. and the Memphis NAACP” at the Southern Conference on African American Studies in Charlotte, North Carolina. This summer he will visit the Schomburg Library in Harlem, New York, on behalf of a Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Scholarly Fellowship that he won last year. Later this year Darius is also scheduled to publish a book review in the *Journal of African American History* on *Law Touched our Hearts: A Generation Remembers Brown v. Board of Education* (Vanderbilt University, 2009) by Mildred Wigfall Robinson and Richard J. Bonnie.



# Graduate Association for African-American History

The 2008-2009 academic year has been an exciting year for GAAAH, a non-profit registered student organization dedicated to developing a sense of professionalism among students interested in the study and promotion of African American history. Although most of the membership includes graduate students that specialize in different areas of African American history, GAAAH's membership is open to all students wanting to gain valuable professional development experience.



So what has GAAAH been up to this year? In the fall, the organization hosted the 10th annual Graduate Conference in African American History, which invited graduate students from American and international universities to present papers, participate in professional development sessions, and build relationships with each other. Dr. Wilma King, the Arvarh E. Strickland Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Missouri-Columbia, delivered the keynote address. Dr King's address examined the legal records behind a rape case in 19th-century Virginia that involved both a free white child and a black slave child. A reception followed this well-attended lecture.

Since this year's conference arrived on the eve of the historic 2008 election, there was an emphasis on the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement and the path its veterans paved for the candidacy of Barack Obama. A roundtable discussion was led by Reverend Samuel "Billy" Kyles, a former confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Attorney Daphne McFerren, Executive Director of the Benjamin Hooks Center for Social Change. Ms. McFerren's parents were leaders in the Civil Rights Movement in Fayette County, Tennessee. Both speakers encouraged attendants to remember the legacies of past freedom fighters and to honor their spirits through service. GAAAH was also one of the sponsors of the Richard Wright Centennial that took place in October.



In addition to the organization's scholarly endeavors, GAAAH also engaged in various service projects this academic year. In November 2008, the *Daily Helmsman* featured the organization's annual Thanksgiving canned food/penny drive in an article that chronicled the campus's multiple Thanksgiving events. The drive began in 2006 as an effort to feed the less fortunate during the holiday season. This year GAAAH donated well over 300 canned and non-perishable food items to the Mid-South Food Bank and \$195 to MIFA's Meals on Wheels program.



The spring semester has proven to be GAAAH's most active in its brief history. The organization began by teaming up with Kappa Alpha Psi to host the Presidential Inauguration Watch Party and Panel Discussion. In February, GAAAH hosted its third annual Black History Month Film Festival titled "From Sidney to Superfly: The Transformation of the Black Image on Film." In March, it created its first newsletter, featuring the organization's history, membership initiative, conference information, and photos. It was joined by members of the Graduate History Association and Phi Alpha Theta to assist Habitat for Humanity in their home building program in Memphis's Binghamton area. It is currently hosting a clothing drive for Memphis Goodwill Industries. GAAAH is also busy planning the 11th annual conference and continues to invite and encourage participation from history students and faculty across specialties.



The Epsilon Nu Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta had a very busy and successful year. Once again, Phi Alpha Theta hosted its monthly luncheon lecture series, the theme of which, “Borders: Real and Imagined,” attracted a wide variety of interesting and thought-provoking lectures. From such examples as Dr. Kent Schull’s fascinating lecture on the intricacies of the Arab-Israeli border conflict to Dr. Janann Sherman’s lecture on pushing the boundaries of perceived gender roles in early aviation, professional historians and interested amateurs alike received the opportunity to witness the variety of scholarship taking place in this department.

Phi Alpha Theta also conducted its initiation ceremony for new members on January 31 at the Alumni Center. The new members inducted into Phi Alpha Theta included Tim Ammon, Jenny Demilio, Scott Hadley Jr., Jeff Harris, Sheila Jacobson, Grant Matthews, Courtney McGinnis, Robert Pomerenk, Jake Steele, and Katie Stringer.



The meeting, held at the Alumni Center, began with home-cooked food made by chapter members. The Reverend Benjamin Cox Sr. was the featured speaker. Secretary Laura Perry introduced the Reverend Cox, who

was one of the original thirteen riders recruited by James Farmer of the Congress of Racial Equality in 1961. He



told how the Freedom Riders made their bus tour through the southeastern states to test the implementation of a desegregated transportation system in light of rulings by the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Supreme Court case *Boynton v. Virginia*. Reverend Cox gave vivid descriptions of the receptions given the riders, including the burning of the Greyhound bus on Mother’s Day in Anniston, Alabama. He recently spoke in Washington on Martin Luther King Day and attended the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Finally, Phi Alpha Theta continues to serve a pivotal role in both the department and the greater community. Members of Phi Alpha Theta, in conjunction with the Graduate Association for African American History and the Graduate Historical Association, helped coordinate and plan the Graduate Student Welcome held on August 23, 2008, at the Alumni Center. Phi Alpha Theta also worked with members of GAAAH with a community service project with Habitat for Humanity’s Spring Build held on March 21 2009. The president of Phi Alpha Theta, Le’Trice Donaldson, would like to send a special thanks to all the graduate students who have actively participated in all of PAT’s events. We look forward to seeing all of you next year.

# Myth/Conception Film Society Presents Series on “A Woman’s Place”

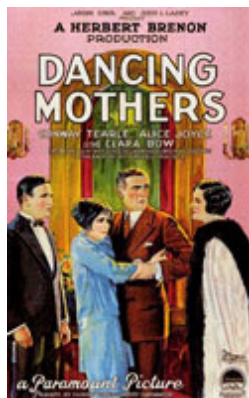
The Myth/Conception Film Society of the Department of History, like the phoenix, has risen from the ashes after several semesters of dormancy. The Society is in the midst



of presenting four films on the theme “A Woman’s Place,” exploring the role of women in society and cinema in the early 20th century.

On February 20, 2009, the Society showcased *Where Are My Children?*,

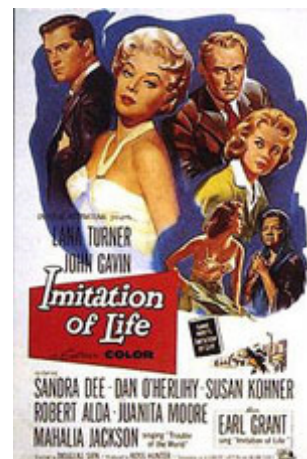
directed by Lois Weber, Hollywood’s first major woman director (*The Merchant of Venice* in 1914, in which she cast herself as Portia, was her first full-length film) and the only woman of her generation to be a member of the Motion Picture Directors Association. *Where Are My Children?* mounts an attack on abortion but counters with an endorsement of contraceptive methods, which often faced attack from the legal system at the time the film was made. This 1916 silent classic is significant for its attitudes toward the social role of women and sexuality, as well as its characteristic Progressive Era outlook on social reform — a film that is fascinating on many levels, not least of which is the biography of the woman who made it.



In the second program in the series, on March 20, 2009, the Myth/Conception Film Society screened the 1926 production of *Dancing Mothers*. Today, audiences are much more familiar with Clara Bow, the “It” girl. The film is actually more about Alice Joyce, who played her mother. Ms. Joyce received the nickname of “the Madonna of the

Screen” because she often, as here, played mothers who bore up nobly under trying circumstances. In this film, she plays a woman who left behind her career on the stage to become a wife and mother, only to be presented during the 1920s with an unfaithful husband and an unruly daughter.

As the third presentation in its series “A Woman’s Place,” the Myth/Conception Film Society presented Douglas Sirk’s film *Imitation of Life*, produced by Ross Hunter and released by Universal Pictures in 1959. It was adapted from Fannie Hurst’s novel of the same name and was a remake of a 1934 film. It starred Lana Turner, John Gavin, Sandra Dee, Dan O’Herlihy, Susan Kohner, Robert Alda, and Juanita Moore. Gospel music star Mahalia Jackson appeared as a church choir soloist.



In the film, Lora Meredith (Turner), a white widowed single mother with dreams of becoming a famous actress, takes in Annie Johnson (Moore), a black widowed single mother who becomes a nanny for Lora’s daughter Suzie (Dee). Although Lora eventually becomes a successful stage and screen star, she sacrifices a healthy relationship with her daughter. In addition, Annie’s light-complexioned daughter Sarah Jane (Kohner) causes her mother much pain and heartache as she attempts to pass for white and shuns both her heritage and her mother’s love.

The Myth/Conception Film Society says that Sirk’s film asks: “What’s going on here? Between mothers and daughters, between the races in America, between women and success, between friends, between lovers, between art and artifice, between surface and context, between reality and pretense?”

There will be one more presentation by the Society (“Where History Meets Hollywood”) before the semester ends. Look for its announcements!