

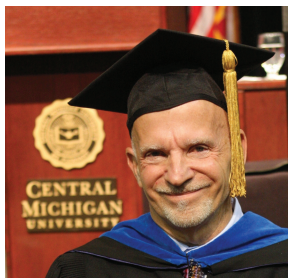


Powers Hall, home of the CMU
History Department

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Professor James Schmiechen Retires



In December 2008, professor, colleague, friend, and mentor James Schmiechen officially retired from teaching duties at CMU. His retirement was honored in a celebration held at the Brass Café in Mt. Pleasant, which is owned by one of his former graduate students, Susan Pyecroft. After heartfelt and humorous reminiscences by colleagues, friends, and students, the Department of History presented him with an Honorary Doctorate in Universal Humanity composed in their best Latin by the department's scholars. Jim also received a musical album assembled by Thomas Benjamin with suggestions from Eric Johnson, entitled *Jimmy*. Touching on many aspects of Schmiechen's life and work at CMU, the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, and elsewhere, the album concluded with *Auld Lang Syne* sung by James Taylor. (For those not versed in Glaswegian, Jimmy is a name given all men in Scotland except for those few called either "Big Man" or "Wee Man"). The next Saturday, Professor Schmiechen was honored by the entire CMU community, serving as Grand Marshall for the fall graduation ceremony. As a fitting final gesture, Professor Schmiechen hooded the one of the last of his PhD students, Mathew McCabe.

A student of Walter Arnstein at the University of Illinois, where he earned his doctorate in 1976, Schmiechen joined the history department at Central Michigan University in 1979 and became one of the university's most important and productive research scholars. Focusing his studies on "sweated labor," usually performed by women as outwork or piecework, he published articles in prestigious academic journals in the field of economic history and crowned this effort with his book, *Sweated Industries and Sweated Labor: The London Clothing Trades, 1860-1914* (University of Illinois Press, 1984).

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Greetings from Department Chair

Greetings from the History Department at Central Michigan University! Powers Hall has been a busy place this year as you will see from the articles contained in this newsletter. Dr. Kathy Donohue organized both a fall speaker's series on Transnational and Comparative history and our second annual graduate conference in April. Dr. Orville Vernon Burton spoke on the "Age of Lincoln" for the department's annual George Blackburn Lectureship in Civil War History. The department conducted two searches for tenure-track faculty this year, on which more in a moment. Amidst all of these activities, the faculty participated in an extensive review of our undergraduate and graduate programs. The review culminated in a visit by two external reviewers, Dr. Kate Lang of the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire and Dr. Dana Rabin of the University of Illinois. The process was very thorough, and we hope that our collective findings will help us improve our programs for the benefit of current and future students.

Of course, the biggest news of the year was the retirement of Professor Jim Schmiechen,

headlined above. We will miss his sense of humor, his energetic classroom presence, his commitment to mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, and his model of dedication to cutting edge scholarship in his field. We wish him our best and hope that he will return often for visits and occasional stints as a returning instructor.

This past fall we welcomed Dr. Lane Demas as Assistant Professor of African American History and Dr. Tara McCarthy as Assistant Professor of U.S. Women's History. Both have already distinguished themselves as accomplished classroom teachers as well as promising scholars in their fields. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Benjamin Weinstein (PhD, Cambridge) this coming fall as Assistant Professor of Modern English History, and Dr. Jonathan Truitt (PhD, Tulane) in our newly created position in the history of colonial Latin America.



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website at:
www.chsbs.cmich.edu/History/

Faculty Publications and Activities

Thomas Benjamin has been on sabbatical leave, pursuing research in Mexico. Many years of wide-ranging research, thinking, and teaching about the nature of history culminated in the publication with Cambridge University Press of a massive work of both synthesis and original research, *The Atlantic World*, described more fully elsewhere in this newsletter.

A book by **Lane Demas**, *Integrating the Gridiron: Civil Rights and American College Football*, is forthcoming with Rutgers University Press, probably in 2010. Dr. Demas has also received university support to begin a new book project, tentatively titled *Guns in Their Golf Bags: African American Golfers and the Desegregation of America's Most Privileged Sport*.

Carrie Euler researched in Zurich, Switzerland during the summer of 2008 and presented her findings at the American Historical Association's annual meeting in a paper titled: "The Ups and Downs of Faculty Recruitment: Zurich's Theology Professors in the Second Half of the Sixteenth Century." Caitlin Euler Crotteau, second child of Dr. Carrie Euler and her husband Marc Crotteau, was born on October 22, 2008.

Solomon Getahun continues an active schedule of publication and presentation of research. His book, *Culture and Customs of Ethiopia*, coauthored with Hakeem Tijani, appears this year in Greenwood Press's Culture and Customs of Africa Series, and an article, "Contemporary 'Voluntary' and 'Forced' African Migrations," will be published in *Africa and the Wider World*, ed. Hakeem I. Tijani et al. (McGraw-Hill, 2009).

In the spring semester of 2009, **Jennifer Green** taught U.S. history as a visiting professor at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, reviving a much-valued exchange of faculty with that institution. Her new book, *Military Education and the Emerging Middle Class in the Old South*, is described more fully on page 3 of this newsletter. Dr. Green also published "Military Education and Social Mobility in the Late Antebellum South," *Historically Speaking* 9 (May/June 2008), and presented "Assessing Mobility and Professions in American Collegiate Populations and Military Schools of the Antebellum South," at the 2008 History of Education Society Annual Meeting.

Mitchell Hall had a busy publishing year in 2008 with the appearance of the second revised edition of his book, *The Vietnam War*, published by Pearson Longman, and his *Historical Dictionary of the Nixon-Ford Era*, published by Scarecrow Press. He continues to serve as book review editor of the *Michigan Historical Review*.

Timothy Hall's interpretive biography, *Anne Hutchinson: Puritan Prophet*, is going to press and will be published in the AB Longman Biography Series. Dr. Hall secured a Teaching American History grant on "Revolutions in American History" with **Michael Federspiel** in partnership with Ionia Intermediate School District. He also delivered an address entitled "The Protestant Atlantic and the Origins of an Evangelical Missions Sensibility" at the Revivals and Awakenings in American History Conference at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia, in April 2009.

Doina Harsanyi published an edited collection of texts on youthful rebellion through the ages in Paris, *Le Goût de la Révolte* in collaboration with Anne Quinne (Mercure de France, 2008,) and an article, "How to make a revolution without firing a shot," in *French History* (2008), and presented a paper, "To be or not to be noble after the Civil Code," at the 2008 European Social Studies History Conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

What We Knew: Terror, Mass Murder, and Everyday Life in Nazi Germany, a book coauthored by **Eric Johnson** and Karl-Heinz Reuband, has been published in Italian as *La Germania Sapeva: Terrore, Genocidio, Vita Quotidiana, una Storia Orale* (Mondadori, 2008).

An article by **Tara McCarthy**, "'The Humaner Instinct of Women': Hannah Bailey and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union's Critique of Militarism and Manliness in the Late-nineteenth Century," appeared in *Peace and Change* in April 2008. Dr. McCarthy also presented a paper, "'Never-mind If You Are Not Lady-like: Irish-American Women and the Politics of Suffrage,'" at the Upstate New York Women's History Organization Conference in March, 2009.

Timothy O'Neil's article "Handing Away the Trump Card? Peader O'Donnell, Fianna Fail, and the Non-Payment of Land Annuities Campaign, 1926-32," appeared in *New Hibernia Review* (2008).

As a curator, **William Pretzer** has produced two new exhibitions at the Museum of Cultural and Natural History: "Beyond Barbie: Dolls, Dress and Culture in Global Perspective" and "Evolution and Emancipation: Darwin and Lincoln at 200." As a grant writer, he has secured grants at the museum from the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities and has collaborated with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to secure a substantial grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This last grant will support the delivery of three courses on museum studies and cultural heritage administration to tribal members by the Museum Studies Program. As an author, Bill has published "Eight Principles for Promoting a Sustainable Education," in *Work, Learning and Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges*, ed. John Fein, Rupert Murdock and Mon-Gon Park (Amsterdam: Springer, 2009) and is working on a book, *The Scientific Traveler: Visiting Industrial History Sites in the United States*, which is under contract with Rutgers University Press and for which he received a Summer Faculty Scholar Stipend in 2008 from CMU's College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

At the first conference on Neocolonial Inscription and Performance of American Indian Identity in American Higher Education, held in October 2008, **Benjamin Ramirez** presented "Tribal Enrollment: Facing the Past," which is being published by Michigan State University Press as part of the conference proceedings volume. Professor Ramirez has contracted with the same press for publication of a book manuscript, *Native People in Michigan: The Anishinaabeg*. He also reports that through a generous gift from G. Roland and Olga J. Denison and family, the Olga and Roland Denison Visiting Professorship of Native American Studies has been established within the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences at CMU; Dr. Ramirez served on the advisory committee to help define the criteria and process for selecting the recipient of the visiting professorship.

The 4th edition of **John Robertson's** co-edited text, *Perspectives from the Past: Primary Sources in Western Civilization* (W. W. Norton) has just appeared. Dr. Robertson is completing *A Brief History of Mesopotamia/Iraq* for Oneworld Publications and presented a paper, "When Things Fall Apart: Political Collapse and Social Disintegration in the Ancient Middle East," at the 2008 meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research. He continues to publish opinion pieces on Middle Eastern affairs at the War in Context website (as well as his own blog, Chippshots) and has been cited in publications

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George M. Blackburn Endowed Lecture on the Civil War and Reconstruction

On December 2, 2008, Professor O. Vernon Burton, a prolific writer on Abraham Lincoln and expert witness in civil rights cases, spoke to a large audience on "The Age of Lincoln." In a talk filled with fascinating anecdotes, Professor Burton addressed the influence of Lincoln's southern background and the problems, sometimes hazards, of stating firmly and clearly Lincoln's antislavery views within a southern context. Professor Burton is Director of the Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and Burroughs Chair of Southern History and Culture at Carolina Coastal University.

Abel Endowed Lecture Series

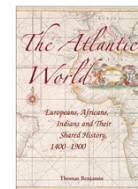
In honor of her late husband, Dr. Harold Abel, who served as president of Central Michigan University from 1975 to 1985, Mrs. Iris Abel has established the Dr. Harold Abel Endowed Lecture Series in the Study of Dictatorship, Democracy, and Genocide. The series will annually host one or more distinguished speakers to give public presentations on the problem of genocide in historical, current, or future contexts. Designed to enhance the offerings of the history department in the study of dictatorship and genocide, this endowed lectureship both recognizes and builds upon the department faculty's contributions to the study of World War II, the Holocaust, and genocide in other historical settings. It is a fitting memorial to Dr. Abel, who greatly expanded support for scholarly research while he was president of Central Michigan University and who was throughout his life a staunch supporter of human rights and dignity.

Students Take the Grand Tour

Combining their interests in the ancient Mediterranean and modern Europe, Doina Harsanyi and Greg Smith have created a course that meets in the middle. "The Culture of Renaissance Italy: The Grand Tour" also meets, physically, in the center of what the Romans (at least) considered the civilized world. Their three-week study-abroad course begins in Rome before making its way north to Paris by way of Florence and Nîmes. By following in some of its most important steps, students in History 342 both study and re-create "the Grand Tour," an extended European travel itinerary that came to be seen (by those who could afford it) as the obligatory capstone of a liberal education in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. While Professor Smith serves as *cicerone*, the officious guide to ancient marvels and modern morals who was a fixture of the Grand Tour in its heyday, Professor Harsanyi provides core expertise in the social, cultural, and intellectual history of Europe and America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. After a small but enthusiastic group of six students signed up for the first tour in summer 2008, against all economic odds interest has increased sharply for summer 2009, with eleven students enrolled and more on the waiting list.

Featured Faculty Scholarship

Thomas Benjamin, *The Atlantic World: Europeans, Africans, Indians and Their Shared History, 1400-1900* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), 752 pages. One of the Central Michigan University history department's great strengths is in the history of the Atlantic world. This major book is both a symbol and a product of that strength. For five centuries and more, the Atlantic Ocean carried people, ideas, military power, and trade goods in one of the greatest cross-cultural encounters in human history. As a scholar and teacher, Professor Benjamin has researched deeply and read widely, almost omnivorously, on the many societies and changing patterns of adaptation involved in this dynamic, often painful interchange. His writing brings together the findings of recent scholarship and the voices of the people who lived this history in a feat of narrative synthesis that a reviewer has described as "both erudite and accessible."



Jennifer R. Green, *Military Education and the Emerging Middle Class in the Old South* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), 314 pages. The formation of the middle class is a central theme in the social history of the United States, yet the southern portion of this story remains largely unexplored. Using detailed information about young men who attended military colleges to build social and business networks, Professor Green's new book offers a fresh perspective on the South in the decades preceding the Civil War. In the words of a reviewer, Green "uses military colleges to explore important questions that remain hotly contested among historians, including those surrounding the social structure of the Old South, the role of education and other reforms in modernizing the region, and the meaning of southern manhood." This book won the New Scholars Book Prize for 2007-2008 from the American Educational Research Association, Division F (History and Historiography).



Former Faculty Updates

Dick Archer's new book, *As If an Enemy's Country: The British Occupation of Boston and the Origins of the Revolution*, is currently scheduled for publication by Oxford University Press in January 2010.

Doeko Bosscher has accepted a national assignment with the Ministry of Education in the Netherlands, which oversees universities, though he continues his regular position at the University of Groningen. Besides many publications in modern history, he is writing a second novel, building on the success of his first, *Strandvondst* (2004), but he is cautious about revealing the new novel's theme.

Susan Conner moved in 2008 from Florida Southern College to Albion College in Michigan, where she is provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Derek Rivard has published *Blessing the World: Ritual and Lay Piety in Medieval Religion* (Catholic University of America Press, 2009).

Jan Doolittle Wilson has published *The Women's Joint Congressional Committee and the Politics of Maternalism, 1920-30* (University of Illinois Press, 2007).

Alumni / Alumnae Notes

Jeffrey D. Brasie (B.S. Ed. 1970) is now Executive Director and CEO of Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester, Indiana.

Tiffany Davidson (M.A. 2007) is a doctoral student in history at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Matt Dinan (B.S. 1990) works for the city of Southfield, Michigan, helping maintain the city's historic structures. His wife Trish and he have a seven-year-old daughter Erin and live in a century-old village farmhouse. Matt reports he is still "a rock n roll nerd," still uses a turntable, and has crawled through the remains of Detroit's fabled Grande Ballroom.

Lemont Dobson (B.S. 1998, M.A. 2001) received his Ph.D. in archaeology from the University of York in 2008 and accepted a position as director of the William King Regional Art Center and Fields-Penn Historic House Museum in Abingdon, Virginia.

Steven Domke (B.S. Ed. 1974, M.A. 1996) is in his thirty-fifth year of teaching high school—U.S. history and anthropology for more than twenty-five years and U.S. government more recently. In 2008 he was voted Advanced Placement Teacher of the Year for Utica High School by the student body. He has mentored several CMU social studies student interns in recent years and thanks the history department, especially Dr. Thavenet, for the academic and teaching foundation he gained at CMU.

Scott Eckhart (B.S. Ed. 1994, M.A. 2001) is principal of Central Montcalm High School in Stanton, Michigan.

Linda Estabrook (B.S. 2006) is living in Caro, Michigan and is employed at Scientific Retail Systems.

Ben Feril (B.S. Ed. 1980) is a captain in the United States Navy and since October 2007 has been assigned to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as a senior medical planner. He and his wife Rita live in Elkton, Maryland.

Carly Fletcher (B.S. 2007) is pursuing a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration at the University of Alabama, while also serving the department as a graduate research assistant.

Timothy Gay (B.S. 1976) is teaching U.S. history, civics, and reading and coaching junior high basketball and baseball in the Bowie, Arizona, school district. Previously, he taught in Weslaco, Texas, in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley.

As a Senior Project Manager for Sunoco, Inc., **Tim Hardy** (B.S. 1981) has been in charge of a \$22 million project on the New York Thruway. He serves as a captain in the Navy Reserve, with extensive experience in homeland security, and recently completed his Master of Strategic Studies degree through the U.S. Army War College.

Kristin Jatkowski (B.S. Ed. 2008) completed eight weeks of student teaching in a secondary history classroom in the Dominican Republic and has accepted a position teaching sixth grade social studies at St. Michael's School in Santo Domingo.

Maryhelen (Willhite) Jones (B.S. 1971) is the technical library manager at the Air Force Research Laboratory—Phillips Research Site in New Mexico. She and her staff support more than five hundred scientists and engineers in the areas of space vehicles and directed entry.

In 2008 **Brenton C. Kemmer** (B.S. 1988, M.A. 1994) published his tenth book (three works of historical fiction and seven of historical nonfiction), with Heritage Books. He has spent several years as adjunct professor of history at Kirtland Community College, currently is employed in the Houghton Lake Public

Schools, and last year celebrated his 20th year teaching history.

James J. Lewis (B.S. 2006) has taken a position as a project administrator overseeing grants for community restoration projects with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Washington, D.C. He has also been appointed to serve on the City of Alexandria-Gyumri (Armenia) Sister City Committee.

Brian D. McCall (B.S. Ed. 1992, Joint M.A. 1994) has taught world history and American politics for ten years at Interlochen Arts Academy along with adjunct teaching at Northwestern Michigan College, mostly in American history. He has a three-summer sabbatical, starting in 2009, to travel to Europe for study. "Cheers to all my old Strathclyde mates!"

After thirty-six years of teaching, **Robert R. Miller** (B.S. 1965, M.A. 1970) is retired and living in New Port Richey, Florida. His last fifteen years in the classroom were spent teaching United States history and heading the Social Studies Department of the Plant City (Florida) High School.

Thomas Pfeiffelmann (B.S. Ed. 1965) has published *Growing Up on Mackinac: An Autobiography* (Boyne City, 2004). He is able to discuss not only a half-century of his own life but a similar period of island history with excellent illustrations of major events.

Dick Powell (M.A. 1973) has retired after a long career in fire safety. Having met his wife while serving in national professional organizations, he is repaying her willingness to move to Michigan by building a cottage in her home state at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

When **Errol Putman** (B.S. Ed. 1967, M.A. 1971) retired from his professorship at Geneseo in the SUNY system, he decided to put his history training to work writing an account of his family for his daughters, beginning in London where he was born through his years at CMU.

Erik Rurikson (M.A. 2000) has taught world history, Michigan history, geography, comparative religions, and ethics at Saginaw Valley State University and other colleges. He lives with his wife in a rural farmhouse; they celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary in 2008.

Jeffrey Scott (B.S. 2007) is a first lieutenant in the United States Army stationed with the 6-52 Air Defense in Suwon, Republic of Korea.

Ronald L. Scott (B.S. Ed. 1973) is living in Ludington, Michigan. After four years teaching history and geography in Lapeer, Michigan, in 1977 he began a thirty-year career with Met Life. Now retired, he enjoys his two grandchildren in Valparaiso, Indiana, and a summer cottage on Lake Tippecanoe, Indiana.

Jeff Sievert, (M.A. 2008) is headed to Philadelphia, PA to work for the National Park Service at Independence Hall and the surrounding site.

Michael P. Spradlin (B.S. 1982) is a national account manager with HarperCollins Publishers and an accomplished author of children's books. In 2008 his newest novel, *The Youngest Templar: Keeper of the Grail*, was published by G.P. Putnam's Sons.

Justin Stover (B.S. 2003) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Irish history at the University of Dublin, Trinity College.

The history department can boast some triathletes among its graduates. In 2008 **Bruce Waggoner** (B. A. 1978), **Bruce Vanderlaan** (B.S. 1985), and **Paul Feldpausch** (B.S. Ed. 1994) entered Michigan competitions with respectable results.

News from the Center for Transnational and Comparative History

With a Faculty Insight Teams grant to enhance shared activity by faculty members and graduate students, Dr. Kathleen Donohue and others mounted an ambitious program in transnational and cultural history. In the fall semester, five speakers addressed large audiences of graduate students and faculty and consulted with graduate students: Professor Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra of the University of Texas-Austin spoke on the subject, "Between the Global and the Local: Empire, Religion, *Patria* and Natural History in Spanish America, 1750-1800." From the University of Bochum, Professor Michael Wala described "Representing the Weimar Republic: Ambassadors Wiedfeldt, Maltzan, and Prittwitz and German-American Relations in the Interwar Period." Professor Anne Hardgrove of the University of Texas-San Antonio explained the cross-cultural context of "A Book that Changed the World: Translation and the Kama Sutra." Professor Laura Fair from Michigan State University shared research on "Transnational Circuits, Local Reception: Cinema in Tanzania, 1950s-1980s." And Professor Charles Bright of the University of Michigan concluded the series with a discussion of teaching world history, "The Global Condition in the Long Twentieth Century: A Backward Look."

On April 16 and 17, the department hosted its Second Annual Graduate Student Conference in Transnational and Comparative History. Student presenters represented CMU, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Wayne State University,

and Western Michigan University. Faculty commentators attended from Alma College, Hope College, Calvin College, Oakland University, Grand Valley State University, Ferris State University, and Western Michigan University.

Professor John Young of the University of Strathclyde opened the conference, speaking on "Interpreting and Reassessing Scotland and Ulster in the Early North Atlantic World in Light of the 400th Anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster, 2010." The other guest speaker was Dr. José Antônio Brandão of Western Michigan University, whose talk, "Competing Pasts: Native and Euroamerican Perspectives on Iroquois Expansion," demonstrated the importance of taking seriously Native Americans' own explanations at the time for Iroquois aggressiveness.

Twenty-four graduate students presented original research papers on topics as varied as pollution in the Detroit River and the transfer of Chinese culture and ideals to eighteenth-century Europe. Trevor John Kilgore of the University of Michigan won the award for the best paper by a student not from CMU for "The Future Is Here and Now: The Role of Space and Time in Italian Anti-Fascist Discourses of Resistance." The award for best paper by a Central Michigan University student went to Elizabeth Koprowski for "Taking the High Road: English Travelers in Scotland in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries."

Grad Student News

Completed Dissertations and Theses

Matthew McCabe (Ph.D.—Aug. 2008) "A More Beautiful Future": Class, Race and City Planning in Glasgow and Chicago, 1890-1968

Keith Sohler (Ph.D.—Aug. 2008) Reappraising Anglo-German Diplomatic Relations

Joseph Camisa (M.A.—May 2008) Alexandria's Internal Improvement Struggle and the Eventual Rise of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad

Joel Juen (M.A. —May 2009) Family Succession Conflicts in Mesopotamian Kingship

Current Graduate Students

Michael Martin, "The Goal and the Gold Mine: Constraints Management and the Dutch Herring Fishing Industry, 1400-1700," won the Charles Kennedy Award for the year's best paper in the journal *Essays in Economic and Business History* volume 27 (2009).

Presenting Papers at 2nd Annual Graduate Student History Conference at Central Michigan University

Alyssa Alpe, "From Nazi Terror to Communist Terror: United States Cold War Refugee Policy, 1946-1958"

Robert Borelli, "American Values as Defined by the Occupation of Japan and Drafting of the Japanese Constitution"

Eric Connon, "Spies, Secrets, and Slaves: The Espionage Campaigns of Nineteenth-Century Anti-Slave-Trade Movements" (also presented at Temple University and at the 2009 Conference of the North American Society for Ocean History and the National Maritime Historical Society)

Christopher Eno, "Novelty & Philosophy: The Transfer of Chinese Culture and Ideals to 18th Century Europe"

Patrick Kirkwood, "Finnish-Americans: 'The White Mongols,' *Sui Generis*, or New-Wave Exceptions"

Jonathan Klauke, "The Origin, Evolution, and Incorporation of the Iconic Native American Tomahawk"

Elizabeth Koprowski, "Taking the High Road: English Travelers in Scotland in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries"

Elizabeth LaFray, "The Absence of *Oikos*: The Interplay of Soul, Gender, and Death in *The Odyssey*"

Dale Moler, "Folk Music and the Rise of New Left Ideology, 1961-1965"

Jennifer Dowie Roe, "Female Prophets in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries"

Anastasia Russell, "Mass Media's Role in the Gay Rights Movement"

Katharina Wagner, "Maintaining Segregation: The Trumbull Park Homes Race Riots in Chicago, 1953-1954"

Kelly Wilson, "A Colonist at Arms: *The Diary of Israel Litchfield*"

Presenting Papers at non CMU Conferences

Elizabeth K. Chamberlain - "George Edwards: Labor's True Man? The Detroit Mayoral Election and Working-Class Voters", 2008 North American Labor History Conference.

Thomas Darragh - "Pages of Our Own--How Feminist Conflict within the Press Led to the Strengthening of the Women's Movement," Great Lakes History Conference
 "From the Fight to Overcome to the Fight for Freedom: *Ramparts*, the New Left, and the Shaping of the Struggle for Civil Rights," 2008 North American Labor History Conference.

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Giving Something Back

If you were one of the many students who benefited from department scholarships, assistantships, and work-study appointments, or simply enjoyed good teaching, advising, and the fellowship of favorite teachers, you may welcome the opportunity to give something back so that future generations of students can enjoy similar benefits. Here are some opportunities to participate:

Blackburn Endowment

The income from this endowment funds an annual lecture series in American history in honor of George Blackburn, a greatly admired teacher and scholar during his thirty years as a member of CMU's history faculty.

J. D. Smith Award

This cash award recognizes one of the department's outstanding graduate students, and is named for our former colleague, Professor J. D. Smith.

Mae Teeter and Duane Bouliew Scholarships

These cash awards are given to outstanding undergraduate history students. Requirements include GPAs of 3.25 or higher, letters of recommendation, and, for the Teeter, composition of an outstanding essay in a CMU history seminar.

Dennis Thavenet Study Abroad Awards

The department, especially Professor Emeritus Dennis Thavenet, has been very active in fostering study abroad. If you

enjoyed a period of study overseas, you may enjoy helping the next generation to share similar benefits by contributing to one of these two awards.

William T. Bulger Endowment

This endowment funds a lecture series in the field of American Biography in honor of Professor Emeritus William T. Bulger.

Gabriel Chien Memorial Fund Essay Prize

This fund was created to honor the memory of Gabriel Chien, a former CMU history professor. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded for a written essay that focuses on an aspect of Chinese culture, Sino-American relations, or a comparative study of China.

Enclosed is my (our) gift of

Gift amount options: \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, Other

Gift type options: Individual Gift, Joint Gift (spouse name)

Name, Address, City, State, ZIP Code, Home Phone, Business Phone

Please bill my credit card: Account #, Signature, Expiration Date, Master Card, VISA, American Express

Many employers match an employee's gift. Please check with your personnel office for information on requesting matching funds. When making your gift, complete a matching gift form from your personnel office and return it with your gift to CMU.

- This gift is for: History Department Development Fund, CMU/Univ. of Strathclyde Joint Program Development Fund, Duane Bouliew History Prize, Mae Teeter History Prize, Dennis Thavenet Study Abroad History, Dennis Thavenet Study Abroad Scholarship, J. D. Smith Graduate Student Award in History, William T. Bulger History Lectureship, Blackburn Endowment, Gabriel Chien Memorial Fund

Thank You! Your gift will be used for the purpose specified and is tax-deductible as provided by law. Please make your checks payable to: Central Michigan University. Return check and form to: Office of Development, Carlin Alumni House, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant MI 48859, Phone: (800) 358-6903, Fax: (989) 774-7159

Schmiechen—cont. from page 1

In the mid 1980s Professor Schmiechen changed course academically after spending a year as the history department's second exchange professor at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. His continuing contacts there were crucial for the development of the history department's unique joint PhD program in transnational and comparative history in which Strathclyde was the department's first partner. For Schmiechen the result was a new focus on the architecture of industrial-era Britain. His thinking led to a cover article in the *American Historical Review* of April 1988: "The Victorians, the Historians, and the Idea of Modernism." For the next decade Jim's study and teaching concentrated on how the built environment affected industrial capitalism and life in industrial society. This effort was brought to a masterful conclusion with the appearance in 1999 of his book *The British Market Hall: A Social and Architectural History*, published by Yale University Press and co-authored with his long-time friend and colleague Kenneth Carls.

Schmiechen's scholarship took yet another turn with his move from Mt. Pleasant to his "summer house" in Saugatuck on Lake Michigan. There Jim became ever more involved with the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Museum, whose board he eventually chaired and helped build into one of the finest local history museums in the Midwest. Also Jim began to publish studies of local history and architecture, notably *Raising the Roof: A History of the Buildings and Architecture in the Saugatuck-Douglas Area* (2006). Given his energy and creativity, one expects that the next decade will produce other important achievements.

Professor Schmiechen's scholarly productivity has helped gain CMU's history department an enviable reputation and has served as a model for his colleagues and numerous graduate students. To them he has been an attentive mentor and guide to thoughtful scholarship. At all levels of teaching, indeed, Schmiechen's commitment to excellence may even have eclipsed his scholarship, if that is possible. Over the years he taught thousands of undergraduate and graduate students in courses in western civilization (for which he published a leading study guide), various aspects of modern British and labor history, and in the last decade a large lecture course on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. Students--from freshman taking a general education survey to PhD candidates--will remember his brilliance, perhaps his quirkiness and quiet yet poignant theatrics, his compassion, and maybe even his occasional forgetfulness. Although Dr. Schmiechen will likely continue to write important scholarly works, his retirement from teaching at Central Michigan University leaves a hole that cannot be filled.

Fit for Office?

U. S. Presidents with Highest Body Mass Index

Taft 42.3, Cleveland 34.6, McKinley 31.1

U. S. Presidents with the Lowest Body Mass Index

Madison 17.0, Jackson 19.0, Pierce 20.6

Greetings from Chair—cont. from page 1

Our Joint MA/PhD program remains a vital interest in the department. This year we finalized an exchange agreement with Benemérita Autónoma Universidad de Puebla and sent our first student, Frank Klackle, to Puebla for a year of graduate study. We will welcome the first graduate student from Puebla, Hugo Zayas, in May, 2009. Michael Carter went as our first student to Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, Germany. In addition, graduate students Brad Bow and Steve Gutwald attended the University of Strathclyde while Elizabeth Lafray and Chris Hagen studied at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. We hosted Patrick Kirkwood from Strathclyde and Annett Buske and Katharina Wagner from Jena. Ms. Wagner was the department's first Fulbright Scholar from abroad.

Annette Davis continues to keep the office running, ably assisted by our half-time secretary Roxanne Jordan. This year we have also enjoyed the help of our capable and industrious student workers Hua (Callie) Ju, Ashley McDonald, and Lisa Sovereign. Please feel free to stop in and say hello to any one or all of us whenever you visit Mount Pleasant. Also, keep those cards, letters, and e-mails coming. We love to hear from you and are always glad to include your latest activities in our newsletter.

Timothy Hall

Faculty Publications and Activities cont. from page 2

TomDispatch, published on-line by *The Nation*, and the Colombian news-weekly *Semana*.

Steve Scherer's article, "Skovoroda by the Numbers: Numbers and Geometric figures in the Philosophy of Hryhotij," was published in the December, 2008 issue of *East European Quarterly*. Professor Scherer also presented "Hryhotij Skovoroda: Critic as Mystic" at the Michigan Academy's 2009 meeting at Wayne State University.

Oliver Franklin Smith, was born to Karen and **Greg Smith** on March 13, 2009. Oliver is Karen and Greg's second son.

Current Grad Student News cont. from page 7

Jonathan Klauke - "The Effect of the Middle Ages on the Causes of the Boudican Revolt," Denison University
 "Astronomy in Tudor England," Michigan Academy
 "First Encounters: A Comparison of the Viking and Early English Exploration of North America," Loyola University

Other Grad Student News

Jeffrey Sandman was appointed editor of the *Benzie County Record Patriot* in May 2008. Until then he had served as county commissioner for the district comprising Frankfort and Gilmore Township but resigned to avoid any possible conflict of interest.

Not to be outdone by faculty fecundity, graduate students celebrated the births of children: Gabriella Micha'l Carter to Krystin and **Michael Carter** and Penelope Marie Rose, March 31, 2009 to Trisha and **Michael Rose**.



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Alumni Survey 2009

To keep in touch with you as well as enable the Department of History to better advise its students and serve their career counseling needs, we ask you to complete the following survey. Send completed survey to:

**Department of History
Powers Hall 106
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859**

Name _____

Address _____

Degree _____

Year of Graduation _____

Present Employment _____

News for next Department of History Newsletter _____

