

MILLERSVILLE STATE COLLEGE, VIEW OF "OLD MAIN"

# Marauding MU Historian

The History  
Department  
Newsletter

Victoria Khiterer  
Editor

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Issue #3

## IN THIS ISSUE

## Letter from the Chair

by John McLarnon



Welcome to the third edition of the Department of History Newsletter. I must admit to some trepidation writing this short note as I am assuming the Department chairmanship from Dr. Ron Frankum who set a consistently high standard for wise and steady leadership over the past six years. Due to that leadership and the dedication of every faculty member, the Department continues to enjoy a reputation for excellence in every aspect of academic life –

teaching, scholarship, and service to the university and the community.

On behalf of my colleagues, I wish to thank our alumni who responded to Ron Frankum's request to let us know what you have been doing since graduating and how your History studies have served you in achieving your life goals. And I would ask all who have not yet responded to get in touch with us. In an era where more and more people view the university as little more than a vocational school, your achievements are crucial in our continuing efforts to make the case for the value of a degree in History or Social Studies.

This past spring the Department instituted several initiatives intended to maintain closer contacts with our graduates. Dr. Victoria Khiterer extended a special invitation to History alumni to attend (and possibly participate in) the bi-annual Holocaust Conference. Dr. Tanya Kevorkian organized the first in what we hope will be a continuing series of social gatherings with our former students. Our guests included graduates as recent as 2015 and as – how shall I put this? – “Unrecent?” “Way-back?” – as 1956. It was a pleasure to chat with all who attended these events and we hope to get re-acquainted with many more of you in the near future.

## Faculty News

This year our Faculty have published **two Books** and **five Books are under contract, accepted or in publication**, and have published **two Articles** and **four Book Reviews**. We have done **nineteen Presentations** and held **three Special Events**.

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## Student News

Our most accomplished students won **History Department Awards** and other **Honors and Awards**.

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## Alumni News

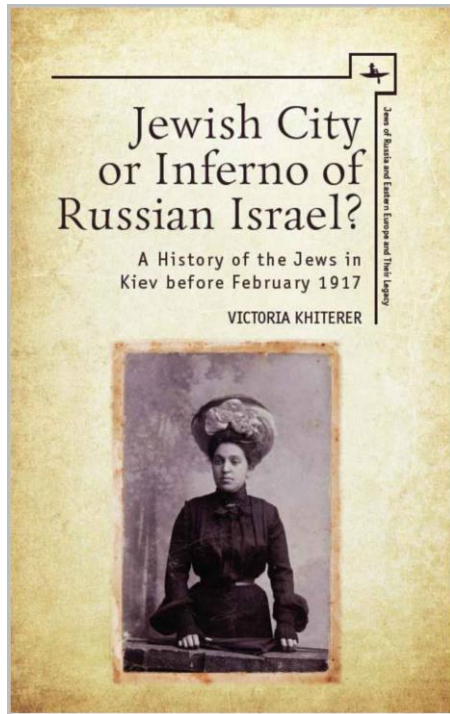
Our alumni tell us about their experiences and give advice for current students.

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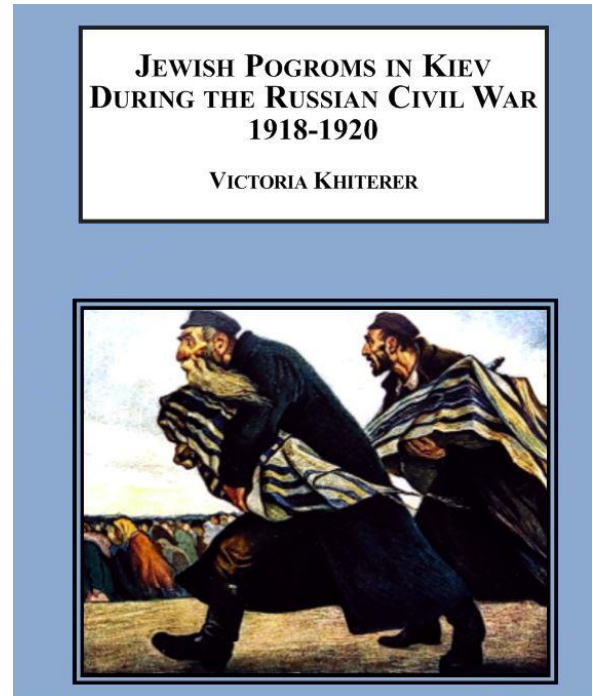
## Faculty News

# Books Published

**Victoria Khiterer**, *Jewish City or Inferno of Russian Israel? A History of the Jews in Kiev before February 1917* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2016), 492 pp.



**Victoria Khiterer**, *Jewish Pogroms in Kiev during the Russian Civil War, 1918-1920* (Lewiston, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2015), 144 pp.



## Faculty News

# Books under Contract and in Press

**Dennis B. Downey and James W. Conroy**, eds., *Between History and Hope: Pennhurst and the Struggle for Disability Rights* (book under contract and in press, Penn State Press)

**Tanya Kevorkian**, *Weddings, Rumbles, and Tower Guards: Music and Urban Life in Baroque Germany* (book under contract with University of Virginia Press).

**Victoria Khiterer**, editor, *Holocaust Resistance* (book under contract with Cambridge Scholars Publishing, will be published in 2017).

**Clarence Maxwell**, *Bermuda in the Age of Revolution* (forthcoming 2016)

**Mary Sommar**, *Slaves of the Church in Law and in Society* (book accepted by Brill Publishing, Leiden).

## Faculty News

# Editorship

**Dennis Downey**, Editing special issue of *Pennsylvania History* (Summer 2017) on disability history in the Mid-Atlantic region.

## Articles

**Victoria Khiterer**, "The October 1905 Pogroms and the Russian Authorities," *Nationalities Papers. The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity*, 43, no. 5 (2015): 788-803.

**Victoria Khiterer**, "How Jews Gained Their Education in Kiev" Invited article for *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*, Volume 30 (accepted for publication, forthcoming in 2017).

**Victoria Khiterer** on Simon Rabinovitch, *Jewish Rights, National Rites. Nationalism and Autonomy in Late Imperial and Revolutionary Russia*, (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2014) in *The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity*, 44, no. 1 (2016): 191-193.

## Book Reviews

**Robyn Davis** on Ann Ostendorf, *Sounds American: National Identity and the Music Cultures of the Lower Mississippi River Valley, 1800 – 1860*. In *Journal of the Early Republic* 35, no. 3 (Fall 2015): 514 – 517.

**Tanya Kevorkian** on Matthew Head, *Sovereign Feminine: Music and Gender in Eighteenth-Century Germany* (University of California Press), in *German Studies Review*, 39 (2016), 2: 365-367.

**Victoria Khiterer** on Leonid Smilovitsky, *Jewish Life in Belarus: The Final Decade of the Stalin Regime, 1944-1953*, (New York: Central European University Press, 2014), <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=43203>

## Faculty News

# Conference Presentations and Public Lectures

**Robyn Davis**, Presented *Tuned and Flipped: New Approaches to the U.S. History Survey*, to the American Historical Association, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2016.

**Robyn Davis**, Chair and comment, *Revolutionary Roads: The Movement of Ideas in the Early Republic*, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Raleigh, NC, July 2015.

**Dennis Downey**, Presented *Prologue to Disability Rights: A Historical Perspective, 1880-2015*, Philhaven Symposium (40 clinical staff), February 2016.

**Dennis Downey**, Conference Organizer and speaker; chaired Community Forum on *Somebody Touched Me* (1970 documentary film narrative by Henry Fonda)

**Dennis Downey**, Keynote Address, *Elimination not Extermination: Institutionalization in Historical Context* at the WITF Forum on 'I Go Home', April 2016.

**Tanya Kevorkian**, Presented *Religion in the Working Lives of Town Musicians and Türmer* at American Bach Society meeting, Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN, April 2016.

**Victoria Khiterer**, Presented *We are from Jazz: Leonid Utesov, Isaac Dunaevsky, Alexander Tsfasman and Eddie Rosner* to the International Conference *Representing Jewish History in European and American Popular Culture, Museums and Public Spaces*, Warsaw, Poland, May 2016.

**Victoria Khiterer**, Presented *Aftermath of the Holocaust and the Rise of State Anti-Semitism in Kiev (1945-1953)* to the 21st Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, Salem, OR, April 2016.

**Victoria Khiterer**, Presented *Jews and Anti-Semitism in Kiev in 1953-1970s* to the 47th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Boston, MA, December 2015, and to the 21st Annual ASN World Convention, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 2016.

**Victoria Khiterer**, Presented *Peculiarities of the Anti-Cosmopolitan Campaign and the 'Doctors' Plot' in Kiev*, the 47th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), Philadelphia, PA, November 2015.

**Clarence Maxwell**, Presented *Toward Abolition: background to 1 August 1834 on Bermuda* at the National Press Club, Washington, DC (July 22, 2015).

**John McLarnon**, Presented *From One-Party Rule to One-Party Rule: Philadelphia Since the 1950s* to the Pennsylvania Historical

Association Annual Conference, Lebanon Valley College, Lebanon PA, October 2015.

**Erin Shelor**, Invited lecture, *Grave Robbing and the Study of Anatomy in Early 19th Century Britain*, Grave Concern, 16 March 2016.

## Keller Lecture Series (Quest Lectures)

**Onek Adyanga**, *US-Africa Command (AFRICOM): African Viewpoints*.

**Frank Bremer**, *Reflections on Puritanism and the Role of Religion in American Culture*.

**Robyn Davis**, *Resistance to Revolution: the Early Years of the War for Independence*.

**Ronald Frankum**, *Remember Vietnam on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Introduction of Combat Troops to Southeast Asia*.

**Victoria Khiterer**, *The Destruction of Galicia and Bukovina: The Genocidal Policy of the Russian Army on Occupied Territory during World War I*.

**John McLarnon**, *Philadelphia's Ten Years of Reform*.

## Interview

**Robyn Davis** gave a radio interview on the meaning of the Declaration of Independence on the show *By the Way for Fun* 101.3, aired Sunday, July 5, 2015.



## Faculty News

# The 34<sup>th</sup> Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide

Victoria Khiterer (Conference Director) with the Conference Committee Members Professors Tanya Kevorkian and Onek Adyanga and Administrative Assistant Ms. Maggie Eichler organized the 34<sup>th</sup> MU Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide on April 6 - 8, 2016.

Forty-three scholars from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and other scholarly organizations and universities in the U.S., Great Britain, Israel and the Netherlands participated in the conference. The topic of the conference was *Aftermath of the Holocaust and Genocide*. There were three plenary panels, thirteen conference sessions and a documentary film screened during the conference. The film "*The Long Way Home*" (1997, Writer/Director Mark Jonathan Harris) discusses the fate of Jewish displaced persons in post-War Europe and the creation of the State of Israel.

The Conference commemorated the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. The keynote speaker for the conference, Ronald Grigor Suny, the Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History and Director of the Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies at the University of Michigan delivered a brilliant speech *The Persistence of the Past: How Violence and Genocide in Ottoman Turkey Affect Our World Today*. Professor Suny pointed out in his speech that the Turkish government continues to deny the Armenian Genocide. Meanwhile progressive Turkish scholars, acknowledge the genocide and attempted to discuss it in their works in spite of government suppression and persecution for researching of this topic.

The conference participants discussed in their presentations the political, economic and cultural consequences of the Holocaust and genocide; problems of displaced persons and survivors; trials of Holocaust and genocide perpetrators; racism, and state and

popular anti-Semitism in post-war Europe; commemoration and memorialization and teaching methods of the Holocaust and genocide.

Very interesting and innovative lectures were delivered by Professors Gabriel Finder, University of Virginia, *Jewish Honor Courts: Revenge, Retribution, and Reconciliation in Europe and Israel after the Holocaust*, Professor Zvi Gitelman, the University of Michigan, *Antisemitism and its Consequences in the Soviet Military in World War Two*, Maxim D. Shrayer (Boston College), *A Footnote to the Shema in a Moscow Magazine: July 1946* and Gennady Estraikh, New York University, *The Second Repatriation of Polish Jews from the Soviet Union*.

The conference was attended by several hundred people including faculty, students and community members.



The Holocaust Conference Opening Night, Professor Khiterer welcomes participants.



Gabriel Finder, University of Virginia



Conference Opening Night



Elizabeth B. White, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum





Keynote Speech, Ronald Grigor Suny, University of Michigan



Peter Black, Independent Scholar



Audience questions

*Faculty News*

# The Disability History Conference

The History department co-sponsored the Disability History Conference on March 28, 2016.

There were over 240 registrants for the Conference. Eric Rosenthal of Disability Rights International and Drinan Professor of Human Rights at Georgetown University Law School delivered the keynote address.

WTF, Inc.'s 'I Go Home' documentary was shown for the first time. Professor Dennis Downy was historical consultant and an on-air commentator for the film. This documentary will be shown on all the Public Television Stations in PA and is the subject of numerous community forums in the Summer and Fall 2016 across the Commonwealth.

*Student News*

## Accepted to Graduate Programs

**Justin Fry**, SUNY Binghamton's MA/PhD (History)

**Erin Berry**, University of Maryland (MLS)

**Sharon Hess**, University of Delaware MA (History) and Museum Studies Certification

**Michael Fitzpatrick**, PhD Program (History)

**James Rooney**, Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Drexel

**Katrina Ponti**, Accepted into the Ph.D. Program in History at the University of Rochester.

**Keith Prushankin**, Admitted to Charles University in Prague Masters Program.

**Linford Ranck**, Admitted to the Ph.D. Program in History at Northwestern University.

**Khanh Vo**, Admitted to the Ph.D. Program in American Studies at William and Mary College.

**Tracey Barnett**, Admitted to the Ph.D. Program in History at University of Southern Mississippi.

**Justin Gilmore**, Admitted to Carnegie Mellon's Masters of Arts Management Program.

*Student News*

## Student Activities

**Jon Bannan**, Summer Research in Bermuda

**Helen Devonshire**, Summer Research in Bermuda

**Alexander Goodrich**, Summer Research in Bermuda

**Abigail Gruber**, Summer Research in Bermuda

**Hunter Mengel**, Summer Internship at Historic Mount Vernon, Virginia

**Kimberly Rivas**, Disney College Program (Walt Disney World Resort)

*Student News*

## Award Winners

**Alexander Goodrich**, "The Goodrich Family of Virginia: Vengeful Privateers or Cunning Opportunists?" won Best Graduate Paper at Phi Alpha Theta's 2016 PA East Regional Conference at West Chester University.

**Hunter Mengel**, Joseph Walker Scholarship

**Hunter Mengel**, Charlotte A. Lafferty History Scholarship

**Jeffery Tebay**, Richard C. Keller Award in American History

**Bradley Aufer**, C. Maxwell & Edna H. Myers History Award

**Hannah Campbell**, Robert F., Louis G., and Joan M. Williams Scholarship

**Travis Kurtz**, Dr. Robert D. and Roma J. Sayre Excellence in American History Scholarship

**Heidi Kindon**, Abram Foster History Scholarship

**Abigail Gruber**, Francis J. Bremer Award

**Abigail Gruber**, Jack Loose Sons of the Revolution American History Research Award

**Justin Fry**, Louis & Margarete Koppel Award in European History

**Cody Youse**, Guy Kurtz Bard Scholarship

*Student News*

## Career Progress

**Joe Blauberg**, Accepted to the McNeil Center Atlantic World Workshop.

**Nicholas Klein**, Accepted to the McNeil Center Atlantic World Workshop.

**William Barnes**, Middle School Social Studies Teacher, Bear Creek Community Charter School.

**Chris O'Brien**, Academic Program Coordinator position with Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth.

**Katelynn Wright** served as a Project Coordinator for Life Connection Mission, which works primarily in Haiti.



## Student News



### Conference Presentations

(Pennsylvania East Regional Annual Conference at West Chester University on 9 April 2016)

**Charles Connon**, *German Recruits for a British-American Army*

**Alexander Goodrich**, *The Goodrich Family of Virginia: Vengeful Privateers or Cunning Opportunists?* – winner, best paper graduate division

**Abigail Gruber**, *'In the time of trial': An Examination of Merchant-Class Families During the British Occupation of Philadelphia, 1777 – 1778*

**Dan Harpold**, *Lee's Decision*

**Caroline Hamersky & Erin Magee**, *The Culinary Arts of Colonial New England*

**Worley Pace**, *Slavery and the Emerging Black Community in York*

**Lindsay Roschel**, *Elite Women and the Patriot Cause: A Pennsylvania Case Study*

**Kyle Thomas**, *George Meade and his Greatest Defeat*

*The following students were inducted in Alpha Lambda Eta, Millersville's chapter of the National History Honors Society Phi Alpha Theta on 28 April 2016:*

Alexander S. Arnold  
Charles D. Connon  
Joshua M. Hackel  
Caroline E. Hamersky  
Daniel J. Harpold  
Hunter D. Mengel  
Jeffery E. Tebay  
Kyle M. Thomas

Photos of Professor Davis' HIST 352 Provincial and Revolutionary America class as students, role-playing the members of NYC's Provincial Assembly in April 1775, debated whether to adopt a boycott against British goods as recommended by the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia.



## Alumni News

Genius is one percent inspiration,  
ninety-nine percent perspiration.

Thomas Edison

Dear Alumni,

The History Department sincerely  
congratulates you on your successes.

We are proud of you and your professional  
achievements.

### Meeting with Alumni

The History Department organized the first alumni social on April 24, 2016. Eighteen alumni ranging from the Class of 1956 to the Class of 2015, and five faculty members attended the social in the Garden Room of the McNairy Library. Faculty members enjoyed hearing about paths the students' lives have taken, and students reconnected with one another as well. We are thinking about ways to connect current students and alumni. We are planning another social in Spring 2017.

### Alumni share their stories

**Sarah Drennen**, BA History at Millersville University, 2012, MA Museum Studies at Johns Hopkins University, 2015

**Current position:** Curator at Rock Ford Plantation, a circa 1794 historic house museum. I oversee and maintain the care of the collections. We have furniture, silver, ceramics, clocks, paintings, etc. from late 18th & early 19th century.

**Advice to Students:** Volunteer! Also, schedule meetings to talk to people that currently hold the job you would like to see yourself in one day and ask

them for advice, how they got there, and what their job actually entails.

**Katrina Marie Ponti**, M.A. History, 2015

**Current position:** I'm a Ph.D. Student in Early American and Atlantic History at the University of Rochester. I work under Dr. Mike Jarvis.

**Advice to Students:** Make the most of your advantages. The professors in the department are ready and willing to help good students. Take the initiative to stand out.

**Wesley Brooks Toth**, M.A. History, 2014

**Current position:** Teaching Assistant for Kent State University Department of History. I am a Doctoral student in the History program. As a Teaching Assistant in the department, my main responsibility is to help the professor manage the survey course (American or World History, depending on the instructor). Typically, I am required to grade all the quizzes, exams, and (if any) class assignments during the academic year. There are at least two dates in the semester where I am tasked with delivering lectures to the students. In addition to grading and guest lecturing, I am also expected to keep thorough records of class participation, attendance, and any meetings with undergraduate students during my office hours.

**Advice to Students:** I feel that my education at Millersville gave me the confidence to conduct broader job searches and not restrict myself to geography or work experience. Though I did not find a full-time job in my field after MU, I was able to enroll into a doctoral program. Do not give up in your

search for either a job or an academic program. Good things fall into place when you least expect it. I went through that experience. With patience and a steady work ethic, nothing will ever limit you in fulfilling your dreams.

**Matthew Sutjak**, BSE Social Studies, 2010

**Current position:** Assistant Football Coach (Defensive Coordinator) at Millersville. I have been a Coach at Millersville since 2013.

**Advice to Students:** Yes, the education program at MU was outstanding in preparing me to move on after graduation. While I am not a high school teacher like my degree prepared me for, I am a teacher to the 90 young men in our football program. The amount of field experience I received prepared me for graduation.

**Amy Elizabeth Curry**, M.A. History, 2010

**Current position:** I am the Executive Director of the Morris County Historical Society at Acorn Hall. In addition to managing the daily operations of a busy 501(c)3 non-profit organization that operates a historic house museum, I lead a dedicated team of

three museum professionals, volunteer corps of fifteen, and intern staff of graduates, undergraduates, and high school students.

I feel that the rigors of the history graduate program provided the confidence employers sought. Oddly enough, nine months after taking my current position and relocating to NJ, I was offered a PhD fellowship at Duke University by the soil scientist I worked closely with as part of my thesis. Determined to research post-emancipation soil erosion on the South Carolina Piedmont, I was encouraged to spread my reach beyond Millersville, to think outside the box. In so doing, I created a work that has been widely shared throughout several large southern universities, was published in 2014, and, possibly, set the stage for a second career.

**Advice to Students:** Don't be afraid. The world is wide and waiting. As I learned, when I wrote my first email to Dr. Richter, Duke University Soil Scientist, you never know who is waiting for you to have the courage, take the opportunity, and promote yourself and your research. You very well could be the person they're looking for.

## Marauding MU Historian

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