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Fall and Winter Session of 26 weeks will begin Monday, September 3, 1900. . . . .

# FIRST PENNSYLVANIA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

MILLERSVILLE, PA.

E. ORAM LYTE, Principal.

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For Catalogue and full particulars address the Principal.



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Spring and Summer Session of 14 weeks will begin Monday, March 27, 1901. . . . Marauding MU Historian

The History Department Newsletter

Victoria Khiterer Editor

> September 2018 Issue #5

#### 1900 FIRST PENNSYLVANIA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, MILLERSVILLE PA

# Letter from the Chair

by John McLarnon



Hello and welcome to all Millersville History Department alums, current students, past and present faculty and friends of the Department and the University. The past academic year was an interesting one. I know that word "interesting" can carry all sorts of connotations but in this case it means busy, productive and... well... interesting.

Before taking stock of the Department's activities and accomplishments, I must first acknowledge the departure of our senior colleague. Dr. Dennis Downey decided to

retire after more than thirty year of service to the Department and the University. He is the last of a generation of historians who began their careers at Millersville in the 1980s. Like those who retired before him, the loss to the Department is significant. His accomplishments in every area of professorial responsibility are too many to list here. In just the last five or six years he assumed the leadership of the University Honors College and breathed new life into what had become a moribund program. He improved the curriculum, recruited the University's best teachers and students, personally oversaw student progress and raised tens of thousands of dollars to finance the special activities needed to restore the Honors College to the prestigious place it had occupied in the University's academic agenda. In his "spare time," he led the effort to establish the University's Multidisciplinary Studies Major and contributed to the approval of its newest program: Atlantic World Studies. He became a leading light in the previously overlooked field of Disability Studies. Perhaps more importantly, Dennis' concern for the welfare of the Department and its members never waned. He could be critical, occasionally prickly, but he was

(Continued on next page)

### IN THIS ISSUE

### **Faculty News**

This year our Faculty have edited **one Book** and published **eight Articles**, and **four Book Reviews**. We gave **twelve Presentations** and held **two 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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# Letter from the Chair

by John McLarnon

(Continued from page 1)

always generous with his time and as quick to praise as to criticize. And nobody ever doubted his commitment to and his concern for his students, his colleagues, his Department, his University and his discipline. He shall be sorely missed.

Another departure was the retirement of University President John Anderson. Dr. Anderson led Millersville for five years and his tenure did not cause us to forget either Joe Caputo or Francine McNairy.

In the wake of the 2006-17 quinquennial review, the Department held its first-ever academic retreat. All the members of the Department except for Dr. Frankum who was on summer vacation sabbatical (see below) followed the bold path to the new Creek Road Lodge to formulate a plan for the

coming five years. That plan includes a complete review and revision of the curriculum and course offerings, an increase in the availability of distance learning courses, a renewed focus on joint facultystudent scholarship, a departmental initiative to recruit new History and Secondary Education majors, create a student resource room in the Department area, and the promotion of the Liberal Arts as the key to personal fulfillment, professional success and recognition of civic/community responsibility. One of the more exciting curricular initiatives is the Atlantic World Studies program mentioned earlier. Partnering with the National Museum of Bermuda, this multidisciplinary program will combine relevant courses in History and Archaeology with internship, museum and field research experiences.

In April, the Department marked a milestone in celebrating the 35th year for its international Holocaust and Genocide Conference. The theme of this year's conference was "Holocaust and Genocide Trials." During the three-day event, speakers from Canada, Israel, Germany, England and the U.S. explored the role of trials in exposing and punishing the crimes of

Holocaust and Genocide perpetrators and collaborators, as well as the influence of trials on the formation of Holocaust and Genocide history and memory.

Other highlights of the Department's recruitment initiative included a round table discussion with six successful Department alums on the value of the study of History to their varied careers. We also re-established our relationship with the National History Day Program in hopes of bringing the state competition back to Millersville. As part of that effort, three faculty members volunteered as judges for local and state competitions while others, working in consultation with the Education Director for the Army Heritage Center Foundation, developed a graduate-level course for teachers on selected issues in regional and comparative history.

I am told I am well past my word limit here (ah the dangers of giving a History teacher a public forum) so I will close. I hope to see some of you at Homecoming and wish all of you success and good health during the coming academic year.

# What I did during my Summer Vacation Sabbatical Leave

by Ron Frankum

I am not sure if the practice continues today, but I do recall having to write about what I did during my summer vacation as an early assignment in elementary school and that it had to be done in at least five hundred words, an insurmountable task for a third grader. I am now tasked to do the same for my activities since last September. On November 11 (an appropriate date for a diplomatic historian), I learned that I was granted my sabbatical request for the academic year 2017-2018 to finish my book on Ambassador Elbridge Durbrow's role in shaping American foreign policy in Vietnam during his tenure in office (1957-1961). I have, thus, spent the year writing and editing this book as well as working on the finishing touches of my new course on the First World War. The letter from the University President is still attached to our refrigerator; I guess old habits are hard to break.

I was fortunate enough to have all of my research completed before the sabbatical year started, which allowed me to write from any location in the United States. This book was conceived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania but also can trace its ancestry to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Yellowstone National Park, The Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, historic Route 66, and the Abraham Lincoln Archive and Museum. All were sources of inspiration to write and think. The sabbatical granted me a luxury that I have cherished and will hopefully make good with my work.

The book, tentatively titled, *Durbrow and Vietnam*, explores the relationship that Durbrow had with the Republic of Vietnam president Ngo Dinh Diem and Commander of the Military Assistance Advisory

Group, Vietnam, General Samuel T. Williams. While the history of these relationships is significant to understanding how the Kennedy administration got us into the war in Vietnam, I have also offered a new approach to how one might understand our path to the Vietnam War. Historians have tended to either view the entire experience (1954-1975) from an American perspective or divided the war into sub-periods that followed the Presidencies. I argue that it is the United States ambassador and his staff that control the information originating from Saigon that helped to shape American foreign policy. It was not Eisenhower's war or Kennedy's mismanagement as much as it was Durbrow's reporting, or failure to report, the events that transpired in Vietnam in the late 1950s and very early 1960s. Durbrow was as culpable as any other to the American experience in Vietnam that began after he left. This is not a popular view as most historians place the blame solely on Ngo Dinh Diem and his family, but it is one that needs to be explored as does the idea that it is the ambassador, rather than the State Department, that controls the information provided to the decision-makers.

In addition to the book and the First World War class, I also learned how to paint miniature Star Wars figures, play new games and competed, with my son, in the National Championship for the Star Wars game, *Imperial Assault*. He finished higher in the standings than I but we are going back this year so we shall see. It appears also that I have learned how to write more than five hundred words without any "very, very" in it. I hope all that your 2017-2018 experiences were as rewarding.

### **Faculty News**

# **Publications**

# **Books**

**John McLarnon**, edited revisions to G. Terry Madonna, *Pivotal Pennsylvania*, 2nd ed.

# Articles and Book Chapters

Tanya Kevorkian, "The Leipzig Audience of the St. Matthew Passion in the First Half of the Eighteenth Century," in Mark Peters & Reginald Sanders, eds, Compositional Choices and Meaning in the Vocal Music of J. S. Bach (Lexington Press, 2018).

**Victoria Khiterer,** "How Jews Gained Their Education in Kiev," *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*, 30 (2018): 155-179.

Victoria Khiterer, "Seekers of Happiness: Jews and Jazz in the Soviet Union," *Kultura Popularna*, 1, no. 51 (2017): 26-50.

Victoria Khiterer, "The 35th Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide," Memoria, Vol. 7, April 2018, pp. 30-33.

Victoria Khiterer prepared four invited articles for the Babi Yar Holocaust Memorial Center (BYHMC) in Kiev, Ukraine: "Jews in the Soviet Union, 1922-1939", "Jews in Kyiv, 1900-1940", "Post-1943 Official Policies and Remembrance Attempts in Kyiv", and "Post-1943 Official Policy and Remembrance Attempts in Minsk, Rostov, and Beyond." These articles are significant part (about 20 percent) of the historical narrative for the future Babi Yar Museum in Kyiv. The narrative was presented to the President of Israel in a meeting in February 2018: https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/241711

# **Book Reviews**

Tanya Kevorkian, on Detlef Döring "Dann sprach ich bei Professor Gottsched vor…". Leipzig als literarisches Zentrum Deutschlands in der Frühen Neuzeit in the Jahrbuch für Regionalgeschichte (2018) (in German).

Victoria Khiterer on Zvi Gitelman, Jewish Identities in Postcommunist Russia and Ukraine: An Uncertain Ethnicity (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), East European Jewish Affairs, 47, no. 2-3 (2017), 312-314.

Victoria Khiterer on Vassili Schedrin, Jewish Souls, Bureaucratic Minds: Jewish Bureaucracy and Policymaking in Late Imperial Russia, 1850-1917 (Wayne State University Press, 2016), Shofar, 35, no. 4 (Summer 2017): 142-145.

Mary Sommar on Kirsi Salonen, *Papal Justice* in the Late Middle Ages (London and New York, 2016) in *Church History* (September, 2017).

## Faculty News

# Conference Presentations and Public Lectures

Robyn Lily Davis presented "The Whiskey Boys and the Watermelon Army: Tax Protests on the Pennsylvania Frontier" at Rock Ford Plantation, and the New Holland, Mt. Joy, and Millersville Historical Associations.

Tanya Kevorkian presented "Telemann in Lancaster: The Pennsylvania German Background of Cantata Performances at Trinity Lutheran Church Inaugural Services in 1766" at the conference "Georg Philipp Telemann: Enlightenment and Postmodern Perspectives," Temple University, Philadelphia, October 2017.

Tanya Kevorkian presented "Timekeeping, Guard Duty, and Music in 17th and 18th Century German Towns," for the Quest for Learning Program, Lancaster, PA. **Victoria Khiterer** presented "Jewish Education in the Ukrainian People's Republic" to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) World Convention, Columbia University.

**Victoria Khiterer** presented "The Holodomor and Jews in Kyiv" to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, San Antonio, TX and to the Quest for Learning Program, Lancaster, PA.

Victoria Khiterer presented "Prague Spring 1968 and the Soviet Reaction" to Brethren Village Resident Enrichment Programs, Lititz, PA.

Victoria Khiterer presented "Unwelcome Return Home: Jews, Anti-Semitism and the Housing Problem in Post-war Kiev" to the International Conference "Home as a Place for Anti-Jewish Persecution in European Cities, 1933-1945. Crossing Urban Social History and History of the Holocaust," American University of Paris, Paris, France.

**Victoria Khiterer** presented "The Holodomor and Jews in Ukraine" to the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS).

**Victoria Khiterer** presented "Broken Silence: Jewish Themes in the Plays of Aleksandr

Galich" at the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of ASEEES.

**Victoria Khiterer** presented "Babi Yar and Auschwitz in the Works of Jewish Artists and Writers - Holocaust Witnesses" to the 70<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel.

John McLarnon presented More Trouble at Philadelphia's "Big Top", Quest for Learning Program, Lancaster, PA.

**John McLarnon** presented *Gifford Pinchot, Progressive Paragon*, Millersville Area Historical Society.

**John McLarnon** presented lecture and Q & A Session for *Man in the Arena*, Ware Center, Lancaster, PA.

## Interviews

John McLarnon gave interviews to Delaware County Political News, The Caucus Magazine, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and Lancaster Newspapers on aspects of public education and political life in Pennsylvania.

## **Faculty News**

# Faculty Fellowships and Awards

Robyn Lily Davis received a Georgian Papers Programme Fellowship to study King George Ill's papers in the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle.

**Robyn Lily Davis** was selected for the 2018 Global Education Student Choice Award.

Victoria Khiterer received Choice Outstanding Academic Titles Award, 2017 for her book Jewish City or Inferno of Russian Israel? A History of the Jews in Kiev before February 1917 (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2016), 492 pp.

# Faculty Professional Memberships

**Tanya Kevorkian,** Member of the Advisory Board of the American Bach Society

**Victoria Khiterer**, Founding member of the Scientific Council of the Babi Yar Holocaust Memorial Center (BYHMC) in Kiev, Ukraine.

**Victoria Khiterer**, Member of the Executive Board, Western Jewish Studies Association (WJSA)

**Victoria Khiterer,** Member of the Board of The American Association for Ukrainian Studies (Member of the Communications Committee).

# The Careers for Historians Alumni Event by Tanya Kevorkian, Event Organizer

On October 5, 2017, the Department presented a Careers for Historians event on campus for majors and other interested students. Panelists Jennifer Craighead Carey, BA '90, Dr. Terry Madonna, BSE '64, Mary Nolt, MA '16, Victoria Pyle, BA '10, Brian Ressler, BA '83, MA '98 (who sadly recently passed away), and John Sicotte, BA '07 discussed careers in fields including the law, teaching, politics, museum work, industry, and academy. Dr. John McLarnon, BA '93, moderated the panel.

### **Faculty News**

# The 35<sup>th</sup> Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide

# by Victoria Khiterer, Conference Director

Millersville University of Pennsylvania hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide on 11-13 April 2018. The conference was opened on *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day) with commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust.

The Millersville University conference is the oldest conference on the Holocaust and Genocide in the United States, that is run by the same institution. The conference was established by the former Chair of the History Department Professor Jack Fischel, whose grandparents and uncle perished during the Holocaust in Poland. He led the conferences for twenty-five years. After his retirement Professor Saulius Suziedelis led the conference, and since 2010 Dr. Victoria Khiterer took over the leadership of the conference.

Each Millersville University conference is devoted to a special theme. The theme of the 35<sup>th</sup> conference was *The Holocaust and Genocide Trials*. It was an international conference in which participated 47 scholars from five countries: the United States, Canada, Germany, Great Britain and Israel.

The conference discussed international and national Holocaust and Genocide trials. It explored the role of trials in exposing and punishing the crimes of Holocaust and genocide perpetrators and their collaborators, and the influence of trials on the formation of Holocaust and genocide history and memory. The conference also commemorated the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holodomor in Ukraine, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht, and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. The keynote speakers for the conference were Lawrence Baron, Professor Emeritus of Modern Jewish History, San Diego State University and

Lawrence Douglas, James J. Grosfeld Professor of Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought, Amherst College.

Professor Lawrence Baron delivered the first keynote speech, the Aristides de Sousa Mendes Lecture, *Kristallnacht on Film: From Reportage to Reenactments*, 1938-1948. He showed that in the absence of a cinematic iconography, newsreels, documentaries and feature films employed several approaches to represent the Kristallnacht in the ensuing decade.

Professor Lawrence Douglas delivered the second keynote speech at the conference, which was based on his recently published book *The Right Wrong Man: John Demjanjuk and the Last Great Nazi War Crimes Trial* (Princeton University Press, 2016). In 2009 Lawrence Douglas was sent to Munich by *Harper's Magazine* to cover the trial of eightynine-year-old John Demjanjuk. The

Demjanjuk trial was the last major Holocaust trial in history.

There were 14 sessions of the conference which focused on Nuremberg and other Holocaust and genocide trials in different countries, on the representation of the Holocaust in literature, television and film, and Holocaust memory and education. Special sessions were devoted to the Armenian genocide, the Holodomor (death by famine) in Ukraine in 1932 -1933 and the

Warsaw ghetto uprising in 1943. Many Millersville University students and community members attended the conference. The conference made a valuable contribution to Holocaust and Genocide scholarship and emphasized the importance of humanism, tolerance and justice to the entire audience. The proceedings of the conference will be published next year. For further information about the Millersville University Conferences on the Holocaust and

Genocide and the previous conference proceedings please see the conference web site: http://www.millersville.edu/holocon/



**Lawrence Baron** presents the Keynote Speech, *Kristallnacht on Film: From Reportage to Reenactments*, 1938-1948



Olga **Bertelsen** presents *Starvation and Violence Amid the* 



Holocaust Trials and their Perception in the Soviet Union panel, (L to R) Gennady Estraikh, Martin Dean and Wolfgang Schneider



**Peter Black** presents Lease on Life: How the Collapse of the Soviet Union Impacted U.S. Investigations of Former Trawniki Trained Guards



**Paul R. Bartrop** presents "May it please your Honors:" Robert H. Jackson at Nuremberg, and His Views on Crimes against the Jews

## **Student News**

# **Award Winners**

- Keirstyn Allulis, Dr. Robert D. and Roma J. Sayre Excellence in American History Scholarship
- Joseph Murse, Dr. Abram Foster
   Scholarship for Excellence in History
- Matthew Latschar, Richard C. Keller Award in American History
- Joshua Hackel, C Maxwell and Edna H Myers History Award
- Lauren Cameron, Francis J. Bremer Award
- **Seth Fluck,** Joseph E. Walker American History Scholarship
- Victoria Mueller, The Joan M.
   Williams Scholarship Endowment
- Elizabeth Root, The Jack Loose Award

## **Student News**

# Internship

Jessica DePalma was awarded an inaugural C. Dallett Hemphill Undergraduate Internship, sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, and worked this summer at Stenton, a National Historic Landmark and one of Pennsylvania's best-preserved colonial homes.

# Phi Alpha Theta

Students inducted into Phi Alpha Theta Academic Year 2017-2018:

- Elliott Bollinger
- Jessica DePalma
- Erin Magee
- Keirstyn Allulis
- Hannah Campbell
- Megan Webb

## Alumni News

# I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination. —Jimmy Dean

Dear Alumni,

The History Department sincerely congratulates you on your successes. We are proud of you and your professional achievements.

### **Alumni News**

- Katrina Ponti, M.A. and a doctoral candidate at University of Rochester, presented "In the Land of the Three Miamis: Indian Agents as Diplomats in Ohio Territory" and Gregory Wiker, M.A., also a doctoral candidate at Rochester, presented "The Tragic Case of Edwin Hunt and the Creation of Bermuda's 'Lunatic Hospital'" at the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic's 40th annual conference in Cleveland in July.
- **Joshua Hackel**, B.A. May 2018, will enter the Masters program in Library Science at the University of Illinois this fall.
- Hunter Mengel, B.A. December 2017, has started his M.A. Program in Public History at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
- Lauren Cameron began her studies in the Doctoral Program in 19th century American History at Clark University.
- Alexa Ponti entered her second year in the Doctoral Program in Medieval History at Fordham University.

### Alumni share their stories

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

<u>Current position</u>: 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. I also do research and planning for educational programming and volunteer coordination.

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. Convince yourself to find and work at a job you love more than a "just because" job that is just for money. You'll feel more fulfilled and enjoy life more.

Megan Bruno, BSE Social Studies at Millersville, Spring 2012.

<u>Current position</u>: I am the Commercial Service Representative for First Citizens Community Bank. I handle the credit files and covenants for all customers whose loan relationship with the bank is over \$500,000 in commercial/ small business/ FSA loans or who have lines of credit over \$200,000. Furthermore, I handle the updates and communication with realtors about the properties the bank has foreclosed on and now owns. I also handle all the property subordinations dealing with gas, wind, oil and mineral leases between the bank customers and the companies leasing their land.

Advice to Students: Please don't ever bring yourself down if you don't get a job in what you think is a related field or in your field. Millersville does an amazing job of preparing you for whatever the career world throws at you and you never know if you like a job until you try it. I apply so much knowledge every day from my studies and I am in Finance and Banking and not in any of the histories. History is such a diverse and well rounded subject to study and there is so much you can pull from it. Absorb it all like a sponge. Also take as many diverse classes as you can with in your degree requirements, you never know what you might learn, enjoy and find a passion in.

**Kathleen M. Monti,** BA in History in 2011. Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012.

<u>Current position</u>: I am currently a Distance Education Librarian with Johns Hopkins University's Entrepreneurial Library Program. My team provides library services to a completely online college through a partnership with JHU's Sheridan Libraries. I assist students, staff, and faculty members with research questions, while providing information literacy instruction. I also help faculty members select library resources for their courses through the creation of course bibliographies. Finally, I create learning objects to help students navigate the research process, become information literate, and be responsible users of information.

Advice to Students: My advice to Millersville University students is to develop your skills as a researcher as much as possible. In history, we are always looking for that one item that will be the linchpin to success for our research goals. This is great, but if you are not sure where to look, this can cause a lot of setbacks. Find out who your department's librarian liaison is, ask them for help when you need it, be friendly, and treat every encounter

with a librarian as a learning experience. You will eventually build yourself an arsenal of research skills that will lead you down the road to success.

**Abigail S. Gruber,** B.S. Ed. Social Studies, Millersville University 2015; M.A. History, Millersville University 2017

<u>Current position:</u> I am a Ph.D. Student in History and a Teaching Assistant at Temple University. I aid the faculty in the department in the teaching and grading of courses for a set number of hours per week, while also being free to hold office hours and do research on my own projects.

Advice to Students: My advice to current students is to step outside of your comfort zone as often as possible and take advantage of opportunities (grants, conferences, internships) that come along. Surely, the space just outside of your comfort zone is where the growth begins. This is not to say that things will certainly fall into your lap, but rather that you should passionately strive after the career and life that you want for yourself.

Alexander J. Goodrich, BA History, 2014, MA History, 2017

<u>Current position</u>: I was a graduate assistant in the Dean's Office of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. I collected feedback on cultural events at Millersville for a year-end report on student satisfaction. I also sat on the Arts Council and Creative Campus Cohort. Occasionally, I would write for the newsletter Telling Our Story. Going into the Public History doctoral program at North Carolina State University, I will be starting as a teaching assistant.

Advice to Students: Always go the extra mile. Find something you are passionate about and do as much work as you can outside of the classroom to make yourself stand out from the crowd. Take any internship or research opportunities available,

Marauding MU Historian

# The History Department Newsletter

Millersville University
History Department
McComsey Hall
P.O. Box 1002
Millersville, PA 17551

(717) 871-7212 Maggie.Eichler@millersville.edu www.millersville.edu/history and apply for as many grants as possible. Employers and professionals look for those who show how much they truly care about their field.

### Mentoring Invitation to our alumni

We invite our alumni to participate in mentoring current majors who are thinking of going into various fields. Please contact Dr. Tanya Kevorkian if you are interested by email: tanya.kevorkian@millersville.edu

## Announcements

### Pennsylvania Historical Association conference

The Pennsylvania Historical Association conference will be in Lancaster on Thursday, October 11- Saturday, October 13. MU History Department Faculty Dr. Dennis Downey (emeritus), Dr. Tanya Kevorkian, Dr. John McLarnon, and MU BSE alum and former Millersville faculty member Dr. Terry Madonna will participate in the conference. You can see the draft of the conference program at:

https://pa-history.org/meeting/2018/

# The Careers for Historians Alumni Event and Reception

The reception will be held at Ford Atrium, McComsey Hall, on Tuesday, October 23rd, 6-7 pm, followed by the Careers for Historians Panel, 7-8:30 pm at Myers Auditorium, McComsey Hall. We invite all interested students, alumni and faculty to attend.