Dear Alumni and Friends,

I write to share with you news from the History Department.

As the incoming Chair of the Department, I was pleased to “lift up the hood” in the Fall of 2016 to find that the department has continued to maintain its high standards since I was last Chair in 2005. Our excellent professorial staff, the quality of our publications, and our dedication to teaching continue to position us above many other departments at research universities around the country.

After a national search, we offered a tenure track Assistant Professor position to a truly outstanding candidate, Kristin Roebuck, a historian of modern Japan. Kristin, who received her Ph.D. from Columbia University, has been associated with the department for the past two years as a Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow. On accepting our offer, she will begin in the Fall of 2017, teaching courses on the History of Japan in the World.

We also welcome Marysia Jonsson, an early modern Europeanist as a History Department Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow. We look forward to her teaching two courses in early modern European history that have proven very popular with our undergraduates in the past: “Magic and Demonic Creatures” and “Histories of the Apocalypse.” Another post-doctoral fellow, Noam Maggor, who joined us during the 2016-17 academic year, will continue affiliation with the department in the Fall of 2017. As a historian of the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, he will teach the course “History of American Capitalism.”

Several department faculty received a number of distinguished fellowships, prizes, and honors this year. Edward Baptist was awarded two prestigious fellowships, one from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and another from the Guggenheim Foundation, for his new book project, Predators and Prey: From Fugitives to Ferguson, Missouri. Julilly Kohler-Hausmann has received a prestigious fellowship from the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard to work on her second project that concerns voter fraud and felon disenfranchisement. Mostafa Minawi has also been awarded a prestigious fellowship, the ANAMED fellowship, from the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations in Istanbul, Turkey to work on his next book project, From Istanbul to Addis Ababa: South-South Imperialism in the Early 20th Century. Rachel Weil and Robert Travers have received year-long fellowships at the Society for the Humanities (Cornell University) to pursue their research as it is related to the 2017-18 society theme of corruption. Russell Rickford’s book, We Are an African People: Independent Education, Black Power, and the Radical Imagination was awarded the 2017 Liberty Legacy Foundation Award from the Organization of American Historians. And Ernesto Bassi has been selected by Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania to serve as Faculty-in-Residence for Cornell-in-Seville in 2017-2018.

We are pleased to announce as well that Maria Cristina Garcia was elected to two different highly prestigious organizations: the Society for American Historians and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Mary Beth Norton is currently president-elect of the American Historical Association for 2018. In addition, the Cornell University Board of Trustees has approved the promotions of Ray Craib and Tamara Loos to Full Professor, effective January 1st 2017.

Chair’s letter continued on page 7
Chen Jian  by Barry Strauss and Sandra E. Greene

Professor Chen Jian, the Hu Shih Professor of History and China-US Relations, retired from the Department in January 2017. Above all other historians of U.S.-China relations nationwide and even worldwide, Chen Jian stands out. Two of his books, China’s Road to the Korean War (1996) and Mao’s China and the Cold War (2001), have become classics and are widely assigned in history and political science courses. More than any other scholar, he has definitively evaluated the role of the Chinese leader Mao Zedong in the history of China’s foreign relations. Chen Jian’s book written in Chinese, The Road to a Global War (1989) has also become a classic. Besides writing these three books, he has edited three books and translated four others, including the translation of Philip Kuhn’s Soulstealers (trans. 1999; rev. ed. 2012), that won prizes and became a best-seller in China.

As a teacher, Chen Jian has been successful with both undergraduate and graduate students. His 2000-level survey course, “China Encounters the World,” has attracted a large enrollment and served as a “portal” course drawing students into three majors: History, Asian Studies, and China and Asia Pacific Studies (CAPS). His graduate seminars have also served students from several departments, and as a major advisor for graduate students, he has produced Ph.D.s who all have accepted promising post-doctoral fellowships and landed tenure-track jobs.

In his service to Cornell, Chen Jian has made his most significant contribution as Director of the China and Asia-Pacific Studies Program, 2006-8. He held this position during the critical transition when for the first time CAPS majors left Ithaca to spend two required semesters off campus: first, at Cornell-in-Washington in the fall semester of 2006; and then at Peking University in Beijing for the fall semester of 2007. Using his contacts in Washington and drawing on his skill as a bilingual and bicultural intermediary in Beijing, he successfully launched these two key off-campus components of CAPS and put in place operations that have endured ever since.

Chen Jian will remain in Ithaca to continue his research and writing. We look forward to seeing the publication of his many on-going scholarly book projects, including a biography of China’s preeminent diplomat, Zhou Enlai.

Julien Victor Koschmann  by Sandra E. Greene

Julien Victor Koschmann, Professor of Japanese History, will be retiring from Cornell on July 1, 2017 after a distinguished career in which he authored two important studies, Revolution and Subjectivity in Postwar Japan (1996) and The Mito Ideology: Discourse, Reform and Insurrection in Late Tokugawa Japan, 1790-1864 (1987). He also co-edited three additional volumes, Pan-Asianism in Modern Japanese History: Colonialism, Regionalism and Borders (2007), Total War and Modernization (1998) and Conflict in Modern Japanese History: The Neglected Tradition (1982). As indicated by the titles of these texts, Vic’s interests have centered on empires and colonialism, and intellectual and political thought, largely in twentieth-century Japan. His position as a visiting professor at a number of different universities in Japan is indicative of the deep collaborative ties he was able to establish with colleagues in that country. In 2001-02, he was Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo. He served in this same role at Kyoto University in 1990-91, and at the International University of Japan, Niigata in 1983-84. While at Cornell he served as Chair of the History Department between 2005 and 2009, and as Director of the East Asia Program from 1994-98. We wish Vic well in retirement.
PROFESSOR JOHN NAJEMY, Professor of Late Medieval and Renaissance European History, retired from Cornell in January of 2017. John is one of the foremost authorities on Renaissance Italy. He began as a scholar of corporatism and labor, but for many years he has been known as a dual specialist on Florence and its politics, and of course on Machiavelli on whom he offered a popular course at Cornell for a long time. After John’s book on Corporatism and Consensus in Florentine Electoral Politics (1982), which won an award from the Society for Italian Historical Studies, he published Between Friends (Princeton: 1993), a dissection of Machiavelli’s correspondence, and in 2006, his sweeping A History of Florence, 1200-1575 (Blackwell). He is also a prolific historiographical essayist (37 essays, a number in Italian journals). His books are known for their meticulous research and reasoning, which have garnered him numerous recognitions including awards from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies at the University of Toronto.

With regard to his teaching and service, John won a Clark Award for teaching in 1984. In receiving this distinction, John was recognized for his demonstrated devotion to teaching, where teaching is understood to include classroom presence, preparation and administration, student counseling (including general advising of students formally assigned, but not necessarily enrolled in the recipients’ course), development of new courses and new methods of student instruction. He also served in a number of different administrative positions within the department, including Director of Graduate Studies.

John is a genuinely gifted scholar who loves his work and who has been very dedicated to imparting his knowledge and enthusiasm to his students. Having moved to Albany, New York, John continues to be a productive scholar. He has two projects, long in research and preparation, to which he will devote himself in the coming years. One is a biography of Machiavelli (under contract with Oxford University Press) and the other a summing up of his encyclopedic knowledge of the guild structure of Florence. We look forward to seeing these completed projects in print.

PASSAGES

REMEMBERING WALT PINTNER

With deep sadness we note the death of our longtime colleague and friend, Walter M. Pintner. Walter was a leader in the history of Imperial Russian government and the military. He received his BA at the University of Chicago (1951) and his Ph.D. from Harvard in Russian history (1962). For several years before completing his dissertation, he worked with the U.S. Department in its intelligence division. He was one of the first Americans to visit and live in the Soviet Union on the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) program. His research was funded by the top foundations: American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, the National Endowment for Humanities, IREX and many more. Well trained in economics, Walter’s first book analyzed Russian Economic Policy under Nicholas I (Cornell University Press, 1967). In an unusual collaboration with the quantitative historian Don Rowney, Walter published Russian Officialdom: The Bureaucratization of Russian Society from the Seventeenth to the Twentieth Century (University of North Carolina Press, 1980). In addition to these books, Walter wrote a series of influential articles analyzing the Imperial Russian military establishment. As one reviewer noted, these articles displayed Walter’s characteristic “sympathetic understanding of those who have the difficulties of responsibility, power, and weakness combined in equal measure.”

After a first teaching post at Princeton, Walter moved to Cornell in 1962. At Cornell, Walter taught courses on the full range of Russian and Soviet history, and in 1985 inaugurated a cross-disciplinary course with Richard Rosecrance (Government Department) and Isabel V. Hull on World War I. That course is still taught today, though in slightly different form. In addition to his undergraduate courses, Walter trained a number of graduate students who have gone on to become famous scholars in their own right, including Robert Johnson, Alexander Martin, David Engermann, and Caryl Emerson.

Walter’s colleagues and students admired him for his immense knowledge, always tempered by humanity, humility, and a deep appreciation of the possibilities for good (or evil) inherent in humankind.

Walter retired in 1997 and moved with his wife, Sara, to Fallbrook, California. Sara survives him, as do his children Anne Burch and Robert Pintner, both of Anchorage, Alaska.
A major contributor to the department’s intellectual culture, the Cornell Historical Society is a community of exceptionally engaged undergraduate students whose activity centers on the journal *Ezra’s Archives*, the History Advisor Program (HAP), and a host of other—and ever-evolving—history-oriented events throughout the year. *Ezra’s Archives*, which features exemplary research in history by undergraduates at Cornell as well as other universities, published its seventh volume this year. Selected from over forty submissions, the five articles featured in this issue include a critical reassessment of eighteenth-century American politician and slave-owner Henry Laurens, an analysis of the mentality of American lawyers recruited to defend erstwhile enemies during the 1946-48 Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal, and an examination of ethnic policies towards Viet-Cambodians and Sino-Cambodians in late twentieth-century Cambodia. The History Advisor Program, meanwhile, functions as a social-intellectual hub for all students interested in studying history: its purpose is to match experienced upper-classmen “peer advisors” with freshman, sophomore, and transfer students so as to advise them about the major and history coursework.

This year, the CHS also launched its “Making History Accessible” lecture series. Matthew Karp (Assistant Professor, Princeton) delivered the series’ very successful inaugural lecture, entitled “Slave Power: How Southern Slaveholders Mastered U.S. Foreign Policy.” Other activities included dinner discussions at Becker House with History professors Judith Byfield (modern Africa), Julilily Kohler-Hausmann (modern U.S.), and Larry Glickman (modern U.S.), a tour of the Johnson Museum with Professor Eric Tagliacozzo (Southeast Asia), the by now traditional trip to the Rare and Manuscript Collections in the Kroch Library, a lecture by alumna Rose Hanson (Cornell ’15, History), a “dinner with the author” featuring *Ezra’s Archives* author Matthew McGee (Cornell ’17, Government and China and Asia Pacific Studies), and a variety of informal social events for students interested in history.

The CHS once again had stellar leadership this year. Many of its officers are graduating seniors who have been involved with CHS, *Ezra’s Archives* or HAP throughout their time at Cornell, and their intelligence, dedication, and enthusiasm will be sorely missed around the department. Julia Krupski served her second term as president of CHS and the executive board consisted of John Hall (vice president and HAP director), Ephraim Gau (secretary), Shashank Vura (treasurer), and Ethan Skelskie (social chair). This year’s editorial board for *Ezra’s Archives* was the largest yet: forty undergraduates participated in the journal’s editorial work. The two editors-in-chief were Daniel Cheong and Joshua Mensah, the managing editor was Kyra Patton, the senior editors were John Hall, Peter Biedenweg, Amanda Coate, Ethan Skelskie, Lukasz Rzycki, and the two head copy-editors were Emma Korolik and Shashank Vura. The layout editor was Mark Iraheta and the PR representative was Becky Cardinali. At this year’s honors reception, six graduating members received certificates in recognition of their work for the CHS and *Ezra’s Archives*: Peter Biedenweg, Daniel Cheong, John Hall, Emma Korolik, Julia Krupski, and Samantha Reig. Among these, two senior members also wrote honors theses: Peter Biedenweg (cum laude) and John Hall (cum laude). Congratulations!
2017 Department of History Student Awards:

Chalmers, Messenger (Undergraduate)
Awarded to an undergraduate with the thesis giving evidence of the best research and most fruitful thought in the field of human progress and the evolution of civilization during some period in human history or during human history. Two awards in 2017.
Arwa Awan and Rachel Mitnick

DeKiewiet, Cornelis W.
Awarded to two outstanding history majors (juniors) who have demonstrated unusual promise and excellence in the field.
Niall Chithelen and Christopher Feely

Duniway, Clyde A. (Book Prize)
Awarded to one student, who is deemed to be the best history/government student in the College of Arts and Sciences graduating with the respective majors.
Matthew Digirolamo

Lang, Bernard and Fannie
Awarded for best senior honors thesis in US History or American Studies.
Aurora Rojer

Litchfield, Anne Macintyre
Awarded to two outstanding woman seniors majoring in history.
Aurora Rojer and Mildred (Lucy) Whiteley

Lustig, George S.
Awarded to the outstanding senior who intends to continue the study of history at the graduate level. Two awards in 2017.
Arwa Awan and Mildred (Lucy) Whiteley

Norton, Mary Beth
Awarded to the research request for funding judged best and most worth/needy by the honors committee. Two awards in 2016-2017.
John Hall and Aurora Rojer

Tyler, Moses Coit
Awarded for the best essay by a graduate or undergraduate student in the fields of American history, literature, or folklore.
Rachel Mitnick

West, Bernard E.
Awarded competitively to the most promising graduate research scholar specializing in American history. Two awards in 2017.
Rachel Mitnick and Kevin Cruz (AMST)
Significant Events 2016-2017

Histories of Capitalism 2.0
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
September 29–October 1, 2016

With plenary talks from:

- sunny Darity and Kirsten Mullen, both scholars of the history of capitalism.
- Victoria DeGrada
- Joffin Harris
- Marissa Rodale
- Juliet Walker

For registration, program and more information:
local.cornell.edu

Medieval Plague, Modern Ebola, Invisible Africa: Genes and the Framing of Global Health History

Monica H. Green
Cornell University
November 7, 2016

Time: 4:30 PM
Place: McGraw Hall 166
A Talk Sponsored by History, Medieval Studies, African Studies and Research Centers, Anthropology, IPCC Global Health Program, Science and Technology Studies, Buser Center.

Kevin M. Kruse
Professor of History, Princeton University

"Make America Born Again: Religion and Politics in the 2016 Campaign"

Thursday, November 3, 2016
4:30 PM
165 McGraw Hall

Sponsored by the
Department of History
Free and open to the public

Greg Grandin

Carl Becker Lecture Series
Sponsored by the Department of History
Cornell University

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
4:00–6:30 PM

Racism, Obama and the Atrocities of American Exceptionalism

Wednesday, March 22, 2017
4:00–6:30 PM

The Significance of the Frontier in Post-Donald Trump’s America

Thursday, March 23, 2017
4:30–6:30 PM

Toward a New International History of the Americas

Lectures in Lewis Audiences, G76
Godwin Smith Hall
Cornell University

Lectures are free and open to the public

Interested in becoming a History or other humanities major? But...

WORRIED YOU WILL NEVER GET A JOB?

Come hear Cornell alum and former history major Jeb Sharp talk about her amazing career as a broadcast journalist and about how being a history major has impacted her career.

Two / Cornell

When: Wednesday, March 29, 2017
Where: 356 McGraw Hall
Time: 4:45 PM

All are welcome!

Our undergraduate curriculum has also continued to undergo expansion as we seek to introduce students to the discipline of History by offering a range of new courses that address different themes and world area histories. Among those offered for the first time this year, to considerable student interest were “Sports and Politics in American History,” “History goes to Hollywood,” “Revolution,” “A Global History of Love,” “Chinese Communism,” and “The American Revolutionary Era.” At the graduate level, we are pleased that **Aaron Sachs** coordinated a conference for sixty Cornell graduate students entitled, *Conference on Creative Academic Writing (CCAW): Exploring the Relationship between Artful Prose and Scholarly Production*.

While teaching and research constitute the primary activities of our faculty, the department would not be able to function well without the administrative services that our faculty provide. Among the faculty in leading roles this past year was **Judith Byfield**, Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), who will continue in this position in 2017-18. We thank **Rachel Weil** for her service as Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) these past three years. She will be passing her baton to **Claudia Verhoeven**. Please join me in welcoming Claudia to this position. On assuming the role of DGS, Claudia will pass her role as faculty advisor to the Cornell Historical Society to **Aaron Sachs**, a faculty member who comes strongly endorsed for this position by our undergraduates. **Paul Friedland** completes his first year as Associate Chair, having organized a very successful “What you can do with the History Major” colloquium.

Equally important, neither I nor any of the other faculty who serve in administrative roles in the Department would have been able to successfully complete our tasks this past academic year without our extraordinary support staff. **Kay Stickane** serves as our Administrative Manager while **Katie Kristof** is our Accounts Coordinator and the Chair’s Administrative Assistant. **Barb Donnell** is our Graduate Coordinator while **Judy Yonkin** serves as our Undergraduate Coordinator and **Claire Perez** is our Communications Assistant. We thank them for their invaluable service.

Sadly, the department has also suffered losses. **Walter Pintner**, Professor Emeritus at Cornell, who was a leader in the history of Imperial Russian government and the military, passed away (see separate article on page 3). And **Victor Seow** Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese History, will be leaving us for a position at Harvard University. We bid him a fond farewell.

On a more positive note, we have been quite pleased by the support we have continued to receive from our alumni. Alumni contributions made possible three special events this year. **Gregory Grandin**, Professor of History (New York University) and author of *Kissinger’s Shadow, the Long Reach of America’s Most Controversial Statesman*, gave the annual Carl Becker Lectures on the subject of American exceptionalism. **Kevin Kruse**, M.A. ’97, Ph.D. ’00, a professor of history at Princeton University, gave this year’s LaFeber-Silbey Lecture, on “One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America,” thanks to several generous alumni and friends including David F. Maisel ’68, Director of the American Studies Program at Boston College and award-winning author **Carlo Rotella** gave the annual Harold Seymour Lecture in Sports History on “My Punches Have Meaning – Making Sense of Boxing,” thanks to George Kirsch ’67. Alumni funds also supported a talk by award-winning reporter and history alumnna **Jeb Sharp**, “What You Can Do with A History Major!” In addition, alumni funds made possible graduate and undergraduate student research at home and abroad as well as many other lectures, seminars, and programs for individual classes. We thank all of you.

As this academic year comes to a close, we very much hope that some of our former students will make it to Ithaca this year and we look forward to seeing you personally. In the meantime, let me thank all of you for your continued interest in and generosity toward the department and its students.

Sandra E. Greene
Stephen ’59 and Madeline ’60 Anbinder Professor of African History
Seg6@cornell.edu