## GEORGE AND ANN RICHARDS

## Civil War Era Center

### Ari Kelman Joins Faculty as McCabe Greer Professor of the AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ERA

Ari Kelman, formerly professor of history at the University of California, Davis, joined Penn State's department of History this summer, succeeding Mark Neely, Jr. as the McCabe Greer Professor in the American Civil War Era. Kelman brings a wide-ranging expertise to the department, having taught courses in the Civil War and Reconstruction, the politics of memory, environmental history, Native American history, World War II, and America in the 1960s. A prolific scholar, his essays have appeared in The Journal of Urban History and The Journal of American History, as well as Slate, The Times Literary Supplement, The Nation, The Christian Science Monitor, and other publications. He also is the author of two award-winning books, A River and Its City: The Nature of Landscape in New Orleans, and A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling over the Memory of Sand Creek. A River and Its City, an environmental history of New Orleans, won the Albert Lowell Cummings Prize in 2004, which is awarded annually to the publication that makes "the most significant contribution to the study of vernacular architecture and cultural landscapes." Since joining Penn State and the Richards Center, his second book, A Misplaced Massacre, has been even



McCabe Greer Professor Ari Kelman

more celebrated. It won the Bancroft Prize, one of the oldest book prizes in the History profession, as well as the Avery O. Craven Award, the Robert M. Utley Prize, and the \$50,000 Watson Brown Award (see sidebar), all in 2014.

Praising Kelman's accomplishments, Michael Kulikowski, the head of Penn State's history department, said, "I am delighted to have a scholar whose career is so clearly in the ascendant—and I'm proud to think that we brought him on board before his new book started running the table of prizes. I think it's a testament to the department and the Center's commitment to an ambitious and forward-looking approach to scholarship in the nineteenth-century U.S. field." Kelman acknowledged the unique opportunity to join "an outstanding department with a long tradition of strength in nineteenth-century US history." He noted, "The Richards Center was a great draw for me as I contemplated coming to Penn State," adding, "It's an honor to hold the McCabe Greer chair, especially given that I'm following Mark Neely in this position."

The McCabe Greer Professorship was established through the generosity of Larry and Gretchen McCabe and George and Jane Greer, and the philanthropy of the Heinz Foundation.

#### **Kelman Wins Watson Brown Award**

Tad Brown, president of the Watson-Brown Foundation, presented Ari Kelman with the fifth annual Tom Watson Brown Book Award during the 80th annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association in Atlanta, Georgia, in November. Kelman won the prize for A Misplaced Massacre (Harvard University Press, 2013), which examines controversies surrounding the 2007 opening of the National Park Service's Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in Colorado. The site memorializes the massacre of approximately 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians by Colorado militia



troops in 1864. In addition to winning the Watson Brown Award, A Misplaced Massacre also took home the prestigious Bancroft Prize from Columbia University and the Avery O. Craven Prize from the American Historical Association.

The \$50,000 Watson Brown Book Award, one of the largest book prizes offered in the country, is presented annually by the Society of Civil War Historians to the author of the most outstanding book on the causes, conduct, or effects of the Civil War. The award honors the late philanthropist and communications magnate Tom Watson Brown. He was the son of the late Walter J. Brown, a Georgia journalist and broadcaster who established the Watson-Brown Foundation in 1970 to provide college scholarships for underprivileged high school students and to promote research into the history and culture of the South.

PENNSTATE



#### Glymph Wins Richards Prize



Thavolia Glymph

Thavolia Glymph, Associate Professor of African and African American Studies and History at Duke University, won the annual George and Ann Richards Prize for the best article published in *The Journal of the Civil* 

War Era in 2013. Her article, "Rose's War and the Gendered Politics of Slave Insurgency in the Civil War," appeared in the journal's December issue. Challenging our focus on the legal genesis of wartime emancipation and its impact on enslaved men, the essay highlights the often violent means by which enslaved women, as well as men, sought to claim their freedom during the conflict. The prize committee commended the way Dr. Glymph "connected localized slave insurgency with the larger military war effort during the waning days of the war, as well as her nuanced explanation of women's role as both the creators and recorders of armed rebellion." The committee further praised the article as "an example of outstanding historical research and writing, the kind that can inspire established scholars and students alike." Awarded annually, the Richards Prize recognizes the generosity of George and Ann Richards, who have been instrumental in the growth of the Richards Civil War Era Center and in the founding of The Journal of the Civil War Era.



# CENTER WELCOMES CYNTHIA GREENLEE AS 2014-2015 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

In August the Richards Center welcomed Cynthia Greenlee as its latest postdoctoral fellow in African American history. Greenlee earned her PhD in 2014 from Duke University, where she studied under the guidance of award-winning historian Laura Edwards. Her dissertation, "Black girls and Childhood on Trial in South Carolina, 1885-1917," explored the dramatic intersections of race, gender, and childhood in the South's Jim Crow legal system, arguing that black girls and their families often were able to employ girls' gender and age to their advantage in court cases, either in seeking redress for crimes committed against them or lenience for crimes for which they were being tried. Cynthia previously earned a B.A. in History and International Studies and an M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, as well as an M.A. in History from Duke. As a graduate student, she earned a prestigious Ford Foundation Dissertation



Dr. Cynthia Greenlee

Completion Fellowship, as well as a highly competitive Littleton-Griswold research grant in U.S. legal history from the American Historical Association. She has presented papers at the annual meetings of the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, the National Women's Studies Association, and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, among other conferences and invited lectures. She also was a participant in the Richards Center's inaugural Emerging Scholars workshop for advanced graduate students and recent PhDs. Her positive experience at the workshop, including her interactions with Penn State faculty and graduate students encouraged her to jump at the chance to apply for the Richards Center's postdoctoral fellowship program.

Cynthia's main research interests concern African-American legal cultures of the late 19th and 20th centuries, the period when Jim Crow segregation took firm root. During her fellowship at Penn State, she will pursue new research into the ways that the law, medicine and early social science converged in the lives of black Americans living in the late 19th and early 20th century. As part of this research, she plans to complete an article on the history of abortion and African Americans from 1850 to the late 20th century. Cynthia explained that she chose the Richards Center's postdoctoral fellowship "because I knew that there is a robust group of nineteenth-century scholars with whom I could be in intellectual dialogue. I am also attracted to the Center's obvious commitment to understanding the Civil War and its legacy through diverse lenses."

An added attraction is the fellow's spring manuscript workshop, which, Cynthia enthusiastically acknowledged, "will give me the chance to have the best scholars in the field review my first book manuscript." Cynthia's manuscript workshop, titled "Black Girls and Childhood on Trial in South Carolina, 1885-1920," will take place in April. Two distinguished scholars in the profession will review Cynthia's manuscript and offer constructive critiques to assist her in readying it for publication.

The postdoctoral fellowship was made possible by the generous support of Bobby and Bonnie Hammel, Tracy and Ted McCourtney, Anne and George Miller, Mark and Ann Persun, and Hal and Sandy Rosenberg. The fellowship is an integral part of the Center's mission to advance scholarship in understudied aspects of the Civil War era, particularly African American history.



Reverend James Lawson and Dr. Crystal Sanders

#### Reverend James Lawson Speech Marks 50th Anniversary of 1964 Civil Rights Act

On October 9, Civil Rights leader Reverend James Lawson delivered a talk commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to a packed auditorium of faculty and students in Penn State's Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building. The talk was organized by Crystal Sanders, Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies, with assistance from the Richards Center, the Rock Ethics Institute, the Africana Research Center, and the Penn State Libraries. Reverend Lawson was one of the pre-eminent leaders of the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. A devotee of the Gandhian philosophy of nonviolent protest, he helped to coordinate the Freedom Rides in 1961 and the Meredith March in 1966. While working as a pastor at the Centenary Methodist Church in Memphis, he helped to organize the city's sanitation workers strike of 1968. Addressing those strikers and their supporters in Memphis on the eve of his assassination, Martin Luther King called Lawson "the leading theorist and strategist of nonviolence in the world." In his speech, Reverend Lawson reminded his audience that the struggle to ensure basic civil rights for all people is an ongoing one. He urged them not to think of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act as a commemoration of the accomplishment of civil rights, but rather a reminder that the work is unfinished. He closed his speech to a standing ovation from the capacity crowd.

The Richards Center was able to assist in the organization of this event thanks to funding from the NEH's *We the People* grant.



#### NEH Celebrates 50th Anniversary

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Endowment



for the Humanities. The NEH is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the country, administering more than \$100,000,000 in annual grants designed to advance teaching and learning in our educational institutions, to promote original research and scholarship, and to enhance access to the country's cultural and educational resources. The Richards Center has been a beneficiary of NEH funding since 2005 when it won a \$1,000,000 We the People challenge grant, one of the largest grants awarded in the We the People program. The grant enabled the Richards Center to raise an additional \$3,000,000 in matching funds to support its mission of promoting original scholarship in the Civil War era and sharing that scholarship with the public. The Center has used the grant to support graduate student and faculty research, host visiting lecturers, organize conferences and workshops, preserve Pennsylvania's Civil War era history through the People's Contest digital archiving project, and fund internships for undergraduate students. William Blair, Liberal Arts Professor of American History and Director of the Richards Center, said, "the NEH's We the People grant, along with considerable financial support from dedicated alumni, has allowed Penn State and the Richards Center to become a national leader in the study of the Civil War era."





#### Miles to Deliver 2015 Brose Lectures



Dr. Tiya Miles

The 2015 Brose Lectures will take place November 5-7 in Paterno Library's Foster Auditorium. Tiya Miles, professor at the University of Michigan with appointments in the Departments of American Culture,

Afro-American and African Studies, History, Women Studies, and the Native American Studies Program, will deliver the lectures. Her lecture series will be titled *Tales from the Haunted South*, and its subject will be the growing popularity of ghost tours as a form of historical entertainment. Specifically, Dr. Miles will examine how southern ghost tours appropriate African Americans' cultural experiences and commercialize the history of suffering, particularly during slavery, for the purpose of entertainment. Her lectures will raise larger questions about how the commercialization of slave suffering and African American experiences of racism and hardship affects historical memory.



Dr. Judy Giesberg with Janice and Steven Brose

#### **Brose Lectures Examine Life in Civil War Camps**

In November, Dr. Judith Giesberg, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of History at Villanova University, delivered the annual Steven and Janice Brose Distinguished Lectures. Her lectures explored a little-studied but important topic: the sexual culture of Union military camps during the Civil War. Dr. Giesberg examined how soldiers' practices of consuming and even producing pornographic materials during idle hours led to a vigorous campaign to stamp out obscenity in the postwar period. The lively lectures demonstrated how the sexual culture of the Union military camps of the Civil War shaped how Americans defined obscenity and the interests of public morality in the late nineteenth century, culminating with the anti-obscenity Comstock Laws of the 1870s.

Dr. Giesberg will expand on these lectures for publication in UNC Press' Brose Book Series. In 1998, Steven and Janice Brose established the lecture series with an endowment that supported a single lecture by a distinguished visitor exploring fresh critical insights into the Civil War era. Beginning in 2001, the Brose Lecture was expanded into a series of three related lectures delivered over three successive days. This enabled Penn State to enter into an agreement with UNC Press to publish the annual lectures. Seven books have appeared in the series since 2005. Steven, a 1969 honors graduate in Political Science from Penn State, has spent his legal career with the international law firm of Steptoe & Johnson in Washington, D.C., where he heads the Regulatory and Industry Affairs Department. Janice attended Penn State for two years before earning a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from The City College of New York. She later received an associate's degree in Nursing with certifications in Rehabilitation Nursing and Case Management.

#### Second Annual Emerging Scholars Workshop Features Inter-disciplinary Scholarship



Dr. Sibylle Fischer

The Richards Center held its second annual Emerging Scholars Workshop in April at the Nittany Lion Inn. The workshop brings together from around the country advanced graduate students in the process of writing dissertations and newly minted Ph.D.'s whose research concerns issues of race and gender in the Civil War era.. Participants are chosen via a competitive process by a selection committee consisting of the Richards Center's postdoctoral fellow, two advanced graduate students, and the center's managing director.

The workshop is designed to showcase innovative research by promising young scholars and foster scholarly networks among those scholars and Penn State faculty and graduate students.

The April workshop, whose theme was *New Perspectives on Violence and Revolution in the African Diaspora*, was organized by the Center's postdoctoral fellow, Sasha Turner. Graduate students from the University's Diaspora Studies Group, which brings together students from various departments working on aspects of African American history and culture, also assisted in organizing the event. Faculty and fellows from the Africana Research Center and the Center for American Literary Studies also participated. The workshop highlighted some of the most innovative

scholarship being conducted by young scholars in such disciplines as history, English literature, comparative literature, and African and African American studies. Workshop participants came from Harvard, Princeton, Berkeley, Cornell, and Vanderbilt, among other institutions. Dr. Sibylle Fischer, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and Comparative Literature at New York University, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Fischer is the author of the award-winning *Modernity Disavowed: Haiti and the Cultures of Slavery in the Age of Revolution* (Duke University Press, 2004), and her keynote addressed the perils and rewards of transnational and interdisciplinary approaches to studying the African diaspora.

Workshop participants praised the event. One of the participants concluded, "This was a great experience; collegial, enlightening, and rather enthusing! I hope you continue hosting these workshops!" The third annual Emerging Scholars Workshop will take place April 24 and 25 on campus at the Nittany Lion Inn. Current Richards Center postdoctoral fellow Cynthia Greenlee is organizing the workshop with the assistance of graduate students Emily Seitz and Evan Rothera. The theme of the 2015 workshop will be *New Perspectives on Migration and Mobility in the Long Nineteenth Century*.

The Emerging Scholars Workshop is made possible by the NEH's *We the People* grant. The inaugural event also received generous support from Carol Reardon, George Winfree Professor of American History.



The executive tour at the Chamberlin Hotel

## Executive Tour Visits Williamsburg, Virginia

Last May, the Richards Center's Board of Visitors visited Williamsburg and other sites on the Virginia peninsula to learn more about the region's Civil War history. Among the highlights of the trip was a visit to Fort Monroe, known as Freedom's Fortress, in Hampton, Virginia. It was at Fort Monroe in May 1861 that Union General Benjamin Butler declared escaped slaves contraband of war and refused to return two slaves who had escaped to the fort to their owner. The tour of Fort Monroe was especially exciting for the group, as it was led by Penn State graduates Laura Lawfer Orr ('06), who was once education and volunteer coordinator at the Fort Monroe Museum, Tim Orr ('10), assistant professor of military history and the Civil War at Old Dominion University, and Jonathan White ('01), a professor of American Studies and the Civil War at Christopher Newport University. The group also visited the Mariner's Museum and Monitor Center in Newport News, where participants received a behind the scenes tour of the laboratory that is preserving and refurbishing parts of the famous ironclad USS Monitor, including its distinctive turret. The Monitor participated in the first battle between two ironclad ships when it fought the CSS Virginia at Hampton Roads, Virginia in March 1862. Lost at sea off of the North Carolina coast later that year, part of the ship was salvaged from the ocean floor in 1995 to be preserved at the Monitor Center. George Winfree Professor of American History Carol Reardon conducted a tour of the Lee's Mill Battlefield outside Newport News, which was the site of the first serious fighting during the Army of the Potomac's Peninsula Campaign in the spring of 1862. Though Williamsburg is best known for its colonial history, the group learned about the town's occupation by the Union army during the Civil War and the emancipation of slaves there in 1863. Costumed interpreters, portraying actual townspeople who lived through these events, helped bring their experiences to life. The 2015 executive tour will visit New Orleans, Louisiana in March.

#### Arthur L. Welsh Memorial Award

In Williamsburg the Richards Center Board of Visitors presented the Arthur L. Welsh Memorial Award to Mark Neely in recognition of his long service to Penn State and the Richards Center. Mark came to Penn State in 1998 as the inaugural McCabe Greer Professor in the Civil War Era. During his tenure



Mark Neely

he published prolifically, producing half a dozen books and numerous articles, essays, and book chapters. Mark also was integral in the launch of the Richards Center, helping to shape its mission, meeting with alumni, and delivering numerous public talks each year, all of which helped to raise the profile of the center as one of the country's premier institutions for the study of the Civil War era. The Arthur L. Welsh Memorial Award honors the memory of **Arthur L. Welsh**, a retired professor of economics from Penn State and avid student of the American Civil War. He was a pioneering member of the Richards Center.



#### **Digital Project Earns Praise**

The People's Contest digital project received a glowing review in The Journal of American History, one of the leading journals in the History profession. The reviewer commended the project's "innovative model for the future of digital history, combining and archive, a gateway to primary source collections, and a journal." It drew special praise for its "delightfully focused" mission "to help scholars understand the Pennsylvania home front during the American Civil War." The project continues to grow, surpassing 680 collections in its online database. The People's Contest has digitized 17 unique collections of Civil War era materials, which are available on the project's website. Four additional collections are in the process of being digitized and will become available on the website (peoplescontest.psu.edu) this year. The People's Contest advances research into the lived experiences of Pennsylvanians during the Civil War era by identifying, cataloging, and digitizing Civil War era collections from archives throughout the state to make them more accessible to scholars, teachers, and enthusiasts.

## DIGITAL PROJECT TO PLACE DESERTER ROSTER ONLINE

The People's Contest digital archiving project, a joint collaboration of the Richards Center and the Penn State Libraries, is in the process of creating a searchable, online database for the Descriptive List of Deserters from Pennsylvania Military Units during the Civil War. The list contains the names of over 24,000 Pennsylvanians who deserted from their military units during the Civil War. As Director of the Richards Center William Blair recounts in his book, With Malice Toward Some: Treason and Loyalty in the Civil War Era, a handful of states asked the War Department to provide them with a comprehensive roster of deserters after the Civil War, primarily to punish them by denying them the right to vote after the war. In addition to their names, the roster lists deserters' physical descriptions, country or state of birth, occupation, their place of enrollment in the military, and the place and time of their desertion. This wealth of data could enable historians to identify the primary factors that led men to desert during the war. The sheer amount of data, however, has prevented historians from studying the deserter list systematically.

Thanks to a generous gift from George Winfree Professor of American History Carol Reardon, the Richards Center and the Penn State Libraries are working with a company that specializes in creating digital databases of Civil War era collections. The company will turn the roster into a searchable, digital database that will be available online at *The People's Contest* website (peoplescontest.psu.edu) by the end of 2015. Blair described the potential impact of this digital database: "the digitization of the deserters roster provides scholars with an unparalleled opportunity. It will allow them to mine the data that it contains in new ways, bringing us closer to answering the question, who deserted during the Civil War?"

The digitization of the Deserter Roster is made possible thanks to the support of Tracy and Ted McCourtney. *The People's Contest* digital project is supported by the generosity of Tom and Gee Gee Ferrier, Bobby and Bonnie Hammel, Sue and Joe Paterno, and George and Ann Richards. The NEH's *We the People* grant also provided important funding for this initiative.

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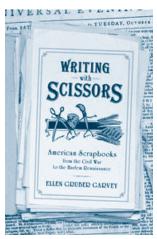
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Dr. Ellen Gruber Garvey

#### Visiting Scholar Discusses "Hidden Histories" of African Americans

In January 2014, visiting scholar Ellen Gruber Garvey, professor of English at the New Jersey City University, delivered a lecture, "Hidden Histories: African American Scrapbooks Talk Back to the White Press in the 19th Century," in Paterno Library's Foster Auditorium. Garvey's talk was jointly sponsored by the Penn State University Libraries and the Richards Civil War Era Center. It was made possible through a research grant from the Penn State Africana Research Center that is supporting Penn State Libraries Digitization and Preservation Department's condition assessment of the monumental William Dorsey Scrapbook Collection, currently on loan at Penn State from Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. Garvey's talk highlighted an ongoing effort by *The People's Contest*, a joint digital archiving project by the Richards Center and Penn State libraries, to preserve the valuable but aging collection (see Digital Project to Place Deserter Roster Online).



Garvey is the author of Writing with Scissors: American Scrapbooks from the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance, published in 2012 by Oxford University Press. The book broke new ground by analyzing scrapbooking as an historical and cultural practice, one that shed new light on the lives and interests of African American scrapbookers, in particular. Garvey based her research on African American scrapbook collections, including the scrapbooks of William Henry Dorsey. During her talk, Garvey promoted the use of idiosyncratic and obscure sources like scrapbooks in order to learn about the lives of people who often left behind few written records of their own.

#### Acclaimed Scholar to Conduct Public Talk and Workshop on Life and Death of Edgar Allan Poe

Steve Berry, Gregory Professor of the Civil War Era and Director of the Center for Virtual History at the University of Georgia, will deliver a public talk at Penn State on February 20 and conduct a



Steve Berry

workshop for Richards Center faculty and graduate students the following day. Professor Berry's lecture, "Drinking Yourself to Death in the Grand Age of Temperance: Edgar Allan Poe and the Art of Self-Destruction," will examine what Poe's well-known alcoholism meant in an era of increasing temperance activism. He will discuss the causes and effects of Poe's drinking, the way it was exposed and pilloried in the temperance press, and how the attempt to bury him in ignominy as a self-destructive alcoholic ironically secured his immortality.

Professor Berry's workshop, "CSI Dixie: Death Investigation and the Civil War Era South," will instruct attendees in the use of 19th century coroners' reports to shed light on life and death of ordinary southerners in this period. Professor Berry will show how coroners' reports reveal common causes of death in the Civil War era South and southern officials' reaction to them. "No society should be judged solely from its morgue," Berry argues, "but every society has to answer for its morgue."

# CAROL REARDON CREATES WINFREE PROFESSOR INTERNSHIPS

Carol Reardon, George Winfree Professor of American History, created two Winfree Professor internships in 2014 for undergraduate students. The internships, at Gettysburg National Military Park and the new Seminary Ridge Museum, are designed to expose History majors to careers in public history while providing these institutions with much needed manpower. Nick Welsh ('15) interned at Gettysburg in an archival research position, an area of significant need for the park. Nick conducted research at various archives throughout the state to fill gaps in the park's research library. His efforts were so successful that he discovered previously undocumented information about the early phases of the Gettysburg campaign and delivered a presentation on his findings on the last day of his internship to the entire National Military Park staff.

Colin Hirth ('15) interned at the Seminary Ridge Museum, which opened July 1, 2013, the 150th anniversary of the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg. Located on the grounds of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, the museum educates the public about the first day's battle, the use of the seminary as a military hospital from July to September 1863, the role religion in the Civil War era, and the relationship between the seminary and the local African American community. Colin conducted research for the creation of an exhibit about the doctors who served in the Seminary hospital after the Battle of Gettysburg. His research enabled him to create biographies for the surgeons who served in the hospital, and he even discovered nine additional surgeons who worked at the seminary, but whose service previously had gone entirely unrecorded. As a result of Colin's work, the museum has planned a special display in its rotating gallery for the summer, centering on the surgeons and their experiences.

The Winfree Professor internships are funded through the generosity of Tracy and Ted McCourtney.



Dr. Carol Reardon at Lee's Mills Battlefield

#### Recent Ph.D. Graduates Accept New Positions

Congratulations to Will Bryan ('13), Antwain Hunter ('14), Rachel Moran ('13), and Tim Wesley ('10), all of whom were hired to new positions in 2014 after completing their PhDs. Will landed a coveted postdoctoral fellowship at the Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Emory University. The prestigious Fox Center fellowships are among the most competitive in the country. During his fellowship Will is preparing his first book manuscript for publication. Antwain Hunter earned a tenure track position in the Department of History and Anthropology at Butler University in Indianapolis. Rachel started a lectureship in the Department of History at the University of North Texas in Dallas, teaching courses in History and Women's Studies. Tim has taken a tenure track job in the Department of History and Philosophy at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee.

#### **Ann Richards Prize Awarded to Three Students**

The department of History hosted a reception at the Nittany Lion Inn February 2014 to honor the winners of the inaugural Ann Richards Prize for the best graduate student papers. Judges for the Richards Prize consisted of professors from a variety of fields in the history department. Richards Center-affiliated graduate students won each of the department-wide Richards Prizes. **Tyler Sperrazza** won in the best historiographical essay category for his paper "Historians and Blackface Minstrelsy." **Katie Falvo**'s "A Language Passed Through Me: The Quaker Traveling Ministry and the Rhetorical Education of Sarah Cresson" earned recognition

for the best paper by a graduate student at the coursework stage. For the final Richard Prize, the award committee recognized **Sean Trainor** for best paper by a Ph.D. candidate at the dissertation writing stage for "The Celebrated Razor-Strop Man of New York on Respectability, Power, and the Moral World of Antebellum American Capitalism." During the ceremony, the prize winners read their papers to an audience of faculty and fellow graduate students, followed by comments and questions from faculty respondents and the audience. The Richards Awards come with a \$200 honorarium for each winning paper.



Richards Prize winners (from left to right) Sean Trainor, Katie Falvo, and Tyler Sperrazza



Samantha "Sam" Sarsfield on the Maryland Heights overlooking Harpers Ferry

#### Undergraduate Interns Learn Public History Techniques at Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry

This past summer the Richards Center sent four undergraduate students to intern at the national parks at Gettysburg and Harpers Ferry. The internships introduce students to techniques of historical interpretation and preservation, expose them to careers in public history, and assist the national parks' mission to educate park visitors and the general public about their history and shared heritage. History major Monique Valerio ('15), a visitors services intern in 2013 at Harpers Ferry, returned for an internship at Gettysburg in the museum and archives. She thrived in the position, processing and cataloging a tremendous amount of the park's records to make them more easily searchable by future historians and learning methods of archival maintenance in the process. Looking at the sheer volume of files she processed at the end of her internship, Monique proudly realized, "I am a part of the Gettysburg history now because of my part in documenting" the management of the park over much of its existence. Joining Monique at Gettysburg was fellow History major and rising sophomore Brandon Benner ('17). During his internship in the park's visitor services branch, he developed a tour on the third day's battle and gave living history demonstrations about the material lives of Gettysburg soldiers. A lifelong history buff, Brandon was ecstatic to have this internship opportunity and took his responsibility as an interpreter of the park's history seriously. As he wrote in his internship journal, "I'm honored to be a part of this process of reuniting people with their past."

At Harpers Ferry, Secondary Education majors Samantha (Sam) Sarsfield (fall '15) and Matthew Martino ('15) interned in the park's education and visitor services divisions, respectively. Sam developed and led living-history programs for elementary and middle school groups while appearing in period dress. Being allowed to develop and lead these programs on her own, after a suitable training period, led Sam to write enthusiastically in her internship journal, "For the first time, I felt like an actual teacher!" Matt developed tours for the general public that focused on the major battles fought at Harpers Ferry during the war. In the process he learned useful interpretive techniques aimed at making a personal connection between the visitors and the park and its history. In his post-internship exit interview, Matt was proud to tell us that he began using those techniques to great effect in his student teaching practicum this past fall.

Sam summed up the value of these undergraduate internships when she wrote in her journal, "How lucky am I that I got to spend my summer working in such an incredible place with such an amazing group of people, having experiences that I will be talking about for the rest of my life?"

The internships are made possible by the generosity of Larry and Lynne Brown and the NEH's We the People grant.

#### Society of Civil War Historians Conference

The Society of Civil War Historians (SCWH) hosted its fifth biennial conference at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel in



Baltimore, Maryland, June 12 through 14, 2014. The conference featured 23 panels and roundtables and attracted 233 attendees, including 57 graduate students. Richards Center affiliated faculty member Tony Kaye presided over the panel, "State Asunder: Maryland in the Civil War Era," on the second day of the conference. The panel included Penn State graduates Timothy Orr ('10) and Jonathan White ('01) among the presenters. At the conference's opening banquet, Society president Anne Rubin presented the Excellence in Public History Award to Jason Roe and David LaCrone of the Kansas City Public Library in Kansas City, Missouri. The \$5,000 award was given in recognition of the library's project, Civil War on the Western Border: The Missouri-Kansas Conflict, 1854-1865, which has built a searchable online archive of approximately 6,000 digitized sources related to the conflict from 25 archives in Missouri and Kansas. The Excellence in Public History Award was made possible by the generosity of Tracy and Ted McCourtney.

The SCWH promotes the integration of military, social, political, and other fields of history in the Civil War era while bringing together historians, graduate students, and professionals who interpret history at a variety of public institutions. The Richards Center serves as the organizer of the biennial meeting. The Society will host its fifth biennial conference at The Chattanoogan Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee, June 16-18, 2016.



### In THE NEWS

#### **Faculty News**

William Blair: Richards Center director and Liberal Arts Professor of American History William Blair's latest book With Malice Toward Some, was published last spring by UNC Press and immediately was made a selection of the History Book Club. Blair participated in a virtual book signing at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago, May 24th. The signing was streamed live via the internet, and online purchasers were able to have books personally inscribed and mailed to them. In November, the online journal Civil War Monitor interviewed Blair about the book. The interview can be streamed online at the Civil War Monitor's website. Last March, Dr. Blair was a Strickland Visiting Scholar at Middle Tennessee State University in March, where he led a seminar and gave a lecture titled, "Military Interference in Elections and the 13th Amendment."

Lori Ginzberg: Professor of History and Women's Studies Lori Ginzberg took part in a roundtable panel, The Politics of and in Women's History in the Era of the Early Republic, at the Society for Historians of the Early Republic's annual meeting in Philadelphia in July.

Amy Greenberg: Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of History and Women's Studies Amy Greenberg won the Myra Bernath Book Award from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations for her book, A Wicked War. Last spring she was named a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. She authored an entry on the filibusterer William Walker for The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Military and Diplomatic History, and her essay, "Conquest and the Nation State," appeared in the March 2014 issue of Reviews in American History. In April, Amy received the Class of 1933 Distinction in the Humanities Award from the College of the Liberal Arts. This past fall she delivered talks on her biography of Sarah Polk at the University of Wisconsin, on A Wicked War at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and on her current project on American anti-imperialism at a symposium on empire and labor at the University of California at Santa Barbara. The previous spring she was invited to deliver the Langston Lincoln Lecture at York College. Greenberg followed that by delivering papers at the annual meetings of the Organization of American Historians and the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. As editor of the Cornell University Press series, The United States in the World, she saw three new titles published in 2014.

Carol Reardon: George Winfree Professor of American History Carol Reardon's book, A Field Guide to Gettysburg (co-authored with Col. Tom Vossler) has been through two printings and was recognized as one of the top-selling Civil War books of 2013 by Civil War Monitor magazine. In December, the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table honored it with its Book Award for Civil War books published the previous calendar year. The award was especially gratifying considering the stiff competition posed by a number of fine books published in 2013, the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Gettysburg. This award follows on the heels of the Bachelder-Coddington Award for the best book published about Gettysburg in 2013. In April, Reardon delivered the 2014 Burnham Lecture in Civil War History at the University of Mississippi's Center for Civil War Research. The lecture, "Sorrow and Survival: Providing for the Families of Gettysburg's Soldier Dead," explored differences in providing welfare for the families of Union and Confederate soldiers killed in the battle. In May and June, she also conducted leadership seminars for the federal air marshal's service.

Crystal Sanders: Assistant Professor of History Crystal Sanders spent the 2013-2014 academic year as a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she completed revisions to her first book project. While in Cambridge, she also wrote an article on the history of beach segregation in North Carolina that will appear in the April 2015 issue of the North Carolina Historical Review. Sanders also completed a book chapter on Clara Burrill Bruce, the first African American editor-in-chief of a law review in the United States at Boston University. Bruce was the daughter-in-law of Reconstructionera United States Senator Blanche Bruce of Mississippi and graduated at the top of the Boston University Law School Class of 1926. The chapter will appear in an edited collection titled Liberating Minds, Liberating Society: Black Women and the Development of American Culture and Society published by the Association of Black Women Historians. In February 2014, she participated in the Triangle African American History Colloquium at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and this past September she was an invited speaker at the University of Pennsylvania's 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the War on Poverty.

Nan Woodruff: Professor of History and African American Studies Nan Woodruff is undertaking a year-long, residential fellowship with the National Humanities Center in North Carolina. The prestigious, highly competitive fellowship will allow her to complete her current book project, Living with the Legacies of White Supremacy: History, Memory, Trauma, and Violence in the Civil Rights Movement. She

received research grants from the Africana Research Center and the American Philosophical Society to support the project. In May, she presented a paper drawn from this project at the Berkshire Conference in Women's History in Toronto for a panel that she organized on History, Memory, and Trauma in the Post-WWII South. In April, Nan was honored by the College of the Liberal Arts with the Stephanie J. Pavoucek-Shields Award for Faculty Excellence.

#### **Student News**

William Cossen: Doctoral candidate Bill Cossen's article, "Monk in the Middle: The Awful Disclosures of the Hotel Dieu Nunnery and the Making of Catholic Identity," appeared in the spring 2014 issue of the American Catholic Studies. Cossen published his second article, "Catholics, Constitutions, and Conventions: Bishop John England and the Democratization of American Catholicism," in the fall 2014 issue of The South Carolina Historical Magazine. His article, "Education in the Name of the Lord: The Rise and Decline of the Hartford Diocesan Labor Institute and the Fate of Catholic Labor Schools" will appear in a forthcoming issue of The Catholic Historical Review. In January 2014, Bill won the Presidential Graduate Scholarship from the American Catholic Historical Association for his paper, "Philippine Colonization and the American Catholic Press: A Study in Religious Imperialism," which he delivered at the association's 94th annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Kathryn Falvo: A doctoral candidate in History and Women's Studies, Falvo presented a paper, "Friends and Mothers: Gender and the Work of Community Cohesion in the Quaker Church, 1780-1820" at the international conference, Gender, Religion, and the Atlantic World in Newcastle, United Kingdom last May. In June, she presented the paper, "7,459 Miles in the Name of the Lord: Traveling Ministers and the Possibilities of Digital Scholarship for Quaker Historians," at the Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists at Guilford College in Westtown, PA, last June. In January of this year, Katie presented another paper, "Mapping the Community: ArchGIS and the History of Religious Experience," at the prestigious annual meeting of the American Historical Association. Her paper was part of a panel that explored employing digital technologies to enhance women's history.

Lauren Golder: A doctoral candidate in History and Women's Studies, Golder presented the paper at "Sex as Protest: Gilded Age Anarcha-Feminism and Sex Radicalism," at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference in Chicago this past April. She presented a version of that paper at the Penn State Women's Studies Graduate Organization

annual conference that same month. Lauren followed that with a trip to the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka as part of her research into early 20th century anarchist and feminist activists.

Chris Hayashida-Knight: A doctoral candidate in History and Women's Studies, Hayashida-Knight authored an article on feminist influences on contemporary fathering for the San Francisco publication, Golden Gate Mother's Group Magazine, published in February 2014. Chris, who researches antebellum nationalism and gender roles, was invited to be a panel respondent for a local screening of the 2013 documentary film, Girl Rising, last March. The film addresses contemporary women's and girls' empowerment. In January, he won a College of Liberal Arts External Incentive Award.

Evan Rothera: Doctoral candidate Evan Rothera published two book reviews online in 2014 for the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era and Civil War Monitor magazine. He also received three research fellowships, including the William and Madeline Welder Smith Research Travel Award from the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas, a short-term fellowship from the Frances S. Summersell Center for the Study of the South, and a Filson Fellowship from the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, Kentucky. The fellowships supported Evan's research for his dissertation, "Reconstructions in America: The United States, Mexico, and Argentina, 1861-1880."

**Emily Seitz**: Seitz, a doctoral candidate in History and Women's Studies, was a co-organizer of the Penn State Women's Studies Graduate Student Organization annual conference, which took place in April. She received a travel grant from the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science to attend the organization's annual meeting in St. Louis in March. At the conference she presented the paper, "'Generally Disabled Voices': Patients as Biopolitical Actors in the Early Birth Control Movement." She presented another version of this paper at the Women's Studies Graduate Organization conference in April.

Tyler Sperrazza: Sperrazza was accepted into the dual degree program in History and African American Studies upon completing his first year in the graduate program. He also won the Ann Richards Award for Best Graduate Student Historiographic Paper, as well as the E-Tu Zen Sun Teaching Award, given annually to the top teaching assistant in the department. Tyler earned a Master's Thesis Fellowship from the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, KY, and the Stitzer Seed Grant for summer research from Penn State's department of History. The Filson fellowship and Stitzer grant will allow Tyler to travel to archives in support of his dissertation project, which examines the history of nineteenth century African American theater. Additionally, he has been awarded a \$2,000 grant from Penn State's Africana Research Center to fund research at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the Harvard Theater Collection.

Sean Trainor: A doctoral candidate in History and Women's Studies, Trainor has gained widespread attention for his research into men's grooming in the 19th century. In January 2014 his article, "The Racially Fraught History of the American Beard," appeared in The Atlantic online. The following April, The Appendix, an online humanities journal, published his article "The Beard That Wasn't: Abe Lincoln's Whiskers," in April.

These students' achievements were made possible by the thoughtful support of Steven and Janice Brose, Larry and Lynne Brown, Lewis and Karen Gold, Matt Isham, Larry and Gretchen McCabe,

Tracy and Ted McCourtney, George and Anne Miller, George Middlemas and Sherry Petska, Mark and Ann Persun, and Mitchell and Alice Schmidt whose scholarship programs support student research, conference presentations, and publications

#### **New Graduate Students**



Sara Kern





Xiangyuan "Steven" Xu

Sara Kern, Kailie Smith, and Xiangyun "Steven" Xu joined the Richards Center as first year graduate students in August. Sara earned a B.A. in History in 2013 from Susquehanna University, where she was a presidential fellow and a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society. Her research interest focuses on the social history of medicine in the nineteenth century. Kailie attended Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), completing her B.A. in History in 2013 and earning a VCU Academic Achievement Award as a senior. Enrolled in the History and Women's Studies dual degree program, Kailie plans to research the construction of modern sexuality and

issues of sexual equity. Steven earned his B.A. and M.A. in History from Peking University in 2011 and 2014, respectively. He won numerous scholarships both as an undergraduate and graduate student and earned a National Scholarship Award from China's Ministry of Education, the highest national award made to graduate students.

#### **Women's Studies Graduate Conference Receives Support from Richards Center**

The Richards Center contributed a \$1,000 grant to the Women's Studies Graduate Organization (WSGO) to assist in the organization of their 13th annual graduate student conference, "The Future of Women's Studies and Women's Studies of the Future." The conference took place on April 5, 2014. The renowned scholar Leela Fernandes, Glenda Dickerson Collegiate Professor of Women's Studies and Political Science at the University of Michigan, delivered the keynote address for the conference. The event also featured an address by Neferti X.M. Tadiar, Department Chair and Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Barnard College, Columbia University. Richards Center graduate student Emily Seitz was one of the organizers of the conference and also presented a paper at the event. Lauren Golder also presented a paper at the conference, and Chris Hayashida-Knight served as a moderator for one of the conference panels.

Funds from the NEH's We the People grant supported the organization of the conference.

#### **Center Hosts Dissertation Proposal Workshop**

As part of its mission to provide opportunities for young scholars to present their research, the Richards Center hosted a dissertation proposal workshop in December for Kathryn (Katie) Falvo. Falvo was admitted to PhD candidacy in 2014. At the workshop, she presented her proposal, "Free him wholly from the lusts of the flesh pots": A History of Vegetarianism in Nineteenth Century America. Her dissertation will examine the emergence of vegetarianism as a moral reform movement in the nineteenth century, focusing on the movement's belief that dietary reform was an answer to perceived societal problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, and increasing ethnic diversity. During the workshop, Richards Center graduate students and faculty offered Katie feedback on her proposed research questions and methodology as she prepares to embark on the intensive research phase of the project.

#### Richards Civil War Era Center

Department of History The Pennsylvania State University 108 Weaver Building University Park, PA 16802

### CENTER TO CO-Sponsor International Conference in 2015

The Richards Center has joined with the University of Calgary to cosponsor a conference at the Banff Centre, an internationally renowned incubator for artistic, cultural, and intellectual projects, located in Alberta, Canada. The conference, titled *Remaking North American Sovereignty: Towards a Continental History of State Transformation in the Mid-Nineteenth Century,* will take place July 30-August 1. The conference seeks to promote international approaches to studying the profound political transformations that re-shaped sovereignty, government, politics, and society throughout North America during the nineteenth century. The event will feature paper presentations from more than 30 leading scholars from North America and Europe. Keynote addresses will be delivered by Professors Steven Hahn of the University of Pennsylvania; Pekka Hämäläinen, of Oxford University; Erika Pani, of the Colegio de Mexico; and Andrew Smith of the University of Liverpool.

During the nineteenth century, the U.S. Civil War, the creation and later restoration of the Mexican republic, western expansion, and Canadian Confederation all dramatically transformed politics and governance across the continent. These led to battles over sovereignty that affected established citizens, indigenous peoples, immigrants, and newly emancipated slaves in the mid to late nineteenth century. In announcing the conference the organizers explained, "In light of the global turn in 19th century historiography, as well as the real interconnections across the continent, it is time to consider these political crises as an inter-related struggle to redefine the relationship of North Americans to new governments."

The Richards Center's co-sponsorship of the conference is made possible through funding from the NEH's *We the People* challenge grant.

