Dear Alumni and Friends,

I write to share with you once again an overview of the past year.

We are delighted to welcome Penny Von Eschen, a historian of U.S. cultural and foreign policy, who joined the department as the L. Sanford and Jo Mills Reis Professor of Humanities. Welcome as well to John Barwick, a historian of China, who has served as Postdoctoral Associate, and who will join the department in the fall as Lecturer.

Kristin Roebuck, a historian of modern Japan, served this past year as Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow. Roebuck will continue in that role next academic year. Noam Maggor, a historian of the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, will join the department in the fall as Postdoctoral Associate.

The department marked another year of prizes and achievements. Edward Baptist and Oren Falk each won an Internationalizing the Cornell Curriculum grant: Baptist for a project on Understanding the History of Global Capitalism Through One Community, and Falk for a new undergraduate minor in Viking Studies. Ernesto Bassi was a faculty fellow at Cornell’s Institute for Social Sciences. Maria Cristina Garcia won a 2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship supporting her research on “Climate Refugees: The Environmental Origins of Refugee Migrations.” She was also named as one of four winners this year of Cornell’s Kendall S. Carpenter Memorial Advising Prize, an award that underscores the importance of undergraduate advising. Lawrence Glickman was named Stephen and Evalyn Milman Professor in American Studies. Sandra Greene was elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She was also elected and inducted as a member of the distinguished Accademia Ambrosiana of Milan, Italy for her contributions to the study of the history of West Africa; at Cornell, she was named the Stephen ’59 and Madeline ’60 Anbinder Professor of History. Isabel Hull received the top award from the American Society of International Law for her book, *A Scrap of Paper*. The official designation of the award is: Certificate of Merit from the American Society of International Law for *Scrap of Paper* (“Preeminent Contribution to Creative Scholarship”), 2016. James John and Brian Tierney were honored as Charter Members of Cornell’s Medieval Studies Program at its 50th Anniversary. Mostafa Minawi was a fellow at the Remarque Center at NYU. Mary Beth Norton was nominated as president-elect of the American Historical Association. Camille Robcis was a fellow at the Remarque Center at NYU and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Victor Seow was a Faculty Fellow in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Performing Arts at Cornell’s Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future and a Carson Fellow at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich.

Eric Tagliacozzo was selected as the recipient of the Stephen and Margery Russell Distinguished Teaching Award for 2016, an honor given by the College of Arts and Sciences and recognizing devotion to teaching. Rachel Weil received a Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities for her project, “Mere Detention: Prisoners and Gaolers in Early Modern England.”

My scholarship is engaged with the history of the United States in global, transnational, and comparative dimensions and has sought to broaden the archive for historians of U.S. foreign relations. It has focused on the projects and subjectivities of critics, activists, and artists as well as including official multi-national state archives (and their internal debates) and the role of literature, popular culture, and mass media representations as a broader public and cultural arena for the making of foreign policy.

My first book, *Race against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism, 1937-1957*, (Cornell University Press, 1997), explored the interactions of African American anticolonial intellectuals, journalists, and activists with a broader and dynamic anticolonial world in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. *Race Against Empire* examined the stakes and far-reaching consequences of these projects' collisions with the U.S. and apartheid governments and European colonialism in the early Cold War.

My second book, *Satchmo Blows Up the World: Jazz Ambassadors Play the Cold War*, published by Harvard University Press in 2004, explored the unexpected and diverse developments and alliances that emerged from State Department-sponsored jazz tours, as the U.S. officials were not always able to control the reception of the tours. The jazz tours often targeted strategically critical regions for the United States in the Cold War, resulting sometimes in locations in close proximity to coups and assassinations, including those in Iran, Iraq, and southern Africa. *Satchmo* foregrounds the subjectivities of the many actors in the tours - musicians, State Department personnel, journalists, and jazz impresarios - while exploring the interplay of culture and geopolitics.

I am currently writing a book called *Cold War Nostalgia: The Wages of Memory and Global Disorder in the post-1989 World*, under contract with Harvard University Press. *Cold War Nostalgia* is about the politicized memory of the Cold War, investigating the claims and stories about the Cold War that circulated in the immediate aftermath of the collapse of Eastern bloc states. The study investigates the stakes involved in Cold War memory and nostalgia through readings of multiple representations of the past within intersecting sites of politics, journalism, and popular culture in the U.S. as well as in former Soviet and Eastern bloc spheres.

I am a Lecturer and my research centers on the fascinating enigma that is modern China. I am drawn especially to the question of Chinese engagement with the modern world in the 19th and 20th centuries and the construction of Chinese modernity that emerged from it. A subtheme of my work considers the role of religion in modern societies, and in particular the role of Christianity in mediating notions of modernity around the world over the past two centuries. My dissertation was awarded the CSRCS Ph.D. Dissertation Award from Chinese University of Hong Kong and is currently under review with Brill Press.

Kristin Roebuck is a historian of modern Japan who completed her PhD at Columbia University in 2015. As a Mellon Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow at Cornell, she is drafting a book manuscript entitled *Japan Reborn: Mixed-Race Children and Eugenic Nationalism in the Wake of World War II*. In the 1950s, a mass-mediated furor erupted over "mixed-blood" children born to Japanese women and foreign soldiers stationed in Japan. *Japan Reborn* exposes how Japanese nationalism, often erroneously held to have vanished in the wake of defeat, was instead reconstructed on a new basis: that of the "pure race" rather than the failed state.
The Cornell Historical Society is a vibrant and intellectually engaged undergraduate organization that continues to inspire and delight students and faculty with its passion for historical inquiry. This year marks the publication of the organization’s sixth edition of its journal, *Ezra’s Archives*. The journal features five articles selected from over sixty submissions gathered in the fall. Chosen contributors are students at universities around the country, from Washington to Minnesota to Michigan to North Carolina, and range in themes from gun control to Polish art to Native American resistance.

In addition to publishing *Ezra’s Archives*, the Society also ran its peer advising program, which gives incoming first-year students with an interest in history a chance to receive guidance from more advanced students. This year’s CHS events included dinner discussions at Becker House with History professors Paul Friedland (early modern France) and Claudia Verhoeven (imperial Russia), a graduate student panel for undergraduates to learn about graduate school, and a tour of the rare manuscripts library. CHS members also coordinated attending lectures and dinners to offer informal venues for students interested in history to come together.

This year’s CHS leadership has done an outstanding job maintaining the high standards of the journal, as well as coordinating the various events and activities. Special acknowledgment is due to the president, Julia Krupski, whose exemplary conscientiousness and intelligence has given the group an especially lively, welcoming, yet also intellectually rigorous character, and executive board members Kevin March (Vice President of Club Affairs), Samantha Reig (Vice President of *Ezra’s Archives*), John Hall (Treasurer), Joshua Mensah (Secretary) and Daniel Cheong (Managing Editor of *Ezra’s Archives*). No fewer than thirty-two undergraduates served on the editorial board of *Ezra’s Archives* in various capacities. The two editors-in-chief were Julia Krupski and Samantha Reig, the managing editor was Daniel Cheong, and the six senior editors were Emily Berman, John Hall, Quinn Howes, Zoe Jackson, Kevin March, and Mwangi Thuita.

Five graduating senior members received special awards at the honors reception and CHS cords for graduation this year in recognition of their hard work and dedication to CHS and/or the journal: Kevin March, Quinn Howes, Jessica Matalon, Zoe Jackson, and Emily Berman. Among these, three wrote honors theses: Kevin March (magna cum laude), Zoe Jackson (magna cum laude), and Emily Berman (summa cum laude). In addition, many CHS members received prizes for their scholarly work. Emily Berman and Kevin March both won the Bernard E. West Prize, awarded competitively to the most promising undergraduate research scholar specializing in American history. Berman was also a co-winner of the Messenger Chalmers Undergraduate Prize, 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. Zoe Jackson was a co-winner of the Anne Macintyre Litchfield Prize, awarded to three outstanding women seniors majoring in History, and she also won the Clyde A. Duniway (book prize), awarded to the best student in the College of Arts and Sciences graduating with a History major. And John Hall was a co-winner of the Cornelius W. DeKiewet Prize, awarded to two outstanding junior History majors who have demonstrated unusual promise and excellence in the field. Congratulations to all the CHS leadership and members on yet another stellar year!

Next year promises to be richer still for CHS, as Professor Claudia Verhoeven assumes the role of faculty advisor. Verhoeven was the group’s advisor at its inception six years ago, and she has been a true intellectual inspiration to many CHS members and other History students since joining the Cornell History faculty in 2009.
Undergraduate News:
Announcing Honors Students and Award Recipients among our May graduates, Class of 2016

2016 Honors
Emily Berman: Summa Cum Laude
Zoe Jackson: Magna Cum Laude
Kevin March: Magna Cum Laude
Nicole Picket: Magna Cum Laude
Anne Powell: Summa Cum Laude
Emily Sen: Magna Cum Laude

2016 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. Three awards given in 2016.
Emily Berman, Nicole Picket, Anne Powell

DeKiewiet, Cornelis W.
Awarded to two/three outstanding history majors (juniors) who have demonstrated unusual promise and excellence in the field.
John Hall, Rachel Mitnick, and Aurora Rojer

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.
Zoe Jackson

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

Litchfield, Anne Macintyre
Awarded to two outstanding woman seniors majoring in history.
Zoe Jackson and Emily Sen

Lustig, George S.
Awarded to the outstanding senior who intends to continue the study of history at the graduate level.
Anne Powell

Tyler, Moses Coit
Awarded for the best essay by a graduate or undergraduate student in the fields of American History, literature, or folklore.
Emily Foster & John Wyatt Greenlee

West, Bernard E.
Awarded competitively to the most promising undergraduate research scholar specializing in American history.
Kevin March

Graduate Student Job Placement/Awards Information, 2015-16

Tenure-track Positions
Brian Cuddy – Macquarie University, Sydney
Ryan Edwards – University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Amy Kohout – Colorado College
Rebecca Tally – Laguardia Community College/CUNY
Christopher Tang – California State University at Bakersfield
Taomo Zhou – Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Post-Doc Fellowships
Sean Fear – U.S. Foreign Policy & International Security Fellow at Dartmouth Dickey Center
Mate Rigo – European Union Institute in Florence

Other Academic Positions
Noriaki Hoshino – Global Perspectives on Society Teaching Fellow, NYU-Shanghai
Trais Pearson – Visiting Assistant Professor, Wheaton College

Fellowships/Awards
Sean Cosgrove – Cornell Engaged Graduate Student Grant
Jihyun Han – C.V. Starr Fellowship, East Asia Program
Jason Kelly – Ernest May Fellowship in History and Policy at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government
Yiyun Peng – C.V. Starr Fellowship, East Asia Program
Nathaniel Rojas – Peace Studies Fellowship
Tim Sorg – Cornell College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Prize for Distinguished Teaching
Chris Szabla – SSRC Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship, and the Mario Einaudi Fellowship for Dissertation Research
Annie Tomlinson – 2016 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
Ryan Edwards and Mate Rigo – Messenger-Chalmers PhD Dissertation Award

Congratulations to all graduates!!
Our History Students expressed an interest in hearing from History Alumni. We met with a group of seniors and asked them what types of questions they would have for alumni. Narrowing it down to five questions, the Department of History received over sixty responses from Cornell History Alumni. We are grateful to History Alumni for their generosity. The classes represented ranged from the Class of 1947 to the Class of 2015. We will compile the responses for our updated website so that this wisdom can be accessed by our future History majors. We are also grateful to our students who took the time to meet with us during a very busy semester. Here are a few excerpts:

1–How have the history skills of analysis and writing been useful in your career?

A–I was lucky. I have been employed as a professor of history at 4-year universities for the whole of my career: Montana State University, University of Maine, and George Mason University. I suppose you could say that I have used the skills that I learned both as an undergraduate and everyday as I teach the next generation of young historians.

~Paula Petrick ’69

A–They have been invaluable. Without a doubt, my ability to cogently analyze and synthesize data and events helped me become a very successful Air Force Intelligence Officer, Consultant and CNN Military Analyst. Those skills were developed and honed in Cornell’s History program. In today’s supposedly knowledge-based economy, true knowledge and analytical abilities are in great demand...

~Cedric Leighton ’84

A–I am the head of Finance for a medical device company and have been working in the Finance specialty of Financial Planning and Analysis (FP&A) for 15 years. To enter the field I had to study the basics of Finance and Accounting after Cornell, but once I was working in FP&A I found that the critical thinking and writing skills honed during my time as a history major were a positive differentiator compared to my peers from a more traditional accounting background.

~Doug Mikawa-Mallery ’96

A–I utilize the skills of analysis and writing in my everyday life. I work in corporate immigration and spend each day synthesizing the work of outstanding researchers in their academic and industrial fields of study and writing letters of support for their applications for permanent residency in the U.S. ~Melissa Frank ’14

2–Have you used your history skills and knowledge in a field other than history: creative arts, science, journalism, for example? If so, please describe how history has informed your work. One specific example would be very helpful.

A–Even if you secure a technical degree later, you will possess a range of knowledge and skills that others lack. Remember that, as you climb the ladder of most organizations, the people at the top are very well read, well researched, and have a great appreciation for those who have a broad range of general knowledge at their fingertips. This is precisely what a history degree personifies. In large organizations, this skill-set will be recognized by the brightest people. Anyone can acquire technical knowledge, but not everyone earns a history degree from an Ivy League school. You will be trainable for professions that don’t yet exist, because – as my mother said to me when entering Cornell -- you will learn how to learn. A history degree is therefore timeless and eternal. ~Randall Nixon ’78

A–Some key skills I learned from majoring in History include fact investigation, learning how to read carefully, writing persuasively, as well as providing adequate and correct citations to your writing. As a bank attorney, even though I do not write about anything historical, I often draft memos to upper management informing them about regulatory changes in the banking industry and what the bank has to do to comply with the laws. Before I issue my final product, I have to read through the legislative text myself, read secondary sources about how law firms and experts interpret the legislation, then draft the memo, with proper citations, to advise the bank management about legislative changes that affect the bank. ~Eric Ng ’09

A–I write about education policy. Policy-makers in this field rarely examine evidence of what has or hasn’t worked in the past. Understanding the history of education is helpful in analyzing (and debunking) some of the evidence-free policies imposed on our public schools by our political leaders and by powerful billionaires who influence them. I studied a lot of Chinese History at Cornell. In preparing a speech I will be giving at a conference regarding personalized learning (where students as young as elementary school are supposed to direct their own learning, design their own curricula, etc., ignoring the expertise of teachers), I keep thinking about the Cultural Revolution’s rejection of anyone who was an expert, or well-educated…~Wendy Lecker ’84

Alumni Wisdom continued on page 6
3. What career advice might you have for history majors wishing to work in a public forum, for example, a museum or national park?

A~As a performing artist, I have used history skills to accurately recreate and document historical music for live performances and recordings. By studying original documents and music, I have been able to provide the modern listener with accurate, representative historical presentations. Through my work, I have been able to correct many misconceptions about how music would have sounded in 18th and 19th century America. ~Douglas Jimerson '73

A~Be creative in your search and willing to ask current employees who do things you find interesting how they got into the field. I volunteer with a historical service organization; I'm continuously amazed at how many museums, foundations, and libraries there are that I have only learned about through my volunteer service. I never knew until I began to work for the Department of Defense that every branch of the military - and in some cases, individual units - have historical preservation missions. If you limit yourself to the well-known and easy to find options, you may miss out on other career opportunities. If you can't find online internship opportunities, call or write to ask if an institution or organization you're interested in would consider doing one. Think about things ahead of time that you can do (catalog a collection? inventory records? transcribe documents? docent tours?) to make it easier for them to say yes. Use volunteer or intern experiences to ask about paid opportunities, both in the organization and outside. ~ Suzann Gallagher '97

4~ Have you lived to see new interpretations of history? Can you provide an example?

A~Yes, I think this happens all the time. Sometimes it’s for the betterment of society, and unfortunately, sometimes it’s a step backward. Even in a world where we have the tools to document almost everything that is happening in real time in both words and video, history still remains up for interpretation. I’ll stay with the theme of my experiences at work rather than commenting on a specific world event. Every day people take actions based on long-held beliefs or anecdotal information. They think something happened in the past and they take real actions in the present as a result. Often, to change those behaviors, it takes a tremendous amount of work and commitment. You have to dig into old records, analyze information and present a business case for why we might want to think about something differently. Without trying to be too grandiose, that’s essentially what the study of history is all about—you spend more time and energy than others studying events of the past, and eventually, you see those events in a new light that changes how people think about them. ~Alexander Cwirko-Godycki ‘04

5~Students believe history is an important basis for understanding what is happening now in the world. People draw on history to understand the present. What problems might our generation help solve using our knowledge of history?

A~There is substantial current debate about the appropriate characteristics and limits of the form of government in the United States. This is not a new subject. It has been debated for hundreds of years and has consequences for the future. Yet the work so far done is anything but definitive. There is a lot of room for new contributions to a historical understanding of government in the United States, and the European underpinnings of it. ~Bruce Baird '70

A~One thing that comes to mind is perhaps using lessons learned, if any, from the recent economic crisis and being more wary of bubbles, groundless speculation, and under-regulation. ~Anitra Pavlico '95

### Remembering Will Provine by Mary Beth Norton

Will Provine, a professor of the history of biology in the departments of History and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, died on September 1, 2015. First hired in 1969, he developed a number of popular courses, including his class on Evolution, which consistently drew many enrollees. Will, an outspoken atheist, enjoyed sparring with students who questioned his Darwinian beliefs; he treated them with respect and encouraged them to engage in such debates. He had a joint appointment with biological sciences and eventually moved his office to Corson-Mudd Hall, in part to find more space to house his unparalleled collection of offprints of articles on biology. (In McGraw, his third-floor office had required extra support for his bookshelves.) Those offprints, which he gathered from retired biologists or from their estates, served as irreplaceable sources for his scholarship. About two decades before his death, Will was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. He survived much longer than anyone, including himself, had imagined that he would, persevering with his teaching and lecturing until a year or so before he died. The department mourns his passing.
Faculty members share a variety of service positions in the department. Among those in leading roles this past year are: Aaron Sachs, who is completing a three-year term as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Rachel Weil is continuing as Director of Graduate Studies. Tamara Loos completes a term as Associate Chair. All three show great dedication to our students. Our faculty members also serve Cornell outside the department. Ed Baptist is House Professor/Dean of Carl Becker House. Derek Chang serves as Mentor for the Posse Program at Cornell. Victor Koschmann chairs the editorial board for the Cornell East Asia Series. Meanwhile, several of us served as directors: Derek Chang as Director of Asian-American Studies, Barry Strauss as Director of the Program on Freedom and Free Societies, Eric Tagliacozzo as Director of the Comparative Muslim Societies Program and Mostafa Minawi as Director of Cornell’s Ottoman and Turkish Studies Initiative. With the help of several colleagues, the Department will serve as the home of a new minor in the History of Capitalism — along with a minor in History itself.

Our extraordinary staff continues to be indispensable. Kay Stickane is Administrative Manager, Katie Kristof is Accounts Coordinator and Administrative Assistant, Judy Yonkin is Undergraduate Coordinator and Claire Perez is Communications Assistant. Graduate Coordinator Barbara Donnell has received a Certificate of Recognition from the President of the University in appreciation of 35 years of service to Cornell. Our recent dialogue with alumni and students via our blog, Cornell History—a Resource Blog, has been a way to bring your insight and wisdom directly to our students. The Department of History sincerely appreciates the generosity of over sixty alumni in this endeavor and responses are being organized by class to be placed on our website as a reference for the Class of 2016 and history majors of the future. We have excerpted a few for this newsletter and you will find them on pages 5 and 6.

Olin Library recently dedicated two faculty studies named for Cornell historians: one in honor of American historian Joel Silbey and another in memory of European historian Edward Fox. Sadly, William (“Will”) Provine, the Andrew H. and James L. Tisch Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at Cornell, who was professor of the history of biology in the departments of History and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, passed away last fall (see separate article on page 6.)

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.

Alumni contributions made possible three special events this year. Beverly Gage, Professor of History (Yale) and author of The Day Wall Street Exploded, gave the annual Carl Becker Lectures on the subject of J. Edgar Hoover, whose biography she is currently writing. David S. Cohen, Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency gave this year’s LaFeber-Silbey Lecture, on “The Future of the CIA,” thanks to several generous alumni and friends including David F. Maisel ’68. Historian and award-winning author Scott Ellsworth (Michigan) gave the annual Harold Seymour Lecture in Sports History on “The Secret Game: Courage, Change, and Basketball’s Lost Triumph,” thanks to George Kirsch ’67. Alumni funds also supported a talk by award-winning filmmaker and history alumna Abby Ginzberg ’71 on “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.

We bid a fond farewell to two esteemed colleagues: Holly Case, who is joining the faculty at Brown, and Fred Logevall, who has joined the faculty at Harvard. Finally, I am stepping down as Department Chair on June 30. The department’s helm returns to the able and experienced hands of my distinguished colleague, Sandra Greene, a former Chair. I look forward to returning full time to the classroom in fall 2017. I’ll be on leave in the meantime. Next fall, I’ll be a Fellow at the Bogliasco Foundation in Italy and in the spring I will be at the Hoover Institution in California.

It has been a privilege to serve.

Barry Strauss
Bryce & Edith M. Bowmar Professor in Humanistic Studies
Department Chair
bss4@cornell.edu
BOOKS BY FACULTY

The Bare-Skinned Warrior
A Short Culture History of African Diaspora over Five Centuries

Hear My Sad Story
The True Tales That Inspired
Stagger, John Henry, and Other Traditional African Folk Songs

We Are An African People
Peasant Education, Black Power, and the Radical Imagination

The Hajj
Pilgrimage in Islam

Asia Inside Out
Connecting Places, Connecting People