

THE SEXTANT

VOLUME I, ISSUE II



SPRING 2007 / FALL 2007

U.S. Army Historian and Monmouth Alum Tells Her Tale



By **Melissa Ziobro**

I find it hard to believe that almost a year has passed since I graduated from the Department in January 2007. Professionally, I have been extremely busy as the Staff Historian at the U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, Fort Monmouth, NJ because the year 2007 marked the 90th anniversary of the Fort. This has required, among other things, the production of visual displays, publication of several brief histories, and the research and writing of approximately two dozen pieces for the post newspaper and internal

rian/anniversary.php. Here, you can read about how Cold War competition spurred innovation at Fort Monmouth, how Fort Monmouth's Deal Area became the first U.S. government installation to detect and record Sputnik's signals, or how radar equipment developed at Fort Monmouth provided 52 minutes of unheeded warning as the Japanese approached Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

My colleagues and I worked the 90th anniversary tasks in addition to our regular duties, which include collecting and archiving historic documents related to the post's mission to "develop, acquire, field and sustain superior Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems for the Joint Warfighter." The historical office also writes monographs as mandated by the Center of Military History; processes approximately 200-350 research requests annually for Department of Defense personnel, veterans, academia, the media and the public; coordinates on-site visits with researchers;

provides tours of the post; maintains the Fort Monmouth Historical Office website; and conducts and transcribes oral history interviews as needed.

Academically, I've enjoyed presenting my work at several conferences, such as the 5th International Peace History Society Conference, Georgian Court College, NJ, October 2007; the 9th Annual Women's History Conference, Sarah Lawrence College, NY, March 2007; and the 15th Annual Women and Society Conference, Marist College, NY, November 2006. I also represented CECOM at the 2007 Conference of Army Historians in Arlington, VA, August 2007.

West Chester University's Holocaust and Genocide Studies program recently accepted my article, "This Manifest Indignity: Hollywood's Portrayal of the Gender Integration of the Armed Forces in the World War II Era" for publication in its edited volume, now titled *Performing Difference: Representations of the 'Other' in Film and Theater*. Rowman and Littlefield's University Press of America division plans to print the book in the June 2008 timeframe.



Colonel James Costigan recognizes Ft. Monmouth historians Wendy Rejan (left) and Melissa Ziobro (right) for their service to the post at his retirement luncheon, 2007



Major General Michael R. Mazzucchi awards Melissa Ziobro the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

and external websites.

I invite you to view some of what has been keeping me busy at <http://www.monmouth.army.mil/histo>

Somewhere in between all of this rests my newfound role as an instructor here at MU. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching a section of HS102 this past fall. The class provided a wonderful opportunity to continue my affiliation with the Department, to share my practical experience and enthusiasm for the subject matter with current students, and to challenge myself in a new endeavor. I relish any opportunity to give back to the Department that has so well prepared me for life.

Best of luck to all of the graduate students reading this. Enjoy your time at Monmouth while you can! The experiences you have and relationships you form here will benefit you for years to come, both professionally and personally.



A Scholar at Dawn; News From the PhD Front



By **Martin Clemis**

In his book on the war in North Africa during the Second World War entitled *An Army at Dawn*, Rick Atkinson illustrates how an inexperienced and untested American Army, through rigorous combat and trial and error, was forged into a formidable fighting force capable of grappling with and defeating the formidable Nazi war machine. This crucial time of experience and seasoning, he argues, was a necessary and essential step towards Allied victory in World War II.

Looking back on my recent experience as a graduate student in the

history department at Monmouth University from the perspective of someone who has completed their MA and is at present a first-year doctoral student, I contend that my own period of rigorous combat (although armed with historical monographs, pens and highlighters, and an HP notebook, rather than fragmentation grenades, .30 caliber ammunition, and an infantryman's rifle) was an indispensable time of training and seasoning where –like the US Fifth Army that faced off against the armed might of the Wehrmacht in the deserts of North Africa– I too developed the strategic and tactical skills necessary for success. Rather than advancing to another battlefield, chasing military victory within a subsequent theater of

war, however, I have, instead, moved onto another academic front, where I am pursuing another degree within a new theater of education.

When I entered the graduate program at Monmouth in May 2004, I had just graduated with a BA from Montclair State University, and was looking for nothing more than some additional income and an expanded knowledge of American history that I could apply as a public school teacher. How quickly that would change. Under the guidance and tutelage of an inspiring and dedicated faculty –especially Professor Chris DeRosa who continued to be a professional paradigm, a mentor, and a role model– I was introduced to a wonderfully vibrant world of



Martin Clemis defending his thesis in May of 2007

A Scholar at Dawn (Continued on page 4)

And Now for Something Completely Different: Monmouth Students Present Papers at UK Conference

Dateline - Leeds, UK
July 2007

Two Monmouth graduate history students, David Bedad and Jeffrey Salzberger, along with one graduate communications student, Rya Butterfield (MA – 2007), traveled to the United Kingdom this summer to present papers at conference. Their

rian era school board building its headquarters.

Bedad and Salzberger, both rookies to presentation outside of the Monmouth University classroom, were nervous about their respective debut performances, but were well prepared, owing a familiarity for the proceedings to the conference simula-



Bedad in front of the Leeds Municipal Hall

destination was Leeds, England, a thriving urban center in the Yorkshire region of the island. Called *Things That Move*, the conference took place at Leeds Metropolitan

tions they have attempted in their graduate school classes. Salzberger presented his paper, *So ... This is Vacation?: An Activist History of Fire Island, New York*, a short work which establishes protest movements in the legendary, Long Island vacation community as a

cultural totem, while Bedad led a forum on his piece, *Cruising Through History*, about the history of, and the problems that have developed within, the cruise industry. Butterfield's work was a detailed analysis of tourism in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina.



Salzberger in Millennium Square

University's, Center for Tourism and Cultural Change, which calls a Victo-

Both presentations were very well attended, and met with praise from the multi-disciplinary audiences. The Center for Tourism and Cultural Change is a program at Leeds Metropolitan University that emphasizes the sociological, cultural, geographic, philosophical and architectural aspects of tourism, but surprisingly little history is represented. As a re-



Salzberger (left) and Bedad (right) in front of Leeds Municipal Hall

that some of the comments from his peers and questions he entertained from his academic colleagues "helped him to narrow his thesis topic."

Salzberger's paper for the Leeds event was a small, edited piece of a larger thesis that he tailored to fit the conference proceedings. Bedad's piece stemmed from a paper he had written for a class called *Histories of Tourism*, taught by Dr. Karen Schmelzkopf here at Monmouth - the same class that inspired the work of both Butterfield and Salzberger. Bedad spoke of the camaraderie that comes from a trip like this, and was happy for the support he received from the Monmouth community overall, including his professors and fellow students.

When they were not attending other



David Bedad in action, presenting for a large crowd

presentations over the course of the week long conference, the three Monmouth representatives were living it up in lovely Leeds, sampling the local cuisine and culture, which included beautiful Victorian architecture. On the first day, all were even introduced to the Lord Mayor of the city, who, while wearing a rather large ceremonial

sult, much of the feedback that Bedad and Salzberger received was from outside their field. Salzberger was quoted as saying that he "got some very unique and helpful advice from a German philosophy student, a Swiss anthropologist, and a Danish architect," which provided him with "valuable perspective." Following the conference, Salzberger said

gold decoration draped over his shoulders, proceeded to tell the Americans, "I have the best bling on the block."

The consensus from the Monmouth conferees is that the trip over the Atlantic was a worthwhile experience. It provided them with some academic "bling" of their own.

Association of Graduate Students of History

Meetings are held on specified Wednesday at 5 pm in the cafeteria ... near the coffee shop. See Kathleen O'Connor for more info.



In the Field and on the Move



Meredith Miller, currently a graduate student in history at Monmouth University and a history teacher at Long Branch High School, was named Teacher of the Year in 2007. As part of her award, Miller

has decided to launch a project in the form of a veterans' memorial, honoring anyone involved, in any capacity, with Long Branch public schools who has served, or is currently serving, in the United States armed forces. (Continued on page 3)

In the Field and on the Move (continued from page 2)

(Meredith Miller—Continued from page 2)

Miller sees the memorial as a chance to make a difference, one of the reasons she got into teaching in the first place. By 2011, the memorial will be constructed outside the new high school in Long Branch, and will consist of pavers and a reflecting pool. Its purpose, according to Miller, also the Veterans' Memorial Committee Chairwoman, will be to remember and honor those who have served, and also, thanks to its interactive aspects, to educate all those who visit, including Miller's numerous history students both past and present. The memorial will not only be a place for learning, but for meeting and quiet reflection, thereby serving the purpose as a symbol of community / school district relations.

Miller always wants to touch her students' hearts, and this project is yet another way to do so. This is a wonderful achievement brought to us by Meredith Miller, a dedicated high school history teacher and Monmouth University graduate student, who has always been at the forefront of education and its many changing techniques.

*In the Field and on the Move Brings you a new section called: **Seen About Town***

During this anonymous reporter's roving about campus he has seen many things: From a hawk eating its prey outside Howard Hall, to a gentleman dressed as, and bearing a remarkable resemblance to, Thomas Jefferson. Nothing gets a warmer response however, than ex-Monmouth students back on campus doing good work. For instance, as mentioned in the article from page one, **Melissa Ziobro** (pictured on p. 1) is back here teaching a class, but she is by no means the only one. **Jennifer Giannone** (pictured on p. 4) is also teaching, as well as **Kathy Shapiro**, who has a feature bio in the last issue of

The Sextant. Other returning MA students in history who now teach at their alma mater, Monmouth University, include **Paula Burns-Ricciardi** and **Hettie Williams**, both of whom are in the classroom on a regular basis. All have expressed a love for Monmouth, for the department, and for their work.



Paula Burns-Ricciardi

On a side note in this, the debut installment of *Seen About Town*, **Jeffrey**



Hettie Williams

Salzberger (MA in progress), whose bio appeared in issue one of *The Sextant*, has been spotted on Fire Island, where he was the co-curator of a successful archival show featuring ephemera from the newspaper where he works in Ocean Beach, NY - *The Fire Island News*. He is also teaching high school history. Hope to see you next time!

Look for more student and alumni highlights coming in the next *Sextant*! Interviews are going on now. If you have some news to share, drop us a line at 917-699-8008.

“Lipper”: Rick Pachman Discusses his Internship



By Rick Pachman

Last winter, I went into the History and Anthropology Department Office on a mission: I wanted a history-related internship. I walked up to our very own Sandy Villa and asked her if she knew of any that I could apply for. She then pointed me in the direction of a bulletin board in the hallway that I had somehow ignored, which was plastered with internship opportunities, graduate school information, and other “fun stuff”. She arbitrarily (it seemed so at least) suggested the Lipper Internship at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City because other Monmouth students had interned there and had a good time. After perusing the application and the internship description, I was hooked. I wanted to be a Lipper!

Essentially, the internship has two components. The first is a 10-day training session at the museum in NYC. Perhaps the best part of this is the fact that they put you up in a hotel for the entire time. While it was a very intense 10 days, it was

extremely enjoyable and informative. There were 16 Lipper Interns for the Fall 2007 semester, and as different as many of



Rick Pachman at an Association of Graduate Students of History event in late 2007.

us were, we all had a similar passion: to support the museum's mission of Holocaust education. During the 10-days, we heard testimony from 3

Holocaust survivors and 1 Rwandan Genocide survivor, learned how to teach from artifacts, and lead tours in the museum. The second part of the internship focuses on the chief purpose of the Lipper program: offering middle and high school students an opportunity to learn about the Holocaust and get a tour of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. A pair of interns is assigned 3 public schools in the state where they go to school (NJ, PA, NY, and MA) and they do three visits with each school. The first, or pre-visit, is a slide presentation about the museum and its mission. The second visit is a guided tour of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the third, or post-visit, is done to have the students reflect on their museum tour and what can (or should) be done about current atrocities around the world.



Pachman prepares for a formal event related to his Lipper internship.

I am already half-way through my time as a “Lipper” (as we are affectionately known around the museum) and I have found it to be a very rewarding experience. I would recommend this internship to any undergraduate or graduate student if they are interested in pursuing careers in education, genocide or Holocaust studies, or in a museum.



MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

where leaders look forwardSM

The Sextant

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATE HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Our Masthead

Including all staff, volunteers, photographers and contributors in any capacity whatsoever.

Editors-in-Chief

Jeffrey Salzberger & Dr. Christopher DeRosa

Contributing Writers & Photographers

David Beales, Martin Clemis, Rick Pachman, Melissa Ziobro, Jeffrey Salzberger

And a special thank you to Sandy Villa as well as the entire Department of History and Anthropology for their continued support. Without all of you, this newsletter would not have been possible.

THE SEXTANT

WHERE HISTORIANS LOOK FORWARD

A Scholar at Dawn

(Continued from Page 1)

historical argument, analysis, and writing that I never knew existed. This not only compelled me to elevate my academic and professional goals, but to take the next step towards fulfilling them: the PhD. Today I am actively pursuing that objective at Temple University in Philadelphia thanks to this inspiration and academic training.

As stated earlier, my time at Monmouth was a period of intellectual development and experience that proved indispensable to the fulfillment of my life's aspirations. Like the American Army in North Africa in November 1942, I came in untested, inexperienced, and unsure of what I could accomplish. When I graduated a few years later, I had emerged with the necessary tools for taking on the next challenge. I was a scholar at dawn. Although the next chapter in my academic development has only just begun, and the fulfillment of my doctoral requirements is several years away, none of it would have been possible were it not for the exceptional quality of the history department's graduate program, the excellence of its faculty, and the constructive, supportive collegiality of my fellow graduate students.

The Association of Graduate Students of History sponsors regular eCampus discussions. Don't forget to join one. Make yourself heard!

Box Scores:

Our section on the recently defended thesis

-May 7, 2007: **Daniel Radel's**, *Those Were Our Fish! New Jersey Recreational Fisheries Through the 200 Mile Limit and Beyond; A History.*

-October 8, 2007: **Nicholas Pellegrino's**, *Onward, Christian Soldier: The Religious Mind of the American WWII Soldier.*

-November, 2008: **Kathleen O'Connor** takes the first set of orally administered comprehensive exams in departmental history!



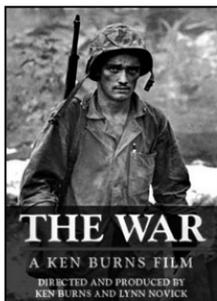
Pictured above are five of the graduate inductees into Phi Alpha Theta on December 7, 2007. In a boisterous ceremony, possibly the largest to date, these fine men and women were given the high honors that come along with superb performance in the field of history.

Graduate Students Inducted into Phi Alpha Theta, May 4, 2007



From L to R: Jennifer T. Giannone, Patricia J. Kurz, Lawrence Wallis and Lloyd-Paul White receive their Phi Alpha Theta Awards.

Seen Anything Good Lately? Historical Films of Note



The War - A Ken Burns' film -

In Ken Burns' latest epicumentary, *The War*, he uses his skill as a master filmmaker to bring WWII home to all of us. It should be noted that this project also included Lynn Novick in collaboration with Burns.

Many viewers have already seen Burns' *Civil War*, and say that *The War* is just as heart breaking, as well as visually stimulating. Unlike its predecessor however, *The War* contains moving images which add to the overall story, giving it a different kind of impact.

The participants and combatants, brought to you at times in full color and in motion, move the viewer very close to this horrific piece of history. This intimacy is what pushes *The War* over the top as one of the year's best films.

The story is told through the accounts of several men and women in four American towns, and both the war in the Pacific and Atlantic are included. Conspicuously absent however, is the Latino population in Burns' representation.

Tracked with realistic sound effects to which the greatest attention was paid, *The War* will move and terrify the viewer, as well as offer insight into this global cataclysm.



Charlie Wilson's War A Mike Nichol's Film

In this wonderfully crafted biopic, the audience is treated to the story of free-wheeling, Democratic Texas Congressman, Charlie Wilson (**Tom Hanks**), and more specifically, the tale of his covert dealings in Afghanistan during the '80s, where he helped supply the Mujahideen with supplies and weapons to fight the Soviets. Second only to the main plot, as described above, is the subplot, which tackles Wilson's complex

relationships with both CIA spook Gust Avrakotos (**Philip Seymour Hoffman**) and Joanne Herring (**Julia Roberts**), Houston business woman, socialite, and overall Cold Warrior. This film, and the acting, are top notch.

This was to be expected however, with the movie being helmed by veteran director Mike Nichols (**The Graduate and many others**), and written by Aaron Sorkin (**The American President and The West Wing**) who has an obvious knack for the political stuff. It was based in its entirety on an equally entertaining and informative book by George Crile of the same title.

This flick comes highly recommended, and so does the book!

