

# ALUMNI NEWS

QUEENS COLLEGE • DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY • SPRING 2022



## A Message from the Chair

Becoming chair of the History Department wasn't on my bingo card, as they say, but when Kristin Celello's term ended last spring, I was happy to step up and take on the role. Being chair is a daunting proposition that comes with some big responsibilities. But it also offers great opportunities to help our students succeed and to help faculty members do what they do best. I am also fortunate to have an amazing support staff in Marilyn Harris and Alex Vickery, who keep things running day in and day out.

The ongoing pandemic has created one challenge after another since March 2020, but I've been so impressed with the way our instructors have kept the primary business of learning going for the many students who take history courses. As I write at the start of Spring 2022 semester, Queens is transitioning back to primarily in-person instruction, masked and vaxed. The transition has thrown some curveballs at us, but with patience and good humor we will soon settle into the new normal. While we've all discovered the utility of Zoom meetings, I, for one, look forward to the renewed buzz of activity in Powdermaker Hall and reconnecting with colleagues and students face to face.

Sincerely,  
Julia Sneeringer

*Continued on next page*

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## Department News

The department welcomes our newest member, **Natanya Duncan**, who is also the director of QC's Africana Studies program. Nat is a native New Yorker who taught most recently at Lehigh University. Her work explores the key roles women played in the Universal Negro Improvement Association, co-founded in 1914 by Amy Ashwood and her future husband, Marcus Garvey. (Her book, *An Efficient Womanhood*, will appear with University of Illinois Press). Nat also brings tremendous energy to reinvigorating interdisciplinary Africana studies. She has invited important scholars and thinkers to QC, such as #MeToo founder Tarana Burke. Nat promises more events for Black History Month and beyond.

In other faculty news, **Fidel Tavarez** received the Simon Bolivar Award of the Latino Alumni association of City College. Fidel was also selected for CUNY's Faculty Fellowship Publication Program, which helps junior faculty prepare their first book... **Kara Schlichting** was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate. She took students from her hybrid course on New York City history to Central Park last fall (see cover

photo)... **Morris Rossabi** was honored with the Mongolian government's Certificate of Merit for lifelong contributions to the study of Mongolia's history and culture... **Sandy Placido's** book on Puerto Rican physician-activist Ana Livia Cordero is under contract with University of Pennsylvania Press... **Sarah Covington** snagged a \$6,500 grant from the Irish government to support QC's Irish Studies program... QC alum and longtime adjunct **Miriam Liebman** became assistant editor of the Adams Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Miriam is currently finishing her dissertation on Abigail Adams' political role during the early American republic... The past year also saw two faculty retirements: **Isaac Alteras** (history of Israel, US foreign policy) and **Joshua Freeman** (US labor history).

Several faculty recently published books. **Kristina Richardson** published *Roma in the Medieval Islamic World* (I.B. Tauris/Bloomsbury), as well as a critical edition of a 16th-century manuscript, *The Notebook of Kamal al-Din the Weaver* (DeGruyter); the latter was supported by an NEH Award. **Elissa Bemporad** co-edited a collection for Oxford University Press, *Pogroms: A Documentary History*. **Morris Rossabi** has two books hot off

the presses: *China and the Uyghurs* (Rowman & Littlefield) and *Tribute System and Rulership in Late Imperial China* (V&R Unipress).

Several students won prestigious awards. **Deborah Tulloch** won the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship and will produce a senior thesis on Black Power movements across the Atlantic world. MA student **Ryan King** won a Fulbright to the Free University of Berlin's center for graphic novels. Speaking of our MA program, you can now read some of our students' master's theses on the digital repository CUNY Academic Works.

## Upcoming Events

We look forward to holding our favorite departmental event, the annual Honors Luncheon, in person this year. It will be held on campus Wednesday, May 11.

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