

CGA FORUM

A SAILOR'S LIFE FOR ME?

BY VALERIE AQUILA '06



Hands-on activities are central to the family learning exhibition: *A Sailor's Life for Me?*

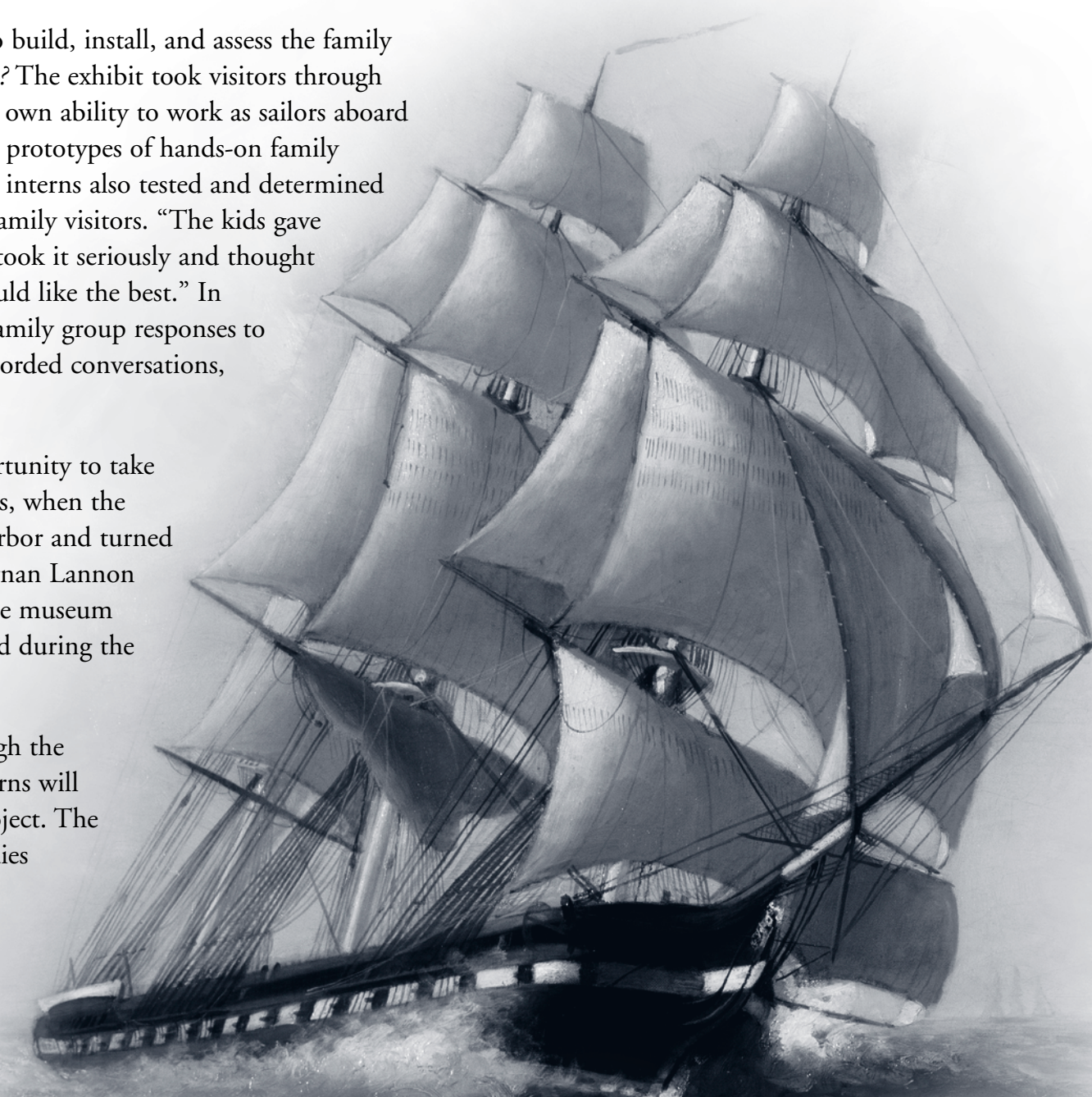
In September 2004, the USS Constitution Museum in Boston, headed by director **Burt Logan '83**, received a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to pursue research on families in museum settings, the ultimate goal being to "improve family learning in unfacilitated exhibit galleries." As part of this project, the museum partnered with CGP. **Gretchen Sorin '75** and Joanne Curran, Oneonta Associate Dean of Education, are creating a web-based curriculum about family learning for museum programs. Internships for CGP students are also part of the project and **Mehna Harders '06** and **Kiernan Lannon '06** spent last summer in Boston.

Harders and Lannon worked closely with Family Learning Project Coordinator Marilyn Solvay. One of the interns' first tasks was to assist in organizing the Family Learning Forum, a conference co-sponsored with the New England Museum Association. The Forum brought museum educators together to discuss ideas and concerns about families in museums and gave the interns an opportunity to meet with two of the museum profession's most well known evaluators—Lynn Dierking and Minda Borun. "One of my favorite parts of the internship was being able to meet with the consultants on the project and learn from them. Everyone on the steering committee has been working with families in their own institutions and it gave us an idea about what is happening in the field and where it could go," said Harders.

The interns' core work consisted of helping to build, install, and assess the family learning exhibit, entitled *A Sailor's Life for Me?* The exhibit took visitors through the life of a sailor and asked them about their own ability to work as sailors aboard the Constitution. Assessment involved testing prototypes of hands-on family learning components used in the exhibit. The interns also tested and determined which types of labels were most effective for family visitors. "The kids gave the best answers," said Harders. "They really took it seriously and thought really hard about which type of label they would like the best." In addition, Harders and Lannon documented family group responses to specific areas. They tracked family groups, recorded conversations, and noted areas that held their interest.

A special perk of the internship was the opportunity to take part in one of the summer turn around cruises, when the Constitution is taken out into the Boston Harbor and turned around so both sides will weather evenly. Kiernan Lannon was also able to be aboard a boat rented by the museum that followed the Constitution when she sailed during the July Fourth celebration.

The Family Learning Project continues through the next couple of years, and two more CGP interns will be appointed this summer to work on the project. The Family Learning curriculum for museum studies programs will be tested in the fall.



MARSHALL JOHNSON, USS CONSTITUTION (DETAIL), COURTESY USS CONSTITUTION MUSEUM

David R. Meschutt, PhD '87 passed away at his home in Cornwall, New York, on July 8, 2005. He was fifty years old. Born in Manhattan, David earned a BA in Journalism from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, in 1977. He worked at the Frick Art Reference Library in New York City before attending the Cooperstown Graduate Program beginning in the fall of 1986. David curated the permanent installation of John Browere's life masks at the Fenimore Art Museum and wrote the accompanying brochure. Upon completing the Program, David was named curator of the art collection at the West Point Museum. While the museum was closed for renovations, David organized an exhibition of portraits from West Point's collection at the University of Virginia. He delivered a talk in Charlottesville that is memorable for its infectious enthusiasm, erudition, and dry wit.

David entered the PhD program in Art History at the University of Delaware and remained professionally active throughout his period of study, lecturing, writing articles and exhibition catalogs, and serving as a consulting curator for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. A frequent contributor to *The American Art Journal* and other publications, David also curated an exhibition of paintings by Alonzo Chappel for the Brandywine Museum and wrote a major essay on Chappel in the accompanying catalog.

Anyone with a serious interest in American or British portraiture needed to know David, and those who knew him were better for it. Tall, lanky, and blessed with a resonant baritone voice which suited his earlier work in radio broadcasting, David left a distinctive impression on all who knew him. His interests were wide-ranging, including, besides portraiture, film, theater, music, architecture, history, and politics. David knew how intimately connected all creative expression is, and that knowledge in one area can expand one's understanding of another. The natural kindness and generosity that guided his interactions with others will be missed.

David's Doctorate was awarded posthumously in January. Sincere condolences go to David's wife, Sarah, his parents, his sister, his nieces, and his many friends.

— **RICHARD MILLER '86**, Plainfield, New Hampshire

CGA FORUM

New York State Historical Association
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Non-profit Organization

GLENN LERNABADY/NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

USS CONSTITUTION MUSEUM

FAREWELL TO AN UNFORGETTABLE FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

David R. Meschutt '87 curated the permanent installation of John Browere's life masks at the Fenimore Art Museum.



INSIDE :

- **USS Constitution Museum Partners with CGP to Improve Family Learning at the Museum**
- **Bruce R. Buckley Lectureship Sponsors Renowned Folksinger Joe Hickerson for an Entertaining Evening in May**
- **LISTSERV is Up and Running to Help Facilitate Communication Between CGP and its Alumni of the Museum Studies, Conservation and Folk Life Programs**
- **Call for Papers**
- **Alumni News, and More**



Gretchen Sullivan Sorin '75
CGP Director

The selection Committee for the Bruce R. Buckley Lectureship, chaired by last year's honoree, Susan Eleuterio recently announced the selection for this year's Buckley folklorist. His name is Joe Hickerson and, for those of you who don't know him he is a prominent ethnomusicologist, archivist, and librarian, in addition to being a terrific folk musician. Pete Seeger called him "a great song leader." Joe calls himself a "vintage pre-plugged paleoacoustic folksinger."

Remember that old anti-war song, *Where have all the Flowers Gone?* written by Pete Seeger? Seeger's original had only three verses. Several groups recorded it, including the Kingston Trio before Pete shared it with Joe Hickerson who was a counselor at Camp Woodland in Phoenicia, New York. Joe sang it with his campers. ("That added more rhythm," Pete said.) Joe also added two more verses and sang the first verse at the end giving it a more "cyclical feel." That's how the song reached its current configuration.

That summer at Camp Woodland was special for another reason, Hickerson remembered, "The camp's music director, folk music scholar Norman Cazden, drove some of us counselors to Cooperstown to see the facilities and to meet with Louis Jones (whom I had met at the Summer 1958 Folklore Institute at Indiana University). One unexpected highlight was a visit to a men's room in a gas station in Cooperstown which housed one of the largest collections of graffiti that I have ever run across. I knew at once that Cooperstown was a hotbed of folklore!"

I don't know if that men's room is still here, but I predict a rousing good time when Joe Hickerson returns to Cooperstown on May 11th to deliver the 2006 Buckley Lecture — *My 50+ Years with Folk Music*. I hope that those of you in the region will join us.



Joe Hickerson and his son, Mike, c. 1970



Amy Gundrum '07 and Gretchen Sorin '75 at Lippitt Farmhouse during Sorin's course, *Introduction to Museums*.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals are now being accepted for 20-minute papers to be presented at the upcoming conference on American folk art that will be held in Cooperstown, New York, on October 28, 2006. This interdisciplinary conference will bring together scholars from museums and various academic disciplines to explore folk art in its many manifestations. Presentations that address issues of religious, racial, ethnic, or cultural diversity are especially encouraged, as are those that discuss folk art in the collection of the New York State Historical Association. Proposals for panels, workshops, films or other alternative formats will also be considered. Please list any audio-visual equipment or other needs at the conclusion of the proposal.

The Cooperstown Graduate Program will not be able to pay travel costs or honoraria for speakers, although registration fees for the conference will be waived and lunch will be provided for speakers.

Send four copies of a one-page proposal and brief curriculum vitae, including telephone numbers and e-mail address, postmarked by May 1 to Cynthia Falk, Cooperstown Graduate Program, PO Box 800, Cooperstown NY 13326.

2005 ALUMNI FORUM

BY ROSIE HALL '07 AND SARAH BENWAY '07

Last fall, five CGP alums from classes 1972 to 2005 returned to Cooperstown to speak with current students about their careers and personal experiences. Ilene Frank '01, Charles Granquist '72, Liza Rawson '84, Rebecca Slaughter '05, and Ron Soodalter '73, shared some of their experiences after graduating from CGP, highlighting anecdotes from their first jobs and throughout their careers. They offered valuable advice and answers to questions posed by the students.

But what did students really get out of the Alumni Forum? We learned that you can use shoes to teach children about different world cultures, as Liza explained her work in an exhibit at the Brooklyn Children's Museum. Ron entertained us with songs and stories, giving us insight into the Folklore Program. Charles showed us the varied opportunities that await museum professionals, in both the public and private sectors. Rebecca talked about the interview process from both sides of the table, offering helpful advice for students who are about to interview for their first jobs and who will eventually be interviewing potential employees. Ilene spoke of the creative ways that the Schenectady Science Museum is implementing programs and increasing membership.

Perhaps the greatest lesson we left with was the importance of service to community, a value stressed at CGP. "It's not about you" became a recurring theme throughout the forum as Liza, Ilene, Ron, Rebecca, and



The Class of 2007 enjoys an evening of food, fun and relaxation at the home of David Egner '95 and Stacey Minyard '94 during the Philadelphia field trip.

Charles repeatedly reminded us to check our egos, to put the museum's interest before our own, and to value being part of the team.

The forums are important for current students because they allow us to meet people in the field, creating important relationships and networking opportunities that will undoubtedly be helpful in the future. Common experiences bring members of all classes together. They reinforce the bonds that are CGP.

HAVE YOU SIGNED ON TO LISTSERV?

Maintaining and facilitating communication between CGP and its alumni of the Museum Studies, Conservation and Folk Life programs is central to the mission of CGA. Our CGA LISTSERV is a new tool to that end.

Looking for work? Recent postings include job openings at the Minnesota Historical Society, Library of Virginia and Mystic Seaport. Need an intern or internship? Check LISTSERV. If you'd like professional advice from your colleagues, post your question to LISTSERV.

To join, e-mail listserv@listserv.oneonta.edu and type the following in the body of the message: SUBSCRIBE cgp-alumni [Your First Name] [Your Last Name]. It's that easy. To send a message to everyone currently subscribed to the list, send mail to cgp-alumni@listserv.oneonta.edu. To access LISTSERV archive, direct your browser to <http://listserv.oneonta.edu/archives/cgp-alumni.html> and catch up on the conversation.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

BY VALERIE AQUILA '06

Every fall semester second year students join CGP Director Gretchen Sorin '75 for their third and final field trip. This year the destination was Montreal and the focus was museum exhibitions. After winding our way through Vermont's rainy mountains we arrived at the Vermont Historical Society where our host Amy Cunningham '01 led a tour of the permanent history exhibition discussing the integration of interactive education components. Brick House, the summer home of Electra Webb, benefactress of the Shelburne Museum, was our next stop for conversation and dinner with President Hope Alswang and her husband Henry Joyce.

The next day was spent prowling through rooms filled with glass canes, wooden food molds, Impressionist paintings, and mechanical toys. Conservator Rick Kershner excited the curators in our group with practical stories about saving money by using cold storage and a humidistat instead of a thermometer and safe ways to light exhibition cases. The day continued with a trek across the border. Catherine Charlebois '00 greeted us at the

McCord Museum of Canadian History and discussed her education outreach programs and the McCord's exhibitions. In the afternoon the Centre d'histoire de Montreal welcomed us with a conversation about bilingual labels in Canadian museums and an opportunity to view the orientation exhibitions provided for tourists to the city.

A guided tour of Pointe-à-Callière, the modern cloche housing the archaeological old city of Montreal was the first stop the next morning. One of our favorite sites was the George-Etienne Cartier National Historic Site where we participated with actors in an interactive interpretation on Victorian manners and politics. We bid farewell to Montreal that evening with a wine and cheese party in Gretchen's room. Our final stop, the next morning was a French language neighborhood museum called Écomusée du Fier Monde constructed in the renovated swimming pool area of a gymnasium.

PHILLIE PHIELDTRIP

BY KAJSA SABATKE '07

This year's fall field trip took first year students and Professor Cindy Falk to the greater Philadelphia area. Stops included the Chester County Historical Society, Independence National Historical Park, Please Touch Museum, Brandywine River Museum, Winterthur, Barnes Foundation, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The students also had a chance to visit Art Guild, an exhibition fabrication company in Thorofare, New Jersey, and Renninger's antique, farmers, and flea market in Kutztown. Additionally, students saw glass blowing at the Simon Pearce studio in Chadds Ford and heard Bernie Herman lecture at the University of Delaware.

Highlights of the trip included a visit to Memorial Hall and Independence National Park. Nancy Kolb, Director of the Please Touch Museum, gave students a tour of Memorial Hall. Built for the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, the building will soon be the new home of the Please Touch Museum. At Independence National Historical Park, students talked with Karie Diethorn and Steve Sitarski about interpreting slavery at the new Liberty Bell Center and the Deshler-Morris House in Germantown.

Brock Jobe, professor of decorative arts in the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, hosted the group, the Winterthur students, and CGP alums at Winterthur for dinner one evening. David Egner '95 and Stacey Minyard '94 welcomed the students and area CGP alums on the final night of the trip.

The fall field trip was an excellent opportunity to learn from museum professionals in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware; meet CGP alums and other graduate students; visit a few icons of American history; and even bring home pumpkins in time for Halloween.



Second year students Tobi Voigt and Mehna Harders get into character at the Shelburne Museum.

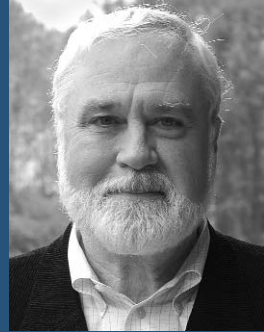
SAVE THE DATE!

Join us at a CGP reception to coincide with the AAM Conference:

Friday, April 28th, 5–6:30 PM
at the Sheraton Boston Hotel
39 Dalton Street, Boston MA



LAVERN KELLEY, SCHOOL MAMM, 1988. PAINTED PINE, 31" X 7.5". COURTESY HENIMORE ART MUSEUM, COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK



John Ott '67
CGA President

Last spring **David April '89**, former Cooperstown Graduate Association President, facilitated a retreat where Board members reexamined and revised the Alumni Association's mission. It gives me great pleasure to present our new mission statement:

The Cooperstown Graduate Association (CGA) is an organization formed by and for the alumni of the Cooperstown Graduate Program (CGP) of the State University of New York at Oneonta. The mission of the Cooperstown Graduate Association is to actively promote and support the educational goals of the Cooperstown Graduate Program, its students and faculty, and cultivate opportunities for networking, fellowship, and professional development for all alumni and current students.

In support of this mission, CGA strives to:

- 1 Maintain communication and contacts between CGP and its alumni of the Museum Studies, Conservation, and Folk Life programs.
- 2 Solicit the financial support of alumni and friends for CGP and the various student scholarship funds through membership, annual giving, fundraising events, and capital campaigns.
- 3 Provide continuing educational opportunities by holding conferences and professional seminars.
- 4 Assist in recruiting qualified students by promoting CGP within the museum profession.
- 5 Identify student internship opportunities and job openings for current students and alumni.
- 6 Provide networking and mentoring opportunities between CGP students and alumni.
- 7 Promote active, visible leadership in the museum profession.

With that being said, the bottom line is, this Association can only be effective as its membership is active and involved. As graduates of CGP we need to make CGA membership a prerequisite of our professional responsibility. If your membership is current, think of a classmate or CGP colleague who hasn't joined and bring them on board. What better way to show our collective commitment to the museum field and this educational "seat of learning."

In closing I'd like to thank out going board members **Varick Chittenden '76**, **Frank McKelvey '68**, and **Jean Neff '74** for their dedication and service to the CGA Board, and welcome new board members **Brian Howard '87 (Conservation Program)**, **Hilary Krueger-Jebitsch '96**, **Ann Stewart-Honicker '78** and **John Pentangelo '05**. I look forward to working with you and welcome your input in CGA. I am excited to serve as your new President.



Jim Havener '83 demonstrates decorative painting and faux finishing techniques at the CGA Autumn Workshop.



Ron Soodalter '73 performs at the CGP Alumni Forum.



Students practice human resources skills during a professional seminar led by Jim Van Bochove '82.



Evelyn Barron, c. 1970

MILLO V. STEWART

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dana Wegner '74, Curator of Ship Models for the Department of the Navy since 1980, has received the Turner Award from the USS Constitution Museum for his contributions to the nation's knowledge of historic ship design and construction via his research and publications concerning the USS Constellation.

John Carnahan '75 is presently consulting at the New York State Historical Association in the Development Office.

Elaine Cheesman '79 served as part of a five-member team that developed lesson plans on 20th Century African-American history. She received a grant from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

Marcy Shaffer '89 accepted a position as a Program Associate at the New York State Council on the Arts.

Kelli Wilkinson '92 is now an adjunct professor of History and Humanities at Northern Virginia Community College.

John B. Rudder '95 is the Special Projects Manager for Collections at Mount Vernon.

In the fall the **Class of 1995** made the long trek to Cooperstown and celebrated its 10th reunion. Heather and **Dennis Buck**, **Alissa Crawford** and son Charlie, **David Egner** and children Ben and Samantha, **Jennifer Griffin**, **Lesley Humphreys**, **Lisa Marcinkowski** and **Erik Mason** invited current CGP students to join in the festivities. The weekend ended with brunch at the home of **Liz Callahan '93**.

Tara White '98 began her PhD in Public History at Middle Tennessee State University, and is the recipient of a graduate assistantship.

Eva Fognell '01 is currently developing a new exhibit, *Reveal Conceal: The Transforming Power of Masks*, at the Fenimore Art Museum.

Michelle Murdock '01 and **Paul D'Ambrosio '83** are collaborating on the exhibit *Grandma Moses: Grandmother to the Nation* at the Fenimore Art Museum. Michelle is also working on an exhibit on the photography of **Milo Stewart '71**.

Jane Woolsey '01 and **Sharon Clothier '02** have developed a curriculum for elementary students about the Wisconsin Indians for the Outagamie County Historical Society.

Sarah Blannett '02 became an Education Associate for Contemporary Immigrant Perspectives at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York City.

Julie Frey '02 is heading up a new exhibit, *The Tale of the Horse: Spinning Litchfield's Revolutionary Stories*, for the Litchfield Historical Society in Connecticut. **Andy Albertson '05** is developing the accompanying programs. The exhibit is part of the larger 225th anniversary celebration of General Rochambeau's march across Connecticut to join General Washington in Yorktown, Virginia.

Aria Camaione-Lind '03 accepted a position as the Events Coordinator/Fundraiser for the Rivers Organization based in Rochester, New York.

Ben Petry '03 is now the Exhibit Developer at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Hannah Weisman '04 has taken a position at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont as the School Programs Director.

Katie Cassarly '05 is now the Museum Educator at the National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, Pennsylvania.

Rebecca Slaughter '05 is currently developing a regional baseball exhibit which will open this summer at the Mattatuck Museum Arts and History Center in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Chris Taylor '05 is the new Diversity Outreach Specialist at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Robert Henning '06 recently published an article in *The Remington Society of America Journal*, entitled *The Advertising of E. Remington & Sons: An Undirected Campaign*.

PERSONAL

Parke and Jennifer Madden '93 proudly announce the birth of their son, Henry John, born October 27, 2005.

Paul and Bethany Dranschak Adams '98 announce the birth of their second daughter, Carolyn Elise, born November 10, 2005.

Congratulations to **Michael and Kristin Duffy '00** on the birth of their daughter, Nora Therese, born November 18, 2005.

Laura Hartz '02 married Pat Stanton in a ceremony on October 9, 2005. Classmates **Julie Frey**, **Sarah Blannett** and **Cristin Grant Waterbury** joined in the celebration.

MEMORIAM

Richard Haberlen '66 died September 18, 2005 in Hamilton, New York. He possessed great enthusiasm for historic preservation and worked as the Historic Preservation Supervisor for New York State Parks and Recreation. After his retirement, Richard became a Pastor for Stockbridge United Methodist Church and Pratt's Hollow Church.

William Bertrand "Bert" Fink II, PhD, died on December 24, 2005 in Oneonta, New York. Bert devoted his career to history and education. When SUNY Oneonta and the New York State Historical Association agreed to offer a graduate program in history museum studies, Dr. Fink was appointed the university's representative and was integral in developing a well respected and renowned program. **CR Jones '65** said, "Dr. Fink took great delight in his students and their successes." CGP remembers him fondly for his years teaching the History of Research.

Evelyn Barron, former CGP secretary and confidante, passed away on January 10, 2006 at the Veterans' Home in Oxford, New York. Prior to coming to the Cooperstown Graduate Program, Evelyn worked at NYSHA in the library where she assisted students with their research. Wayne Wright, associate director of the research library of NYSHA, remarked, "She took great care of the students and even taught a few of them how to cook." In the Fall of 2000 the Cooperstown Graduate Association honored Evelyn at their Harvest Dinner. Tributes were given by Dr. Langdon Wright, **CR Jones '65**, **Marianne Bez '82** and **Jim Havener '83**. We fondly remember her cheerful and helpful nature. Private funeral services will be held in the spring.

COMPLETED THESES

Aria Anne Camaione-Lind '03, *The Last Mile: An Analysis of the Death Penalty Through Film, 1987-2001*

Erin Ulrich Doane '02, *Between the Lions: A History of the Van Raalte Mill in Saratoga Springs, New York*

Nicolae Dumitru '02, *Database Entries and Catalog of the Nantucket Historical Association's Scrimshaw Collection*

Eva C. Fognell '01, *Geronimo: An American Indian Legend*

George Garner '01, *Funny Papers: Dixie Dugan and World War II*

Benjamin Petry '03, *Eye of the Storm*

Jeffrey Smith '98, *Planes, Trolleys, and Automobiles: The Diaries of Peter S. Best 1911, 1921-1929*

Lisa Sorensen-Stahl '01, *Connections: The Videoconference Classroom at Fenimore Art Museum and The Farmers' Museum*

The Cooperstown Graduate Program, co-sponsored by the State University of New York College at Oneonta, and the New York State Historical Association, is located on Lake Road, Cooperstown NY 13326.

The Cooperstown Graduate Association, (CGA) a not-for-profit corporation, holds meetings and conferences, produces publications, participates in curriculum review, supports students' stipends and encourages professional development and collegiality.

Membership to CGA is \$25 per year. Send dues to: Elizabeth Callahan, Treasurer, CGA, PO Box 4, Cooperstown NY 13326. Include your work and home addresses and phone numbers. Indicate where you wish to receive CGA mailings.

CGA Officers

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Elizabeth Callahan '93
TREASURER

CGA Forum, the newsletter of the Cooperstown Graduate Association, is published four times a year. CGA welcomes comments from its readers.

Send news to:

CGA, PO Box 4
Cooperstown NY 13326
raddatc@oneonta.edu

Change of address:
CGP, PO Box 800
Cooperstown NY 13326

CGA Forum

Ann Stewart-Honicker '78
EDITOR

Doreen DeNicola
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jan Schochet '78 has been awarded a matching grant from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area for her exhibition: *The Family Store: A History of Jewish Businesses in Downtown Asheville, 1880-1990*. The project will culminate with an historic walking tour of downtown Asheville and will include exhibit panels on some former business sites.

