President's Message

Fa-ti Fan

Dear HSS members,

Greetings! I hope that you are enjoying your summer. HSS has been busy with many important tasks in the past few months. The election results have been announced. Congratulations to the elected officers, Councilors, and committee members! You will play a central role in our leadership team. I want to thank everyone who agreed to serve and participate in the election. As an organization based entirely on volunteerism, your support and commitment meant everything to the success of our Society. Thank you.

Continued on page 2.
In May and June, the Executive Committee (EC) and Council had their mid-year meetings, in which they made decisions on many important items, including the annual budget, committee rosters, planned events, and policy proposals. I am grateful to EC and Council for their dedication and hard work in the summer months.

One of the most important decisions made in the Council meeting was the approval of the new Isis editors. I am pleased to announce that Elise Burton, Projit Mukharji, and Pablo Gomez (as book review editor) will take over the Isis editorship in July 2024. Alix Hui, Matt Lavine, and Projit (as book review editor) have been doing a splendid job guiding and editing our flagship journal. We have every reason to believe that the new editorial team will continue their stellar record. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee on Publications for their thoughtful and dedicated work throughout the selection process.

Similarly, I must express my profound gratitude to the prize committees. They are now busy reading the many nominated books and articles. While it is certainly a joy to dive into the wonderful new scholarship in our vibrant field, it also means that time on the beach and hiking trails may be curtailed. There will also be rounds of discussion and debate on the winners in the coming months. Thank you so much.

We have also started work for the annual meeting in Portland. We received a large number of submissions this year, a significant increase (more than 30%) from last year. The program co-chairs (Jaipreet Virdi and Courtney Thompson) reviewed the submissions and made many difficult decisions. The selected submissions promise an amazingly rich and exciting program. All the numbers suggest that the size of the Portland meeting will easily match that of the pre-pandemic era.

This year’s Distinguished Lecture will be delivered by Anita Guerrini, whose influential work has been honored by many prizes and awards, including the Pfizer Award.

I am writing this message in Taiwan, where we co-sponsored a workshop with Academia Sinica in June. Several HSS members, including Vice President Evelynn Hammonds, participated in the event. Several dozen scholars from Korea, Japan, China, and Taiwan joined the workshop in person and another 140 attended online. It was part of our effort to broaden and strengthen the connections between HSS and scholars and institutions across the world. The workshop was enormously successful. I am particularly grateful to Wendy Fu and Albert Wu for organizing the workshop and to Academia Sinica for hosting it. Evelynn also gave a public lecture on diversity in higher education at a major university there (National Chengchi University). The event attracted a large crowd, and a major magazine in Taiwan featured an interview with her.
More great news about globalizing our community and research field: we have recently added a new Forum – the Pacific Circle. The Forum focuses on science and knowledge practices in the Pacific region, broadly defined. It is wonderful that we have added two new forums in a year – the Pacific Circle and the Forum on the History of Science and Knowledge in Latin America and the Caribbean. These new forums represent an exciting development and have broadened the scope of our Society.

The Centennial Committee has continued to design and plan initiatives to celebrate HSS@100. The first episode of the Centennial podcast series has been published: Historical Perspectives On Contemporary Issues | Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine (chstm.org). The second episode is coming soon. We will roll out one episode every month. I would urge you to listen to the end of each episode and try to be the first one to do so. There are many good reasons for doing that. I am grateful to Babak Ashrafi, the staff of the Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, and the participants in the podcast episodes for their tremendous work.

The HSS Summer School has taken place at the Science History Institute (SHI) in July. The Summer School is a new initiative to support graduate students and early career scholars. We received over 80 very impressive applications from all over the world, but have room for only a dozen students. They will present their projects, participate in a series of activities, and receive professional guidance and advice. Many thanks to the selection committee, the curriculum committee, the faculty, and the SHI for their support for the project.

I am extremely pleased to announce this year’s Sarton Medalist – Theodore Porter. Ted’s pathbreaking research on the history of social and human sciences has profoundly impacted our field and beyond. You will find an award citation by David Sepkoski in these pages. I am also very happy to announce that Marsha Richmond has been selected to receive the Outstanding Service Award. Marsha’s extensive service to HSS (including serving as its Secretary for many years) and the history of science profession is truly remarkable. We will present both awards, and many other awards and prizes, at the annual meeting.

I would like to end this message with a tribute to several members who made important contributions to our Society and who sadly passed away this year: Garland Allen, Owen Gingerich, Everett Mendelsohn, and Edith Sylla (who served as Secretary of HSS in the early 1990s). They will be dearly remembered.
“Let's Fly,” “Hit It,” “Engage.” These are various phrases used by Star Trek captains to jump to warp. They also indicate a point where you move forward, into the unknown, uncharted territory. On Monday, 10 July, the same mentality was in mind when HSS held its first Interdisciplinary Summer School at the Science History Institute (SHI). When I stepped into SHI to set up before anyone else arrived, I quietly said, “Let it rip.”

The uncharted territory was rocky at first (inclement weather, flight delays, flight cancellations), but through it all, an incredible group of people came together to deliver a thoughtful, memorable, and intellectually rigorous event.

There will be more time to reflect on the Summer School in November, but here I want to talk about all the people who touched the event to bring it to fruition.

It started with an idea brought forth in January 2022 by Kristine Palmieri, who was at that point our Early Career Representative. Kris, in collaboration with GECC leadership and the Committee on Meetings and Programs, established the preliminary scope and scale of a summer school that was created (with Council’s approval).

A volunteer Selection Committee was formed to review all 84 applications for the Summer School. Many thanks to the Selection Committee: Hugh Cagle, Pratik Chakrabarti, Jan Golinski, Patrícia Martin Marcos, and Gina Surita for serving in this role. Coming up with the inaugural class was no easy task.

Based on their selections, a Curriculum Committee was convened to select faculty and programming. Hugh Cagle, Iris Clever, Taylor Dysart, Patricia Martin Marcos, Kristine Palmieri, and Don Opitz, quickly assembled and guided the program. The 5 day Summer School had three masterclasses, one professionalization workshop, and 10 student workshops.

The Curriculum Committee selected Gerardo con Diaz, Matt Lavine, Sarah Lowengard, Charlotte Abney Salomon, Jesse Smith, and James Voelkel as faculty. They joined Council member, Jahnavi Phalkey, and HSS President, Fa-ti Fan, to round out our faculty.
And our inaugural class! They came from far and wide to Philadelphia: Alexis Bedolla, Nuala Caomhanach, Mariana Ferrari Waligora, Ana Hidrovo-Lupera, Rachael Hill, Bryan Kauma, Janka Kormos, Marianne Quijano, César Torres Cruz, and Yixue Yang. It was incredible to see this group come together and bond through the common idea of grounding their work in the history of science.

Special thanks to everyone at the Science History Institute for hosting the Summer School, to our sponsors Springer, University of Chicago Press, Eyes Peeled Coffee, and all the individual HSS member donors. We’re especially grateful to Pedro Raposo, who kindly gave the students a behind-the-scenes tour the Academy of Natural Sciences, and to Morgan Valenzuela for organizing so many logistical elements.

It took all these people to host a truly exceptional event, to just “Make it so.”
Wherever it is that Everett finds himself now (for those of us that hold with an afterlife), it is difficult to envision him in other than customary sartorial sharpness, an unmistakable tie set off to either side by the lapels of a resplendent suit. He must of course have an office, shelves heaving with the weight of a myriad theses that he has overseen, the last of which is mine. There are legions of books bespeaking an inexhaustible array of interests, from the history of biomedicine to the possibilities of peace in the Holy Land. And there will be a door, at which one might knock, and it will open at his command, and he will bow slightly, beam, and (at least in my case), boom out, “Sir”, as he ushers me in and offers me a seat. For those of us whose lives have suddenly dimmed for his absence in the here and now, we shall have to await transport to another dimension for a such a turn of events to come to pass again. When it happens, I know that we shall beam in turn, for the joy of seeing him again.

Everett suffered a critical attack of shingles in 2005. I remember this because he was my sole advisor at the time, and my general examinations were nigh. I remember my deep sense of uncertainty at the time. But Everett rallied, chaired my qualifying examination, and even shielded me as best he could, ensuring that I negotiated the ordeal relatively unscathed. He intervened again the following year, while helming the panel in which I was participating in Vancouver in my first foray into the world the History of Science Society meetings, when a speaker failed to materialise.
and so each of the talks for the remaining panelists was advanced. An annoyed member of the audience disapproved of that course of action, and Everett quietly responded, “I shall take the responsibility”. But that was Everett: the courtly, diplomatic, polite, loyal, empathetic, generous, pacifistic, nurturing, wise, kind and yet firm academician, enshrouded in the material of a knight before the age of muskets, where both habiliment and man seemed cut from a different cloth.

The loyalty and the goodness were legendary. As an undergraduate at Antioch, Everett was involved with issues of Civil Rights, along with a classmate of his, Coretta Scott King. He drew inspiration from his admiration for the Quaker movement, and stayed connected throughout his life with such causes close to his heart, particularly peacemaking efforts in Israel and Palestine. As an early middle-aged member of the faculty at Harvard, he chaired a resolution against carpet bombing in Vietnam in 1973, when such action was at its peak. He was always a champion of the unsung, supporting scholarship that found few other advocates. In the new millennium, he was one of the voices raised in protest against what he saw as the overbearing and paternalistic attitude of the then-President of Harvard, whose tenure in that role was subsequently short-lived. If Everett at the time was part of a larger assemblage of concerned members of the faculty, it was on account of his uncompromising fealty to democratic process. In the pursuit of such a goal, he never shied away from from underlying principle, even when the causes were unpopular, particularly when pacifism was disdained. Yet Everett was not dissuaded and became all the more influential as a result. By the time I joined the Department, he was already a legend, a mentorship award at the University had been instituted in his name. He had served with distinction as Master of Dudley House (for postgraduate students), and he strode the Department of the History of Science as a genial colossus, a wizened historian of the biomedical sciences who as a graduate student had once served as a teaching fellow for Thomas Kuhn. Everett's activism stood alongside his academic work, and one of the publications that he founded in the late 1960s edited for several years, The Journal of the History of Biology, still remains one of the leading journals in the field.

Everett's first scholarly success came in 1964, with the development of his doctoral thesis into a book titled Heat and Life: The Development of Animal Heat. Seven years earlier, he had been inducted into the Harvard Society of Fellows as a Junior Fellow, in which capacity he served until 1960. Then, upon completion of his PhD, he was named to the faculty of the Department of the History of Science at Harvard. Except for a few sabbaticals, including a contented year at
In Memoriam: Everett Mendelsohn

Cambridge, he never left Harvard. As a historian of biology with deep roots in pacifism and ethics, his work became part of a larger societal tapestry. He participated in matters relating to biological ethics at a time when the exciting and perilous possibilities of biotechnology were making themselves evident. An anecdote that he was fond of relating, which involved two Nobel Laureates at Harvard, was telling in this regard. James Watson, fresh from his work on the structure of DNA, had been keen to get work on biotechnology started, but there were concerns about the safety of his planned laboratory spaces where significant risks to the personnel involved were not beyond the pale, which in turn had alarmed the citizenry of the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts. When the matter was put to committee, Nobel laureate George Wald reportedly asked, “Jim, what’s the rush?” Everett’s recounting of the story with considerable relish was characteristic of his own measured view of the pace at which events should unfold, a historian at the heart of his craft.

In 1970, he was admitted to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and by the time he officially retired to emeritus status, forty seven years later, his lifetime’s achievements were startling. Apart from his seminal work on the Journal of the History of Biology, he also was responsible for co-founding the yearbook Sociology of the Sciences, the AAAS Committee on Science, Arms Control, and National Security, the American Academy of Arts and Science’s Committee on International Security Studies, and the Institute of Peace and Security. He served as the first president of the latter. The Czechoslovak Academy of Science awarded him its Gregor Mendel prize in 1991, and three years later, he held the Olaf Palme Professorship in Sweden. It was fitting that Everett held this chair, named for a prime minister who had consistently opposed authoritarianism on either side of a bipolar world during his lifetime.

Perhaps the brightest part of Everett's legacy is his mentorship. For each of the stories that I can recount from personal experience, there are countless others that may be added by those who were fortunate enough to be guided by him. Everett was awarded the Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize in 1996, and the Harvard Graduate Council established the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award in 1998. He was awarded the Harvard Centennial Medal in 2013, and the Journal of the History of Biology named the Everett Mendelsohn Prize in his honor. To his students, Everett Mendelsohn was, in many ways, the living embodiment of the history of science.
In Memoriam: Everett Mendelsohn

On one memorable occasion, when he was leading a class in Environmental History, he began in declamatory fashion, “Central Park, bounded on the north by 110th Street, on the south by 59th Street, on the East, by Fifth Avenue, and on the west, by Central Park West/Eighth Avenue....” At the end of the session, one of my fellow graduate students said to me, “Everett doesn’t give lectures, he gives documentaries.” I remember guffawing at the time, because the remark was as droll as it was true. I recounted the anecdote at Everett’s farewell in 2007, and he likewise laughed uproariously. That was Everett for all of us, a man of grace, of wisdom, of tact, and of flair. He was one for the ages, and has now passed into them. It is in the little places, often alone, beyond the collective grief that we feel so much in the immediate, that we shall miss him most. And it will be just as much at those times that we will recall how much he enriched all of our lives, and how much further we could and can see, because (to paraphrase in part an esteemed scientist of yore) he lent us his shoulders.

Thank you, Everett! You remain such a brick!

John Mathew
(PhD in the History of Science, 2011, Harvard University)
Ted Porter is, quite simply, one of the world’s most distinguished historians of science. Over his long career he has been responsible not just for transforming an existing field (the history of statistics and statistical practice) but for actually creating a new one: the history of quantification. In the broadest sense, Ted’s accomplishment has been to connect histories of statistical practice to histories of scientific epistemology—in other words, to investigate the ways in which quantification grew, over the 19th and early 20th centuries, to incorporate a political and cultural worldview extending well beyond just statistical applications in the natural and applied sciences. In other words, Ted played a key role in our appreciation of statistics not just as a set of techniques and practices, but what some historians have called an “epistemic virtue” tied to shifting notions of rationality, objectivity, and control. Other historians have certainly contributed to this project as well—many of whom have been close collaborators with Ted—but Ted has, from the publication of his first book in 1986, established himself at the very center of this historiographic shift, and his succeeding publications have consistently pushed us to consider new questions, contexts, and consequences of “the rise of statistical thinking” and “trust in numbers.”

Ted began his professional career with a PhD in History from Princeton in 1981, and his dissertation was the eventual basis for his first
The Rise of Statistical Thinking, 1820-1900 (Princeton, 1986). Ted's first monograph made an immediate impact: it was the first synthetic account of the development of 19th-century statistics as an epistemology, and not just a practice. Drawing together scientific, bureaucratic, and economic strands, Ted illustrated the ways in which quantification became a way of “thinking” about the world and its constituents by following concepts like the normal probability curve that moved across disciplines and recast the ways Europeans and Americans came to see what is “normal” and what is “exceptional” in contexts from gas laws to human variation. While this book was gestating, Ted was also a member of the group of younger scholars who held fellowships at Bielefeld University in Germany that produced the influential collaboration The Empire of Chance: How Probability Changed Science and Everyday Life (Spektrum, 1989; Cambridge, 1990).

Having established with The Rise of Statistical Thinking that and how statistical thinking emerged as a distinctive epistemology during the 19th century, Ted’s next book, Trust in Numbers: The Pursuit of Objectivity in Science and Public Life asked why it did, and what this development tells us about the cultural and political values in the Western societies. The argument Ted made was in many ways counterintuitive: it was precisely because the empirical claims of 19th century engineers and bureaucrats were weak or contested that quantification was elevated as a source of epistemic authority to resolve debates and disagreements involving “subjective” opinions. As he had with his first book, Ted illustrated Trust in Numbers with a series of beautifully-chosen case studies from diverse areas of bureaucratic statistics: political economy, accountancy and actuarial practice, civil engineering, and more. At publication the book was received as a brilliant intervention in the historiography and philosophy of quantification, and has only gained stature with time. It is still regularly assigned in introductory graduate seminars in history of science and STS, and perhaps more importantly has been widely read outside of our field by historians, sociologists, philosophers, political scientists, and other scholars of quantification and political organization. It is indeed a foundational book.

This is not to say, however, that Ted's two later books have been unimportant. Indeed, Ted’s most recent book, Genetics in the Madhouse: The Unknown History of Human Heredity (Princeton, 2018), earned him the 2018 Pfizer Prize, and his previous work Karl Pearson: The Scientific Life in a Statistical Age (Princeton,
2023 Sarton Medalist: Ted Porter

2004) is regarded as a model of scientific biography attentive to both intellectual and social nuance. In fact, in some ways Genetics in the Madhouse is Ted’s most important book, because it closes the loop between the bureaucratic practices of statistics documented in his early work, the development of quantitative biological science (heredity and eventually genetics), and epistemologies of ordering and control that “statistical thinking” engendered and elevated during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The book also makes a novel argument about the origins of human genetics and the human sciences more broadly in those very statistical practices and epistemology. Implicitly, it helps us see how a way of ordering and understanding the world—counting, tabulating, taking averages, etc.—was foundational for social and biological interventions (public asylums, the labeling of people, the reduction of complex behavioral traits to simple hereditary factors) that have implicated concepts and methods of science in social systems of inequality that extend to the present. Seeing the world “as data,” in other words, had consequences that went far beyond merely providing a conceptual and methodological framework for studying economic, demographic, or taxonomic trends. Data are political, and in a sense Genetics in the Madhouse is a powerful confirmation of Ian Hacking’s insights in his influential 1985 essay “Making Up People.”

Ted is not just an enormously prolific author—as of 2018 his CV listed over 100 articles, chapters, and essays, along with four single-authored books and two edited or coauthored volumes—but has also contributed tremendously to the profession and to our society in both formal and informal ways. His collaborative spirit has led to visiting appointments at a wide variety of institutes and universities in Europe and North America, where he has been a key instigator of conferences, workshops, working groups, and collaborative publications. Ted has been extremely generous towards younger scholars, and beyond the dozen-plus PhD students he has formally supervised he has been an outside reader, informal mentor, and cheerful source of encouragement to a great many others. He is renowned for his generosity, constructiveness, and dry wit—he is a favorite colleague of the many dozens of scholars with whom he has interacted during his career.
2023 Sarton Medalist: Ted Porter

Ted has also been very active in supporting the activities of the HSS and the profession at large. He has served two terms on the HSS Council (1991-1993; 2005-2007), has served as Program Chair for the 1992 and 2008 annual meetings of the HSS, and served on a variety of HSS committees (nominating, meetings and programs, publications, research and the profession). In addition to standard manuscript and grant refereeing, Ted has served on advisory editorial boards of more than a dozen journals or book series (including Isis), and he has served the public interest as a member of panels or review boards for the SSRC, the Human Genome Initiative, the UN Development Program, and other initiatives.

It goes without saying that Ted has been widely honored throughout his career, with fellowships and awards from some of our profession's most prestigious institutions and agencies. He has held multiple Scholar’s Awards from the National Science foundation, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Ludwig Fleck Prize, and is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has also held residential fellowships at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, the University of California Society of Fellows, and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, among many others. He has been a distinguished or keynote lecturer at dozens of meetings and events (including the Distinguished Lecture of the HSS in 2007), and has presented his work at workshops, conferences, and departmental colloquia at institutions around the world.

The Sarton Medal is a fitting recognition of Ted's outstanding achievements in the field and his influence on generations of scholars.
Professor Richmond has served the Society and the profession of the history of science in myriad ways during her long and distinguished career.

At the History of Science Society, she served on the Executive Committee as the Society's Secretary from 2010 to 2016, and on Council from 2006 to 2008. Those who worked with her on the Executive Committee during this time are unfailing in their positive recollections.

Marsha went well beyond her duties as Secretary. During this time the Society undertook a multi-year strategic planning initiative, and Marsha served on the Strategic Planning committee in 2014–15.

Her service to the profession more broadly has been much greater. A longtime member and active participant in the International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB), she was elected its president in 2015 (for 2017–19). This was a six-year commitment, first as president-elect (2015–17), then president, then past-president (2019–21)—with significant duties attached to each stage (meeting site selection as president-elect, general running of the society and its meeting as president, nominations committee as past-president). Marsha carried them out with a characteristic combination of grace and pragmatism.

Her leadership of ISHPSSB overlapped with her next major service contribution to the field. As co-editor in chief of the Journal of the History of Biology from 2018 to 2022 (with Karen Rader), she worked tirelessly to bring in top-quality scholarship while nurturing junior scholars. Richmond and Rader maintained the quality, output, and reliability of the journal through the major dip caused by the pandemic—a dip in scholars able to complete and publish their work, and also in scholars willing to serve as referees. At the same time, the editors freshened the journal with new ideas, such as developing “topical collections,” and representing well the immense diversity of the life sciences and their histories. In short, under her and Karen Rader’s co-editorship, they kept the JHB at the top of its game.

Richmond brought to this position deep experience in editorial work. After her work on the Correspondence of Charles Darwin Project, she served on its
advisory board for fifteen years (1994–2009); the journals History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences (2003–2010); Annals of the History and Philosophy of Biology (2005–10), Isis (2006–2008), NTM (1994–2008), and previous service at the JHB itself (advisory board, 2004–2016; Associate Editor, 2017). In this way, she has long had a hand in shaping the direction of the history of biology in significant, if largely invisible, ways.

Although this is a service award and not an award for scholarship, it would be strange not to mention Marsha’s service to the profession through her scholarship, which has always been incisive and novel, while opening up new intellectual paths. Her contributions to understanding the role of Darwin’s barnacle work in the development of his theory (which she undertook as part of the editorial team for the Darwin Correspondence Project from 1988 to 1994) and her studies of German cell theory and its reception in England are models of meticulous scholarship that yielded new insights about seemingly familiar topics. Perhaps most significant as “service” is the large body of her work making visible women as contributors to biology (especially genetics), and analyzing the social and institutional structures that made their work possible, while also restricting it. If part of the service work of the history of science is to show how learning science’s history can render the field of science more open and just, she is doing it.

Marsha Richmond has dedicated her career to serving the history of science in multiple ways, and has done so with enormous, if often understated, distinction.
On the workshop’s final evening, I found myself in the company of half a dozen new friends and colleagues representing almost as many disciplines. Besides myself (a historian of astronomy), there was a history student in the UK just beginning a project at the Norman Lockyer archive and observatory; a physics student investigating E. E. Barnard’s calculations of 61 Cygni; an English professor working on science in Victorian literature; a communications studies student examining how astronomers communicate with the public, primarily through image production; and the workshop’s invited speaker, Dr. Charlotte Bigg of the French CNRS, Centre Alexandre Koyré. As we toasted the workshop’s conclusion, it struck me that those around the table were a perfect example of what has continued to make the ND workshops so successful.

The ND history of astronomy workshops, held every second year at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, began in 1993 with a workshop organized by Michael Crowe, John Lankford, and Marc Rothenberg. Since then, the workshop has taken place almost every two years and provides an opportunity to present projects in various stages of development, test ideas, and demonstrate methods for teaching the history of astronomy. With no parallel sessions and a regular excursion to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, the workshop fosters a uniquely collaborative atmosphere and is especially welcoming for independent scholars, graduate students, and those working in the museum/planetarium community. The workshop is known for its informal feel, relatively small number of participants (usually between 40 and 50), emphasis on hands-on activities, and excellent international speakers. Invited speakers at past workshops have included Clive Ruggles, Albert van Helden, Liba Taub, F. Jamil Ragep, Michio Yano, Mike G. Edmunds, and Omar Nasim.

After a COVID hiatus and an abbreviated, online workshop last summer, the workshop returned on-ground this year with the theme of “Communicating Astronomy.” Dr. Bigg began the workshop with a public lecture entitled “The Heavens on Earth: Visualizing the Universe, Popularizing Astronomy in Modern Times,” which explored the rhetorical packaging of modern astronomical images and reminded the audience that views of space are indeed highly constructed artifacts. Workshop founder Michael Crowe briefly addressed the audience and...
acknowledged the absence of many familiar faces, chief of whom was Owen Gingerich, a fixture at the workshops since its earliest years.

Paper sessions included work on the historical evolution of astronomy lab courses, instrument manufacturers in the US, the archeoastronomy of Norman Lockyer, and work by University of Chicago students on the astronomical glass plate collection at the Yerkes Observatory. A highlight was a performance of The Night Sky by Artemis Willis at the Adler Planetarium and a display of the Adler’s collection of historic magic lantern slides. Forty scholars sitting in a darkened lecture theater as Adler curator Dr. Katie Boyce-Jacino displayed lantern slides that had not been viewed publicly for over a century was an ideal example of the kind of material history the workshop fosters.

A major benefit of the workshop is the chance for researchers to present and receive feedback on works in progress. This year projects included a history of changing views on the heavens in popular American culture, a study of social justice movements in astronomy, an update on the Astronomy Genealogy Project (https://astrogen.aas.org/), and a new endeavor to document and coordinate the use of big data in modern astronomical sky surveys. The workshop, which drew participants from as far as Australia, concluded with a banquet and lecture by Dr. Bigg on the history of lunar portraiture. Hands-on sessions included a viewing session on the roof of the old Notre Dame science building with the historic Napoleon III refracting telescope and a re-creation of Tycho Brahe's armillary sphere.

A huge thanks are due to our invited speaker, Dr. Bigg, as well as the coordinating committee (especially Matt Dowd of University of Notre Dame Press) and the staff of the Adler Planetarium for another great workshop. Plans are already underway for NDXVI to be held June 2025. If you would like to be involved, visit https://www3.nd.edu/~histast/ for more information, including images and this year's program. Call for papers for the next workshop is expected to go out in fall 2024. All are welcome whose research overlaps with the history of astronomy.
The Adler Planetarium awards the Mansfield Prize each year to an early-career research at the workshop. This prize includes a small stipend as well as airfare and lodging to support a short research trip to the Adler’s extensive archives. The Adler Planetarium and the workshop organizing committee are proud to announce Dr. Trent MacNamara (Texas A&M University) as this year’s recipient of the Mansfield Prize for his project “Copernicus in the Backwoods: How the New Cosmology Reached Ordinary Americans.”
Renewing a tradition that began as far back as 1988, the Lone Star History of Science Group held its annual meeting in Austin on 1 April 2023. It was the group’s first in-person meeting since 2019; the 2020 meeting had to be cancelled because of the pandemic, and the 2021 and 2022 meetings were held entirely online.

This spring the Lone Star group was very happy to welcome as its speaker Luis Campos of Rice University, who gave a fascinating talk on “Blue Vegetation on the Red Planet: Soviet Astrobotany and Early Earth Analogues.” Professor Campos traced the work of the Soviet astronomer turned astrobotanist Gavriil Tikhov (1875–1960) and his efforts to identify the spectroscopic signature of possible plant life on Mars. Professor Campos showed that Tikhov’s work circulated more widely than one might have expected, influencing Carl Sagan among many others and contributing to the idea that the Earth, if seen from deep space, would appear as “a pale blue dot.” Professor Campos also explored the links between Tikhov’s ideas and Soviet ideology of the time. He then topped off his presentation with a travelogue recounting his recent visit to Almaty, Kazakhstan, where Tikhov spent much of his career and where traces of his presence can still be found, at least by an explorer as intrepid as Luis Campos.

After Professor Campos’s talk, the group headed off to enjoy dinner and further conversation at a local restaurant called “Gabriel’s”—an especially appropriate choice in light of Tikhov’s first name.

Each spring, the Lone Star Group brings together historians of science, technology, and medicine from around Texas to discuss their shared interests and enjoy a friendly dinner. Its constitution, adopted at an Austin restaurant in 1988, provides that there shall be “no officers, no by-laws, and no dues,” and the group remains resolutely informal. Anyone wishing to be added to the group’s mailing list (and that’s all it takes to become a member in good standing) should contact Bruce Hunt of the University of Texas at bjhunt@austin.utexas.edu.
Lone Star Historians of Science

In front: Austin Zwirn, Aina Ongcheap, Liz Petrick, Al Martinez
Middle row: Yohad Zacarias, Eric Williams, Megan Raby, Marilynn Olson, Karl Stephan, Pam Stephan, Cliff Cunningham, John Lisle

In back: Don Olson, Luis Campos, Bruce Hunt, John Alaniz
Not pictured: Steve Bratteng, Sarah Jenevein, Alex Miller, Abena Osseo-Asare, Felipe Vilo
Courses in the Global History of Science: If you are teaching a course on the global history of science and would be willing to share your syllabus, please send it to: Bernie Lightman (lightman@yorku.ca). I am involved in a project to design a course textbook for classroom use on the global history of science and it would be very helpful to know what kinds of courses are currently being offered and how they are structured.

Congratulations to Professor Warwick Anderson, who has been awarded the Society for Social Studies of Science’s prestigious Bernal Prize for having made ‘distinguished contributions’ to the field of Science and Technology Studies. It is the Society’s life achievement award. Past recipients include Emily Martin, Evelyn Fox Keller, Steven Shapin, Donna Haraway, Bruno Latour, Mary Douglas, Joseph Needham, Robert Merton, and Thomas Kuhn. https://4sonline.org/2023_joan_fujimura_and_warwick_anderson.php
Dear SKLAC Forum Members,

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the Forum for Science and Knowledge in Latin America and the Caribbean (SKLAC), of the History of Science Society, we would like to announce the very first SKLAC article prize. Going forward the SKLAC article prize will be awarded biennially to the article in English, Spanish, or Portuguese judged to make the most significant contribution to the history of science, knowledge, and medicine in Latin America and the Caribbean. This article prize will be followed by a dissertation prize, awarded biennially starting in 2024.

This first SKLAC article prize will consider articles published in 2021 and 2022, and will be awarded at the History of Science Society’s annual meeting in November. (To help us give the prize an official name, see below.) To nominate or self-nominate an article for the award, please email an abstract and PDF of the article to the members of the prize committee listed below before the award’s submission deadline of Aug. 1, 2023.

**SKLAC Article Prize Committee for 2023:**

**Dr. Sebastián Gil-Riaño**
Assistant Professor of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania
gseb@sas.upenn.edu

**Dr. Marcy Norton**
Associate Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania
marcy.norton@sas.upenn.edu

Dr. Christina Ramos
Assistant Professor of History, Washington University in St. Louis
christina.ramos@wustl.edu

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We are also pleased to announce an open call for nominations for the SKLAC Article Prize’s name. What do you think it should be called? Who, what, or where should it remember, memorialize, or honor? Please email your ideas — a name, and a brief rationale for why — to SKLAC Secretary Elizabeth O’Brien obrienelizabeth86@gmail.com, also by August 1. The Steering Committee will announce the winning name at the November HSS meeting.

Elizabeth O’Brien, PhD
Assistant Professor, **Department of the History of Medicine**

Zoom Meeting Room

Early Sciences and Medicine 2023 Essay Prize

The Early Sciences Forum of the History of Science Society and Early Science and Medicine are joining together to run a prize competition for the best essay focusing on early science, medicine, technology, and other forms of natural knowledge across the globe before 1800. We especially welcome submissions from early career scholars. The author of the winning essay will receive a $200 award and the piece will be published as an article in Early Science and Medicine 29 (2024), pending peer review; the committee will provide mentorship.
throughout the process. The winner will be strongly encouraged to attend the History of Science Society Conference 2023 meeting on November 9-12 at the Hilton Portland Downtown Hotel, as the prize will be awarded at the Early Sciences Forum Meeting. Unpublished essays between 8,000 and 15,000 words in English will be considered. Submissions should not be under consideration at another journal. Please follow the ESM style guide before submitting your essay, and make sure that your paper itself has been anonymized. ESM publishes images in color and black-and-white; the author will handle permissions. Please submit essays by August 1, 2023 via this form (https://forms.gle/5bzAjigAaAruSRfQ9). For questions, please contact Mackenzie Cooley (mcooley@hamilton.edu).