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Life in the Division - Before, During, and After Covid-19

by Ute Lotz-Heumann, Director and Heiko A. Oberman Chair in Late Medieval and Reformation History
Our third Covid semester is behind us! You may recall that just before the pandemic, the Division celebrated its thirtieth anniversary and Luise Betterton retired from her position as Assistant Director. Since then, we have all had to adjust in various ways - from teaching and learning online to trying to continue our research when travel was impossible. These adjustments took a lot of time and planning - if I therefore owe you an email, please forgive me. Still, despite all the extra work that has gone into pandemic adjustment, there have been some exciting new developments in the Division. Our graduate students have moved forward with their research under challenging circumstances. In the past year, three of our students graduated - Dr. Kristen Howard, Hannah McClain, M.A., and, most recently, Dean Messinger, M.A. Our graduate students have continued to win awards and fellowships, and they are all currently engaged in productive summer learning - from online language and paleography courses to research in digital archival collections in Europe. Professor Plummer and I have finished monographs.

In the past three semesters, we have also welcomed three new affiliated faculty members: Professor Michael Brescia, Curator of Ethnohistory at the Arizona State Museum and an expert in early modern Spanish Borderlands, World History, and Spanish paleography; Professor Linda Darling, a historian of the early modern Ottoman Empire, Middle Eastern history, and the Muslim world; and Professor Chris Lukinbeal, the director of GIST, who brings invaluable expertise in GIS and StoryMaps to our Shared Churches Project and our graduate students. We look forward to collaborating with Professors Brescia, Darling, and Lukinbeal.

At the end of May, Pia Cuneo, Professor of Art History, who was affiliated with the Division for two decades, retired from the University of Arizona. Professor Cuneo made invaluable contributions to the Division in research and teaching, advised Division graduate
students, and taught the Division seminar several times. We in the Division will miss her and her many contributions to our unit.

Looking ahead, we are busy planning our fall events. Hopefully, they will be held in person, but we are waiting a bit longer before making final arrangements. Our annual theme is “Crime and Punishment in Early Modern Europe.” The 35th annual Town and Gown Lecture will be given by Joel F. Harrington, Centennial Professor of History at Vanderbilt University, on the topic “Cruel and Inhuman: The Nineteenth-Century Invention of the Gothic Executioner.” Professor Harrington’s lecture is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19. More information about our fall events will be forthcoming. Please visit https://dlmrs.arizona.edu or http://facebook.com/UAdlmrs for updates or send us an email at SBS-latemedref@arizona.edu.

On a personal note, I will be on sabbatical starting July 1. “Sabbatical” is, in truth, a misnomer because faculty are required to focus on research and writing during a sabbatical. I am going off on just such a research leave, available to faculty every seven years, to work on a monograph tentatively titled “Moments of Reckoning: Print and Propaganda in Early Modern Ireland.” My book is a powerful reminder that our current moment of cultural, social, and political divisions and its many consequences - from harassing one’s fellow human beings to published vitriol - is not new. And without administrative duties for a year, I will also be able to catch up on my email account. So, if I missed your email, please resend it, and I promise I will finally respond.

In my absence, Professor Plummer will be Acting Director of the Division from mid-2021 to mid-2022. Please give her and the Division your continued support!

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**Research in the Time of Covid-19**

*by Beth Plummer, Susan C. Karant-Nunn Chair in Reformation and Early Modern European History*
On a beautiful, sunny morning in late May, after I had finished my final grades for the spring semester, I thought about my research plans during the summer break. Despite already being in Germany, I know that research in its traditional form is not possible for the second summer in a row.

Few colleagues from around the world will come to the Duke August Library in Wolfenbüttel for their annual research sojourn this year. I will miss the many lost discussions over coffee hour in the library garden or during summer evenings sitting in one of the few, but long since beloved, local restaurants. As Germany still struggles to get the pandemic under control, the garden is empty, and those restaurants are only slowly reopening. The library itself has limited opening times, housing, and research space for the few scholars here.

While my colleagues and I all hope that in-person research and meetings will be possible again soon, we know that research and scholarship has changed and will continue to do so. Over the last year, I have taken part in webinars focused on how scholars can continue to be productive and exchange ideas during an ongoing public health crisis and shrinking funding availability. The creativity and efforts of so many individuals have ensured that such scholarly exchanges can continue. Numerous universities, research centers, and professional societies have also adopted social media sites and content sharing technology to hold meetings, record workshops, and facilitate discussion to support such contact.

Technology also has made research activity possible in ways that most of us never imagined. Some of these new scholarly tools have been in use long before this pandemic. We all regularly consult an increasing number of digitized articles and books available at our home institutions. Over the last decade, a growing number of archives and libraries with repositories of early modern manuscripts and printed books have begun digitizing their collections. The current circumstances have expanded these efforts and spurred on
other digitization projects. In particular, archives are improving online finding aids and offering new digitization services. Thus, research can continue, even if in a modified form. I now regularly order archival documents, early modern print books, and articles from a variety of archives and libraries. In the last month alone, I ordered archival documents produced by an abbess in Weissenfels in Saxon-Anhalt from the main state archives in Dresden and articles written by a professor at the Technical University of Dresden from Interlibrary Loan at the University of Arizona. All of this arrived quickly, allowing me to keep working and writing. Still, what I will be doing this summer is not what I had planned. Instead of beginning research on my next book, I will spend most of the summer at my desk editing my book manuscript in preparation for its publication with Oxford University Press.

What is missing are the unexpected moments of discovery that come from an unexpected discussion with someone during a conference or unplanned meeting in an archive or the accidental discovery in an archive or library that turns out to be pivotal to one’s research or thinking about a topic or problem. I wonder, for instance, what would I have learned if I could have traveled to Dresden to look at those documents in person and could have also ordered related documents just to see what was there. And what if I could have taken the opportunity of being in Dresden to visit with that professor in person to discuss our common research interests. That serendipity of research is what we all miss right now.

The ongoing challenges and obstacles faced doing research under these conditions often seem insurmountable, especially for many younger scholars. Nevertheless, we are all moving ahead, finding new ways to do research, and gradually emerging into a new normal that will, surely, bring back in-person visits to archives, libraries, and historical sites that we all enjoy so much.

Professor Emerita Pia Francisca Cuneo
Professor of Art History Pia Cuneo has retired as of spring semester 2021. Pia’s specialty is Northern Renaissance and early modern European art. Luise Betterton and I shall surely never forget a brief tour with her around the Denver Museum of Art, on one occasion when the Society for Reformation Research and the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference were holding their annual meetings in that city. Pia’s commentary on the works we were viewing deepened at least my understanding profoundly, and I wished I too had been able to sit in on her graduate seminars.

Beginning in the early 2000s, Pia accepted the additional status of Affiliated Professor with the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies. As such, and along with invited faculty from other academic units, her function was to enrich Division graduate students’ purviews. In the current academic world, our students needed to be acquainted with a broad framework of sources and subjects, including relevant works of depictive art, in order to function as interdisciplinary experts. Theological and political texts were no longer sufficient sources on the Reformation era but required amplification within a multi-media context. Pia taught the famous Division Seminar several times, on one occasion in 2018 using exclusively early modern prints held in the University of Arizona’s Museum of Art collections. (*) She has remarkably enriched Division members’ ability to approach and evaluate the past.

Pia took the Ph.D. degree at Northwestern University in 1991. Her revised dissertation appeared as her first book, *Art and Politics in Early Modern Germany: Jörg Breu the Elder and the Fashioning of Political Identity*, in 1998. She joined the Department of Art, now the School of Art, at the University of Arizona in 1990, making her way upward through the tenure-track and tenured ranks. For some years, she served as Division Chair of Art History. Her publications of late have focused on early modern people’s views and treatment of animals. She edited a book, *Animals and Early Modern Identity* (2014), that includes essays on numerous animals even as she herself
had come to identify as a “hippologist,” an expert on horses. Her essays on horses are highly informative as well as entertaining, for they explore early modern men’s projection of humanity onto these creatures that were crucial to transport, warfare, and class-definition. In her private life, Pia is an equestrian and the proud owner of Pesca (Italian for peach), a young Arabian mare. She wrote me recently, “I hope to write a book on the German printmaker and Dürer-contemporary, Hans Baldung, focusing on his equine imagery and tying it into the variegated horse-culture of early modern Germany.” Its tentative title is “Neigh-Sayers: Unruly Equines and Intractable Identities in the Art of Hans Baldung.” A preliminary chapter was published in Animals and Early Modern Identity as “Horses as Love Objects: Shaping Social and Moral Identities in Hans Baldung Grien’s Bewitched Groom (circa 1544) and in Sixteenth-Century Hippology” (pp. 151-68). Very recently, Pia graced a festschrift to me (coedited by Victoria Christman and Marjorie Elizabeth Plummer, Cultural Shifts and Ritual Transformations in Reformation Europe: Essays in Honor of Susan C. Karant-Nunn [Leiden: Brill, 2020], pp. 151-68) with a wonderful contribution, “High Noon on the Road to Damascus: A Reformation Showdown and the Role of Horses in Lucas Cranach the Younger’s Conversion of Paul (1549).”

Pia sets out on new enterprises under the shadow of the untimely death in 2016 of her husband, Professor Peter Foley, who was also associated with the Division. Her family, colleagues, friends, and former students - also unwittingly her horse Pesca - continue to shore her up as she enters upon a latter season of life that is not what she and Peter envisioned. We extollingly, appreciatively, lovingly extend to Pia our wishes for many years of high riding ahead.

(*) The Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies is currently honoring Professor Emerita Cuneo with a series of Facebook posts from that graduate seminar and exhibition in the fall of 2018. Please see http://facebook.com/UAdlmrs.
Natural Disasters, Military Chaplains, and Merchant Adventurers:  
Three Division Doctoral Students Present Their Research Projects

_by Rachel Small, Benjamin Miller, and Annie Morphew_

In the Wake of Disaster: Religious Tolerance and Intolerance in Early Modern Germany (1520-1720)
_by Rachel Small_

In 1540, a fire ravaged the town of Großenhain in Saxony, decimating most of its homes and communal spaces. The regional court found no evidence for who or what started the fire, yet the Lutheran city council sought out a scapegoat for the disaster, accusing the local Catholic Benedictine nuns of arson and expelling them from the city. In my doctoral dissertation, I analyze how natural disasters, such as floods, fires, and storms, shaped communal interactions in the German duchies of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel and Saxony from the mid-sixteenth to the eighteenth century. As a result of the Protestant Reformation, people of different religions often lived closely together in towns and territories, but tensions regularly flared up between Catholics and Lutherans, well into the eighteenth century. The fire in Großenhain and other case studies show how reactions to localized natural events or disasters highlighted preexisting tensions within communities and how early modern Europeans coped with coexistence between majority and minority groups in society. I traveled to many different archives and libraries in Germany to do research. In February of 2020, I visited the Saxony state archive in Dresden with the support of the Central European History Society and the Society for Reformation Research. The archive is located in an old warehouse building, just across the River Elbe from the city’s historic center. I was particularly excited to research in the Dresden archive because it housed documents related to Großenhain, which is central to my dissertation.
A strange trial unfolded in Bockenheim near Frankfurt, Germany, at the end of the Seven Years’ War. The wife of the Calvinist bellringer was accused of having willingly unlocked the Calvinist church-door, so that an occupying French Catholic army chaplain could perform a marriage in it. For years, Bockenheim had been denominationally split. Calvinists were dominant, and they had legally oppressed the other denominations by denying them access to the parish church. Because of this, the opening of the church door for the French chaplain had both political and religious implications: While the chaplain’s actions - and the woman’s cooperation - were viewed by many Calvinists as disruptive, no doubt others welcomed it as a check on the Calvinists’ authority.

This ambivalence is central to the experience of military chaplains in the early modern German lands and is important for my dissertation project. I study the relationships of military chaplains with soldiers, rulers, and the civilian communities they encountered. While many resented military chaplains for the authority they represented, chaplains also had the opportunity to encourage good relations between some groups of civilians and the occupying troops.

With this as my topic, it seems fitting that the primary archive for my research is the Staatsarchiv in Marburg, Hesse. After World War II, this archive was the primary collection point for the art recovered by the “Monuments Men” - an Allied group specially detailed to find cultural artifacts looted by the Nazis and to restore them to their rightful owners. Rather than encouraging conflict, the directors of the recovery effort and local civil authorities sought to foster good relationships by putting on twelve art exhibits in Marburg while the art was being catalogued for return. By highlighting the interdependent development of European art, this cooperation was an early attempt to heal some rifts caused by the war.
Strangers and Neighbors: The English Merchant Adventurers in Early Modern Hamburg

by Annie Morphew

Englishman Charles Blunt built his life in Hamburg. As a teenager, Blunt began his apprenticeship with a respectable German merchant. As an adult, he married his former master’s daughter. In the relatively tolerant atmosphere of Hamburg, Blunt was also able to practice his Quaker faith in peace. Utilizing his contacts in Hamburg, London, and the Society of Friends, Blunt expanded his business from the dependable English broadcloth trade to include a variety of trans-Atlantic commodities. In the 1720s, however, Blunt’s life and livelihood were threatened by the Hamburg senate’s decision to strictly enforce citizenship requirements for the city’s diverse residents. Residents either had to take the city’s oath of citizenship and forswear all other allegiances or cease to reside within the city limits.

Blunt was both an English subject and a Hamburger. The idea of giving up one legal identity to secure the other was insupportable to him. At first, the solution to his problem seemed obvious. In 1611, the English Company of Merchant Adventurers had secured a variety of privileges from the city senate when they established a permanent mart (or trading base) in Hamburg, including exemption from citizenship requirements for members of the company. Thus, in 1727, Blunt petitioned the Merchant Adventurers for membership. His petition was rejected, but Blunt refused to give up. Over the next eight years, Blunt, the Governor of the Company, and the English ambassador in Hamburg traded increasingly vitriolic letters, petitions, and counter-petitions over the issue of Blunt’s right as an English subject to join the Company.

This dispute reveals the fault lines in the diverse English merchant community living in early modern Hamburg as the participants argued about identity, apprenticeship patterns, marriage, and religious differences. In my doctoral research, I have combed
through archives in Hamburg, nearby Stade, and London in order to flesh out the social world of these neglected Anglo-German merchant communities in which men like Charles Blunt lived, loved, worked, and fought to belong.

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**Congratulations To**

Dean Matteo Messinger on successfully completing his Master’s degree! Dean’s M.A. thesis is entitled “‘A New Form, a New Shape, and a New History’: Revolt and Reformation in Sixteenth-Century Vienna, 1519-1524.” In his thesis, Dean tells the three interrelated stories of urban revolt, dynastic politics, and religious movements in Vienna at the beginning of the early modern period. The picture below was taken at the end of Dean’s oral exam via Zoom on May 3. Clockwise from top left: Professor Ute Lotz-Heumann, Professor Beth Plummer, Dean Messinger, M.A, and Professor Paul Milliman.

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**Announcement**

**35th Annual Town and Gown Lecture**

“Cruel and Inhuman: The Nineteenth-Century Invention of the"
Gothic Executioner”
Professor Joel F. Harrington, Centennial Professor of History at Vanderbilt University

All of us are familiar with the sinister figure of the medieval executioner: a sadistic, hooded implementer of spectacularly cruel executions and other punishments before a cheering, bloodthirsty crowd of spectators. This image, however - like many of our contemporary ideas about the Middle Ages - is largely the product of nineteenth-century imaginations. In this lecture, Professor Harrington, the author of an acclaimed study of an actual sixteenth-century German executioner, describes how later legal reformers and Gothic novelists methodically constructed a stereotype that served their respective purposes but grossly distorted historical reality in the process. In exploring the resulting gap between the European executioner of the distant past and his nineteenth-century incarnation, we learn much about not only the fears and hopes of those eras but also our own contemporary notions of justice and social progress.

Tuesday, October 19, 2021
Please mark your calendars. More information will be forthcoming as the Covid-19 situation develops.

Division News
Faculty

Michael Brescia, Curator of Ethnohistory, Arizona State Museum, and Division affiliated faculty, published a journal article, “Libraries at the Intersection of ‘Las Dos Majestades’ in Colonial Mexico: The Biblioteca Palafoxiana as Emblem of Change and Continuity from Habsburg to Bourbon Rule,” in the journal Bulletin for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies 45, no. 1 (December 2020). He also gave the keynote address, titled “La historia del futuro de la Biblioteca Palafoxiana por medio de sus fundadores” (The History of the Future of the Biblioteca Palafoxiana through its Founders), at the
Segundo Coloquio Internacional “Biblioteca Palafoxiana y el aniversario 15 años de ser Memoria del Mundo,” 26 January 2021. Professor Brescia served as moderator and discussant for two conference panels: “Memory and Identity in the Spanish Borderlands,” at the annual Arizona History Convention, 24 April 2021, and “The Temporality of Profane Objects: Colonial Nahua Perspectives on the History of the Idol in the Codex Durán Paintings (1574-1583),” at the Southwest Seminar/Consortium on Colonial Latin America, 15 October 2020. He developed and taught three Master Classes for the Arizona State Museum as part of his public outreach: “‘Their Books about the Sciences and their Antiquities’ - Understanding Indigenous Mexico through the Codices,” March 2021; “‘Nobody Expects the Spanish Inquisition!’ - Old & New World Varieties,” October 2020, and “‘A Pestilence so Great and Universal’ - Disease and the Structures of Early Mexican History,” July 2020. He was recently awarded the Noel J. Stowe Memorial Grant sponsored by the Coordinating Committee for History in Arizona and the Dan Shilling Humanities Public Scholar Award by Arizona Humanities.

Linda Darling, Professor, Department of History, and Division affiliated faculty, published a short monograph in 2019, The Janissaries of Damascus in the Sixteenth Century, or, How Conquering a Province Changed the Ottoman Empire, Otto Spies Memorial Lecture, vol. 6 (Berlin: EG Verlag). In the same year, she published three chapters and articles, “Crime among the Janissaries in the Ottoman Golden Age,” in A Historian of Ottoman War, Peace, and Empire: A Festschrift in Honor of Virginia Aksan, edited by Frank Castiglione and Veysel Şimşek (Leiden: Brill, 2019); “Ordering the Ottoman Elite: Ceremonial Lawcodes of the Late Seventeenth Century,” in the journal Turcica 50 (2019); “Ottoman Political Thought and the Critique of the Janissaries,” in Ottoman Political Thought and Practice, edited by Marinos Sariyannis (Rethymnon: Crete University Press, 2019). She also presented six papers and invited lectures in 2019. In April 2021, she gave the keynote address, “Justice and Ottoman Political Thought: The New Frontier,” at the Western Ottoman Workshop.

Susan Karant-Nunn, Emerita Director and Regents Professor Emerita of History, co-edited, with Ute Lotz-Heumann, The Cultural History of the Reformations: Theories and Applications (Wolfenbüttel: Herzog August Bibliothek, 2021). In this volume, she co-wrote the introduction and published a chapter, titled “John Calvin’s Sexuality.” Her new festschrift (Cultural Shifts and Ritual Transformations in Reformation Europe: Essays in Honor of Susan C.
Karant-Nunn, edited by Marjorie Elizabeth Plummer and Victoria Christman, Leiden: Brill, 2020) was the subject of a webinar on April 4. Karant-Nunn spoke for 20 minutes, followed by Christman and Plummer. A link to the YouTube video is available on the DLMRS Facebook page (post of 29 May 2021).

Ute Lotz-Heumann, Director and Heiko A. Oberman Professor, submitted her book *The German Spa in the Long Eighteenth Century: A Cultural History* to Routledge. It will be published at the end of July 2021. She co-edited, with Susan C. Karant-Nunn, *The Cultural History of the Reformations: Theories and Applications* (Wolfenbüttel: Herzog August Bibliothek, 2021). In this volume, she co-wrote the introduction and published a chapter, entitled “Healing Waters and Material Cultures in the Age of Reformations.” In April, she gave a virtual lecture, “Toward a Comparative Cultural History of Epidemics, or: What can the experience of a seventeenth-century Englishman tell us about ourselves in the age of Covid-19?,” at the iGLOBES-ENS International Seminar Series “COVID-19, Breaking and Raising Boundaries,” University of Arizona. And in June, she spoke on “Constructing a Heterotopia and Training the Tourist Gaze: The German Spa in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries” as part of the virtual lecture series of the Research Network “The European Spa as a Transnational Public Space and Social Metaphor.” She was awarded a Faculty Small Grant from the Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute at the University of Arizona for archival research in 2022 for her project on healing waters and holy wells in early modern Germany.

Chris Lukinbeal, Professor, School of Geography & Development, Director of GIST Programs, and Division affiliated faculty, was promoted to Full Professor.

Paul Milliman, Associate Professor, Department of History, and Division affiliated faculty, was a Spring 2021 Virtual Open Research Laboratory Associate at the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center at the University of Illinois, where he (virtually) worked on a research project titled “From the Seacoast of Bohemia to the Realm of Prester John: Medieval and Early Modern Perceptions of Eastern Europe.”

Beth Plummer, Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor, has signed a contract with Oxford University Press for the publication of her book, *Stripping the Veil: Convent Reform, Protestant Nuns, and Female Devotional Life in Sixteenth Century Germany*. The book will appear
in the series Studies in German History in 2022. She was a panelist for a special Mary Martin McLaughlin Memorial Lecture (virtual), “Working on Early Modern Women ... in a Pandemic,” sponsored by the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln on 11 December 2020. She was also a panelist, along with Susan C. Karant-Nunn and Victoria Christman, for a Meeter Center Reformations Conversation (virtual), “Trends in Reformations Studies,” held at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI on 12 April 2021. In addition, she was interviewed by Edmund Wareham (Fellow, Oxford University) about monastic and clerical vows on 17 March 2021 for a digital exhibition on Vows to be held at the Pitts Theology Library, University of Emory, Atlanta, GA.

Graduate Students

Kaitlin Centini, master’s student, received two awards from the Department of History, the Richard A. Cosgrove Graduate Fund and the Charles M. Peters Endowment Scholarship.

Abby Gibbons, doctoral student, presented a position paper, entitled “The Monks Who Migrated; The Nuns Who Didn't,” at the Southeast German Studies Conference. She also received two awards, the Charles M. Peters Endowment Scholarship for summer research from the Department of History and the Oberman Reesink Endowment Fellowship for foreign language study from the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies.

Liliana Mondragon-Morales, master’s student, was awarded the Charles M. Peters Endowment Scholarship from the Department of History.

Annie Morphew, doctoral student, was awarded the Elizabeth C. Dudley General Endowment Fellowship from the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies for summer research on her dissertation.

Rachel Small, doctoral student, received numerous awards. Most significantly, she was awarded the Russel J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Fellowship for 2021-2022 to finish her dissertation. She also received the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Graduate Research Award, the Ora DeConcini Martin and Morris Martin General Endowment Fellowship, and the Andressen Endowed Graduate Student Award from the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies. She was nominated for the Five Star Faculty Award, which is
the only completely undergraduate nominated and selected award on the University of Arizona campus.

Alumni


Marjory Lange, Professor of English/Humanities in the Division of Humanities at Western Oregon University, published, with Marsha L. Dutton, the introduction to Aelred of Rievaulx, The Liturgical Sermons: The Reading-Cluny Collection Sermons 85-132 (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2021).

Scott Manetsch, Chair of the Church History and the History of Christian Thought Department at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, co-edited, with Kirk Summers, Theodore Beza at 500: New Perspectives on an Old Reformer (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2020).


Semi-Annual Newsletter of the
Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies

- Founded in 1989 by Heiko A. Oberman (1930-2001), Regents' Professor of History
- Director Emerita and Regents' Professor Emerita of History, Susan C. Karant-Nunn
- Director and Heiko A. Oberman Professor, Ute-Lotz-Heumann
- Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor, Beth Plummer

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