In our last newsletter, we announced the good news that CSWS received a grant from the Library of America to host a “World War I and America” exhibit and program. This grant was made possible with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Gilder-Lehman Institute for American History. Now we are glad to present events in 2017-18 funded by the grant!

For this 100th anniversary commemoration of the United States entry into the First World War, we partnered with the East Tennessee Historical Society to host a panel discussion this fall, along with programs next spring. Together, our aim is to educate the public and reach out to local veteran organizations. Our application was spearheaded by graduate assistant and new PhD, Robert Rennie, who will host the graduate student panel discussion this fall. In February, one of America’s leading scholars of WWI, Michael Neiberg, will deliver a public lecture, and a travelling WWI exhibit will be on display at the ETHS in downtown Knoxville.

We are grateful to the East Tennessee Historical Society for this collaboration and pleased it will support the ongoing work of the State of Tennessee Great War Commission.

eastnhistory.org
tnsos.net/TSLA/GWC

WORLD WAR I and AMERICA PROGRAMS

The programs are sponsored by the Library of America’s World War I and American Grant, received by CSWS in conjunction with the State of Tennessee World War I Commission. Each event takes place at the East Tennessee History Center Bilo Nelson Auditorium.

Sunday, November 5, 2017, 2 PM
Newest Research on World War I
Panel discussion moderated by Robert Rennie with commentary provided by Captain Rosemary Mariner, USN, Ret., Scholar in Residence at the UT Center for the Study of War and Society, and nationally noted media commentator on civil-military relations and military policy, who will offer reflections on publicly available readings on World War I.


Sunday, February 11, 2018, 2 PM
The Path to War: How the First World War Created Modern America
A lecture by Michael Neiberg, professor of history and the Stimson Chair of the Department of National Security and Strategy at the US Army War College. Only after lengthy debate and soul-searching about national identity did America enter the Great War. In his talk, Professor Neiberg will track American responses to the 1914 outbreak of the war, the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915, and debates on national preparedness in 1916. By 1917, most Americans, even those who opposed the war, came to see belligerence as America’s only option.

Sunday, February 18, 2018, 2 PM
Sergeant York, Film Screening
Enjoy this movie classic about the WWI Medal of Honor recipient from Pall Mall, Tennessee, with commentary by Michael Birdwell, professor of history at Tennessee Tech University, curator of Alvin C. York’s Papers, and state chair of the Tennessee Great War Commission.
Dear Friends of the Center,

This fall, we have seen a wonderful mix of activity and good news! We’ve been busy organizing more public events to mark the centenary of the First World War, using the grant we won from the Library of America. We are delighted to be cooperating with the East Tennessee Historical Society in downtown Knoxville for events this fall and spring.

Lately, we’ve introduced the work of the Center to a range of audiences: the Daughters of the American Revolution, Rotary Club, and University of Tennessee, Martin. We also look forward to a marvelous exhibit on the world wars to be hosted by UT Libraries in their great new exhibition space in Hodges Library, all spring semester.

Good news we’ve gotten recently includes new friends, new donors, and a first for UT – Bradley Nichols, a recent PhD graduate from our program who was active in Center programs, won the Fritz Stern Prize for the best dissertation in German history in 2017! His path-breaking research on the Second World War will now get the publicity it so richly deserves! Here at the Center we are proud of combining local programs with national impact!

- Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius, Director

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDED EDGAR & JERRY WILSON FELLOWSHIP

It is a pleasure to announce that Michael Lynch, PhD candidate in the UT history program, received the 2017-18 Wilson Fellowship, administered by the UT Center for the Study of War and Society. The award was established by the late Edgar C. Wilson, a 1940 graduate of UT and decorated veteran of the Second World War. The annual award is intended for a graduate student at UT whose work studies American military history. The awardee also presents a public lecture on his or her research and bears the title of Jerry and Edgar Wilson Scholar.

Michael’s current dissertation research, advised by Professor Magra, examines the links between military mobilization and gender on the Southern frontier during the American Revolution. He is a recipient of the Department of History’s 2014 Milton M. Klein Fellowship, 2016 Susan Becker Award for Excellence in Teaching, and 2017 Gender Studies Award. He has also received a residential fellowship from the David Library of the American Revolution and an Archie K. Davis Fellowship from the North Caroliniana Society.

Please join us in congratulating Michael Lynch!

EXHIBIT EXAMINES WWI & II EXPERIENCES

In the spring of 2018, material that has been collected for more than 30 years by CSWS and the Special Collections Library will be part of an exhibit that examines World War I and World War II experiences, both at home and abroad. These one of a kind historical documents, photographs, artifacts, oral histories, and memoirs will be on display in Hodges Library beginning in January. We are thrilled to be partners in yet another First World War commemorative endeavor.
Bradley Nichols, who recently earned his PhD in history at UT, has just been awarded the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize for 2017 by the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC. This major award (established in 1997) recognizes the best dissertation in German history (recent previous winners were from Stanford, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, and University of North Carolina Chapel Hill). Further good news related to this award is that it includes an offer to publish the prize-winning manuscript with Cambridge University Press, another first for a graduate of our history program.

Bradley’s dissertation, “The Hunt for Lost Blood: Nazi Germanization Policy in Occupied Europe,” reveals the inner dynamics of Nazi racial policy and practices towards those foreign nationals they suspected of being carriers of Germanic ancestry, since forgotten. Driven by the determination to absorb these people into an expanded Third Reich, Nazi Germanization authorities moved along a brutal and paradoxical trajectory of attempted assimilation, increasing suspicion and frustration, and extreme violence and murder.

Nichols is currently visiting assistant professor of history at Virginia Tech, teaching in their war and society concentration, including a course on World War II.

Beyond Words: The Library of Congress Wants Your Help!

Have you ever wanted to see how historians do what they do? Have you ever wanted to learn more about the past using primary sources? Or are you perhaps just looking for a fun way both to learn yourself and help others learn at the same time?

*Beyond Words* is a fun new pilot project presented by the Library of Congress’ collection of historic newspapers, *Chronicling America*. The website is a crowd-sourced effort to turn historical newspapers from the World War I era into a publicly searchable database for future scholars – and the public – to be able to use in their research. The project “invites the public to identify cartoons and photographs in historic newspapers and provide captions that will turn images into searchable data.”

You can mark sections, transcribe, or identify cartoons and photos. If you just want to verify transcriptions, that works too. This means you can spend just a few moments or hours on end helping make history accessible to others. Be forewarned, however, as the *Beyond Words* is quite addictive. You may find yourself getting lost in the work of the historian, wondering where the day has gone! Get started today at beyondwords.labs.loc.gov.
Join the Friends of the Center

Your donation to the Center for the Study of War and Society will be used to help a dynamic organization dedicated to the study of the relationship between war and society. We undertake a mission of public service education through our study and research in the human experience of war and peace, international conflict, and diplomatic cooperation. The center also works to preserve the voice of the American veteran through an ongoing oral history program and a large World War II archival collection. The center administers several graduate fellowships and offers an internship program for undergraduates. It is also very active in community outreach and sponsors public lectures, as well as other events and conferences.

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Your gift counts more than ever! We sincerely thank the many alumni and friends who so generously support the Center for the Study of War and Society. Gifts can be designated to the program you prefer and will be most gratefully received.

For more information, visit csws.utk.edu

We are a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. All gifts are tax deductible.