
The Historian

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

GREETINGS

From the Desk of the Chairman



As I enter the last year of my duties as chair, I am pleased to inform you that the department experienced another successful year. Highlights of our many successes will appear in the articles that follow.

In some respects it was a year of transition in our personnel. Dr. Jack Ellis formally retired in May after a distinguished career at the University of Delaware and then at UAH. He came here as dean of the College of Liberal Arts, but after a few years had the good sense to become a member of the history department. He has been a fine teacher and a great colleague. His work on the Civil Rights in Alabama project will long bring him our esteem and thanks. He is engaged in ambitious research projects on African-American physicians in the era of Jim Crow. Fortunately for us, Dr. Ellis will continue to teach two upper level classes each year for three years.

Dr. Johanna Shields stepped down from her position as Director of the Humanities Center. Although we will surely miss her work in that

capacity, we are pleased that she is continuing to teach courses for us; for example, this fall she is teaching her Old South seminar.

To replace Dr. Ellis, the department hired Molly Johnson, who received her Ph.D this Spring from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This dynamic woman is a historian of modern Germany, with a research specialization in East Germany after World War II. Her husband Dave has a master's degree in history and is finishing a Ph.D in German. Welcome to both of them.

We had two promotions this year. Dr. Virginia Martin became an associate professor and received tenure. Her achievements are very well deserved. Our administrative assistant Beverley Gentry (formerly Robinson, but more on that later) was promoted to senior staff assistant, one of only two in our college. Her highly effective performance over the last 13 years makes that achievement richly deserved.

The *raison d'être* of the department is, of course, the fashioning of outstanding students of history. Last spring, Christina Lester won the departmental award as the outstanding undergraduate student. She also won the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Alabama History Essay award. John Rideout was recipient of the Colonel Walter Aston Chapter, Colonial Dames XVII Century History Award. Two second year graduate students, Leah Butler and Shannon Durham, received tuition assistantship

scholarships for this academic year. Gina Lee was once again a graduate research assistant helping Dr. Andrew Dunar in his role as editor of the *Oral History Review*. Undergraduate scholarship winners for 2003-2004 are as follows: Michelle Patton, Frances Roberts Scholarship; John Howard, John Hendricks Scholarship; and Leah Butler, Heritage Junior Women's Club Scholarship.

As advisor of our history honorary society, Phi Alpha Theta, allow me to present a synopsis of its activities during the past year. Gina Lee served effectively as president. Last fall, the chapter initiated the following members: Laura Argent, Roseleena Blair, John Howard, Michelle Patton, Sara Redington, Leah Palmieri and Shannon Durham. Among many other activities, chapter members helped raise scholarship funds, participated in the Activities Fair for Campus Visit Day, staffed a table at the College of Liberal Arts annual fall picnic, attended and participated in various regional scholarly conferences, conducted oral interviews for our ongoing project about the early history of UAH, and of course, helped arrange a few parties.

The department continues to expand its outreach project to the local community. It participated in the Madison County Schools' Department of Education "Teaching US History" grant. Drs. Waring, Dunar and Shuck conducted seminars for local teachers. The department is also supporting the Madison City

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Schools in their effort to win a similar grant. Department members worked with the Burritt Museum, Early Works Museum and Huntsville Public Library's Veterans' Oral History project, among others.

Sincerely,
Philip P. Boucher, Chair

History Forum 2003

October 9-23

“The United Nations: Peacekeeping and Nation- building”

The United Nations, founded on October 24, 1945, was created to maintain world peace and to promote cooperation among nations. History Forum 2003 will be a three-part lecture series exploring the impact of the United Nations in three regions: the Korean Peninsula, Africa, and the Middle East. The goal of this year's forum is to examine the United Nation's role as peacekeeper and nation-builder in the past, and to explore the future of the organization as a symbol of global stability and order.

The following lectures will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Roberts Hall Auditorium on the UAH campus:

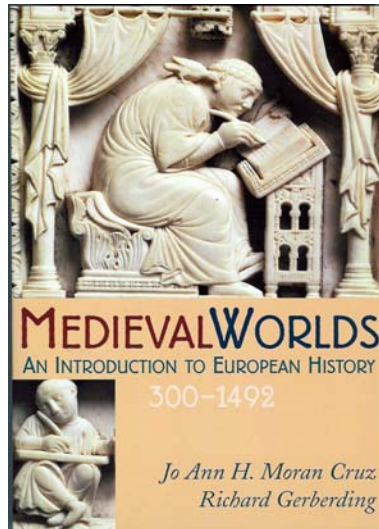
October 9: Professor William Stueck, University of Georgia, "The United States, the United Nations, and the Development of the Republic of Korea"

October 16: Professor Howard Adelman, York University, "The Role of the United Nations Security Council in the Rwanda Genocide"

October 23: Professor Peter Hahn, Ohio State University,

"The United Nations in the Middle East: Peacekeeping and Nation-building in Lebanon"

New Textbook for Medieval History



In April, Dr. Gerberding, the department's professor for ancient and medieval history, and Professor Jo Ann Moran Cruz of Georgetown University published Medieval Worlds, An Introduction to European History 300-1492.

The textbook was published by Houghton Mifflin of Boston and is intended for use in college classes. It emphasizes social history within a political narrative and explains both the high and popular cultures while attempting to throw as much light as the sources will allow on the role and nature of medieval women. The book is already into its second printing.

History 490/590 Seminar

This spring fourteen undergraduate students completed the Senior Seminar (History 490), a number that testifies to the increasing stability of the history major at UAH. The course is

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structured very much as it has been for years, dating back to a format initiated by Dr. Carolyn White, in which production of a polished historical essay is the ultimate goal.

It has become customary for the students in the class to vote for the best three papers in the class. Since each student reads all the papers and everyone hears presentations by each member of the class, students are well qualified to judge the work of their peers. The best essays are singled out for recognition in a journal that includes all essays written for the course. This year's winning essays (in alphabetical order by the author's names) were Brandon Hyder's "Appeasement," Christina Lester's "An Evolutionary Process: The Abortion Movement and the Road to Legalization," and Leah Palmieri's "Alabama's Women Defense Workers in World War II."

Faculty Senate President

Stephen Waring was President of the Faculty Senate last year. He was representative of the UAH faculty to the administration and attended many meetings. This kept him busy, and often meant that he was even better dressed than usual. Waring had an extensive agenda, but spent the most time trying to update campus policies on student academic honesty and misconduct. Like campuses across the country, UAH has had an increased incidence of student cheating, especially involving plagiarism using the internet. Under Waring's watch, the Faculty Senate helped organize campus use of a plagiarism detection software service. Several members of the history faculty are using this software this fall semester. Waring's term ended this August and he is enjoying a life of peace and quiet.



Isabel Eileen Waring

Our newest member of the department! Daughter of proud parents Stephen Waring and Lillian Joyce. She was born April 10, 2003. She weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.

WEDDINGS

This summer, two people in the History Department family were married!



On June 14, Beverley Robinson married Phillip Gentry at the Chapel on the Mountain in Huntsville. Almost all of the department faculty were there to share Bev and Phillip's joy (and some delicious cake afterwards!). The ceremony was beautiful, as was Bev, and we wish them all the happiness in the world. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Gentry!

A week later and half the world away, on June 21st -- Midsummer's Day -- Dr. Sheri Shuck and Dr. Thomas Hall (Assistant Professor of Finance at UAH) exchanged vows overlooking the sea in Kinvara,

Ireland. Alas, none of the department faculty could attend, but we were all there in spirit. Congratulations to Dr. Shuck-Hall and Dr. Hall!

FACULTY

Philip P. Boucher – Highlights of the past academic year included: serving as program chair for the 29th meeting of the French Colonial Historical Society at Toulouse, France; winning of a Humanities Center Grant for research in the French archives at Aix-en-Provence, France; publishing "The 'Frontier Era' of the French Caribbean, 1620s-1690s," in Negotiated Empires: Centers and Peripheries in the Americas, 1500-1820 (N.Y.: Routledge, 2002): 207-234.

Andrew J. Dunar – Dr. Dunar continues to serve as the editor of the *Oral History Review*. He has conducted approximately 80 oral history interviews with present and past residents of The Farm, a hippie community near Nashville, and is beginning to put together a book based on those interviews. He has also begun to work on a history of Boulder City, Nevada, the city that began as a construction camp for the building of Hoover Dam, which was the subject of his earlier book.

Richard A. Gerberding – Dr. Gerberding, along with Professor Jo Ann Moran Cruz of Georgetown University, finished their textbook, Medieval Worlds, which was published by Houghton Mifflin in April. In the early summer he continued to work on his project with Cicero's De Senectute. In July he went to Italy with fifteen UAH students and friends. He has also begun work helping with the University's efforts to increase the possibilities for UAH students to study abroad.

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Virginia Martin – In March, Dr. Martin was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. She serves on the executive board of the Central Eurasian Studies Society and is Co-Editor-in-Chief of that organization's journal, the *Central Eurasian Studies Review*. Last summer (2002), she travelled to Omsk, Russia, to begin archival research on a new project on nineteenth century Kazakh history. This past summer, she stayed closer to home to revise an article entitled "Kazakh Oath Taking in Colonial Courtrooms: A Legal-Cultural Perspective on Russian Empire Building," which has been accepted for publication next year in the historical journal, *Kritika*. In August she began a two-year mentorship of a historian in Astana, Kazakhstan, sponsored by the Central Asian Research Initiative, a program of the Open Society Institute in Budapest, Hungary. Her role as mentor will give her the opportunity to travel to Kazakhstan and Russia. Dr. Martin has recently published a book review, with two others scheduled for publication later this year.

John K. Severn – Professor John Severn enjoyed another year of teaching interesting students and working with genial colleagues. Spring semester found him hosting Edward Ingram, Visiting Eminent Scholar in the Humanities.

Sheri M. Shuck-Hall - This academic year Professor Shuck-Hall completed revisions on her manuscript, *Shifting Borderlands, Enduring Identities: The Alabamas and Coushattas, 1500-1862*, which is currently under review by the University of Nebraska Press. It traces the history of the Alabama and Coushatta tribes from their origins in Alabama to east Texas, while exploring themes of borderlands, pan-tribal

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confederacies, and tribal identity. Shuck-Hall's article examining the Anti-Comanche Union (1824-1839) and the rise and fall of pan-Indian confederacies in the Texas Republic was accepted for publication in the *International History Review*. Shuck-Hall also acted as a commentator and chair of a panel at the 23rd annual Gulf South History and Humanities Conference held in Galveston, Texas.

Shuck-Hall organized this year's History Forum, "The United Nations: Peacekeeping and Nation-building," and continues to work as a Native American consultant for the Burritt Museum on its project, "Living With Nature," funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Stephen P. Waring – Stephen Waring did a little of the old and a little of the new this year. He continued his research on the space shuttle Challenger accident, a project that expanded due to the Columbia re-entry disaster. In the summer of 2002 and 2003 he held a NASA Summer Faculty Fellowship, working at Marshall Space Flight Center, attending seminars, interviewing engineers, and working on his manuscript. The Student Government Association was very nice to him, awarding him "Teacher of the Year" for the College of Liberal Arts. The most important event, however, was the birth of Isabel Eileen Waring in April. Waring now spends his time keeping mother and daughter calm.

Lee E. Williams, II – Dr. Lee E. Williams, II received a sabbatical leave for the 2002-2003 academic year. During that time he worked on his research project centering around the interactions of blacks, browns and whites in the Mobile, Alabama area from 1715 until 1945, with emphasis upon the

black experience. Williams also aided students with research projects, gave two invited lectures, and handled numerous matters related to the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Nonetheless, the sabbatical leave afforded Williams much time for reflection, analysis, documentation, and assessment of his findings.

Dr. Edward Ingram



Dr. Edward Ingram, Emeritus Professor of Imperial History at Simon Fraser University, joined the department in the spring as Visiting Eminent Scholar in the Humanities. He taught a course in Twentieth Century European History to upper- classmen and graduate students, with a focus on imperialism. Equally important, Professor Ingram delivered a series of provocative and rousing public lectures with a timely connection to current events. The first of these he presented to the Honors Forum. That was followed by a lecture entitled "The U.S. as Hegemon, Empire, or Great Britain in Disguise," for the Humanities Center's International Business Studies Initiative. A formal lecture to the community followed in April. Delivered to a full house,

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"The Anglo-American Alliance: Murder or Suicide," lived up to its provocative title. Ingram completed the semester with a witty and warm address to students at the College of Liberal Arts Honors Convocation. Professor Ingram, who is Editor of the *International History Review*, contributed to the life of the department with thoughtful advice, ready assistance and a collegial presence.

News of Graduates

Elizabeth Pentecost was one of seven distinguished alumni honored by UAH this past Spring. Elizabeth is Deputy Director, Navy Astronomy and Astrophysics Programs. She kindly consented to visit with our current history students while on campus.

John Hendricks, founder of the Discovery Channel, brought Animal Planet to campus this past summer. Thousands of people, including the chairman and grandson Henry, enjoyed the exhibit.

Christina Olinger Semmens has published two historical fiction novels aimed at children: *A Time for Courage* and *March to Canada*. These explain to young readers the experiences of sixth grade students in the first two years of the American Revolution (1775-76). They are a part of the *Making History Come Alive* series.

Alan Grady has published his book *When Good Men Do Nothing: The Assassination of Albert Patterson* with the University of Alabama Press. He did the core research during the completion of his Master's thesis, under the tutelage of Dr. Lee Williams, as well as Drs. Dunar and Shields.

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Sarah Kidd received a teaching position as assistant professor at Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee.

Carol Ann Vaughn is now assistant professor of history at Samford University.

Joe Greene is currently on a two-year fellowship in Guadalajara, Mexico conducting research to complete his Ph.D dissertation.

Todd Veland is teaching social studies at Claxton High School in Georgia. He is working on an Educational Specialist degree from Georgia Southern University. Check out his web page at www.claxtonhighhumanities.com

David Gale, after four years teaching at Howard School of Academics and Technology in Chattanooga, returned to Huntsville last year to work at the non-profit ARC of Madison County. ARC "provides services for adults with mental retardation/developmental disabilities that include a comprehensive training program that concentrates on increasing independent life skills." This fall he began teaching U.S. history at a suburban school in Chattanooga.

Barbara Wright is in her second year of teaching at Randolph High School in Huntsville.

Ann Brady continues as librarian and occasional classroom teacher at Randolph.

James Isbell and Donna Castellano continue to help the department by teaching 100 and 200 level classes. This past summer, for example, James taught a course on the U.S. military history. Donna graciously hosted the Phi Alpha Theta initiation

ceremony last November at the Weeden House.

Beth (Pollard) Hancock is teaching history at Gainesville College in Gainesville, Georgia and finishing up her thesis in medieval history at Emory University.

Shane Bjornlie has passed his general exams in the PhD program at Princeton and is beginning his dissertation on the late-antique intellectual figure, Cassiodorus.

Ted Blanton has just been admitted to the PhD program in medieval history at Johns Hopkins University.

John McKerley is still at The University of Iowa, working on his dissertation in US labor history.

Michael Linder completed law school at Tuscaloosa this past spring.

Valerie Seaquist has been at the UAH Office of Sponsored Programs since 1984 and is now the Director of said office.

We encourage all alumni to keep us informed of their activities. You may reach us by email at history@uah.edu. Keep updated by checking us out on the web at www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/history/index.htm.

History Tournament

For the eighth consecutive year, the History Department sponsored a History Tournament for local high school students. In its second year other departments joined, and the event is now known as the UAH Liberal Arts Tournament Day. This year the Departments of Art and Art History, Political Science, and Psychology cosponsored the

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tournament, and held contests in their disciplines. On April 16, approximately 500 students came to the UAH campus to participate, and 200 of them took a history multiple choice test in either American or World history.

Seven schools sent teams of ten students to compete in either or both of the history examinations. The schools included Bob Jones, Buckhorn, Catholic, Grissom, Hazel Green, Randolph, and Sparkman, some of whom brought more than one team for each contest. Randolph captured most of the honors in the World History contest, with its "A" team winning and its "B" team earning second place, and its students winning nine of the ten individual trophies. Catholic High finished third, and one of its team members broke into the top ten individual awards list. The U.S. history contest was more balanced, with Bob Jones finishing first, Grissom second, and Randolph third. Grissom won four of the top ten individual awards, and Bob Jones and Randolph each had three.

Once again the History Department had help from many members of the UAH community in staging the tournament. President Franz addressed the students at the beginning of the awards ceremony. Dean Kirkpatrick participated in the awards ceremony, and her office supplied awards for winning teams and individuals. Enrollment Services offered \$500 scholarships to the winners of each contest and provided box lunches for all the students and their teachers. Testing Services again helped score the tests. Carole Vargo, the staff assistant in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, helped the appearance of the stage by draping the table attractively and providing a decorative flower arrangement. Beverley Gentry coordinated the event, as she has

done every year since the history contest began in 1996.

The Society for Ancient Languages

The Society is pleased to report another good year. Its president, history major Brandon Hyder, did an excellent job of guiding the group through the fall and spring semesters and the summer term. The Society held three public readings this year: "Ancient Immorality," with a spicy slide lecture by Dr. Lillian Joyce of the Art History Department; "How To Fool All the People All the Time: the Purposes of Ancient Oratory," with an explanation of ancient ethos by Professor Clarke Rountree, chair of the UAH Communication Arts Department; and "The Ides of March: Murder in the Ancient World," with an introductory lecture by the history department's murderous Dr. Gerberding.

Again this year the Society sponsored a Classics Week in the spring. This year's special guest was Dr. Ernst Badian, professor emeritus of Harvard University and one of the world's authorities on the history of the late Roman Republic. By all accounts his public lectures imparted real understanding about the semi-private nature of Roman republican government. He also delivered a charming after-dinner speech about birds in the ancient world at the Society's annual convivium.

In early July, the Society sponsored a trip to Italy. Current and former members of the Society, history students, significant others, and Dr. Gerberding, fifteen brave trekkers in all, had two wonderful weeks seeing and studying the ancient and modern sights of northern and central Italy. There are rumors that some (history majors William Bailey and Shawn Youngblood among them) even ran a lap of the Circus Maximus, the ancient Roman racetrack in the heart of the ancient city.