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## History Newsletter, 2007-2008

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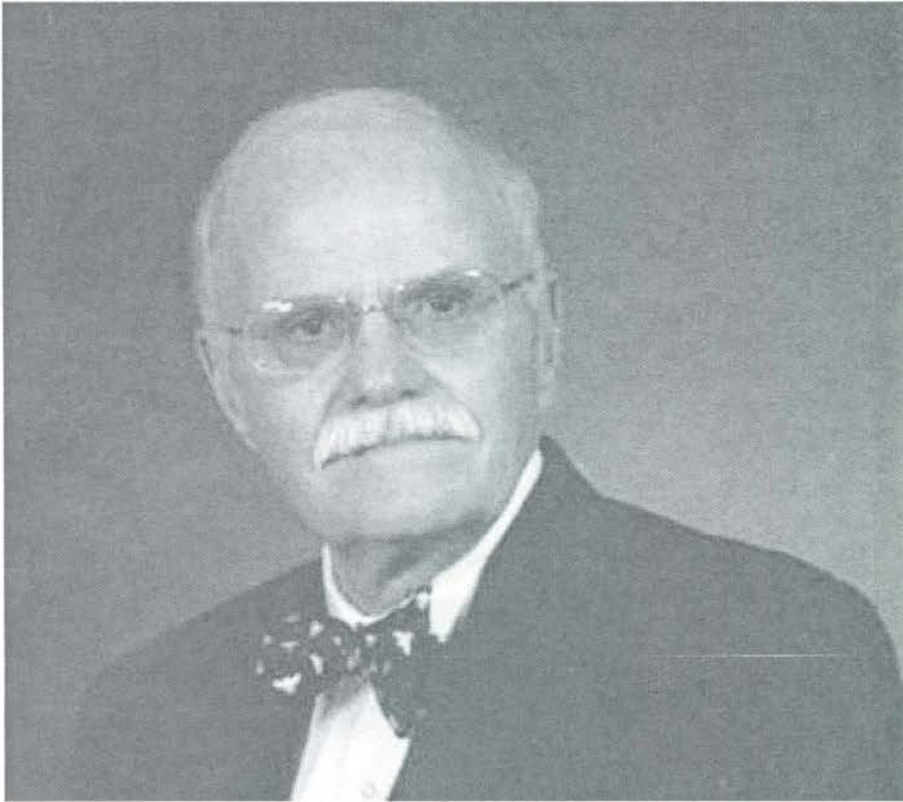
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# HISTORY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. XXXVI, 2007-2008



## BUKEY WITHDRAWS TO BUNKER

The Department of History won't be as well-read, well-dressed, or (we fear) well-loved now that Evan B. Bukey has retired from active duty. His courses—the Second World War; Germany 1789-1918; Germany 1918-1949; Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; Twentieth Century Europe—have been among our best-subscribed, and alumni reminiscences brim with evidence of the indelible mark he has made on students. We figured Bukey would stick around awhile after Iron Chancellor John White honored him with a payment of \$3.5 million (from the Razorback Foundation, mind you), citing *herr doktor's* thirty-eight undefeated seasons. At the hastily convened press conference, football coaches and athletic directors prostrated themselves before Bukey, insisting "We are not worthy, Evan! You are

the soul of this university, not us!" Bukey politely thanked them for what he wryly termed "hush money," but had nevertheless announced his retirement by early the next morning.

Buckeyes grow like weeds in Old Main. This one transplanted himself in 1969, having earned his BA at Ohio Wesleyan and his MA and PhD at the Ohio State University. Bukey was promoted to associate professor in 1975 and full professor in 1986, and found homes away from home as a visiting scholar at West Point and Cambridge. He won his place in the top ranks of our Department by triumphing on both fronts—teaching and scholarship. Never one to mollycoddle students, he won their affection and esteem all the same with his masterly lectures. As Fulbright College declared in honoring him with a Master Teacher Award in 1997, "students praise him, even while they groan a bit about his tough standards and high expectations." Five years later, the Arkansas Alumni Association presented Bukey with its Distinguished Achievement Award. This recognized not

only his conquests in the classroom but the reputation he has established as one of the leading authorities on Austria during the Nazi era. He has authored two books, *Hitler's Hometown: Linz, Austria, 1908-1945* (1986) and *Hitler's Austria: Popular Sentiment in the Nazi Era, 1938-1945* (2000), both of which have been translated into the languages of just about every people ever overrun by the *Wehrmacht*. The flagship *American Historical Review* praised *Hitler's Austria* as "our best study on Austria's embrace of Nazism," and the book won both the Austrian Cultural Book Prize and the National Jewish Book Award.

Bukey's productivity hasn't flagged since then. He has published essays in *Contemporary Austrian Studies*, *Zeitgeschichte*, and several anthologies, and has lectured and commented at conferences around the country. His current project, concerning Jewish-Gentile intermarriage in the Nazi years, has taken him to Viennese archives more than once. This past February, Bukey presented a distillation of this work in a swan-song lecture sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta titled "Gentile-Jewish Marriage and Divorce in Nazi Vienna, 1938-1945."

In retirement, Bukey says, he will do pretty much what he has been doing all along—researching, writing, reading, and talking history—only without an office or classroom to do it in (the university reclaims space from retirees without, in its words, "unnecessary sentiment"; every now and then one spies Tom Kennedy or David Sloan, wrapped up in their Hoover blankets, asleep on benches around campus).

Evan and his wife, Anita, occasionally betray an interest in territorial acquisitions in the East. But we hope it ain't so. Without at least the occasional visit, who's going to tell us the news? Who's going to teach us to dress nice (those few of us who care to learn)? Who's going to put the kibosh on the latest bit of scholarly faddishness or stir up a putsch in the Servery? Who?



## BYE TSAI, HI CAI

We figured our pastures were plenty green, thank you very much. But for all the love and loot we might shower upon him, our esteemed colleague Shih-Shan Henry Tsai has moved on to the U of A's SEC rival, the National Chiao Tung University in Hsinchu, Taiwan, after thirty-seven years as a beloved teacher and exemplary scholar. He will hold the Nation-Endowed Chair of Social Sciences and Humanities, which comes with the promise of sedan chairs, eunuchs (we mean the real kind), and periodic ceremonies in which football coaches and athletic directors will prostrate themselves before him, murmuring "We are not worthy, Henry! *You* are the soul of this university, not us!"

Tsai came to Arkansas in 1971, having earned a BA in his native Taiwan and his masters degree and doctorate from the University of Oregon. He became full professor in 1983. Tsai held sway over an extraordinary proportion of the earth's historical population, directing the university's Asian Studies program and teaching courses in China to 1644, modern China, modern Japan, the Far East in modern times, and Korea. He has been similarly ambitious in his research, publishing studies on topics ranging from Chinese immigrants in Arkansas to eunuch admirals to Ming emperors to modern Taiwanese politics. In 2000, he was honored for his accomplishments in every realm of the academic endeavor with an Arkansas Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award for Research and Teaching.

As seems to have become standard, Tom Kennedy wrote a few of his lines to mark Tsai's departure (the rest of the faculty eagerly look forward to their own retirements or deaths in hopes of being similarly honored):

### An Ode to Henry, Leaving

You have been here among us for these thirty plus years  
And now that you're leaving, there are sure to be tears.  
Though few here remember how it happened back then,  
We'd had scarcely a notion of who you were when  
You left for Taiwan and brought back a wife.  
The wisest decision you've made in your

life.

We learned at a previous time you had been  
In Chiang Kai-Shek's Army through thick and  
through thin,  
At a time when in years you were hardly a  
score  
And you'd scarcely strapped on your helmet  
before  
Those nasty Commies were shooting at you,  
While you were defending Quemoy and  
Matsu.

In the great History tradition you were short  
and quite small  
When you made the decision to play basket-  
ball.  
I remember the day when on some foolish  
whim  
We played against English in the old Boys'  
Club Gym.  
Though we gave up at least three inches per  
man  
Henry of Matsu determined to make a great  
stand.  
He fired from long distance, he took it in-  
side;  
That night our Henry could not be denied.  
And while the lumbering literati screamed  
out complaints  
Tsai led all scorers with twenty-five points.

Then there are books about eunuchs and  
such;  
You've had to work hard to have written so  
much.  
And I know that you fought through a lin-  
guistic jungle  
To tell the whole story of the Ming Emperor  
Yongle!  
Henry, oh, Henry, you have done us all  
proud  
So let's all lift our voices and say it our loud:  
"Old friend, Shih-Shan, you are one of a  
kind"  
And none can deny we'll be in a bind  
Looking hither and yon in a wild desperate  
race  
To find someone adequate to take up your  
place.  
For though a replacement may have done lots  
Can they write all those volumes, plus make  
all those shots?

Fortunately, Tsai's spot in our line-up will not be vacant for long. Liang Cai joins the Department this autumn to teach East Asian history. Cai earned a PhD and MA from Cornell University and her BA from Renmin University in her native China. She specializes in early Chinese intellectual his-

tory, has completed a dissertation, "In the Matrix of Power: A Study of the Social and Political Status of Confucians in the Western Han Dynasty (206 BCE-8 CE)," and published essays in *Early China* and *China Scholarship*. Dr. Liang Cai comes to us with a strong record of awards and fellowships, numerous conference presentations, and considerable teaching experience, having served as assistant professor of history at Armstrong Atlantic University in Savannah, GA.

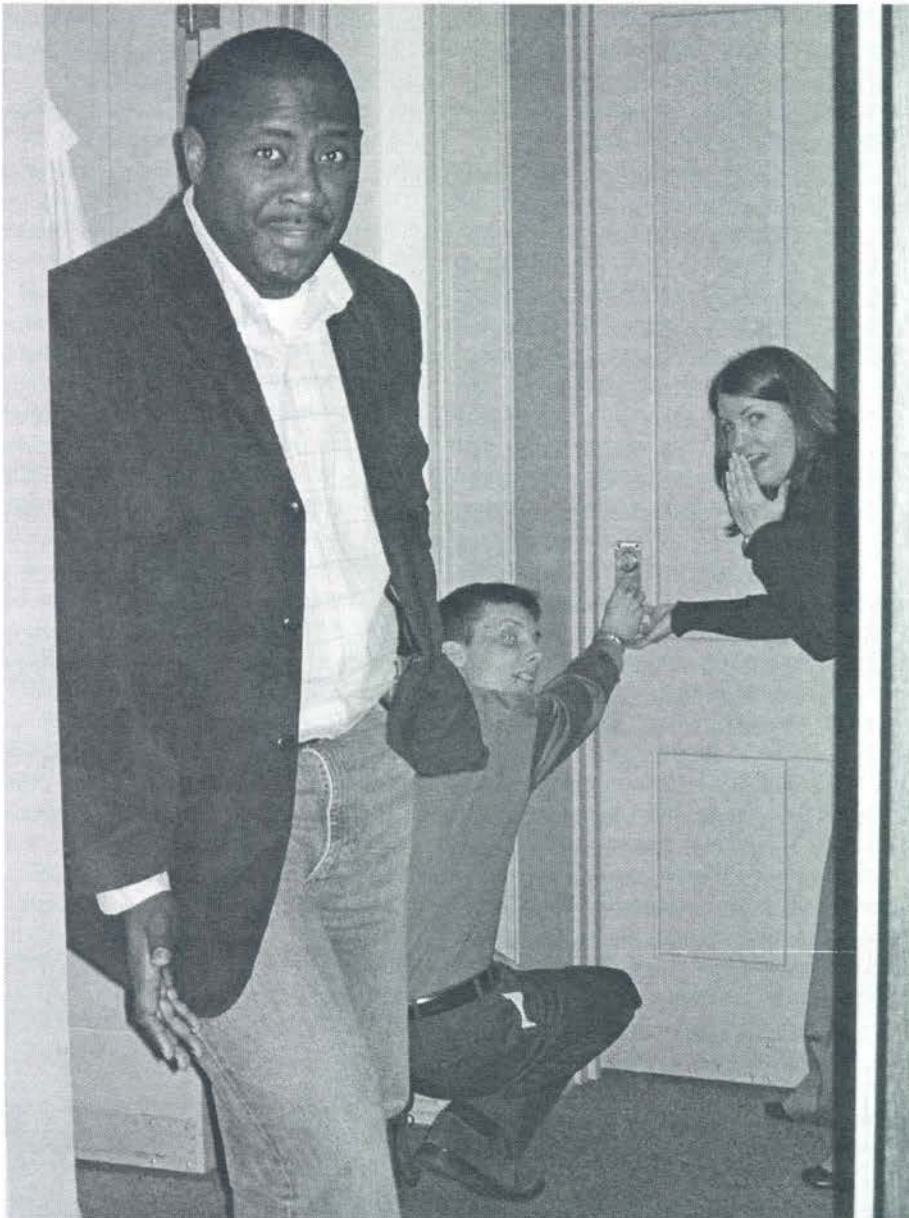
## THE MOD SQUAD

We swore off making "no country for old men" jokes at the expense of the Department. Still, those of us who are tattered coats upon a stick feel compelled every now and then to remind our new colleagues that there was a time when we, too, could hear and remember names and party every night. But there's just no way we'll keep up with this year's fresh faces—the power trio of Andrea Arrington, Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon, and Calvin White. We already knew they were accomplished scholars when we hired them. Their students have quickly recognized them as top-flight teachers. As the accompanying photo suggests, they are also crime-fighting secret agents.

Calvin White, a native of the Arkansas delta (Stuttgart), credits his interest in history to his observation while still a child that "certain people who had things hadn't earned them." His discovery that history could help explain this situation, together with his grandmother's insistence on education as an equalizer, pushed him toward making a profession of the study of the American South and southern religion. White earned his BA and MA at the University of Central Arkansas before wandering off to Ole Miss for his doctorate. White says he's happy to be back in his home state, as is his wife, Shatara Porchia-White, who hails from Camden and is a researcher with the U of A's Chemistry-Biochemistry department. Arkansas should be just as glad to have them both back.

The sun never sets on Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon's subject matter. While primarily a historian of modern Britain, he also teaches and researches European imperialism, the history of terrorism, and military/intelligence history. In addition to offering our standard four-





A junior faculty that breaks all the rules. Calvin White, Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon, Andrea Arrington.

semester sequence in imperial/British history (modern imperialism; Tudor-Stuart Britain; Great Britain 1707-1901; and Great Britain, 1901-2001), he will offer courses on terrorism, modern Ireland, colonial India, and the Second World War. This time we haven't left British history to a lad from Ohio. Ben was born in the English seaside town of Blackpool and spent most of his childhood and adolescence in the rural county of Northumberland, just south of the Scottish border on the northeast coast. He learned to swim in the Irish Sea, and spent his summers in the North Sea, which probably explains his aversion to both cold and water. He grew up playing rugby, and still enjoys the sport as a spectator, but has come to appreciate cricket

more than he once did. Since Ben attended Cornell and Duke, we assume he's gathered that there are even better sports than that, but he still says his favorite "football" team is Manchester United. He doesn't leave the exertion to professionals, however. He likes to hike, run, and generally spent time outdoors. "1,000 ft up on a rocky and barren hillside in a light drizzle would be my heaven." You'll see him there with his wife, Amanda, and their wee bairns, Sophie and Isabel.

Stop by the fifth floor of Old Main, on the other hand, and you're likely to hear Andrea Arrington humming her trademark tune "Okie from Nairobi." She hails from the Sooner State but traveled to Emory University and then to Africa for her learning. But she happened upon her life's work only by

happenstance—when an African-American history class she had registered for was canceled and her advisor shunted her off to a political science course on Africa. These days, if a nation's name begins with a Z, she's got it down cold. Single-handedly, Arrington has expanded our students' opportunities to study Africa many times over, finally allowing the Department to do its duty to the southern hemisphere. Arrington says she has been having a wonderful first year here, surpassing hopes and expectations, so keeps wondering when history faculty are going to show their true, mean sides. Not us, sister. We're little angels.

## ENGELS SCATS

Don Engels hasn't said a whole lot more than that he's retiring at the end of this academic year. Maybe he's worried that the commotion we'd stir up for the occasion might startle the Sacred Cat. Our ancient historian is really not so ancient, and we wouldn't trade him for the most promising of academe's young conquerors. But we can't make him stay, it turns out. He's sent in this farewell letter:

Dear Students and Colleagues,

By the time you read this I will be in Lake George, NY, sitting on my front porch overlooking the lake. Tomorrow I will be in Fenway Park, watching the Sox turn the "Devil Rays" into cat food. Incidentally, you can buy Sox tickets online in Arkansas, even though the games are "sold out." It's one of the benefits of living in Red Sox Nation. I will miss everybody, but I miss my home even more. (Go to [lakegeorgechamber.com](http://lakegeorgechamber.com), click media, then click photo library.) It's been a rewarding and challenging experience over the last 22 years. I may return here in late October, the Adirondacks are a great place in late spring, summer, and early fall, but too darn cold in winter. You can always contact me via my e-mail address [[dengels@uark.edu](mailto:dengels@uark.edu)].

I will finish all my projects. My chapter in the *Oxford Handbook of Warfare* on logistics should be out soon. I'm continuing my work on ancient economic history for Routledge. I will also write books on the role of dogs in the ancient world, and public health. The history of cats and their role in religion, mythology, and folklore will continue to be a focus of research. I'm currently writing



an article on witches and black cats in Halloween. If you miss me, there is a youtube video of me discoursing learnedly on the topic.  
Farewell and good luck to everyone.  
Don Engels,  
Diamond Point, NY

Engels arrived in the Athens of the Ozarks in 1986, having earned a BA at the University of Florida, a masters at the University of Texas, and his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania. Since then, he has taught Greece and the Ancient Near East, Alexander and the Hellenistic World, Roman Republic and Empire, Western Civilization, and graduate seminars in ancient history. Engels directed a dozen masters theses and doctoral dissertations, was a stalwart undergraduate adviser, and commanded the Department's usually victorious United Way campaigns. He was elevated to full professor in 2000. Probably best known by the reading public for *Classical Cats: The Rise and Fall of the Sacred Cat* (Routledge, 1999)—his passport to the pages of *Cat Fancy* magazine—Engels has been a pioneering scholar of ancient economic, urban, and military history. His *Roman Corinth: An Alternative Model for the Classical City* (University of Chicago Press, 1990) has been credited with revolutionizing thinking about the classical city. *Alexander the Great and the Logistics of the Macedonian Army* (University of California Press, 1978) was a History Book Club selection.

Don Engels has been a one of a kind colleague, deeply committed to a rational and democratic academy, and we'll miss him.

### 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS AND INITIATION BANQUET

Because the Phi Alpha Theta annual awards banquet was held at the notoriously dry Arkansas Union last May, many of us dismissed the fan dance with which Alpha chapter president Derek Everett initiated the proceedings as nothing more than a particularly grisly symptom of our own delirium tremens. But it really happened, we are assured—as evidenced by a video widely screened at this year's meeting of the American Historical Association. After he had plucked the dollar bills from his waistband, Colonel Everett

behaved in a somewhat more dignified manner, inducting the following accomplished students into Phi Alpha Theta: Matthew Iglesias, Misty Landers, Amanda Lee, Lonnie Strange, Sheri Lynn Brown Tuck.

Our electric chair, Jeannie Whyne, then offered welcoming remarks, which seemed to vaguely threaten newsletter editors. Evan Bukey led the crowd in heartfelt farewells to David Chappell who, shortly after receiving a 3.5 million dollar pay-out from Chancellor John White, had announced his departure for the University of Oklahoma.

Richard Sonn, the seigneur (make that "first citizen") of graduate studies announced the following awards to graduate students: *Willard Gatewood Fellowship in Southern History*: Matthew Stith; *Mary Hudgins Fellowship in Arkansas History*: Chet Cornell; *Walter Lee Brown Scholarship for outstanding research in Arkansas or American history*: Scot Oldham; *James J. Hudson Graduate Fellowship in the humanities, Fulbright College*: Tammy Johnson Byron, Matthew Byron; *Yowell Award for Excellence in Teaching in Fulbright College*: Matthew Byron; *George Billingsley Award for the best paper on a Middle Eastern or Asian topic*: Ahmet Akturk; *Oscar Fendler Award for the best paper on Arkansas or Southern history*: Brian Hurley; *James J. Hudson Research Award for dissertation research*: Matthew Byron; *Diane D. Blair Fellowship for support of research and writing of a dissertation*: Sonia Toudji.

Trish Starks made merry with the undergraduate awards: *Jesse Taylor, Jr. Endowed Scholarship for outstanding history major*: Lonnie Strange; *J. Margaret Roberts Award to an outstanding senior history major*: Cody Hackett; *David W. Edwards Scholarship for outstanding undergraduate study of history*: Amanda Lee, Alexandra Gough; *J. William Fulbright Award for the senior history major with the highest GPA*: Zachary D. Wagner; *James J. Hudson Award for Military History*: Zachary D. Wagner; *Gordon McNeil Award for the best undergraduate paper on a European topic*: Tyler Reis; *Georgia Victoria Gwynllian Saunders Award for an outstanding history major who is also a veteran*: Lee Woodmansee; *Phi Alpha Theta Award for an outstanding undergraduate paper*: William Prettyman; *W. Ray Memorial Award for the study of western civilization*: Nicolas Moore; *Robert E. Reeser Award for Classical Studies*: Nicolas Moore; *Helen and Hugo Goecke and Adlyn and Harry Kennedy Memorial Travel Award*: Jeff Grooms.

The following senior history majors received Certificates of Academic Excellence for maintaining grade point averages of the nose-bleed sort: Jacob Arriola, Heather Bly

Whelan, James Caldwell, Brittany Capes, Clark Donat, Zachary Pharr, Kellie Walker.

Along for the ride was Phi Alpha Theta's distinguished lecturer for 2007, Dr. Deborah Dash Moore, Frederick C.L. Huetwell Professor of History and Director of the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. She had delivered a lecture earlier in the day, "GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation," which is also the title of her most recent book. A leading historian of the American Jewish experience, Moore is the author of *At Home in America: Second Generation New York Jews* (1981); *B'nai Brith and the Challenge of Ethnic Leadership* (1981); and *To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A.* (1994); and co-editor of *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia* (1997).

A final order of business for the banquet was to swear in the next generation of Alpha chapter leadership: Krista Jones, president (she inherits Colonel Everett's staff car and feather boa); Matt Stith, vice president, Natalie Hall, treasurer; and Jennifer Koenig, secretary-historian.

### OZARK HISTORICAL REVIEW

The thirty-sixth volume of the *Ozark Historical Review* appeared in living color last spring. As always, it featured the best in research and writing by U of A history students, the 2007 crop including: "The Crisis of the Spotted Owl: Jobs and the Environment In Grays Harbor, Washington" by Rob Bauer; "On the Recent Historiography of the Fall of Rome" by Natalie A. Hall; "Just Discrimination: The Catholic Church In Arkansas and School Integration After *Brown v. Board of Education*" by Misty Landers; and "Combating A 'Fiendish Gang': Union Response To Guerrilla War In Jasper County, Missouri, 1861-1865" by Matthew M. Stith. The ever cheerful editorial board, led by David Chappell in a curtain-call performance, consisted of Robert Finlay, Henry Tsai, and Patrick Williams. But it was the technical and editorial expertise of Dr. Michael Pierce that actually brought the thing into existence. Published annually in Fayetteville by Alpha chapter, Phi Alpha Theta, the national honors society for students of



history, the *Ozark Historical Review* may be obtained from the Department of History, Old Main 416, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

## MASTERS OF OUR DOMAIN

With so many goings and comings to report, we hardly have the breath to crow about our Department proving yet again that scholarship doesn't come at the expense of fine teaching, or vice versa. Once again, we beat all the other departments hands down when it came both to teaching and research honors.

Pretty soon, they're going to need to invent some new teaching awards to give Trish Starks. She's run off with most all they got now. Most recently, Starks was inducted into the University of Arkansas Teaching Academy, an honor reserved exclusively for pedagogues with pep. A marble bust of Starks will be placed in a colonnade in the Bronx, and she will preside over an academy boot camp intended to bring less talented teachers up to snuff. You might hear her bark, "You call that a visual aid, soldier? *I can't hear you!*" Even after bossing us around all year, our chair, Jeannie Whayne, still had time and energy left to win Fulbright College's Master Teacher Award for 2007. As quaint as her students might find her expression, they recognize the inventiveness of her assignments and the commitment she brings to the classroom. And in a signal honor for a faculty member in his maiden semester at the U of A, Calvin White was named an outstanding teacher by the Student Alumni Board and Associated Student Government. Our doctoral candidates do more than their share to burnish the Department's reputation in this respect. For the second year in a row, one has won Fulbright College's top honors for outstanding teaching by a graduate assistant. Matthew Byron won the J. Hillman Yowell Award in 2007, and Derek Everett is 2008's winner.

In the meantime, it's no shock that our men in the Middle East have awed the scholarly world. Joel Gordon earned Fulbright College's Master Researcher Award for 2007 in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the study of modern Egypt. Gordon's books include *Nasser: Hero of the Arab Nation* (2006); *Revolutionary Melodrama: Film and*

*Civic Identity in Nasser's Egypt* (2002); and *Nasser's Blessed Movement: Egypt's Free Officers and the July Revolution* (1992). He is currently at work on the Muslim Brotherhood.

From the achingly prestigious Cambridge University Press comes the equally timely *Mahdis and Millenarians: Shi'ite Extremists in Early Muslim Iraq*, by William F. Tucker. Bill's erudition when it comes to such matters (and most everything else) is well known to anyone who has worked, studied, or even conversed with him. Now the rest of the world can learn about the millenarian sects of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>-century Iraq and Iran, their theology as well as political, social, and cultural beliefs, and the patterns they set for the Middle East over the long term. The book is too fresh off the press for the reviews to be in, but Fouad Ajami of Johns Hopkins University has praised *Mahdis and Millenarians* as "a rich history, drenched in blood, rich in disputations, and Professor Tucker is a terrific guide to this upheaval."

And, as usual, Elliott West couldn't escape the year without an honor chucked his way. His important body of scholarship and long service superintending the H-West discussion list earned him this year's ABC-CLIO-*Journal of the West* Award for Contributions to the Understanding of the History of the American West, which included bestowal of a captain's clock. Upon receiving the news, we all clapped him on the back and said, "That's swell, El-yut!" Then we scurried back to our offices to google "captain's clock."

## 2007 PHDS

If you've been noticing a superabundance of young historians on reality programs and in fashion magazines, credit the Department. We did more than our share in 2007 to stock the Republic with fresh PhDs.

**Thomas Aiello** swung for the fences with a dissertation, "The Kings of Casino Park: Race and Race Baseball in the Lost Season of 1932, Monroe, La.," directed by David Chappell. Aiello has been straddling the thirty-third parallel for some time now, having earned his BA at Henderson State in Arkadelphia and an MA at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He has been just as footloose in his intellectual pursuits, writing and publishing fiction and criticism as well as studying, performing, and writing history (including an article on black baseball for the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*). As of late, he's been sucked back into the Sportsman's Paradise, and is now teaching at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

**Farid al-Salim** ended his pleasant stay with us by defending "The Social History of Provincial Palestine: A Case Study in the History of Tulkarm in the Late Ottoman Period (1876-1914)," directed by Joel Gordon. Having done path-breaking research in Jordan, Palestine, and Britain, al-Salim has been credited with carrying the region's social history beyond the largest cities. Farid received his undergraduate education at Birzeit University on the West Bank and earned a master's in history from East Tennessee State University. He is now assistant professor of history at Kansas State University.

Lynda Coon worked her magic on **Ancilya Barnes**, ushering the Arkansas Tech graduate (BA and MA) into the esoteric precincts of "Gender and Domestic Space in the First Christian Basilicas." We're not sure we understood every last bit of it but did come away persuaded that there's nothing a native of Snowball, Arkansas, can't do. Already well-traveled on the conference circuit by the time she left us, Dr. Barnes is now traveling the tenure track at Coastal Carolina University.

**Julie Courtwright** is setting the world of environmental history ablaze. Hailing from Kansas and possessed of that state's many virtues, Courtwright holds a BSE from Emporia State and an MA from Wichita State University. Courtwright has already staked out her bit of the Plains, having published essays in the *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Kansas History*, and the *Great Plains Quarterly*. After reading her dissertation, "Taming the Red Buffalo: Prairie Fire on the Great Plains," directed by Elliott West, committee members collectively swore they'd never be able to dislodge the image of flaming jackrabbits from their brains. Dr. Courtwright now teaches at Texas A&M University. Please, no Aggie jokes. She assures us that her students are very polite.

That Coloradan (BA, Western State College; MA, Colorado State) and Sina-tran, **Derek Everett**, had been cobbling together a fair living from assistantships and his 1890 pension. But the seemingly ageless veteran has felt compelled to earn yet another set of gaudy regalia to complement his GAR and Masonic duds. His dissertation, "Frontiers Within: State Boundaries and Borderlands in the American West," directed by Elliott West, said amazingly little about the protective tariff or state capitols. Everett



has already published as much as many of us professors, having produced a handsome volume, *The Colorado State Capitol: History, Politics, Preservation*, in the early minutes of his career here. He now has articles forthcoming in the historical journals of just about every state that has a boundary. Celebrated by his students, who bestowed upon him the Student Alumni Board and Associated Student Government Faculty Appreciation Award in 2007, the old colonel is leading both survey and advanced classes here in the Department. The telegraph brought word just this morning that Everett has been honored with Fulbright College's J. Hillman Yowell Award for outstanding teaching.

Unlike certain members of his committee, **James Finck** has not allowed an enthusiasm for the Baltimore Orioles to destroy his life. No, instead he has thrived. Having earned degrees at William & Mary (BA) and Virginia Tech (MA), Finck has made it his business to study secession in the upper South. "The Secession Movement in Kentucky, 1860-1861," directed by Daniel Sutherland, takes an intriguing look at why the dog didn't bark in that state. A hale member of our community for a number of years, Dr. Finck now teaches at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg.

**Nawaf Madkhli** offers all the evidence you'll ever need of our department's strength as a center for the study of the modern Middle East. A graduate of the Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Madkhli came to the U of A to complete a master's thesis and dissertation under the direction of Joel Gordon: "'Nasser's Vietnam': The Egyptian Intervention in Yemen, 1962-1967" (2003) and "Saudi Arabia's Foreign Policy during King Khalid's Reign, 1975-1982" (2007). Dr. Madkhli is now teaching at King Fahd University in Dhahran.

**Derrick McKisick** has gone off to teach at the California University of

Pennsylvania, but we're not really sure if that's east or west of here. In his career in the Department, McKisick, who hails from Forrest City, "lived" history in a different way than most graduate students, serving as a park ranger at Pea Ridge National Military Park. He earned an MA here in 2000, with a thesis, "A State of Perfect Freedom: Defining Black Civil Rights in Reconstruction Arkansas," directed by Jeannie Whyne. His dissertation, "A Separate Peace: Emancipation and Citizenship in the Choctaw Nation," was directed by Elliott West.

## SENIORS SHARP

Senior history majors might have been observed over the past year speaking at commencement, being initiated into the mysteries of Phi Beta Kappa, and having their deadly brawls splashed all over the tabloids. And that's just David Prater. Prater was one of two students speakers chosen for Fulbright College's commencement exercises last May, and made a moving address. Shortly afterward, Prater was on the wrong end of a Bowie knife wielded in a local reenactment of John Wilson and J. J. Anthony's fatal fracas on the floor of the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1837. Abjuring further violence, Prater now works for Heifer International in Little Rock.

The Department mustered a strong crew of students completing honors theses in 2007: Laura Beall, "Testimony of Conscience: An Examination of the Lives and Legacies of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Franz Jägerstätter" (director: Evan Bukey); Clark Donat, "For Money or Ideology: Frank G. Tinker and Marion M. Noble in the Spanish Civil War" (director: Kathryn Sloan); Brent Harbaugh, "The Plan of St. Gall: Spolia-Museum of Carolingian Hegemony" (director: Lynda Coon); Jason Hartsfield, "False and Treacherous: Democratic and Republican Accounts of the Arkansas Militia Wars of 1868-1869" (director: Patrick Williams); David Prater, "The Untasted Sweets of Liberty: Anti-Slavery Thought in Revolutionary South Carolina" (director:

Beth Schweiger); Zach Wagner, "Unadulterated Native Americanism: Media Coverage of the Ghost Dance and Wounded Knee Massacre" (director: Elliott West); and Heather Whelan, "The Legacies of Tlatelolco: The 1968 Student Massacre in Mexico City and Its Effects on the Countercultural and Hippie Movement and Development of a New Literary Genre" (director: Kathryn Sloan).

The following graduating history majors were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa last May by the Alpha Arkansas chapter: Laura Beall, Jason Hartsfield, David Prater, and Zach Wagner.

Our up and coming class of history majors approach graduation similarly drenched in honors. Cody Hackett, Matthew Lammers, and John Terry won SURF awards in a statewide competition. These fellowships support original research under the direction of a faculty member. Amanda Lee and Nicolas Moore have been awarded Brandon Burlsworth Memorial Scholarships, which go to students "who have, through hard work, perseverance and character, become academic 'stars'."

And it's not just us who think these kids are swell. John Terry has been accepted into the M.Phil. program in Medieval History at Cambridge. Lindley Shedd's 2006 honor's thesis won the Arkansas Women's History Institute's Susie Pryor Award for 2007 and will appear this spring in the celebrated *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Suzanna Hicks presented a paper, "Denial of Stalinist Terror by American Communists in Hollywood, 1928-1956," at a regional Phi Alpha Theta conference this spring.

Most momentarily of all, perhaps, Daniel Rice has been officially measured as the sixth fastest drummer ever. He clocked this time in the preliminaries of the World's Fastest Drummer competition in Austin, TX, in which he placed second. After graduation, he will become Spinal Tap's new drummer.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

You know you are getting old when your students don't "get" your jokes any more. But now I'm finding that they don't understand my metaphors either. I discovered this after using the old expression "don't throw the baby out with the bath water" (when discussing the shortcomings of a certain book the students had read for class). One of my undergraduate students approached me after class and said, "Dr. Whyne, I'd never heard that expression before but I kind of figured out what you meant." Another student nodded assent and said, "Yes, I just love the way you talk. You remind me of my grandmother." I can honestly report that I was left speechless, mouth agape.

As I think about that encounter, it puts me in mind of my missive in last year's newsletter. I opened with remarks about the interesting transition the department was undergoing, a transition that continues. When we began the 2007-2008 semester, only nine of twenty-three



faculty had been here seventeen years ago. With the retirement of Evan Bukey and Don Engels and the departure of David Chappell and Henry Tsai, the numbers are even more skewed toward the newcomers. We are forging a new identity, one that I believe captures the best of our accomplished and experienced senior faculty (complete with our stale jokes and quaint metaphors) and the intellect and enthusiasm of the new faculty. Andrea Arrington, Ben Grob-Fitzgibbon, Michael Pierce, and Calvin White all made excellent beginnings here, garnering high student evaluations, demonstrating or realizing considerable research potential, and assuming other important activities within the department. Other members of the post-1990 club are continuing to demonstrate excellence in teaching, research, and service. Alessandro Brogi is completing his third book and has recently returned from a semester at the Nobel Institute. Joel Gordon won a Fulbright College Master Research Award and his new book, *Muslim Brotherhood*, is now under contract with Stanford University Press. Charles Robinson continues his exemplary direction of the African American Studies Program and has a book under consideration at the University of Tennessee Press. Beth Schweiger continues to be a magnet for graduate students even as she contracted a book with Yale University Press. Kathy Sloan has assumed an energetic leadership of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and has a book coming out with the University of New Mexico Press this fall. Richard Sonn is ably leading our Graduate Program and finished a book manuscript. Trish Starks was inducted into the Teaching Academy and will publish a book this fall. Dan Sutherland continues to be a publishing dynamo (the rumor is that he has a clone in the closet at home who does his sleeping for him), directs several doctoral students, and plays a significant role in various professional organizations. Bill Tucker's *Mahdis and Millenarians* has just been released with Cambridge University Press, a book that will place him in the "recondite company of the world's best scholars of medieval Islam." Elliott West, like Dan Sutherland, directs several doctoral students, is very active in historical organizations, and is a publishing machine. One of his essays won the ABC-CLIO award for "Contributions to the Understanding of History of the American West." Patrick Williams also had an important book published last year, has taken an active role in our honors and graduate programs (one of his honors students won a SURF award), edits the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, and is serving a life sentence as editor of the departmental newsletter. Randall Woods is another publishing dynamo, his book on LBJ making both the *Washington Post* and the *Christian Science Monitor's* lists of Best Books for the Year. He is a key figure in our graduate program and, like Elliott and Dan, holds a high profile in the historical profession.

With all of these exciting things happening within the department, it is evident that we are energized and enthusiastic about the future. Nevertheless, it is with deep regret that we mark the retirement of two beloved colleagues, Evan Bukey and Don Engels. They have both given much to the department and leave an indelible mark on us all. While we regret the departure of two other colleagues, David Chappell and Henry Tsai, we recognize that they are going on to greater glory. David now occupies an endowed chair at the University of Oklahoma, while Henry has truly "reached escape velocity," as one of our colleagues put it, and is now the Nation-Endowed Chair Professor at the National Chaio Tung University in Taiwan. We congratulate them both and wish them well in their new academic adventures.

Jeannie M. Whyne

## REPORT OF THE GRADUATE ADVISOR

The scaffolding has finally come down from Old Main, and we all hope three times will prove to be a charm. The new mortar is in place, which hasn't prevented mold from appearing on the walls of certain unfortunates. Mold we may have, but our ever-productive graduate students have not let the moss grow, as they ascend to the higher realms of academic glory.

Last year's newsletter reported that one student had received her Ph.D. This year I am happy to report that no fewer than nine people have received their doctorates. In order of completion, they are Nawaf Madkhli, Derrick McKisick, Ancilya Barnes, Thomas Aiello, Julie Courtwright, Farid Al-Salim, James Finck, Derek Everett, and Basri. Of those nine, five are Americanists, three specialize in the Middle East or Islamic World, and one works in medieval Europe. We have also had a large number of students who have passed their comprehensive examinations and have advanced to candidacy for the doctorate. Those students are Scott Cashion, Clint Crowe, Jami Forrester, Geoffrey Jensen, Matthew Kirkpatrick, Michael McCoy, Matthew Stith, and Yulia Uryadova. Students who have completed their master's degree are Brian Eaton, Kimberly Harper, Jonathan Jones, and Bianca Rowlett. The history department has also been fortunate to have a number of incoming doctoral students qualify as Doctoral Academy Fellows. This past year Natalie Hall, Jason McCollom, and Jeremy Taylor began their studies here with these coveted fellowships, which guarantee four years of support. Chet Cornell has held the Mary Hudgins Fellowship in Arkansas history; Matthew Stith received the Willard Gatewood Fellowship in Southern history.

Our graduate students have been productive scholars as well as playing an important role as teaching and research assistants. Ahmet Akturk presented a paper entitled "Depictions of Arabs in Kemalist Turkish Historiography" at the Middle East Studies Association meeting in Montreal, Canada. Rob Bauer has had his paper, "The Paradise of America: Visions of Land Use on the Southwestern Frontier," accepted for publication in the *Ozark Historical Review*. Derek Everett has an article entitled "On the Extreme Frontier: Crafting the Western Arkansas Boundary" appearing this spring in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Derek was recently honored at the Fulbright College Faculty Meeting after being named the Yowell Award winner for outstanding teaching by a graduate student—one of an impressive list of history students who have won this prize over the years. Lauren Galle, another of our Doctoral Academy Fellows, is deferring her fellowship this coming year in order to conduct research on her dissertation. She has won a Critical Language Scholarship from the State Department to study Arabic in Oman this summer, and has also won a travel grant from the LBJ Presidential Library. Michael Hammond was the invited speaker for Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Taylor University in Indiana. His paper was called "Jesus of Suburbia: De facto Segregation and the Creation of Suburban America." Geoffrey Jensen received a Moody Grant to work at the LBJ Presidential Library; perhaps he and Lauren can carpool there. Jason Pierce published an article in the Fall 2007 issue of the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, titled "The Winds of Change: The Decline of Extractive Industries and the Rise of Tourism in Hood River County, Oregon." Geoffrey Stark has written an



entry on former Arkansas U.S. Senator William Fosgate Kirby to appear in the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*. Congratulations to our high-achieving graduate students.

Richard Sonn

## THE TALK OF THE GOWN

**Andrea Arrington**, assistant professor, has, after organizing all her newly purchased Razorback gear, quickly settled into the next task at hand—figuring out how to go from grad student to faculty member. She expects to have accomplished this within the next decade. In between top-secret discussions with the women of the department re: reality t.v., coffee talk with the other newbies, tracking down research money, and teaching, Arrington managed to make some progress on her book manuscript, "Turning Water into Gold: The Development of a Tourism Economy in Zambia and Zimbabwe, 1880-2007." She presented a paper at the annual African Studies Association conference in New York City, "Crime, Punishment, and State (de)Formation: The Race and Gender of Criminality in North Western Rhodesia, 1895-1910," which she is now revising for journal submission. During the fall, she made her stage debut as co-director and actress in the African American Studies Program production of "Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992." After that experience, Arrington is convinced more than ever that she should stick with her day job. Accordingly, she had a paper accepted for a conference hosted in the fall by the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, and was awarded a curriculum development grant for work on a course tentatively entitled "Out of, and Into Africa: African Experiences in the United States and African-American Experiences in Africa during the 20th Century." This summer, Arrington heads to Zimbabwe for research. When she is not anxiously watching the news as that country prepares to re-elect their president/dictator, she tracks down the essentials for her trip there, which include protein bars (there appears to be no food there right now), toilet paper (the toilet paper sold in Zimbabwe is worth more than the currency), and sugar for her Zimbabwean friends (which she hopes will not be confused with cocaine by customs officers, although it is likely that shortages there have made sugar the more valuable commodity).

**Alessandro Brogi**, assistant professor, is dancing toward deification. Or maybe it's tenure; we can't remember which. His book manuscript has evolved into "Confronting Anti-Americanism: America's Political and Cultural Cold War against the Communists in France and Italy," and will appear in the University of North Carolina Press's "New Cold War History" series. Brogi has also published two more articles. They're both in Italian, but one is a candidate for the Organization of American Historians' David Thelen Prize, which honors the best foreign-language article in U.S. history and translates it into English for the *Journal of American History*. Much of his progress on his book was made possible by a generous fellowship he received from the Nobel Peace Institute of Oslo, where he was in residence from February through July 2007. They give the Nobel Peace Prize, but prefer to talk war and strategy with the folks they invite to stay with them. Brogi says, "While I was there, I had wonderful chances to meet with personalities from the world of knowledge or the world of politics (sometimes with people who actually combine both!), such as a leading intellectual from India, Amartya Sen, and the president of Chile, Mi-

chelle Bachelet. But the most memorable moments in Norway were: 1) performing an Argentine tango in the same hall where the Nobel Peace Prizes are awarded (though the audience was quite small); 2) being the only Nobel Symposium participant originally from below the Alps who endured a swim in the fjord of Balesstrand, where the water was close to the freezing point; 3) watching the sun never set on one of the Lofoten Islands, many degrees above the Arctic Circle—all the while eating a whale steak for my first and probably only time. I made good friends in Scandinavia, but I was glad to come back to Arkansas, to my friends and my students here."

**Evan B. Bukey**, professor, has retired. You will find plenty of gnashing of teeth and rending of garments on this score elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Lynda L. Coon**, associate professor and editor's cupcake, has conjured up a whole new set of accomplishments out of those same nouns, verbs, and adjectives. She published the GENDER and the BODY chapter in Thomas Noble and Julia Smith, eds., *Cambridge History of Christianity, vol. 3, Early Medieval Christianity, c. 600-1100* (Cambridge University Press, 2008). When Coon delivered an invited lecture, "The Dark Age Body and Its Parts," to the Medieval Circle at the University of Virginia, March 2007, they let her stay in Mr. Jefferson's swank Colonnade Club. Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory detected seismic activity in the immediate vicinity of Jefferson's grave that same day. Undaunted, Coon read "The Carolingian Aesthetic of Dining in the Monastic Refectory," at the International Medieval Congress ("the Zoo") in May. She served on the American Historical Association's James Henry Breasted Prize Committee, evaluating 17 submissions vying to be named best book in English in any field of history prior to 1000 C.E. And the Breasted went to Thomas Matthews, *The Journey of Theophanes: Travel, Business, and Daily Life in the Roman East* (Yale, 2006). Coon extended her unwholesome influence still further by serving as an outside evaluator for early medieval applications to the National Humanities Center.

**Donald W. Engels**, professor, will retire at the end of this academic year [see related story].

**Robert G. Finlay**, professor, is to be congratulated for earning a well-deserved promotion this past year and thanked for his yeoman service in the Department's search for a new East Asian historian. He is a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day.

**Joel S. Gordon**, professor, has, in a bloodless coup, won both promotion and Fulbright College's Master Researcher Award. His article on national and family melodrama, "The Slaps Felt around the Arab World," appeared in the May 2007 edition of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. Washington Square is still all abuzz over a teachers workshop on Egyptian popular culture that he led with Anthropology's *groovemeister* Ted Swedenburg at New York University last April, as well as the paper he presented about the classic Egyptian film *Cairo Station* at NYU's Kevorkian Center for Middle East Studies. Gordon attended three days of music performances and participated in the academic fo-



rum for the Festival Andalucias Atlanticas, highlighting Judaeo-Arab musical heritage, held in Essaouira, Morocco, in November. He says he gazed out on, but had no time to visit, Jimi Hendrix's reputed "Castles of Sand," and sadly notes the Orson Welles bar at the Hotel des Iles was closed for renovations. Gordon continues to serve as book review editor for the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. On campus, he still hosts the Middle East Film Club (Nadi Cinema). He also screened Egyptian and Turkish films at UALR for a Middle Eastern film fest last February. We think he'll have a scary Pakistan story for next year's edition.

**Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon**, assistant professor, being well acquainted with the ways of the Irish Republican Army, knows better than to withhold information from the knee-jerk Fenians who edit departmental newsletters. He began teaching here during last summer's second session and now lords it over the Department's offerings in British and imperial history. He was also quickly impressed into service as an occasional columnist for the *Northwest Arkansas Times*. 2007 saw publication of his second book, *Turning Points of the Irish Revolution: The British Government, Intelligence, and the Cost of Indifference, 1912-1921* (Palgrave Macmillan), as well as a peer-reviewed essay titled "Is Terrorism Unique? A Tactical and Ideological Appraisal" in Melinda M. Hicks and Charles Belmont Keeney III, eds., *Defending the Homeland: Historical Perspectives on Radicalism, Terrorism, and State Responses* (West Virginia University Press). At the Western Conference on British Studies in November, Grob-Fitzgibbon presented a paper titled "The Battle of the Britons: The Irish Loyal and Patriotic Union, Home Rule, and the Irish Nationalist Party, 1886-1893." For a new book project, he is examining British intelligence and counter-insurgency during decolonization.

**Cynthia J. Ingham**, visiting assistant professor, has been handling our undergraduate and graduate offerings in colonial and Revolutionary America. She earned her PhD at the University of Kansas and has published in the *Journal of Presbyterian History*.

**Thomas C. Kennedy**, professor emeritus, reports as follows: "Like most retired old guys, I mainly sit around awaiting the arrival of my next Social Security check. When not doing that, I complain about the weather and occasionally howl at the moon. In what little extra time was left over, I actually pretty much finished my history of Southland College of Arkansas, which the world awaits with bated breath. I also tried not to lose touch with Ulster and the British Tories. To that end, the *Journal of British Studies* published my article, "Troubled Tories: Dissent and Confusion Concerning the Party's Ulster Policy, 1910-1914," and I presented a paper, "F. S. Oliver and the Failure of Reasoned Discourse on the Ulster Question," at a meeting of the Western Conference on British Studies in Albuquerque, which gave me an opening to carouse with other disreputable British historians. In my continuing efforts to avoid controversy, I retained my spot on the board of the local ACLU chapter—although I failed utterly in that respect by accepting a nomination to the board of the UA Retirement Association, a body of known crazies."

**Robert C. McMath**, professor and dean of the Honors College, is in lock-down over at the Administration building. But the Department has arranged a work-release program with the Honors College that will allow him to teach a graduate reading seminar this fall. It will be good to see Bob back in these parts, jailhouse pallor or no.

**Michael C. Pierce**, assistant professor, celebrated his first year on the tenure track by delivering papers at a meeting of the Labor and Working Class History Association in Durham, NC, the

annual North American Labor History Conference in Detroit, and a special conference in Little Rock dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of that city's school integration crisis. These papers are part of a larger project examining the effects of poll taxes on the southern labor movement and the political activity of lower and working-class whites more generally. Apparently, Dr. Pierce has decided neckties are "fascist."

**Charles F. Robinson**, associate professor, recently received the Martin Luther King Jr. Career Achievement Award for 2008 from the Northwest Arkansas MLK Planning Committee. He has submitted a manuscript, "Forsaking All Others: Interracial Love, Violence and Revenge in the Post-Reconstruction South," to the University of Tennessee Press and also published an historical novel, *Engaging Missouri: An Epic Drama of Love, Honor, and Redemption across the Color Line* (iUniverse), set in late nineteenth-century Arkansas. Robinson is working on an oral history project, collecting the memories of black University of Arkansas alumni, staff, and faculty. The University of Arkansas Press has agreed to publish the oral testimonies in a volume entitled *Remembrances in Black: Personal Perspectives of the Experiences of African Americans at the University of Arkansas, 1940s-2000s*. Robinson is the stalwart director of the university's African American Studies program, which now has about 70 students. The U of A has recently launched a million dollar endowment effort on behalf of the program.

**Beth Barton Schweiger**, associate professor, is under the mistaken impression that being on leave relieves her of the responsibility of reporting her activities and considerable accomplishments to *History Newsletter*.

**Kathryn Sloan**, assistant professor, published an article, "Disobedient Daughters and the Liberal State: Generational Conflicts over Marriage Choice in Working Class Families in Nineteenth-Century Oaxaca, Mexico," in *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Inter-American Cultural History* this past April. She was also invited to participate in the Oaxaca Summer Institute, where she acted as guest professor for graduate students from the U.S. and Canada. While in Mexico, she began preliminary research on a new project and worked on final revisions of her book, *Runaway Daughters*, which will be published by the University of New Mexico Press in Fall 2008. She writes: "Teaching, researching, and writing in Oaxaca this summer was an exciting and sometimes treacherous endeavor as students, teachers, and labor activists have an ongoing dispute with the state government. Six blocks below my rented bungalow, riot police threw tear gas into a crowd of 10,000+ protesters compelling them to set fire to a few buses, cars, and taxis. A melee ensued and 50 people were arrested. My neighbors and I ran to the top of the hill for a better look but only suffered the noxious fumes of burning tires without seeing much. The rest of my stint in Mexico was uneventful but marked by peaceful marches every other day and daily consumption of chiles and mole. Viva Zapata!"

**Richard D. Sonn**, associate professor, managed to keep busy with his duties as associate chair of the department and head of the British history search committee but also found time to complete a book manuscript provisionally entitled "Anarchist Bodies: Sex, Violence and the Avant-garde in Interwar France." He also presented a paper at the Western Society for French History meeting in Albuquerque, NM, on "American Heroes: Lindbergh, Sacco and Vanzetti, and the French Image of Roaring Twenties America." He is currently serving on the governing council of that organization.

**Tricia Starks**, associate professor, was less than communica-



tive and slightly grumpy coming off her fall sabbatical. She growled something about her ongoing tobacco book (a habit she just can't kick) and her "undeserved" induction into the University of Arkansas's Teaching Academy [c'mon, Trish, irony is so twentieth century]. Fearing for his safety, the newsletter editor wisely retreated from her office door. We're afraid she's watched *Gun Crazy* (1949) a few too many times.

**Daniel E. Sutherland**, professor, reminds us that memory fades with age (middle, that is). He *thinks* he completed a pair of articles about James McNeill Whistler in 2007, to be published in spring 2008. He is more certain that the University of North Carolina Press will publish his book about Civil War guerrillas, a dozen years in the making and with a cast of thousands. The premiere is scheduled for late 2008 or early 2009. Sutherland also wishes to confess to being a grandfather. He had no direct role in this achievement, but the happy event is now over a year old, and he fears that the few people who have known, and who have adhered admirably to a sacred oath not to blab, are beginning to feel the strain of their obligation. So for their sake, and with many thanks for their restraint, let us rejoice in the birth (November 2006) of Lilith Eire Rain Sutherland, known more familiarly as Rain. However, let due warning be served: Anyone greeting Sutherland with the "G" word is likely to regret it.

**Shih-Shan Henry Tsai**, professor, has dangled, scrambled, skedaddled, taken a powder, hit the road, beat it, vamoosed [see related story].

**William F. Tucker**, associate professor, saw his book, *Mahdis and Millenarians: Shi'ite Extremists in Early Muslim Iraq*, published by Cambridge University Press this January. But he counts as more important the birth of his granddaughter, Natjaya (Nattie) Supattara Sakda-Tucker on October 6, 2007. "She's become the center of the family!" We suspect Nattie's the reason Bill has started to carry a cellphone.

**Elliott West**, Alumni Distinguished Professor, has finished a draft of "The Nez Perce War and the New America," projected to appear in spring 2009 from Oxford University Press. Over the past year, he's also published a short piece in the *Western Historical Quarterly* and three book reviews. But the Exotics' old axman still manages to play plenty of gigs: conducting Teaching American History colloquia in San Antonio, Pueblo, CO, Springfield, IL, and Lafayette, LA; directing three colloquia in honor of David McCullough (Berkeley, MI, Bozeman, MT, Scituate, MA); leading a Gilder Lehrman Seminar, "The Great Plains: American Crossroads," at the University of Colorado; delivering keynote addresses to the Texas Institute for the Humanities (both in Fort Worth and Lubbock), the Texas Council for History Education (San Antonio), the Montana Teachers of Social Sciences (Belgrade), and at the dedication of Homestead National Monument in Beatrice, NE; and lecturing at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, MT, Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO, and the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Three of his doctoral students have defended

dissertations as of late, too.

**Jeannie M. Whayne**, professor and chair, has also been chairing the Faculty Senate this year. She was hoping that it would be a nice quiet year [huh?], but a number of things have come before the Senate that have required more of her time and attention than she anticipated. In the meantime, she spent the Fall 2007 semester revising her Old South class and directing four honors students and six MA students. She also won the Fulbright College Master Teacher award for 2007. She has completed a draft of the book on the Lee Wilson plantation, tentatively titled *Forging a Delta Empire: Lee Wilson and the Making of a Post Civil War Plantation*. She is editing that book now and "tweaking" the conclusion. She participated in panel discussions at the American Historical Association (January 2007), the Agricultural History Society (June 2007), and the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers (October 2007). She chaired a session at the "Little Rock Desegregation Crisis: Fifty Years Later" conference in Little Rock in September 2007. She served on the Southern Historical Association's Owsley Prize Committee and was appointed to the Organization of American Historians' Committee on Committees. Locally, Whayne worked with the Washington County Historical Society to bring together a Statehood Day celebration, held on June 17, 2007, and made a presentation before K-12 teachers. She also spoke at an opening ceremony of the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville.

**Calvin White, Jr.**, assistant professor, made quick work of settling in here. In this his rookie semester he was honored by the Student Alumni Board and Associated Student Government as an outstanding teacher, and this past January delivered a keynote address for the U of A's commemoration of Martin Luther King Day. White braved the sin-splashed streets of Hot Springs last October to present a paper on the Arkansas roots of the Church of God in Christ at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers. He is revising his manuscript, "They Danced and Shouted into Obscurity: A History of the Black Holiness Movement, 1897-1961," for publication.

**Patrick G. Williams**, associate professor, continues to edit the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* and teach his classes old-school. His two-night, one-stop *Beyond Redemption* book tour took him only as far as Texarkana. He turned back when no one would sell him a drink in his native state. Having learned that Wladimir Klitschko has a PhD, Williams has decided he will even things out by boxing under the name "Kid Columbia." He stings like a butterfly and buzzes like a bee.

**Randall B. Woods**, Distinguished Professor, has recently been the subject of a lengthy Sunday profile in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, in which he identified his favorite Beatle as George and his favorite Monkee as Peter. Harvard University Press has published *LBJ: Architect of American Ambition* in a handsome paperback edition.

## ALUMNI ROUND-UP

**Katharine Allen Adams** (BA 1992) teaches history in the Pulaski County Special School District. She and her husband, Gene Adams, had a beautiful baby girl, Katharine Lindsey (Kate), last year. Allen writes, "My days at the U of A—including my history classes and

professors—are ones I look back on with such pleasure."

**James Anderson** (MA 1994) is an academic counselor, developing communication and connection-building tools for students, faculty, and staff at Oklahoma State University—Oklahoma City. He recently

presented "Building Bridges for Student Success—Early Alert and Proactive Advising" at the 14<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Students in Transition, held in Cincinnati.

**Thomas F. Anderson** (BA 1975) is a day trader and CEO of Crusaders VI.



He and his wife, Sandy, have been married 16 years. His daughter Kara Anderson is a GE rep; Jordan Anderson is a sales rep for ADT Alarms and a U of A alumni; and Katelyn Anderson is a doctoral student here in Fayetteville. Anderson lists his activities as golf, family, and teaching Sunday school but also mentions the two homes he owns in Cancun. He asks fellow members of the class of 1975 to email him at: TomAnderson2@cox.net.

**Jennifer Thompson Baker** (BA 1997) lives in Flower Mound, Texas.

**Ray Baker** (BSE 1961, MEd 1971) ha retirado después enseñar historia por cuarenta y seis años en el Distrito Escolar de Ft. Smith. Todavía sirve como alcalde de Ft. Smith, y el septiembre pasada promulgó que el inglés debería ser el idioma oficial de la ciudad. Recientemente Baker ha recibido un Friends of Senior Citizens Award de la Agency on Aging y ha sido nombrado Ciudadano del Año por el March of Dimes.

**Amanda Beam** (BA 2001; PhD [University of Stirling] 2006) is a research assistant at the University of Glasgow. She's working on a prosopographical study of medieval Scotland 1093-1286 funded by Britain's Arts and Humanities Research Council. The project is producing a database, website, and printed calendar of all charters (royal, aristocratic, and ecclesiastic/papal) from that era. "It's keeping me very busy!" Dr. Beam's first monograph, *The Balliol Dynasty, 1210-1364*, will be published this May.

**Lisa Beckenbaugh** (PhD 2002) is dean of student life at the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, KS, and thus "knee-deep in administration—meetings, meetings, meetings." This likely puts her in a proper frame of mind to edit and annotate the memoirs of a Bataan Death March survivor, which she is doing in cooperation with his widow. Since Lisa and her husband, Terry, both report that "We're down to FIVE (5) cats," we can only assume the Beckenbaughs are encouraging alums to ship them their spares.

**Terry Beckenbaugh** (PhD 2001) is assistant professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College in Kansas. Being the new kid in his department, he couldn't say no to being "chosen" to represent it at a Art & Craft of Discussion Leadership gathering at Harvard Business School this

March, nor to being named assistant safety officer and undergoing CPR training. In June, he will present a paper, "The Economics of Race: Samuel Ryan Curtis, Economics, Race, and Political Ideology," at the first Society of Civil War Historians meeting at the Union League in Philadelphia. He's written more book reviews as of late than he can possibly remember.

**Amanda Berry** (BA 2000) is a research assistant in Washington, DC. She's completed her first marathon—the Nike Women's Marathon in San Francisco—and attends Capitol Hill Baptist Church.

**Bill Black** (BA 2003) teaches Arkansas history and world history at Darby Junior High School in Fort Smith.

**David Boling** (BA 1987, JD 1991) has recently become chief of staff to U.S. Congressman Vic Snyder, who represents Arkansas's Second District.

**Paul Brewster** (BA 1986) of Hampstead, NC, recently completed a dissertation, "Andrew Fuller (1754-1815): Model Baptist Pastor-Theologian," at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is presently serving as an editor of a volume of *The Works of Andrew Fuller* project that covers Fuller's writings related to Sandemanianism and Antinomianism.

**Ross Brown** (MA 2006) is currently attending the University of Arkansas School of Law after working at GlobalSecurity.org and the U.S. Capitol. He has won the Annual Civil Procedure Poetry Award [which reminds us of that story about John C. Calhoun's love poem, which began "Whereas. . ."]. He is a member of the Equal Justice Law Society.

**Loren L. Butler II** (BA 1949, MA 1950) lives in Lumberton, NC, and is professor *emeritus* of Byzantine history at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke. He enjoys reading, watching TV, and driving around in his restored 1983 VW Rabbit GL, which he bought new. His daughter, Lorell A. V. Butler, is a librarian at Northwestern University in Chicago.

**Jean Turner Carter** (BA 1977, JD 1980) lives in Little Rock and is Executive Director, Center for Arkansas Legal Services, a non-profit organization that provides free legal assistance to indigent clients with civil legal problems. She currently serves on the Arkansas Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission and the following Arkansas Bar Association committees: Professionalism Task Force; Legal Services Committee; and Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee. Carter is married to Dan Carter (JD 1980 U of A). They have two daughters: Catie, who

graduated from the University of Kansas last year; and Christen, who is a senior in high school and plans to attend the U of A. She lists her activities as tennis, kids, church, bar association, and attending Razorback football and basketball games.

**Teri Castelow** (MA 1996, PhD [Florida State] 2005) is assistant professor of educational foundations and program coordinator for the foundations program at the University of Memphis. Her activities include playing tennis and watching her kids: Abby, 14, who is in eighth grade, plays percussion in bands, and bowls; and Meagan, 16, who is in tenth grade, plays baritone in bands and plays soccer. Her husband, Pete, also has a PhD and works at the University of Memphis.

**Ellen Compton** (MSE 1960, MA 1963) is an archivist with Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries and continues to work with its Fay Jones Collection. She has been writing and reviewing for the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, *Pack and Paddle* (the Ozarks Society newsletter), and *Books and Letters* (the U of A Libraries' newsletter). "My grandchildren are in gifted and talented classes and are affectionate and good-looking. What more is there for a grandparent!?" Compton also reports that she visited with professor *emerita* Anne Vizzier at the Fayetteville Public Library recently. "She has not aged and is still her witty, smart self."

**Harold Coogan** (BSE 1961, MA 1966) of Mena still says he is retired but still serves on the Rich Mountain Community College adjunct faculty and on the Polk County quorum court. His stepson, John Gates, recently finished a PhD at Oxford and is now employed at the University of Texas. Dr. Walter Brown's old stomping grounds [a few other of us in the Department also stomped or got stomped there]. Coogan writes, "RMCC is currently searching for a new president and I recommended seeking expert assistance from Dr. John White and A.D. Jeff Long." Coogan recently did the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* a good turn, providing the picture of Lum and Abner that graces the cover of its winter 2007 issue.

**Ed Crane** (BA 1976) owns MSB Art Gallery in Oklahoma City and is president of the Putnam Heights Preservation Area Homeowners Association. He says he will give large discounts on art or custom framing to U of A alumni. He can be reached at: 10600 S. Pennsylvania



Avenue, Suite 10, Oklahoma City, OK 73170; 405-692-0087; msbartgalery.com.

**Thomas A. DeBlack** (PhD 1995) was elevated to full professor at Arkansas Tech this past fall. He is rounding out his second term as president of the Arkansas Historical Association so will be available for a draft should the Democratic convention deadlock in Denver. He also serves as vice president of Arkansas's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. DeBlack's daughter, Susannah, is now four, and his wife, Susan, recently celebrated the first anniversary of her new practice, DeBlack Eye Care. Don't tell him we told you this, but DeBlack is a sucker for stray cats.

**Tom W. Dillard** (MA 1975) has been fighting the good fight. As president of the Arkansas History Education Coalition he led the charge last summer against the state department of education's new social studies "frameworks," which would have played hell with the teaching of Arkansas history in our schools. His pioneering work in Arkansas's African-American history was honored in January by a "Salute to Greatness" Award from the Arkansas MLK Commission. Dillard heads Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries and writes the Sunday history column, "Remembering Arkansas," for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

**Susan Dollar** (PhD 2004) is assistant professor of history at Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches. Her essay, "Ethnicity and Jim Crow: The Americanization of Color in Creole Louisiana," has been accepted for publication in an upcoming collection of essays on civil rights and race in Louisiana edited by fellow alum Michael Martin (PhD 2003). Dollar is a member of the Louisiana Historical Association's board of directors, chairs the state Phi Alpha Theta committee and the state PAT annual conference planning committee, and serves on the Organization of American Historians' selection committee for White House Historical Association fellowships. She writes, "I *LOVED* (but barely survived) this past season's game vs. LSU!! Go Hogs! (Family and friends down here can just get over it)."

**Clark Donat** (BA 2007) is a student at the U of A School of Law. He received an Arkansas Bar Foundation scholarship and is a Law School Honor Council representative.

**Gerald Wayne Dowdy** (MA 1991) is senior librarian and archivist with the history/social sciences department at Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library in Memphis. His 2006 book, *Mayor Crump Don't Like It: Machine Politics in Memphis* (University Press of Mississippi), received honorable mention for the Tennessee History Book Award. His essay on Clifford Davis appeared in the online *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, and he also published "Memphians Will Do Their Duty": A Tennessee City during World War II," in the *West Tennessee Historical Society Papers*. Dutch Public Broadcasting recently interviewed Dowdy about the Memphis sanitation strike.

**Brenna Orr (Berry) Drindak** (BA 2005) of Springdale is a research analyst in the accounting profession. She enjoys motorcycling, hiking, reading history books, and spending time with her family. Drindak writes, "Our son came back from a 12-month tour in Iraq. We are happy that he came home in one piece!"

**David Finch** (MA 1970) is retired but occasionally teaches as an adjunct. He lives in Muskogee, OK, and has three wonderful grandchildren. His son, Bryan, received a PhD from Texas A&M and is visiting professor of sports management at O.S.U.

**Dennis Michael Finnigan** (BA 1974) is retired (disabled) and lives in Conway. While serving in the military, he won the Army Achievement Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

**Russell "Aaron" Fortner** (BA 2002) is a technical trainer in Princeville, IL. His fourth child, Elizabeth, was born last June.

**Richard S. Fulton** (BA 1974) of Flower Mound, TX, writes: "I spent 32 years with IBM and retired in 2006 because I could, and now have full time to exercise my passion for history. IBM was interesting. My best job was as the worldwide business unit executive for mainframe software sales to mid-market customers. It allowed me to travel extensively around the world for years, including most of Europe, India, China, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Brazil, and Australia. Now I am working on an ethnic history of America. Book one will concentrate on colonial America, which was much less than one-half English, contrary to what most assume."

**Rita Geiger** (BA 1966) of Oklahoma City is retired but serves as a trainer for *Education for Freedom, Lessons on the First Amendment* and as a field representative for, and executive committee member of, the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education. She

also sits on the board of the Oklahoma Council for Social Studies. Geiger contributed to *Oklahoma—Land of Contrasts*, which was on the state's textbook adoption list last year and outsold its closest competitor by \$600,000. She is one of six authors of a Scott Foresman elementary social studies textbook series that was also on the Oklahoma adoption list.

**Roger W. Giles** (BA 1969) is vice president for administration and general counsel for Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. He and his wife, Carolyn, have a daughter, Lilly, who is ten years old.

**R. Hunter Goff** (BA 2004) is finishing up his master of theology degree at Dallas Theological Seminary.

**John William Graves** (BA 1964, MA 1967, PhD [University of Virginia] 1978) chairs the social sciences department at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia. He teaches advanced courses in Arkansas history, Gilded-Age America, and U.S. foreign policy, as well as the senior research seminar in history. He is past president of the Arkansas Historical Association and has served on the editorial board of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Graves' book, *Town and Country: Race Relations in an Urban-Rural Context: Arkansas, 1865-1905* (University of Arkansas Press, 1990), received the Arkansas Award from the Arkansas Library Association and an Award of Commendation from the American Society for the Study of State and Local History. Graves currently serves on the Arkansas Black History Commission and the advisory board of the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. He is also a founding member of the Mosaic Templars Building Preservation Society and has served on its board of directors since the society's inception in 1992-1993.

**Charles E. Gray** (MA 1950) is professor of history *emeritus* at Illinois State University and lives in Springfield, MO. He writes: "No exciting news to report from southwest Missouri, but I would like to say hello to the University of Arkansas history department gang as the new year dawns. As one growing 'long in the tooth,' I observe one of the great truisms of human history as I view the contemporary political/social scene. History certainly does not repeat itself, but those who do not know their history have a propensity to repeat the mistakes of history."



**Richard Gray** (BA 1989), an attorney, continues to practice medical malpractice and business defense at Moser & Marsalek in St. Louis. "I am emboldened by the recent Razorback regime change. I wish all my history department brethren well."

**Patrick Hagge** (BA 2005) is a graduate student in geography at Penn State.

**Donald M. Hensley** (BA 1991) is a pilot in the United States Air Force. He was recently promoted to lieutenant colonel and took command of Air Force Liaison Detachment 6. He is a graduate of the USAF Air War College.

**Christine Edmisten Hilker** (BA 1975) is Visual Resources Curator with the U of A School of Architecture. She has worked for 29 years in a great job, researching and cataloging art and architecture images, and is now building a digital database that currently has over 33,000 images. Hilker is secretary-treasurer for the North Arkansas Jazz Society, has served two terms on the executive board of the International Visual Resources Association, and enjoys horseback riding (hunter-jumper and fox hunting). She has been married 32 years.

**James H. Hodnett** (BA 1972) is a psychologist and lives in Columbus, OH.

**Melinda Kincannon Hood** (BA 1970) lives in Benton, AR.

**Philip Hopkins** (BA 1994) is stage manager at Silver Dollar City theme park. Last December he announced his candidacy for the head coaching position at the U of A, but, so far, nothing has come of it. Hopkins has two sons, Philip Jr. (PJ), who is eight, and Aiden, who is one. Both are future Hogs.

**Nathan Howard** (PhD 2005) is assistant professor of history at the University of Tennessee–Martin, where he advises Gamma Beta Phi honors service fraternity, serves as assistant coach for the men's and women's cross-country teams, and is teaching the first section of Honors World Civilization ever offered at the institution. Dr. Howard had a busy summer grading AP world history exams at Colorado State, attending a six-week NEH seminar, "Between Rome and Persia: Early Christianity on the Path to Islam," at Notre Dame, and presenting a paper, "Familial Askesis in the Vita Macrinae" at the International Patristics Conference at Oxford, England.

**Michael Hughes** (PhD 1990) is Hayes Native American Studies Center

lecturer at East Central University in Oklahoma. He teaches Native American studies, U.S. history, and art history, and performs for state Chautauquas (including Arkansas's). In 2006, he received an elder's honor blanket from ECU Native American students. Hughes wife, Eril (U of A PhD 1989), is professor of English at ECU and a regional leader in Habitat for Humanity.

**Elizabeth Jacoway** (BA 1966, PhD [University of North Carolina] 1974) published *Turn Away Thy Son: Little Rock, the Crisis that Shocked the Nation*, with Free Press in 2007, so spent the year doing book signings, giving talks, and attending history conferences as well as all the hoopla surrounding the fiftieth anniversary of the crisis ("Lots of fun!" she says). Her son Tim is in Prague teaching English as a Second Language, while son Todd earned an MA in journalism from NYU and is now working as a journalist in Bahrain ("Yikes!").

**Ben Johnson** (PhD 1991) is now dean of liberal and performing arts at Southern Arkansas University, which means he gets to boss around not only his fellow historians but ballerinas, sociologists, and clowns. Johnson's crackerjack essay, "After 1957: Resisting Integration in Little Rock," appeared last summer in a special issue of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Central High crisis. It will reappear this spring in an anthology, *Epitaph for Little Rock*, published by the University of Arkansas Press.

**Charles King** (BA 1990) was recently promoted to full professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where he continues to serve as chairman of the school's faculty. His latest book, *The Ghost of Freedom: A History of the Caucasus*, will be published this year by Oxford University Press. An earlier book, *The Black Sea: A History* (Oxford 2004), has recently appeared in Czech, Italian, Romanian, Bulgarian, and Polish translations.

**Misty Konow** (BA 1994) is a chiropractor and lives in Rock Hill, SC. She serves as the South Carolina department chairman for women's empowerment and leadership within the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She and her husband, Dr. Frank Konow, had a baby boy, Jude Louis, last May.

**Jay Kutchka** (MA 1990) has been practicing law in Fort Smith since 1996. He recently completed a class action settlement on behalf of over six million Honda and Acura owners that he began working on in 2002. The settlement was valued in excess of \$240,000,000. Kutchka and his wife, Jane-Ellen, have four children.

**Virginia J. Laas** (PhD 1993) is professor of history at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin. She is teaching in London this spring in the Missouri London Program.

**Todd P. Lewis** (BA 1993) is an attorney with Connor and Winters in Fayetteville. He lists his activities as "raising three children!" but continues to try to keep up with World War II. He's reading *The Unknown Black Book* by Joshua Rubenstein about the Nazi genocide in Soviet territories.

**Don Walker Love** (BA 1971, MA 1978, EdS 1989, EdD 2000) is assistant superintendent for the Springdale school district. His oldest daughter, Elizabeth Harrison (BA, U of A, 2000), works for Key West Community College. Leanne is an architect with RTKL in Chicago. His youngest daughter, Sharlotte, is working toward a degree in nursing.

**Bobby L. Lovett** (MA 1967, PhD 1978) is professor of history at Tennessee State University. He sits on the editorial board of the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* and the board of directors of the Tennessee Historical Society. He recently published *How It Came to Be: The Boyd Family's Contributions to African American Religious Publishing from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

**Margaret Gerig Martin** (BA 1947) is the author of two children's books. She serves as president of her garden club and study club. Her husband, R. S. Martin (who owned the Varsity Club Dance Band with Bitsy Mullins after the war), died in 1999, so their two sons run the family's corporations. Martin has seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren with another on the way. One granddaughter is a fourth-generation Pi Beta Phi at the U of A.

**Michael Martin** (PhD 2003), assistant professor of history at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has been named SLEMCO Professor in Liberal Arts. His book *Historic Lafayette* hit the shelves in December 2007, the same month his article, "'We Both Have Reason to Feel Good About the Book': Russell Long, T. Harry Williams, and Huey Long," appeared in *The Historian*. He is faculty advisor for Phi Alpha Theta's Epsilon Xi chapter, which has been named best chapter for its division—a national honor—the last two years. Martin lives in Lafayette with his wife, Amy, and their two-year-old son, Sam, who is known around the neighborhood for calling the Hogs and booing LSU.



**Letty McAdams** (BA 1971) lives in Dallas, TX.

**Julia Ann McKinney** (BA 1950) is retired. She and her husband have lived in the same house in Fayetteville for almost 40 years. "Our daughter is temporarily with us until she sells her house in Nashville—Enjoy having her. She has made the household much livelier." McKinney has two grandchildren at the U of A and writes that "I'm amazed at the use of the computer for *everything*." Mrs. McKinney is active in the DAR and the Scottish Society and volunteers at St. Paul's Church.

**John H. Morris** (BA 1959, MA 1969) teaches American history at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith and at Northwest Arkansas Community College. He recently moved from Farmington to Fayetteville.

**Maribeth Murray** (BA 1966) lives in North Little Rock

**Susan O'Malley** (BA 1968) lives in Little Rock

**James E. Page** (MA 1975, PhD 1979) lives in Lady Lake, FL.

**Jordan Patty** (MA 2003) is a processing archivist/librarian at George Mason University. He lives in Washington, DC, and is chair of the Society of American Archivists' Labor Archives Roundtable.

**Joel E. Portwood** (BA 1981) is an automotive export general manager but also coaches the Dallas Diesel, the North American Football League's national champion and team of the year in 2006. Portwood was inducted into the Minor League Football Hall of Fame in 2004 and named National Football Events coach of the year in 2006. His wife, Earnestine, was named teacher of the year at Spruce High School in Dallas in that same banner year of 2006, when their son, Nigel, was selected offensive MVP TAPPS Div. 1 and All-State running back 1<sup>st</sup> Team and TAPPS All-Star. Portwood lists his activities as sports, hunting, attending church, and parenting.

**Edward E. Prewitt** (BA 1994) is a financial consultant and board member of the Washington County Historical Society, Life Styles Inc., and Sigma Alpha Epsilon House Corporation. He married Jennifer Prewitt in 2004, and the couple had a son, Fletcher Ransom Prewitt, this past November.

**Mark Pryor** (BA 1985) represents Arkansas in the United States Senate.

**Cortney Don (Rakestraw)**

**Rogers** (BA 1998) is a marketing associate for SYSCO Food Services of Arkansas and also has a real estate license. In the past year, she and her husband, Travis Rogers, have started two businesses, T. Rogers Appraisals and Consulting and Isuba Valley Equestrian Center. Travis is a certified general appraiser. The couple competes in hunter/jumper horse shows.

**Tracy Rogers** (BA 2000) is an editorial assistant with the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and a freelance music writer for the *Phoenix New Times* and *Nashville Scene*.

**Marvin F. Russell** (MA 1979, PhD 1985) has, after 27 years with the National Archives, transferred to the U.S. Department of State. He is now chief of the branch responsible for declassification of *Foreign Relations of the United States* volumes, FOIA material, and mandatory reviews of 25-year-old State Department documents

**Budd Saunders** (BA 1963, MA 1965, ABD) reports as follows: "I continue to grow older, to the amazement of anyone who knows me. I'm still married to Nancy. We've been married for 28 years now and that amazes everyone also. We are below the poverty level and subsist mainly on grits, red beans and rice, and fried catfish. Still write a news column [for the *Durham Dispatch* and *White River Valley News*] that gives no peace or rest to the damned Republicans and that swoozy gathering of spineless Democrats in our Congress. Am writing on a book of some of my experiences, working title: *Jump Boots, Jelly Beans and Beer—An American Paratrooper Between Wars*. It is quite readable and should recall the Eisenhower years. Of course, since I've been writing on the book for the last 40 years, publication is not particularly in the near future. Am planning on approaching what's left of the history department I once knew and asking for an honorary PhD just so I can hear people call me 'Doctor' before I die. The county judge in Washington County said he was going to blast a rock quarry about 3,000 feet from my bedroom. The hell he will. I'm back into another environmental battle again."

**David Schieffler** (MA 2005) teaches history at West Fork High School, just south of Fayetteville.

**Kim Allen Scott** (MA 1986) is archivist and professor at Montana State University in Bozeman. The University of Oklahoma Press published his book, *Yellowstone Denied: The Life of Gustavus Cheyney Doane*, last year. This spring, he is on a research sabbatical in Sydney, Australia, where he is gathering information for a comparative study of Royal National Park and Yellowstone. Scott's

oldest son, Benjamin, is now a freshman at Montana State. He writes, "The whole family enjoys good health, and continues to miss all our Arkansas friends."

**David Skeels** (BA 1995) is an attorney specializing in patent litigation and has been named a Texas Super Lawyers "rising star" in the field of intellectual property law. His wife, Megan Flowers Skeels, a 10-time NCAA All-American distance runner, was inducted into the U of A Hall of Honor this past fall. The couple have a son, Henry MacArthur (Mac) Skeels, and a daughter due.

**Betty Newton Smith** (MA 1971) retired in 1999, after teaching history for twenty-eight years at Fayetteville High School. She enjoys traveling, quilting, fishing, and photography, and is active in mission projects, choir, and Sunday School at her church. Mrs. Smith has received the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award from the U of A, the J. C. Penney Golden Rule Award, the Eastern Star Award, and the Northwest Arkansas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee Award. She has been happily married to Leortice Smith for 40 years. They have two sons: Leortice, Jr. and Trebus, and a grandson, Xavier, who is three and whom they recently visited in Washington. Mrs. Smith writes, "I would like to encourage the young people to never give up on your dreams and ambitions in life. Dreams will take you anywhere you want to go, if you follow the dream with action! Thanks to the University at Pine Bluff for allowing me to achieve my dreams, and thanks to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville for helping me to achieve my career."

**Bill Smith** (PhD 1999) is associate athletic director at the U of A and recently began to teach American history as an adjunct at Northwest Arkansas Community College. He can be heard talking history on *Ozarks at Large*, a public radio show.

**Jeffrey Sparks** (BS 2003) earned his M.D. from UAMS in 2007 and is currently doing a residency in internal medicine at Washington University in St. Louis (Barnes-Jewish Hospital).

**Dena Alter Spears** (BA 1975) lives on a farm outside Jacksonville, AR. She taught for 15 years and is now a pharmaceutical rep. She has a daughter who is married and lives in Lafayette, LA, and another who is a buyer for Dillard's.



**Carter Stein** (BA 2000) is an attorney with the Law Offices of Gary Green in Little Rock.

**Chris Stevens** (BA 2006) lives in Dallas and is a graduate student at Westminster Theological Seminary. He is married to Megan Stevens.

**Christopher T. Teter** (BA 1987) lives in Fort Smith and is a call center supervisor. He lists his activities as spe-lunking, golf, camping (he and his college buddies meet annually at Richland Creek), and beer can collecting. Teter's daughter Carolanne (14) is in ninth grade at Chaffin Junior High in Fort Smith and was recently nominated by one of her teachers to attend a future leadership conference in New York City. Recently, she and Teter visited campus and found his name on Senior Walk. "We had a passing student snap our picture. What a wonderful day and a great memory for both of us."

**Tommy R. Thompson** (MA 1965), professor *emeritus* of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, likes to read, work on genealogy, and visit his grandchildren in Florida and Colorado. En route, he's seen many historic sites: Holly Springs, MS; the old Mobile historic area; Beaufort, SC; and Thomas Wolfe's home in Asheville, NC. He has had an article accepted for publication in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, tentatively titled "Dying like Rotten Sheep": Camp Randall as a Prisoner of War Camp."

**Max. E. Timmons Jr.** (BA 1983) is currently employed as an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) helicopter pilot with Air-Evac Lifeteam, based in Paris, AR. "It's not really related much to my education in history, but that has been typical in my rather eclectic professional career other than one year I spent teaching social studies at Prairie Grove Junior High School. The EMS mission has been both interesting and exciting. To be able to make a difference in the life of someone who has been critically injured is something I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to do." In addition, Timmons serves with U.S. Army National Guard, C Company 1-185<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion, Camp Robinson, North Little Rock. He spent most of 2006 and 2007 participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a UH-60 helicopter pilot based in Balad, Iraq. He was mobilized for nearly 18 months, 6 months in preparation and training followed by one year

in Kuwait and Iraq acting as the company's Tactical Operations Officer. "I logged nearly 700 hours of combat flight time including 300 night vision goggle hours over Iraq. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2007 during a routine combat circulation mission my wingman was engaged and shot down in Diyala Province, NE of Baghdad. During the resulting engagement a number of insurgents were killed, however the aircraft that was downed lost all aboard including our Company Commander and ISG. It wasn't an experience any of us will ever forget." Timmons was subsequently awarded the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with V (valor) device, and the Combat Action Badge (CAB). Timmons' wife, Elizabeth is a trainer/instructor at the Fayetteville Athletic Club and includes among her loyal clients Randall Woods. Two of their children have both completed their degrees at the U of A in the past 12 months: daughter Tiffany in Political Science/Legal Studies and son Timothy in Biochemistry. Timothy has applied to medical school.

**John Unger** (BA 2003) is assistant basketball coach and health and physical education instructor at Bossier Parish Community College in Louisiana. He teaches personal health for college students, American Red Cross first aid, weightlifting, and Fitness for Life, and was recently named chairman of the Athletic Council at BPCC. "I really enjoy the classroom as well as the coaching and sharing my life with the young people I am surrounded by." Unger is married to Crystal Seyller of Stuttgart. "We have no children and love each other's company."

**Jerry Vervack** (MA 1977, PhD 1990) is dean of social and behavioral sciences at Northwest Arkansas Community College.

**Rita Anderson Vess** (BA 1975) lives in Scott, AR

**Stephanie Haught Wade** (MA 2006) lives in Little Rock.

**Dennis M. Wagemann** (BA 2003) is an admissions adviser at Northwest Arkansas Community College. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in adult education with a workforce development concentration at the U of A. He says he is "celebrating ten years of marriage by continuing to test the limits of my beloved wife's patience." Among Wagemann's eccentricities is a persistent belief that, *this year*, the Cubs will win the World Series.

**Mary (Floyd) Ward** (BA 2005, MAT 2006) lives in Fayetteville and teaches at West Fork High School. She married Dustin Ward, a graduate student in civil engineering at the U of A, last June.

**Elizabeth Salisbury Warren** (BA

1994) lives in Antioch, TN, and is an attorney specializing in healthcare law. Son Jude is four and a half, while Xavier is two. "They are a lot of work but a lot of fun."

**Michele Wasson** (BA 1975, MA 1982) is department chair for social studies at North Little Rock High School, East Campus.

**Joan Watkins** (BA 1973) is manager and senior editor of the *Index Arkansas*, a project of Special Collections at the U of A Libraries. It is an online resource for Arkansas history, geography, and culture, indexing numerous periodicals and journals.

**Andrew Wehrman** (BA 2003, MAT 2004) is in his fourth year of graduate study in history at Northwestern University. He is in the early stages of writing a dissertation tentatively titled "Sore Spots: Disease, Empire, and Revolution in Salem and Marblehead, Massachusetts, 1773-75," a study of how popular understandings of disease colored political ideology. Last November, he presented a paper, "Communicating the Disease: William Buchan's *Domestic Medicine* and the American Revolution," at the Project: Biocultures conference at the University of Illinois-Chicago. In June 2006, Wehrman wed Ellen Turpen, who is now student activities coordinator at Illinois Institute of Technology. He writes, "We enjoy living in Chicago. The pizza's excellent, but it's quite depressing to root for both my hometown Royals and my adopted team, the Cubs." He should try rooting for the Orioles sometime.

**Joshua West** (BA 2006) is a paralegal with Wal-Mart. He enjoys fantasy football, target shooting, reading about economic theory, history, and politics, spending time with his wife, Rebecca, and playing bluegrass on his old banjo.

**Tawana Phillips West** (BS 1968) has been a library/media specialist but retired at the end of the 2006-2007 school year, having been named 2007 Teacher of the Year at Walker Elementary School in Springdale. A new grandson, Jonathan David West, was born this past October. West traveled to Ireland, Wales, and England this past summer and will be going to Croatia this May. She says her activities are "too numerous to list!"

**Emily Boggan Wineland** (MA 2006) is Executive Director of the Arkansas Foundation for Skin Cancer and



director of communications for DBH Management Consultants in Little Rock. Her husband will graduate first in his class from UAMS College of Medicine this May.

**Thomas I. Witkowski** (BA 2004) is 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant, Combat Systems Officer, United States Air Force.

**Robert L. Wood** (BA 1984) is Director of Operations for J. B. Hunt Transport. He is married to Sandy and has one son, Ronnie, and three grandchildren: Kaden (7), Allison (4), and Madison (2).

**James A. Wooten** (MA 1950) is a retired FBI special agent. He lives in Shreveport.

## Deaths

**Jesse Taylor, Jr.** (MA 1966, JD 1968), a generous benefactor of the Department of History, died July 24, 2007, in St. Louis. The son of Jesse Taylor and Gladys Hardin Taylor, he was born in Memphis on February 14, 1942, and grew up in Blytheville. Taylor earned his bachelor's degree at Vanderbilt and a masters in history and JD from the U of A. He spent three years in the Marine Corps as a captain in JAG, and then worked for thirty-four years with the May Department Stores Co. and Federated Retail Holdings, Inc. As senior counsel, he worked primarily in the loss prevention/security, employment, and risk management areas. Taylor

retired last year and made his home in Kirkwood, MO. Taylor. He leaves behind an enduring legacy for history students, having established the Jesse Taylor Jr. Undergraduate Scholarship Fund in History here at the U of A.

# NEWSLETTER

Editor: *Patrick Williams*

Assistant Editor: *Rebecca Wright*

A special thanks to  
Jane Rone,  
Jeanne Short,  
Tom Kennedy,  
and Kathy Sloan  
for their assistance.





## WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Department has thrived on the generosity of alumni and friends, but we continue to need your support to maintain our tradition of excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Your unrestricted gift (**University of Arkansas Foundation-History Department, account 2780**) will allow the Department the greatest flexibility in allocating money where need is greatest, whether to support teaching, public programs, graduate assistantships, or student and faculty research, or to recognize and aid outstanding students. Of course, we would be most grateful, too, for larger gifts to endow scholarships, fellowships, chairs, and lectureships.

There are a number of funds that may be of particular interest to our alumni: 1) **The David W. Edwards Scholarship Fund**, 2) **The Timothy Donovan Lectureship**, 3) **The James J. Hudson Graduate Fellowship**, 4) **The Robert E. Reeser Award**, 5) **The Willard B. Gatewood Graduate Fellowship**, 6) **The Walter L. Brown Scholarship in Arkansas History**, 7) **The George V. Ray Memorial Award**, 8) **The Gordon McNeil Scholarship Fund**, 9) **The Ralph V. Turner Fund**, 10) **The J. Margaret Roberts Endowed Award Fund**, 11) **The Oscar Fendler Award Fund**, 12) **The George Billingsley Award Fund**, 13) **The Jesse Taylor J. Scholarship Fund**.

**The Mary Hudgins Award** funds research and internships for students working in Arkansas history.

Gifts to the Department should be sent to Dr. Jeannie Whayne, Chair, History Department, Old Main 416, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville 72701, with checks made out to **University of Arkansas Foundation History-Department, account 2780**.

Gifts to the Gatewood Fellowship may be sent to 325 Administration Building, U of A, Fayetteville 72701, while checks to the James J. Hudson Fellowship should be forwarded to Dr. Collis Geren, Dean of the Graduate School, 119 Ozark Hall, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville 72701.

Thank you for your support



# Contributors 2007

Mrs. Boyce Ann Billingsley	Mrs. Emily Ruth Hall	Mrs. Jamie West Shipley
The Honorable James B. Blair	Dr. Nathan Howard	Dr. Mitchell Singleton
Mr. David Boling	Ms. Laura S. Lieber	Ms. Donna Jane Smith
Mr. Jeff Broadwater Jr.	Mr. Matthew B. Lohse	Mr. Jason Michael Strickland
Mrs. Jean Turner Carter	Mr. Larry Malley	Estate of Mr. Jesse Taylor, Jr.
Mr. Willyerd Collier	Mr. David McNeil	Mr. Thomas Tirrell & Mrs. Brenda Tirrell
Ms. Caroline M. Craven	Mr. Sidney Moncrief	Dr. Ralph V. Turner
Mrs. Margaret Bundrick Davison	Mrs. Kristen Morrow	Mr. Robert E. Wahlman
Mr. Tom Dillard	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Ray	Mr. Daniel T. Walz
Mrs. Genie Donovan	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Ray	Mrs. Diane B. Walz
Mr. Wooten Epes (Jr.)	Mrs. Maxine Reeser	Mr. Norman G. Weiner
Mrs. Frances Fendler	Dr. Ron Revard	Mr. Michael E. Wilson
Mr. Willard Allen Fletcher Jr.	Dr. Bobby Roberts	Mr. Tilden P. Wright III
Ms. Joan M. Gardner	Mrs. J. Margaret Roberts	
	Mr. & Mrs. Budd Saunders	
	Mr. David Curtis Shipley	

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*THE  
HISTORY  
NEWSLETTER*

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
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FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72701

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