

2009

## History Newsletter, 2008-2009

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of History

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# HISTORY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. XXXVII, 2008-2009



## OLD FACES IN NEW PLACES; OR THE SORROWS OF ST. LYNDA

Lynda Coon had her choice of martyrdoms. She could be shot full of arrows. She could have her eyes dished out on a plate. She could choose that business with the spiky wheel. Instead, she chose to become chair of the Department of History, as of July 1, 2008.

Who but a self-abnegating saint would consent to be elevated to leadership amid financial panic and pandemic self-indulgence? Our Department, for one, has been left with key faculty positions unfilled, maybe for a good long while. But Coon's m.o. has been calm, consensus, and consideration. Without the stomach to get medieval on the faculty, and without the budget to buy our good behavior, Lynda has attempted to

lead by saintly example. Given the junior faculty's fierce resistance even to wearing coats and ties, she has thus far failed to get us to don hair shirts. But neither are we brawling or getting arrested much anymore.

Lynda Coon has a Virginia pedigree that even James S. Chase might envy. Raised in Springfield, not far from the nuclear power plant, Coon attended James Madison University in the Shenandoah Valley before repairing to Mr. Jefferson's academical village. Coon earned her doctorate from the University of Virginia in 1990 and came to the U of A that same year. She was promoted to associate professor in 1996. What we tell the public is that Dr. Coon "researches the intersection of gender, sexuality, and religious practice in the early medieval era, c. 600-900." That usually involves stuff her colleagues only pretend to understand. She published *Sacred Fictions: Holy Women and Hagiography in Late Antiquity* in 1997 and has a second book, *Dark Age Bodies: Gender and Monastic Practice in the Early Medieval West*, due out from the University of Pennsylvania Press.

She has also co-edited a volume, *That Gentle Strength: Historical Perspectives on Women and Christianity*, and published essays all over the place, including in the *Cambridge History of Christianity* and the journal, *Church History*.

The Divine Miss C has been similarly venerated as a teacher in the prophetic mode. Legions of devoted students would kill for her. A few, in fact, have. In 1998, she was designated Fulbright College's Master Teacher. Two years later, she garnered the University of Arkansas's top faculty prize, the Charles and Nadine Baum Teaching Award. This latter triumph was celebrated at Razorback Stadium with gladiatorial games and mock naval battles.

As Dr. Coon notes elsewhere in this newsletter (see "Epistle of the Ab-bess") her way was expertly paved by Jeannie M. Whayne, whose service as chair was truly Rooseveltian in proportion. Holding that post for ten years--until she thought better of it last June--Whayne presided over a generational shift. Indeed, by the time she stepped down, Whayne was the only chair that fully half her colleagues had ever known. Never has our faculty been so productive or widely praised for its teaching prowess as during the Whayne regime. Throughout her decade of hard work for the department, Whayne remained mindbendingly productive herself, both as a scholar and in reaping teaching awards (she has most recently been inducted into the university's Teaching Academy). Still, Whayne's move out of the corner office seems to have been something of a tonic for her. Her epic study of the Lee Wilson plantation in Mississippi County, Arkansas, provisionally titled *Forging a Delta Empire*, is now complete and will be published by Louisiana State University Press. We are sure alums and friends of the Department will join Dr. Whayne's colleagues in offering her a million *mahals* for her good works—and that strawberry cake.

## Our Bill-less Faculty

Those educated by the Department recognize the Thirteenth Amendment as one of the triumphs of American history. But those strictures against involuntary servitude can be durned inconvenient at times. It turns out we can't make Bill Tucker stay. If he wants to retire, apparently we must let him. So cancel that call to Lawyer Marks.

Associate Professor William F. Tucker has been our consummate scholar for decades now—ever armed with a citation, ever ready with an instructive historical parallel, ever abreast of the newest published and unpublished research in his field, ever ready with a tip for good reading and good eating. Students have flocked to his courses on Middle Eastern and Islamic history, Mongols and Mamluks, Ottomans and Iran—though Tucker has made few concessions to vaudeville or current fads in therapeutic pedagogy.

Bill's a Tarheel, which might explain his Panama hat but not that wintertime cowboy number. After receiving his BA at the University of North Carolina, he moved on to Indiana University, where he earned his master's degree and doctorate. He came to the U of A as an assistant professor in 1971 amidst that whole passel of new arrivals whose recent departures have left the Department a duller place. 1979 saw him elevated to associate professor. Over his career, Tucker directed eight master's theses and two doctoral dissertations. A reader of Arabic, French, German, Italian, Latin, etc., he has published articles and reviews in a wide variety of places on a wide variety of subjects—ranging from natural disasters in the Middle East to Shi'ite clerics to Muslim explorers and travelers of the Middle Ages. Tucker capped this research with the publication by Cambridge University Press of *Mahdis and Millenarians: Shi'ite Extremists in Early Muslim Iraq* in 2008.

Tucker will apparently become a house husband. His wife, Janet, an equally celebrated professor of Russian language and literature here at the U of A, will, she says, continue teaching for a time. The Tuckers have a son, Robert, and a granddaughter they're just crazy about.

So that colleagues and alums might survive Tucker's retirement still nour-

ished in body and mind, we asked Bill to compile a list of the sort of recommendations we perpetually pester him for.

### Bill Tucker's Best American Bookstores

Seminary Co-op Bookstore, Chicago  
Labyrinth Books, Princeton, NJ  
Powell's Books, Portland, OR  
Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver  
Fields Book Store, San Francisco  
City Lights Bookstore, San Francisco  
University Press Books, Berkeley  
Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA  
Caveat Emptor, Bloomington, IN  
Penn Book Center, Philadelphia  
Joseph Fox Bookshop, Philadelphia  
Elliott Bay Bookstore, Seattle

As for restaurants, Tucker offers no more than the instruction that you get to the Berghoff in Chicago while you still have the chance.

## Department Welcomes Liang Cai

In contrast to other high-profile vacancies that have left gaping holes in our faculty, the quick replacement of Shih-shan Henry Tsai has allowed the Department to continue to hold its head up high and to serve its students well when it comes to East Asia. As noted in last year's newsletter, we are privileged to have Liang Cai covering that vital part of the world and the world's history.

Liang Cai was born in Hechuan, a small town surrounded by three rivers in the Sichuan province of China. Spoiled by her family, she says, she "had a colorful childhood with many dreams." In 1995, she entered Renmin University of China in Beijing. She excelled in physics, chemistry, and mathematics but finally chose history as her major. Liang received her bachelor's degree in an interdisciplinary program in Chinese literature, history and philosophy. In the fall of 2000, she entered graduate school at Cornell University to pursue a MA/PhD degree in the Asian Studies Department. She completed her master's degree in May 2003 and her doctorate in August 2007.

In graduate school Liang met and married Qiang Zhang, a chemical engineer who—fortunately—likes history. She talks with her parents in Sichuan dialect, and with her husband in Mandarin, being laughed at by her Sichuan friends for forgetting the pure Sichuan tone, and by her Beijing friends for not distinguishing between 'n' and 'l'.

Liang reports that she loves all kinds of plants but only dares have the easy-to-care-for kind. She also likes to play tennis, badminton, and pingpong but has not yet learned to swim. She loves all kinds of romantic stories/movies and martial arts ones, too, but, like the rest of us absent-minded professors, never remembers the names of the protagonists. She was intoxicated by the beauty of snow when she first saw it in Beijing, but finally wearied of it after living seven years in upstate New York. She and her husband both love Fayetteville, because the weather resembles that of their hometowns and the landscape that of Ithaca.

## Robinson Kicked Upstairs

Associate Professor Charles F. Robinson has been tapped to lead efforts to make the U of A an even more interesting and just place. Chancellor G. David Gearhart has appointed Robinson vice provost for diversity effective July 1, 2009. Robinson will sit on the chancellor's executive committee and oversee campus-wide efforts to recruit students, faculty, staff, and—we might earnestly hope—newsletter editors who belong to underrepresented ethnic groups. He will also work to increase retention among those already here. That Robinson is the man for the job seems clearly to be demonstrated by his leadership of the African American Studies program. Where it enrolled three students in 2004-05, it now enrolls more than 80. Interim Provost and professor of history Bob McMath predicts Robinson "will be a very effective leader of the university's renewed efforts to recruit outstanding minority students, staff, and faculty members and to make this a community that embraces diversity in all its forms."

## Starks Sanitizes the Past

After an extended hospital stay, *The Body Soviet: Propaganda, Hygiene, and the Revolutionary State*, by Tricia Starks, has emerged well-scrubbed and vigorous from the University of Wisconsin Press. In fact, as Elizabeth Wood of MIT has asserted, *The Body Soviet* is "a masterpiece that will thoroughly fascinate and delight readers." Starks examines the public

health campaigns of the infant Soviet state. Exercise, cleanliness, and the shunning of booze and smokes were celebrated by Bolsheviks as signifying “mental acuity, political orthodoxy, and modernity.” Strong bodies would build a strong state. Starks writes, “One individual—making the correct choice to brush one’s teeth, wash one’s hands, [*wear one’s tie?*] or exercise on the weekend—became not just a healthier person but the embodiment of the future success of the Soviet experiment.” Scarce resources dictated these campaigns be ones of propaganda rather than force, and *The Body Soviet* lavishly reproduces, in living color, numerous health and hygiene posters. Still, the Soviet public health effort was the most throughgoing of its day, and, within ten years, Russians were, on average, living ten years longer than before the revolution.

Starks has now turned to another part of the story, chronicling Russians’ irrepressible urge toward self-destruction. This autumn, the in-vogue publisher Routledge will publish a volume she edited with Matt Romaniello of the University of Hawaii, *Tobacco in Russian History: The Seventeenth Century to the Present*. A study of Russian roulette will follow.

Surveying the roués, lungers, burnt-out cases, and hollowed-out shells that litter our Department, Starks, who’s learned a thing or two from Comrade Stalin, has been inspired to organize “voluntary” medicine ball outings for the faculty. She regularly reminds us that “The Workers of the Department Do Not Have the Right to Poison Their Strength, Body, and Mind, Which Are Needed for the Collective Work of Educating the Natural State.”

### Sloan’s Runaway Bestseller

Maybe you think poring over state court records is work best left to positivist troglodytes. Well, Kathryn Sloan has news for you. In *Runaway Daughters: Seduction, Elopement, and Honor in Nineteenth-Century Mexico*, our Latin American historian employs records of 212 *rapto* cases tried in Oaxaca between 1841 and 1919 in the most novel way—to illuminate gender, generational conflict, cultures of courtship and honor, working-class community life, the liberalization of the Mexican state. The young women at

the center of *rapto* cases had, theoretically, been seduced or abducted, but Sloan finds that many of them seem actually to have eloped, wishing to marry in the face of parental opposition. Interestingly, judges often sided with the these young working-class couples rather than with parents. Eroding the patriarchal family authority of the colonial era, the Porfirian state “upheld principles of liberalism and free choice by allowing minors to continue clandestine courtship practices and freely choose their spouses as individuals.” While mapping out larger social and ideological terrains, those court records are also, Sloan says, “one of the only sources where we can hear the voice of the historically silenced: minor girls, their poor suitors, and working-class parents and neighbors.” A fetching volume, *Runaway Daughters* is available from the University of New Mexico Press, a leader in Latin American studies.

Sloan’s next project seems equally intriguing. She will study “moral panics” in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Mexico inspired by bullfighting, alcoholism, and suicide. Try telling Kathy that Ernest Hemingway has already cornered the market on all those things and she’s apt to reply, “Isn’t it pretty to think so?”

### OZARK HISTORICAL REVIEW

The thirty-seventh volume of the *Ozark Historical Review* was launched last spring, ably captained by Dr. Michael Pierce (with some hauling on the bowline by editorial crewmen Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon and Bob McMath). As always, it featured the best in research and writing by U of A history students. The 2008 voyage carried: “There’s Money in Them’: General S. C. Armstrong’s Marketing Plan for the Hampton Indian Program, 1878-1893,” by Jeremy Taylor; “The Paradise of America’: Visions of Land Use on the Southwestern Frontier,” by Rob Bauer; and “Forging the Heart of a Frankensteinian Monster: Urbanization and Modernization in Pre-Imperial Berlin, 1861-1865” by Jeffrey Grooms. The 2008 edition of the *Ozark Historical Review* may be obtained from the Department of History, Old Main 416, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

To make the *OHR* more broadly available, the 2009 edition will be available online at the Department’s website (<http://history.uark.edu>). Just click on publications. The *Ozark Historical Review* is published annually in Fayetteville by Alpha Chapter, Phi

Alpha Theta, the national honors society for students of history.

### Banquet: Bye-Bye Bukey

Because the 2008 Phi Alpha Theta annual awards banquet assembled at the parish hall of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, we could, in contrast to 2007’s dry affair, drink all we wanted—provided we kept our pinkies extended. Alpha chapter president Krista Jones welcomed the throng and presided over the initiation of the following into Phi Alpha Theta: Kimberly Carlson, Nathan Clark, Kalisa Erny, Erica Frasier, Michelle Granrud, Jeffrey Grooms, Shawna Houchins, Matthew Lammers, Bethany Larson, Jason McCollom, Ryan McCracken, Sheldon Metz, Caroline Peyton, Jennifer Pickett, Sarah Pollock, Emily Rogers, Bianca Rowlett, Savannah Schwitters, Lacey Thomas, and Kathryn Wren.

We didn’t know it at the time, but Jeannie Wayne then delivered what would be her final banquet address as chair, saying her farewells to departing colleagues Evan Bukey, Don Engels, and Henry Tsai. Our pensioned colonel Derek Everett, having returned (despite our best efforts) from retirement, commandeered the podium to preside over a tribute to Bukey, much of which was devoted to documenting *herr doktor’s* physical and temperamental resemblance to V. M. Molotov. It being May Day, Bukey then reviewed the Department’s troops, missiles, and tanks from atop a papier-mâché model of Lenin’s Tomb. After Bukey bid adieu at the end of the parade, the Department immediately fell into what apparently will be a permanent state of arrested sartorial development.

Richard Sonn, le roi de graduate studies, announced the following awards to graduate students: *Jesse Taylor, Jr. Endowed Scholarship for an outstanding history major*: Ahmet Akturk; *James J. Hudson Graduate Fellowship*: Matt Stith; *McNeil Award for Graduate Paper for outstanding paper by graduate student*: Derek Everett.

Tsaritsa Trish Starks then showed the love to the following undergraduates: *David W. Edwards Scholarship for outstanding undergraduate study of history*: Alexandria Gough, Shawna Houchins; *George W. Ray Memorial Award for the study of western civilization*: Thomas Richardson;

*J. Margaret Roberts Award*, awarded to an outstanding senior history major: Nicolas Moore, LeAnn Suggs; *Jesse Taylor, Jr. Endowed Scholarship for an outstanding history major*: Matthew Flemister; *Sidney Moncrief Scholarship for undergraduate studying African-American history*: Seth Jewell; *Walter Lee Brown Scholarship for outstanding research in Arkansas or American history*: Caroline Peyton; *George Billingsley Award for the best paper on a Middle Eastern or Asian topic*: Caleb McCallum; *Georgia V.C. Saunders Award for an outstanding history major who is also a veteran or child of a veteran*: Eric Froyd; *J. William Fulbright Award for the senior history major with the highest GPA*: Matt Lammers; *James J. Hudson Research Award for study of military history*: Anna Pfeifler; *McNeil Award in European History for the best undergraduate paper on a European topic*: John Terry, Jeff Grooms; *Oscar Fendler Award for the best paper on Arkansas or Southern history*: Lonnie Strange; *Phi Alpha Theta Award for outstanding undergraduate paper*: Kimberly Carlson; *Robert E. Reeser Award for Classical Studies for outstanding undergraduate paper*: Matt Lammers.

The following senior history majors received Certificates of Academic Excellence for maintaining grade point averages above the timberline: Matt Lammers, Nicolas Moore, LeAnn Suggs, Elizabeth Hornbeck, Jody Batzer, Cody Hackett, Kimberly Carlson, John Terry, Samantha Jones, Jonathan Wood, Jeffrey Grooms, Anna Pfeifler, Lonnie Strange, Hudson Smith, Noel Runyan, Savannah Schwitters, Thomas Lacey, Daniel Snyder, Michelle Granrud, Jessica Estensoro, Leon Kassab, Amanda Lee, Lisa Schreurs, Kalisa Erny, Jodi Blair, Erica Frazier, Vanessa Hobbs, Jamie Wilson, Allen Dark, Caroline Peyton, John Pickhardt, Joselin Niemyer, Ryan McCracken, and Samuel Covington.

Joining us in the bunker that night was Phi Alpha Theta's distinguished lecturer for 2008, Dr. Allan Millett, the Stephen Ambrose Professor of History at the University of New Orleans, where he directs the Eisenhower Center for American Studies (he is also professor *emeritus* at the Ohio State University). Millett brought a lifetime of exemplary research and writing on American military history to his Phi Alpha Theta lecture, "Going to Korea and Searching for the Korean War." He is the author of eleven books, including *The Politics of Intervention: The Military Occupation of*

*Cuba, 1906-09* (1968); *A Short History of the Vietnam War* (1978); *Semper Fidelis: The History of the United States Marine Corps* (1980); *For the Common Defense: A Military History of the United States of America* (1984); *A War to be Won: Fighting the Second World War, 1937-1945* (2000); and *The War for Korea, 1945-1950: A House Burning* (2005).

## Undaunted PhDs

Seven of our students spit in the face of a menacing job market and completed their doctorates in 2008. None were, at least report, selling apples on Broadway for five cents apiece.

**Basri** is one of the Indonesian scholars who have helped make the U of A a center for the study not simply of the Middle East but the Islamic world more generally. He could also regularly be spied playing Xtreme badminton at the HPER. Basri received his undergraduate degree from the State Institute of Islamic Studies in Malang, Indonesia before coming to Fayetteville courtesy of the Fulbright Program. He completed a master's thesis, "T'ah ʿa Husayn and Islam: A Critique of Historical Interpretation," in 1997. His dissertation, "Indonesian Ulama in the Haramayn and the Transmission of Reformist Islam in Indonesia (1800-1900)," was directed by Joel Gordon. Basri has returned to Malang and is teaching at his alma mater.

**Matthew Byron** comported himself honorably in defending his dissertation, "Crime and Punishment: The Impotency of Dueling Laws in the United States," directed by Beth Barton Schweiger. Having received his BA at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Byron honed his sense of honor at Clemson, where he earned a master's degree, before journeying to this field of honor. Here he has been honored with the Diane D. Blair Fellowship and the Yowell Award, the highest honor accorded teaching by a graduate student. We are honored to announce that Dr. Byron will be teaching for us next year. Byron has been here long enough to see his beloved Red Sox lift themselves up from ignominy, prompting numerous affairs of honor with Orioles, Indians, and Rockies fans, all of whom published cards denouncing him as an insolent puppy.

Matt's better half, **Tammy Byron**, had her committee shouting "hallelujah!"

over her pathbreaking dissertation, "A Catechism for Their Special Use': Slave Catechisms in the Antebellum South." This Dr. Byron is also a celebrant in the Church of Schweiger. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Minnesota State University Mankato and has taught both at Minnesota State and the U of A. Byron has held the James J. Hudson Graduate Fellowship Prize in the Humanities, and has presented papers before the Mid-America Conference on History and the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers. She will be teaching for the Department next year.

**Jared Dockery** has brought a sportswriter's skill to the study of the Second World War (and will point out to you that there's no crying in history anymore than in baseball). Dockery attended Harding University before coming to the U of A, where he wrote a master's thesis, "General Eisenhower and Allied Air Power during World War II," under the direction of Evan Bukey, and a doctoral dissertation, "'Quick on his Feet, and Even Quicker in his Brain': Lightning Joe Collins at War," directed by Daniel Sutherland. In addition to teaching at the U of A, Dockery has worked for the *Northwest Arkansas Times* and served as a youth minister for the Bella Vista Church of Christ. He is now assistant professor of history at Harding University.

Since blowing into town in 2003 as the Department's first Distinguished Doctoral Fellow, **Jason Pierce** has been a less embarrassingly fervent native of Colorado than his bitter rival Derek Everett—though even Pierce has failed to grasp the justice of returning that break-away province to Texas. Pierce received his BA from Fort Lewis College in Durango and his master's degree from Portland State University and has been a singing cowboy at UCLA's Autry National Center of the American West. His essay, "The Winds of Change: The Decline of Extractive Industries and the Rise of Tourism in Hood River County, Oregon," appeared in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* in 2007. Pierce's committee paled at the sight of his dissertation "Making the White Man's West: Whiteness and the Creation of the West," which was directed by Elliott West. Pierce has worked for the Arkansas Center for Oral and Visual History and taught at the U of A and Northwest Arkansas Community College. We hope to bring him back for a curtain call next

year.

**Brent Riffel** played chicken with his committee in defending “The Feathered Kingdom: Tyson Foods and the Transformation of American Land, Labor, and Law, 1930-2005,” directed remotely by David L. Chappell. Riffel is Arkansan to the core, having attended Hendrix College and earned an MA here at the U of A in 2001, though in that instance he steered clear of lyric poultry (the thesis being “Conceptual Continuity: The Art and Ideology of Berthold Lubetkin,” directed by Thomas C. Kennedy). Having pled guilty to several felony counts, Riffel was sentenced to a year’s service in 2007-08 as assistant editor of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* (in whose pages he has also published). He has written for the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* and was also a principal in the development of an Arkansas history textbook for young readers published recently by the University of Arkansas Press. Given his comprehensive knowledge of the pop culture of the twentieth century, faculty members have always assumed Riffel is an extraordinarily well preserved ninety-year-old. Documents prove otherwise. Riffel now teaches history at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, CA.

Just when we finally started spelling his name correctly, **Scott Tarnowiecky** (who has had to be extraordinarily patient with us) went and finished his doctorate. Tarnowiecky seems most comfortable in the corners of states, having earned his BA at Missouri Southern in Joplin, his MA at Pittsburg State in southeastern Kansas, and completed his dissertation here in northwest Arkansas, under the command of Dan Sutherland (“Between the Hawk and the Buzzard: The Civil War in Henderson and Daviess County, Kentucky”). He has taught at Missouri Southern, Northwest Arkansas Community College, and the U of A, and is now dispelling ignorance at Texas A&M.

## The Kids are Alright

We squawk a lot—and rightly so—about our top-notch faculty and talented graduate students. But let’s not forget our undergraduate majors. They’re the best in the business, too.

We brought in a bumper crop of honors theses in 2008, Jeannie Whayne,

Rick Sonn, and Michael Pierce having the greenest thumbs: Kimberly Carlson, “Crisis in Van Buren: A Small Town’s Reaction to School Integration” (director: Michael Pierce); Jeffrey Grooms, “The Lance of St. George: Urbanization, Unification, and the Emergence of German Identity in Berlin, 1860-1875” (director: Richard Sonn); Cody W. Hackett, “‘Salvation in the Soil’: Free Men, The Freedmen’s Bureau, and the Southern Homestead Act in Arkansas” (director: Patrick Williams); Leon Kassab, “The Haymarket Affair and the Diversity of Anarchism in Nineteenth-Century America” (director: Michael Pierce); Matthew Lammers, “Translating Turmoil: American Perspectives on the 1871 Paris Commune” (director: Richard Sonn); Joselin Niemyer, “Arkansas and Polio” (director: Jeannie Whayne); Caroline Peyton, “Opportunity Knocks: An Examination of the Knoxville Transient Bureau and Transient Population” (director: Jeannie Whayne); Charles Puddephat, “Dyess Colony: A Laboratory for Small Farming” (director: Jeannie Whayne); Lonnie Strange, “The Civil War and Reconstruction in Mississippi County, Arkansas: The Story of Sans Souci Plantation” (director: Jeannie Whayne); John Terry, “Give Me That Old Time Religion: Nostalgia, Memory, and the Rhetoric of Loss in the Venerable Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*” (director: Lynda Coon); Jamie Clair Wilson, “Married to the Land: Women’s Responses to the Post-2000 Land Grab in Zimbabwe” (director: Andrea Arrington).

Four of these honors graduates—Kimberly Carlson, Jeffrey Grooms, Matt Lammers, and John Terry—were initiated into Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Chapter of Arkansas, last May with appropriately esoteric rites (we’d be telling you too much if we mentioned the goat’s blood).

Students still studying with us are playing to heavy mitting, too. Kaely Kantaris, who is working on an honors thesis with Andrea Arrington examining the charity work of celebrity musicians (such as Sonny Bono) in Africa, has won a Presidential Scholarship, which is awarded to one student from Fulbright College displaying superior academic achievement. Alex McKnight is the first U of A student since 2002 to be selected—in a national competition—as a James Madison Scholar. This honor goes to students who intend to teach history or social science and provides both scholarship support and a six-week stint at Georgetown University for study of the Constitution.

## Walter L. Brown Honored

The Department’s “fine Arkansas gentleman”—professor *emeritus* Walter L. Brown—will be honored this spring for his achievements as a teacher, editor, and scholar. Few have done more than Brown either to promote the study of Arkansas history or to promote the study of history at Arkansas. Many alums probably know him best as an inspired teacher, offering generations of students instruction in Arkansas, southern, antebellum, and African-American history. But as editor of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* (1958-1990) and secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Historical Association (1955-1990), Brown ensured in other ways that the U of A remained the leader in Arkansas studies. Brown transformed the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* into a full-time scholarly journal, ensuring that it kept abreast of new interests and methodologies in history while never wavering in its devotion to the state. Under Brown’s leadership, for example, the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* published some of the earliest scholarship on Arkansas’s African-American and civil rights history. A pioneering, and unsparing, examination of the Little Rock school desegregation crisis by Numan Bartley appeared in the journal as early as 1966, while Orval Faubus was still governor. As secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Historical Association, Brown saw to the day-to-day survival of an organization that has promoted the writing, teaching, and preservation of Arkansas history across the state and around the nation. An estimable scholar himself, Brown wrote the definitive biography of Albert Pike, that central personality of antebellum and Civil War-era Arkansas.

Strange to say, this extraordinary contribution to our state and our university was made by a native of central Texas. Born in Gatesville, Brown served in the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1946 and thereafter earned his BA from Texas A&M and his doctorate from the University of Texas.

To mark Brown’s accomplishment, the U of A will this May unveil a plaque honoring Brown and rename the foyer of the appropriately historic Old Main for him. James E. Lindsey, himself a consequential figure in the university’s history (most recently as chairman of its board of trustees), has made a generous contribu-

tion to the Department in the name of Brown, which will go to endow the journal to which he devoted over thirty years of hard work and keen intelligence.

Alums and friends of the Department who would like to honor Dr. Brown by adding to this gift may send contributions—marked “Brown gift”—to Lynda Coon, chair,

Department of History, Old Main 416, Fayetteville 72701.

### Please, Sir, We Want Some More

You'll never convince us that the Department gets what it deserves from the college, university, or state, given our outsized record and reputation in teaching, research, and service. Our alumni and friends, knowing us better, have been much more generous (we're more upstanding than AIG, after all, and cuter than Fannie Mae). Murray and DeDe Stokely of Oakland, CA, have in the past year, for example, established the **Stokely-McAdoo Family International Study Scholarship** to aid our undergraduates in making history abroad. Others have generously endowed funds for the purchase of books and other resources in history for the U of A libraries.

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 other 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. Lynda Coon, 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**

### EPISTLE OF THE ABBESS

After nine months of penitential discipline as new History Chair, I find myself heir to a splendid office and inheritor of an intimidating legacy. Filling Jeannie Whayne's pumps is no easy task. During her ten years of service to this Department, she never went mad or at least not visibly so. I'd like to begin the so-called 'Letter from the Chair,' now renamed 'Epistle of the Abbess'—only the Pope has the Chair, the *sedes stercorata*—by recognizing the decade of service to the historians of Fulbright College carried out in a professional, humane, and indefatigable manner by my predecessor, Professor Whayne, who left me with a splendid office and who has never failed to offer sage counsel during times of turmoil.

In terms of inheriting a splendid office, there is none better in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. First and foremost, I work with the Holy Trinity, History's stellar and award-winning staff, Jane Rone, Jeanne Short, and Rebecca Wright, who, like Professor Whayne, have not yet gone mad...or at least not visibly so. Without the Trinity, this leaky barge we call History would not stay afloat. Second, it is a well-known fact in Fulbright that the historians are by far the best teachers and scholars in the College. No other department can match our national and international visibility in the Humanities. Fulbright's historians publish with the top academic presses in the world, win the most prestigious national and international fellowships, and receive accolades for their pedagogical zeal from the University and the nation. These intrepid scholars conduct research across the globe: Harare, Oaxaca City, Cairo, Moscow, Venice, Paris, London, and San Marino. Their research adventures take them into a variety of intriguing venues, from the Imperial War Museum, London, to the distant, dim corner of the reading room of the Marciana National Library in Venice, to the private archives of Castle Howard in North Yorkshire, where canine companions foster the historical enterprise.

Like their mentors, History's doctoral students have been competing at national and international levels, winning grants from presidential libraries, leading research universities, and federal agencies. Their research escapades take them to Turkey, Cairo, Rome,

New Orleans, Providence, Notre Dame, and Washington D.C. Recent graduates of History's doctoral program have secured tenure-track or visiting positions at the following institutions: Iowa State, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Texas A&M, Wake Forest, University of Malang (Indonesia), Harding University, Coastal Carolina University, UALR, and Arkansas State. History's undergraduate majors have gone on to do graduate work at Yale, Michigan, Cambridge, and Northwestern. A number of our Honors graduates are now professional historians who have authored books with leading presses and have won prizes for essays and articles. As a Department's success is best measured by the professional victories of its students, History is consistently in triumphal mode.

More amazing still is the fact that the above achievements are accomplished in the spirit of Franciscan poverty: the State of Arkansas funds each working member of History to the tune of \$600 per head per year, a fulfillment of Franciscan *paupertas* and a proof text of the mendicant motto that poverty fuels spiritual productivity. I sincerely doubt that there is another department in this country that could come up with the list of books published during the last two years and celebrated at an April reception hosted by Chancellor Gearhart for the research price of \$600 per head. Fulbright's History is unquestionably the *best bargain* in the business. All of its members venerate to a high degree that hallowed trinity of the academy: teaching, service, and research. For the above reasons and many more unstated, I find myself happy beneficiary of the pious labors of these unflagging citizens of History, be they staff, student, or faculty.

Your fellow traveler in poverty,

*Serva servarum Dei, Lynda Coon*

## REPORT OF THE GRADUATE ADVISOR

While this past year has had its ups and downs for me personally, it has been looking decidedly up for the history graduate program. Eight students received their masters degrees in the spring and summer of 2008—Michael Cockburn, John Gore, Jennifer Koenig, Case Miner, David Parrish, James Pierce, James Powers, and Sarah Simers. Of those eight, three did theses directed by Prof. Jeannie Whayne; Profs. Sutherland, Grob-Fitzgibbon, Engels, and Pierce accounted for the rest. Seven students completed their doctoral degrees this past year. Prof. Beth Schweiger directed two of these students' dissertations, Prof. Daniel Sutherland directed three, and Profs. Elliott West and David Chappell directed one each. Seven PhDs in one year is impressive; what is truly remarkable is that nine students completed their doctorates the preceding year, for a total of sixteen new PhDs in two years. I will let our chair discuss the scholarly productivity of our faculty; for my part, I think we can be proud that one department has produced so many successful MAs and PhDs. Special thanks are due to Profs. Whayne, Sutherland, and Schweiger for mentoring so many of our graduate students this past year.

I would also like to note the passing, last summer, of my own doctoral student, Matthew Kirkpatrick. This was indeed a sad moment for the department. I was impressed by the number of his fellow graduate students who paid their condolences at his funeral, as well as by the many faculty members who attended as well. The department has created a new graduate student teaching award in Matt Kirkpatrick's memory.

Our graduate students have been busy attending conferences and publishing articles throughout the year. Ahmet Akturk attended the Middle East Studies Association Conference in Washington, D.C. in November, and presented a paper titled "Filming the (Im)possibility of Reconciliation: Charting New Ground in Turkish Cinema." Doctoral Fellow Rob Bauer has an article in the *Ozark Historical Review* for the third year in a row. Niels Eichhorn presented a paper at the Civil War Era in Global Perspective Conference in State College, PA in February, titled "Did Historians get Civil War Diplomacy Wrong?" Eichhorn gave another paper, at the Symposium on the 19<sup>th</sup> c. Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression, in Chattanooga, TN in November, titled "*Kadderadatsch*: A German Newspaper Perspective on the Civil War and its International Context." Finally, the peripatetic Mr. Eichhorn presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations in Columbus, OH in June, titled "1860-61: The International Context of the Secession Year." Eichhorn also published two book reviews in the online journal H-Civwar. Jeffrey Grooms attended the British Scholars Conference in Austin, TX this past February. Natalie Hall presented a paper at the Southeastern Medieval Association Conference in St. Louis in October, titled "Words of Healing: The Intercessions of Damasus I." Michael Hammond received an O'Donnell Grant to conduct research at the George Bush Presidential Library and has recently won the U of A's James J. Hudson doctoral prize in the humanities. Kevin Jones gave a paper at the Southeast World History Conference in Little Rock in October, titled "Islam: Creating the Universal as a Result of Context." Also in Little Rock, he presented a paper at the Middle East Studies program of UALR, titled "Aspects and Implications of Islamic Universalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries." Jason McCollom had an article accepted for publication in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* for the Summer 2009 issue, titled "The Agricultural Wheel, the Union Labor Party, and the 1889 Arkansas Legislature." Jared Phillips presented a paper at the James A. Barnes Conference at Temple University in Philadelphia, titled "Toward a Better World: LBJ, Niebuhr, and American Human Rights, 1964-66." Matt Stith received two fellowships this past year: the James Hudson Research Fellowship from our university, and the Alfred D. Bell Fellowship from the Forest History Society and Duke University. He presented a paper at the Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha, NE, in March, 2008 titled "Overlooked Ubiquity: The Environment's Role in the American Civil War," and delivered another at the American Society for Environmental History Conference in Tallahassee, FL in February 2009, on "Nature and Irregular Warfare on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier." Matt continued his busy year by publishing an article titled "At the Heart of Total War: Guerrillas, Civilians, and the Union Response in Jasper County, Missouri, 1861-1865" in *Military History the West* 38 (2008), and a book review in H-Civwar of *Race, War and Remembrance in the Appalachian South* by John C. Inscoe. Sonia Toudji received a 2009 research travel grant from the University of Notre



Dame. Yulia Uryadova was named a Research Associate and received a travel grant from the Summer Research Laboratory on Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Our graduate students are no slouches in the classroom either. Michael Hammond has brought home the Yowell Award, Fulbright College's highest honor for teaching by graduate students. This is the third year in a row that one of our own has won the Yowell Award—and the sixth time in the last ten years.

Finally, as my term as associate chair nears its end, I would like to thank the two department chairs with whom I have served, Jeannie Whayne and Lynda Coon. The department has been fortunate indeed to have had two such exemplary leaders directing the program during difficult times. I have enjoyed working with our graduate students over the past three years, and offer my successor my best wishes in continuing the work of directing and improving our graduate program. Thanks, too, to Jane Rone, without whose institutional knowledge, diligence, and good humor the associate chair's job would be much more difficult.

**Richard D. Sonn**

## THE TALK OF THE GOWN

**Andrea Arrington**, assistant professor and member of the Mod Squad, started off her second year at the University of Arkansas with daring missions to global hot spots. She spent five weeks in Zimbabwe last summer, keeping an eye on civil unrest and wondering on a daily basis when the electricity would come back on, water would start running again, and the grocery stores would have food in them. Strangely, the National Archives were virtually empty, so she was able to get quite a bit of work done, despite the lack of electricity. Arrington managed to leave the country unscathed on the day of the hotly contested run-off election, but, ever the thrillseeker, headed off to Johannesburg, South Africa, in September to attend a conference and experience life in one of the world's highest ranking cities for violent crime. Happily, she returned to Fayetteville safely, and decided for the sake of her concerned family, friends, and colleagues to deliver papers in more peaceful destinations like Burlington (Vermont) and Chicago. This summer she heads off to Ghana with Dr. Charles Robinson and Dr. Calvin White, but plans to avoid Zimbabwe, being curiously uninterested in contracting cholera. Arrington has an article due out in *African Studies*.

**Alessandro Brogi**, associate professor, did not leave the country even once in 2008. Maybe he thought that promotion and tenure obligated him not to abandon ship. Maybe he was just ducking trouble with the INS. But he made up for a sedentary 2008 by flying this January to a conference of "foreign policy experts" sponsored by the Italian Foreign Ministry. He was the only "overseas" guest, his presence being a sign that Italy still cares about what the U.S. does and thinks. The paper he delivered concerned U.S.-Italian relations during the Cold War (in Italy they also still believe that we can learn from the past). He squirmed a little bit when he had to shake hands with seven-time prime minister Giulio Andreotti but survived the ordeal. 2008 did see him traveling to New Orleans, as far South as he's ever been, where he checked the trail left by Katrina, two years after he had danced for her victims, and delivered a paper on Western European reactions to the Prague Spring of 1968. The proceedings of that conference, sponsored by the UNOCENTER Austria Ten Year Anniversary Conference, the Eisenhower Center of American Studies, and Boltzmann Institut für Kriegsfolgenforschung, Graz, Austria, have been published by Rowman & Littlefield. At Ohio University, his alma mater, he had the distinct honor of keynoting for their Second Annual Graduate Student Conference in History. Meanwhile, he has pretty much completed his epic on the U.S. vs. western Communists. The book, *Confronting America: America's Cold War against the French and Italian Communists*, will be published by the University of North Carolina Press next year. Brogi now only has eyes for the Old

Country, his next book project being a survey of U.S.-Italian relations from day one (1776) to the present.

**Liang Cai**, assistant professor, is currently revising her book manuscript, "In the Matrix of Power: The Social and Political Status of Confucians in the Western Han." Her essay, "When the Minority Were Portrayed as the Protagonists: The Social and Political Status of Ru under Emperor Wu (141-87 B.C.E.) of the Han," is under review at *Early China*. Cai traveled to Jacksonville, Florida, this past November to present a paper, "A Reshuffle of Power: Witchcraft Scandal in the Western Han Dynasty," at the 12th Annual Southeast Early China Roundtable Conference. She has recently published pieces in *Early China* and *China Scholarship*.

**Lynda Coon**, associate professor, will leave discussion of her elevation to chair to the funny papers and the *Police Gazette*. We concentrate here on her scholarly attainments. Coon received a contract from the University of Pennsylvania Press for her forthcoming book, *Dark Age Bodies: Gender & Monastic Practice in the Early Medieval West*. She also published two essays in 2008: "Somatic Styles of the Early Middle Ages," in the twentieth-anniversary volume of the British journal *Gender & History* and "Gender and the Body" in the third volume of the *New Cambridge History of Christianity*. Coon served as chair of the American Historical Association's James Henry Breasted Prize Committee (for historical monographs focusing on the period before 1000). This year's winner is Anthony J. Barbieri-Low, *Artisans in Early Imperial China* (University of Washington Press, 2007). She also evaluated applications from the field of medieval history for the 2009-2010 class of fellows of the National Humanities Center. Finally, Coon presented "The Mandalas of Hrabanus Maurus" at an international conference on early medieval studies held in Portland, Oregon (March 2008) and gave the plenary lecture, "Mapping Generational Change onto Medieval Sacred Space," at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Women's History Network, University of Glasgow (September 2008).

**Robert Finlay**, professor, is the tops! He has just won Fulbright College's Master Researcher Award for 2008-2009. No surprise there--Finlay of late has been treating the world to manifold helpings of his elegant scholarship. He has recently published a collection of essays, *Venice Besieged: Politics and Diplomacy in the Italian Wars, 1494-1534*, with Ashgate, and his much-anticipated *The Pilgrim Art: The Culture of Porcelain in World History* will appear from the University of California Press later this year.

**Joel Gordon**, professor, is still walking beat on the Arab street. 2008 saw him publish "River Blindness: Black and White Identity in Early Nasserist Cinema," in *Narrating the Nile: Politics, Cultures, Identities*, edited by Israel Gershoni et al. (Lynne Rienner

Press), as well as four book reviews: one in *Journal of Military History*, and three in *Dawn*, the leading English-language daily in Pakistan. He delivered a Fr. H. W. Caspar Endowed Lecture, "What's Playing in Cairo: Recent Egyptian Cinema," at Creighton University in February 2008. Last August, Gordon presented a paper, "Cinematic Youth Culture: Secular Imaginings and Anti-Idealizations – Retreat or Resurgence?" at a workshop, "The Decline of Secularism in Egypt?" hosted by the School of International Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Gordon is still book review editor for the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* and still hosts Nadi Cinema, the U of A's bi-weekly Middle East film club. In January 2008, he watched returns from the Iowa caucuses in Karachi. "Yes we can" in Urdu, he tells us, is "mumkin hey!" But you'll probably want to double-check before you go screaming "mumkin hey!" on the streets of Peshawar.

**Thomas Grischany**, visiting assistant professor, is filling Evan Bukey's shiny black riding boots by teaching our courses in German and Modern European history. Grischany studied at the University of Vienna and the University of Hamburg before receiving his PhD from the University of Chicago in 2007. His dissertation, "Austrians in the German *Wehrmacht*, 1938-45," was directed by John W. Boyer. Dr. Grischany has published articles in *Austrian History Yearbook* and *Contemporary Austrian Studies*.

**Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon**, assistant professor, became the envy of his colleagues when he was described in a student evaluation as a "total badass." The young Briton was well into the third volume of Mencken's *The American Language* before he discovered that this is the highest compliment a student can pay. In his first full calendar year at the U of A, Dr. Grob-Fitzgibbon began work in earnest on his new book project, provisionally titled "Imperial Endgame: British Counterinsurgency and the End of Empire," which took him in May and June to the United Kingdom, where he consulted files at the National Archives, the British Library, and the Imperial War Museum. Grob-Fitzgibbon also published an essay in *Perspectives on History* (the AHA's newsmagazine) in May, gave an invited lecture on the history of terrorism at the University of Oklahoma's Summer Workshop on the Teaching of Terrorism in June, and presented an invited paper on British counterinsurgency in Malaya at the Army General Staff and War College at Fort Leavenworth, KS, in September. He published or has forthcoming book reviews in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, *the Journal of Military History*, *the International Journal of Middle East Studies*, and *British Scholar* (a fashion magazine). Grob-Fitzgibbon says he "continues to embarrass himself" on the op-ed pages of the *Northwest Arkansas Times*, but his column on voting in his first presidential election was a little gem as far as the rest of us were concerned. Grob-Fitzgibbon graduated his first MA candidate in May, and is currently working with 7 MA students and 2 PhD students. Since the fall of 2008, he has served on the department's Graduate Studies Committee, and in October offered extensive feedback to Lt. Col. David Fivecoat, the lead writer of the new U.S. Army field manual "Tactics in Counterinsurgency." Grob-Fitzgibbon was awarded the History Department's E. Mitchell and Barbara Singleton Endowed Faculty Award and a university New Faculty Commendation for Teaching Commitment.

**Thomas Kennedy**, professor *emeritus*, writes: "This may be more than you want to hear from an old guy, retired and living on a fixed income, but you know how we do jabber on. Being retired, I, of course, mainly sit around and complain, but I do have an occasional lucid moment in which something gets done. During these rare periods, I managed to complete a book entitled *Light in the*

*Lord: A History of Southland College of Arkansas, 1864-1925*, which will be published sometime in 2009 by the University of Arkansas Press. Southland was a school for former slaves and their children founded and maintained by resolute Indiana Quakers. Clinging to the usually good and mainly gentle Society of Friends, I presented a paper, "Waking Up the Society to Thought": John Wilhelm Rowntree in London Yearly Meeting, 1893-1905" to the Friends Historical Society in London. It will be published in a future edition of that organization's journal. While in London, Mary and I were fortunate to spend some time with two former students living in the UK: Amanda Beam, a research scholar at the University of Glasgow, who has just published her first book, *The Balliol Dynasty, 1210-1364*, and Kristina Farrabough who completed a wonderful MA thesis on a New Zealand soldier on the Western Front a couple of years back. Both are jolly and send their best to friends and faculty in the Department. Folk memory also keeps me in touch with a project on the British Conservative Party and Ulster in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In this regard I read a paper, "Traitors in the Unionist Camp": Ulster's Opposition to an Irish Settlement During World War I.' Still, I must admit that, in my muddled state, the essence of Ulsterism continues to escape me. But then lots of things do—and there is next year."

**Robert C. McMath**, professor, returns to his post as dean of the Honors College in May, having served since July as the University's interim provost. While the world took little note of his many accomplishments as provost, our own Lynda Coon bestowed upon him the title of *Praepositus*, which he accepted with pride, though without full knowledge of its meaning. Last autumn, Bob enjoyed moments of sanity while teaching a graduate reading seminar, and he is looking forward to offering an honors colloquium in the fall. This past year he published review essays in *Agricultural History* and *Reviews in American History* and presented a paper at the Mid-America Conference on History.

**Charles E. Muntz**, visiting assistant professor, is following in Don Engels' paw prints—at least to the extent of handling our Greek and Roman history classes. Muntz earned his BA at Swarthmore and a PhD in classical studies at Duke. His dissertation, "Diodorus Siculus, Egypt, and Rome," was supervised by the prominent classicist Mary Boatwright. He has held summer fellowships at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and the American Academy in Rome.

**Michael Pierce**, assistant professor, continued his research on the labor history of western Arkansas, trying to understand how the region went from being a hotbed of trade union and anti-corporate activism at the beginning of the twentieth century to the home of some of the nation's largest and most anti-union companies by the end. In January, he presented some of his findings at "The American Right and U.S. Labor," a conference held at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He also published "The Mechanics of Little Rock: Free Labor Ideas in Antebellum Arkansas, 1845-1861" in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* and a review of the William J. Clinton Library and Museum in the *Journal of American History*. His book reviews appeared in *Environmental History*, *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, and *The Space Between: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945*. He continues to do exemplary work as associate editor of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Scholars of gender will note that Pierce leaves it to Professor Starks to even mention the birth of their second son, Samuel Richard Pierce, this past summer.

**Charles Robinson**, associate professor, has no time to trifle with newsletter editors. He's been appointed the U of A's vice

provost for diversity and will lead the university's efforts to recruit members of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to the student body, faculty, and staff. Robinson remains a muscular leader of our African American studies program but hasn't let the research or teaching side of things slip. He has a book manuscript, "Forsaking All Others: A Story of Interracial Love, Violence and Revenge in the Post-Reconstruction South," under review, and is currently at work on several other projects: "Integration Deferred: The History of African Americans at the University of Arkansas, 1948-2000," and an edited volume of interviews, "Remembrances in Black: Personal Perspectives of the African American Experience at the University of Arkansas, 1940s-2000s."

**Beth Barton Schweiger**, associate professor, graduated two PhDs in 2008--Tammy K. Byron, whose groundbreaking dissertation examined slave catechisms, and Matthew Byron, who challenged the world to a huge survey of American duels (700 and counting). Having won a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to study at the American Antiquarian Society, she spent last autumn in Worcester, Mass. Our former girl reporter reports: "I lived in a rooming house with four other historians from September until December. Most of them displayed admirable personal hygiene and cleaned up after themselves in the kitchen, all while offering some disconcertingly intense conversation about things like antebellum missionary journals, nineteenth-century furniture styles, and the cultural history of corn into the wee hours. Worcesterians eat a lot of Italian food and drive like maniacs." She has finished a 15,000 word essay on the social history of grammar and published a similarly sized one ("apparently I need a good editor"), examining the printing of Alexander Campbell of the Disciples of Christ in the trans-Allegheny region, in the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, which almost immediately expired after 118 years. Schweiger also chaired the program committee of the Southern Intellectual History Circle's 21<sup>st</sup> annual meeting at the University of Kansas. "I could pass along a lot of very detailed information about the sleeping and eating habits of those on the program, but I won't." She'll never be a newsletter editor.

**Kathryn Sloan**, assistant professor, has, as detailed elsewhere in these pages, published *Runaway Daughters: Seduction, Elopement, and Honor in Nineteenth-Century Mexico*. Barely pausing to take a breath, she is now writing "The Penal Code of 1871: From Religious to Civil Control of Everyday Life" for Wiley-Blackwell's *A Companion to Mexican History and Culture*, edited by William H. Beezley. She's been presenting papers, too: "Defiant Daughters and Intergenerational Conflict in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Mexico," for the Roundtable on Girls and Girlhood in Global History (aka "Girl Talk") at the American Historical Association meeting, and "The Bullfighter and the Virgin: Sex, Suicide, and Public Outrage in Mexico City, 1909" at the Latin American Seminar, Hall Center of the Humanities, University of Kansas. She writes, "In my personal time, I'm trying to perfect my carne asada and tomatillo sauce tacos and find out where Santa Anna's leg has been interred." Apparently, no one's told her to look in Old Main 504.

**Richard Sonn**, associate professor, is one of only twenty scholars selected to participate in the 2009 Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar for University Faculty, "Teaching the Holocaust: Causes, Course, and Consequence," at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, this June. Penn State University Press will be publishing Sonn's next book, *Sex, Violence, and the Avant-Garde: Interwar French Anarchism*, next year. Sonn presented a paper, "Jewish Anarchist Refugees from Bolshevik Russia

in Interwar France," at the Western Society for French History Conference in November, held in beautiful though chilly Quebec. On the pedagogical side, he attended the Faculty Teaching Retreat during the summer, and gave a presentation on in-class simulations, based on his experience recreating the French Revolution in his History 4213 course. You should have seen the tumbrels rolling slowly through the halls of Old Main.

**Tricia Starks**, associate professor, describes 2008 as a year of gestation. In September, she, Dr. Pierce, and their six-year-old son Ben welcomed Samuel Richard Pierce into their lives. Despite an in utero trip to Russia in the spring, Sam was born healthy and is growing up strong. He's already the biggest flirt of his preschool class. Ben is weathering the change well and is looking forward to telling Sam all the things he's not supposed to do--a big brother in the mode of Starks's subjects. At the same time Starks's monograph, *The Body Soviet: Propaganda, Hygiene, and the Revolutionary State*, met the world, finally appearing from the University of Wisconsin Press. Considering that the manuscript went to the press while Ben was in utero, it's been a long wait. A week after Sam's birth, Starks--along with her colleague Dr. Matt Romaniello of the University of Hawaii--turned in their co-edited volume *Tobacco in Russian History and Culture* to Routledge. It will be released early this summer. Even though this last book went more smoothly, Starks assures us that she does not intend to keep producing a baby to go along with each manuscript.

**Daniel E. Sutherland**, professor, continues to divide his schizophrenic life between battlefield and art gallery (this is not to say the latter does not sometimes resemble the former). He published a pair of essays on James McNeill Whistler--one in the journal *American Nineteenth Century History*, the other in *James McNeill Whistler in Context*, published by the Smithsonian Institution. His final word on Civil War guerrillas (he hopes), *A Savage Conflict*, will be published in June by the University of North Carolina Press. Meanwhile, Sutherland is in the UK (on OCDA), where he is filling the holes in his Whistler research and writing a second draft of his biography of the artist.

**William F. Tucker**, associate professor, is really retiring [see related story].

**Elliott West**, Alumni Distinguished Professor, strikes gold! The telegraph has been abuzz with news that West is one of three finalists in the entire English-speaking world for the 2010 Robert Foster Cherry Award, which honors great teachers and rewards departments, like ours, that value them. West has also won the National Endowment for the Humanities' 2009 Huntington Library fellowship. He will spend the next academic year at the Huntington, finishing work on his next project, "Creating the West," a history of the American West, 1850-1900." His most recent book, the much anticipated *The Last Indian War: The Nez Perce Story*, has just been published by Oxford University Press as part of its "Pivotal Moments in American History" series. In 2008, West keynoted at a conference on the urban frontier co-sponsored by Yale University and Mercantile Library of St. Louis University, at the annual meeting of Arizona History Convention, for the Idaho Humanities Council, and at a conference on the American travels of Maximilian of Wied and Karl Bodmer in Bismarck, ND. He delivered the annual Norman Lecture, titled "The View From Pikes Peak: The Colorado Gold Rush and the American West," at Colorado College, and was luncheon speaker for the annual meeting of Presbyterian Historical Society. West served as lead historian in six colloquia conducted under the "Teaching American History" grants and also conducted a seminar on "The Great Plains:

America's Crossroads," sponsored by the Gilder-Lehrman Institute, in Boulder, CO.

**Jeannie M. Wayne**, professor, has, like many former heads of state, been traveling the world, making speeches for a million dollars a pop. She gave the keynote address at Mississippi State's Forum on Agricultural and Rural History in April 2008 and participated in a panel on scholarly publishing at the Mid-America Conference on History in September. She also participated in a panel discussion on how to turn a conference paper into a scholarly essay for publication at the February meeting of the Environmental History Association. She gave a paper at the Memphis Cotton Museum, "Get Hard and Raise Hell: Lee Wilson and the Cotton Crisis of 1919-1933," in July 2008. She will be keeping the first part of the title (because she likes it) and revising the paper to focus on the cotton crisis from the tenant perspective for a special conference dedicated to Pete Daniel this June. "Get Hard and Raise Hell: Financing the Cotton Crop on the Backs of Black Labor – and its Consequences," will examine a confrontation between a tenant and planter in 1920 that had disastrous results. Wayne is looking forward to making a presentation at the Arkansas Historical Association in April 2009, on the environmental history of the lower Mississippi River Valley, her latest research interest. She has signed a contract with LSU Press for her book, *Forging a Delta Empire: Lee Wilson and the Transformation of Southern Agriculture*. It will be published in David Goldfield's series on the Modern South. She recently completed an essay on black women in the civil rights movement for a book edited by Bruce Glasrud to be published by Texas A&M Press, and she is writing the introduction to *The Buildings of Arkansas*, a project initiated by Cy Sutherland and sponsored by the Society of Architectural Historians. Finally, she was inducted into the Arkansas Teaching Academy in the fall of 2009, thanks to the good offices of her spectacular chair, Lynda Coon, who made the nomination. Honors theses and master's degrees issue forth from Wayne's office like Model Ts from River Rouge.

**Calvin White, Jr.**, assistant professor, spent his first year in the Department and in Fayetteville settling in. Now that he seems to have his feet underneath him, he's submitting articles for publication. Several are still under review, but the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* published "In the Beginning, There Stood Two: The Arkansas Roots of the Black Holiness Movement" this spring. He presented a paper on the same subject at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association in New Orleans this past October. White is revising his book-length manuscript, "They Danced and Shouted Into Obscurity: The Black Holiness Movement," for pub-

lication. He continues to work very closely with the African American Studies Program and will be traveling to Ghana during the summer to aid in the establishment of a study abroad program. He and his wife say they are still excited to be back in their home state of Arkansas!

**Patrick G. Williams**, associate professor, wakes up every morning and asks himself "What would Don Draper wear?" He continues to edit the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* and became secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Historical Association just in time for the Panic of 2008. He may have to step down, though, as a condition of the federal bail-out. Williams traveled way down yonder to New Orleans to be a principal in a celebrity roast celebrating John Boles' twenty-five years at the helm of the *Journal of Southern History*. As a native Hawaiian—or, at very least, transethnic—Williams contributes mightily to the Department's diversity. *Aloha!*

**Randall B. Woods**, Distinguished Professor, is attempting to grow old gracefully, but says he's not doing a very good job of it. Minor structural issues—shoulder surgery in February and back surgery in December—highlighted the year. Through it all, he teaches his altogether gratifying students, consults obscure tomes, and scribbles. Oxford University Press has kindly consented to publish his biography of John Quincy Adams whenever that project might be complete. Woods and offspring are working on a couple of Vietnam related projects, although offspring is doing the heavy lifting. Last year was the 100th anniversary of LBJ's birth, and the Johnson Library held a large commemorative foreign affairs conference this past November. This was the only such conference where Woods managed to edge out the omnipresent Robert Dallek as designated biographer. He also delivered an invited lecture on LBJ at Williams College and gave a luncheon talk on the subject at this past year's AACTH meeting. Woods published an article in *Diplomatic History* on LBJ and the Dominican crisis. In the spring and summer, the Cape Girardeau school district bore witness to his observations on twentieth-century American foreign policy as part of the Teaching America initiative. Woods is past president of SHAFR and continues to serve on the council. Golf—the game of last resort for any aspiring amateur athlete—continues to torment. Granddaughter Darcy informed her Root School colleagues that she intended to become a history professor when she grows up. The other three are showing more sense, if less reverence for their grandfather.

## ALUMNI ROUND-UP

*We are pleased to welcome Adam Kreuter (BA 1936) back as this year's ranking alumnus.*

**Jason Adams** (BA 2001) is assistant director for honors programs at the Sam M. Walton College of Business here at the U of A.

**Jesse Adkins** (BA 2005) is pursuing both a JD and a MA in economics at Southern Methodist University.

**Charlene Akers** (MA 1970) has a new job. She has become executive director of Stearns History Museum in St.

Cloud, MN. She lists her activities as remodeling houses and traveling.

**Barry Allen** (BA 1969) is a pediatrician at Lowell Medical Center in Lowell, AR. His son, Spencer, is a visiting scholar at the U of A's King Fahd Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. Daughter Katherine has a doctorate in occupational therapy and lives in Oakland, CA.

**Justin Allen** (BA 1995), had been a partner at Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP in Little Rock, but in January 2007 became Chief Deputy Attorney General for the state

of Arkansas. He has 3 children: Blake (5), Sophia (3), and Max (1). He still enjoys following the Razorbacks and being in Fayetteville for game day.

**E. Taylor Atkins** (BA 1989; PhD [University of Illinois] 1997) is associate professor and director of undergraduate studies for the department of history at Northern Illinois University. After last year's shootings at NIU, which killed 5, Atkins established an oral history program—the 2.14 Memory Project—to document and preserve the experiences

of students, faculty, staff, and townspeople. He led a seminar to train undergraduate and graduate students to conduct interviews, and he and the university archivist invited StoryCorps to campus for a week to record members of the community interviewing each other about the shootings and their aftermath. In all, there are now about 70 interviews in the archives, and the StoryCorps material has also been deposited at the Library of College. Last spring, Atkins was the only U.S. scholar invited to an international planning conference at the University of Heidelberg to launch a three-year initiative on musical exchanges between Asia and Europe. He served on the Association for Asian Studies' John Whitney Hall Prize committee to select the best book on Japan or Korea and has developed an online world history course for a "virtual university" that offers degrees to Bahá'is, who are systematically excluded from universities in Iran. Atkins has signed an advanced contract with the University of California Press to publish his next book, "Primitive Selves: Koreans in the Japanese Colonial Gaze, 1910-45. "God willing, I will have the ms. to the press by June 1, then spend the summer pickin' the bass, reading jazz-related ephemera in my hammock, and staring into space. My wife, Zabrana, continues to excel as a mother, catechist, humanitarian, and long-suffering spouse. Our daughters Gabriella (10) and Annabelle (6) are learning mandolin and guitar, respectively, thus nurturing Papa's dream of having a family ensemble."

**Jo Ann Atkins** (MA 1951) is, officially, a retired pianist and voice teacher but reports that at age 80 she still teaches a bit. Over the years, she has worked with the Tulsa Ballet, Tulsa Opera, and many national performers. She and her husband have three children and three grandchildren. "We're moving in slow forward," she says.

**Ray Baker** (BSE 1961, MEd 1971) is still bouncing as mayor of Fort Smith. If you don't know it by now, life is worth living in Fort Smith. As usual, Baker has accumulated a whole raft of awards and honors recently, including the 2008 Rotary Club's Public Servant Award, the Social Studies Educators Lifetime Achievement Award, the Barbara Broyles Sharing Award from the Alzheimer's Association, the Friend of Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center Award, the Elizabeth McGill Senior Citi-

zens Club Award, the Church Women United, Inc. Human Rights Award, and the Health South 2008 Community Service Award. At a history conference this January, he issued preemptive pardons to Professor Jeannie Wayne and alum Tom DeBlack for any crimes they might commit while in Fort Smith. Wayne immediately knocked over some banks while DeBlack took out the animal shelters.

**Jack Ballard** (BSE 1950, PhD [UCLA] 1974) of Centennial, CO, is a retired Air Force officer and educator. He's published *War Bird Ace: The Great War Exploits of Capt. Field E. Kindley* with Texas A&M University Press and is working on a biography of Maj. Gen. Henry Clay Merriam. Ballard sits on the board of directors of Historic Littleton, Inc. and Friends of Historic Fort Logan. He is also a volunteer instructor with the Colorado Historical Society and Key Communicator of Littleton Public Schools.

**Lisa Beckenbaugh** (PhD 2002) is dean of students at the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, KS.

**Terry Beckenbaugh** (PhD 2001) is assistant professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College in Kansas. He'll get his revised manuscript back to the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* one of these old rainy days. The Beckenbaughs still want you to ship them your extra cats.

**Bob Besom** (MA 1972, PhA 1975) is increasingly unpersuasive in his claims to have retired. Over the years, he has squirreled away collections of historic documents in his attic, including papers from the much mourned Marion Hotel in Little Rock and the Union Sawmill in south Arkansas. Now, not only has Besom donated it all to the Special Collections Department at the U of A libraries, he is also volunteering there as an archivist to help process the papers. Bob and Patty Besom's daughter, Lela, is teaching at a Quaker school in Boston. Besom is wild about Fayetteville's new bike trails.

**Scott Boaz** (BA 1952) is a forensic economist and professor *emeritus* at Southern Arkansas University, where he chaired the Department of Economics and Finance between 1972 and 1993. He and his wife, Paula Haile Boaz, a U of A Tri Delt and speech-language pathologist, have 3 children: Rod, Andy, and Lesley (also a U of A Tri Delt). Boaz lists his activities as Rotary Club, president of the Men's Golf Association, and CEO of Delta Rehab. He was a Razorback cheerleader from 1948 to 1952.

**Lori Bogle** (PhD 1997) is associate professor of history at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Since publishing *The Pentagon's Battle for the American Mind: The Early Cold War* with Texas A&M Press in 2004, she has been conducting research on Korean POWs as well as on Theodore Roosevelt's public relations. Last August, she celebrated her eight anniversary with her husband, Dave Patterson. She now has 7 grandkids, courtesy of her 4 children and 3 step-daughters.

**Ross Brown** (MA 2006) is a second year law student at the U of A. He has again won Professor Brill's annual Civil Procedure poetry contest. Brown is engaged to another Department alum, Kim Harper (MA 2007). He worked as a U.S. Capitol tour guide in 2007 and could have shaken hands with Barack Obama had his hands not been full with lunch.

**Timothy Buckley** (BA 1987), an attorney, is a partner at Buckley, McLemore & Hudson in Fayetteville. His wife Geniece teaches at Fayetteville High. They have 2 children: Beth (17) and Patrick (13). Buckley lists his activities as woodworking, canoeing, and hiking (when the weather is right).

**Clea L. Bunch** (PhD 2004) is assistant professor of history and coordinator of Middle East Studies at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Last year, she published an article about the Six Day War in *Diplomatic History*.

**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 at Pembroke. He enjoys reading, watching TV, and attending car shows in his 1983 VW Rabbit GL, which he bought new and has restored. His daughter, Lorell A. V. Butler, works at Northwestern University in Chicago.

**Julie Courtwright** (PhD 2007) has been dispelling ignorance at Texas A&M but was recently appointed to a tenure-track position in environmental and western history at Iowa State. Her dissertation, "Taming the Red Buffalo: Prairie Fire on the Great Plains" (which attentive readers of this newsletter will recall is populated by flaming jackrabbits) won the Phi Alpha Theta/Westerners International 2007 prize for best dissertation in western history. It is destined to become a book published by the University Press of Kansas

**Dave Dawson** (MA 1990) is director of the Fulbright College Advising Center. This past year the National Academic Advising Association honored him

with both an outstanding advising award in the academic advising administrator category and its 2008 Gail Rola Memorial Award for outstanding leadership.

**Kyle Day** (BA 1997, MA 1999, PhD [U. of Missouri] 2006) is assistant professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He established and serves as an advisor for Alpha Na Zeta chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, which in its first year won the history honors society's Best Chapter Award. Day has also been elected vice president of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers. His wife, Rena Orujova Day, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones Investments and has opened an office in Monticello. Their daughter has just begun preschool. Day writes, "After matriculating in a border state and teaching for a year in the Land of Lincoln, we are so happy to be home again in God's Country!"

**Tom DeBlack** (PhD 1995) is professor of history at Arkansas Tech and is writing a history of the school to mark its centennial. His daughter, Susannah, turned 5 this past November and his wife's outfit, DeBlack Eye Care, is going strong. Asked to list honors and awards, DeBlack notes pointedly "Not a single thing." Won't someone give the man a prize?

**Tom W. Dillard** (MA 1975) is head of Special Collections at the U of A libraries. After a brief hiatus, his Arkansas history column has returned to the pages of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Dillard managed a project that created "Land of (Unequal) Opportunity," an online resource for Arkansas civil rights history (<http://scpio.uark.edu>). He continues to serve as president of the Arkansas History Education Coalition, for which work he was honored by the Arkansas Historical Association with its 2008 Diamond Award. He sits on the board of the Washington County Historical Society and has won an award from the Garden Club of America for research in landscape and garden history.

**Basil Dmytryshyn** (BA 1950, MA 1951, PhD [U. of California, Berkeley] 1955) is professor *emeritus* of history at Portland State University. He is still publishing in his retirement, having contributed a chapter, "Fort Ross: An Outpost of the Russian American Company in California, 1812-1841" to the volume *Russkoe otkrytie Ameriki [Russian Discovery of America]*, ed. A.O. Chubarian et al. (Moscow, 2002), and another, "Russian

Conquest and Subjugation of Northern Asia, 1580-1650," to *States, Societies, Cultures—East and West*, ed. Janusz Duzinkiewicz (New York, 2004). Another article, "The Visit to San Francisco of the Russian Ship *Juno*, March 28-May 10, 1806," translated into Russian, is forthcoming in a 2009 issue of a Russian historical journal published in Moscow by the Russian Academy of Sciences. In the past few years, Dmytryshyn has delivered invited lectures on various topics in Russian history at the Salem (OR) City Club, Willamette University, Corban College, and Portland State University. In March 2008, he and his wife moved from Salem to a retirement apartment complex in Keizer, OR, a suburb. They still live near their daughter Sonia Fetherston, who works for the Willamette Education District and is a well-published author (she has an article in the fall 2008 *Baker Street Journal*). Their only grandchild, Elizabeth, is a senior at Sprague High School in Salem and recently placed in the top 25 nationally in a debate competition. The Dmytryshyns' other daughter, Tonia Thompson, is director of media and public relations at the University of Idaho, Sarah Palin's alma mater, so had to field a lot of press inquiries last fall. Dmytryshyn is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, *Dictionary of International Biography*, and *Who's Who in American Education*.

**Jared Dockery** (MA 1997, PhD 2008) is a newly minted assistant professor of American history at Harding University. He says he's very much enjoying full-time teaching.

**Clark A. Donat** (BA 2007) is a student at the U of A Law School and a teaching assistant for Professor Phillip Norvell's property class. He also serves as the American Bar Association student representative for the law school. This summer he will hold associate positions at Bracewell & Giuliani in Dallas and at Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull & Burrow in Little Rock.

**Gerald Wayne Dowdy** (MA 1991) is the Memphis and Shelby County Room archivist at Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library in Memphis. Last November, he participated in a panel discussion, "Turning Points: Important Milestones in Memphis History," at the University of Memphis. Dowdy published articles on Harry Truman, poll taxes, and the WPA in *The Jim Crow Encyclopedia*, ed. Nikki L. M. Brown and Barry Stentiford (Greenwood 2008), as well as articles on George W. Bush and Newt Gingrich in *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, vol 10: Law and Politics*, ed. James W. Ely, Bradley G. Bond, and Charles Reagan Wilson

(University of North Carolina Press, 2008).

**Kalisa Erny** (BA 2008) is in the Master of Arts in Teaching program at the U of A, with a concentration in secondary social studies. She is interning as a teacher, serves as a Big Sister for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and is active in Kappa Delta Pi and Gamma Beta Phi. Erny will be getting married this July and hopes to teach history here in Northwest Arkansas.

**Derek Everett** (PhD 2008) is an instructor here at the U of A, teaching Honors World Civilization to smart lil' Razorbacks. He had articles published in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* and *Annals of Iowa* in 2008, and recently gave the keynote address at the Elijah Myers Centennial Commemoration in Lansing, MI, celebrating the architect who designed, among many other structures, [yep, you guessed it] the Colorado state capitol. Though decorated for bravery at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, the old colonel still has no grandchildren. No matter, he wouldn't want to share his Union army pension with the varmints anyway.

**David Finch** (MA 1970) is retired but occasionally teaches as an adjunct. He lives in Muskogee, OK. Under "Honors," he is tempted to list his grandchildren. His fourth, Lilly Elizabeth Finch, arrived last October 5, and the older son and daughter-in-law are expecting again this spring.

**Dennis Michael Finnigan** (BA 1974) lives in Conway and has been disabled since 1997. He served in the U.S. Army from 1974 to 1976 and in the U.S. Army Reserve between 1976 and 1990. Finnigan was a reporter for the *Arkansas Democrat* and later worked as an RN at the Arkansas State Hospital. He considers himself a yellow dog Democrat.

**Buck T. Foster** (BA 1997, MA 1998) is visiting assistant professor of history at the University of Central Arkansas.

**Marvin Franklin** (MA 1974, PhA 1977) is going on his 10<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at UA Fort Smith. He writes: "I am very fortunate to be teaching here. I enjoy teaching Modern American History, something I thought I would never be able to do when I was a grad student way back in the 70's. The 4 years of grad school in history was some of the best years of my life and the most difficult. I am now married with two great stepchil-

dren, my wife teaches at the U of A (Communications) and my stepson will most likely be a student there in the near future. The time in grad school served me well in my Air Force intelligence career and retirement. I would like to say hello to Tom Dillard who raked me over the coals in our historical methods class. I am very proud of the History Department and wish you continued success."

**Amanda Frazier** [née **Beam**] (BA 2001) is a research assistant at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and is now working on an AHRC-funded project, "The Paradox of Medieval Scotland," a prosopographical study of some 6000 Scottish charters dating from 1093 to 1286. She recently published her first monograph, *The Balliol Dynasty, 1210-1364*. On the last day of last year, she married David C. Frazier, whom she met in Latin class at the U of A in 2000.

**Jill Geer** (BA 1992, MA 1996) is director of communications for USA Track & Field. She was a featured speaker at a "Sport Scandal" summit in Boston—"a dubious honor, to be sure." Work took her to Eugene, OR, Indianapolis, New York, Chicago, Reno, and Beijing, but she counts her three-year-old son, Hayden, becoming fully potty trained as the highlight of her year. Geer writes, "I attended my 20<sup>th</sup> high school reunion in October, where I discovered I am no longer the fittest member of my class. The valedictorian is now not only smarter than I, but she has much better abs, too."

**Michael Gibbons** (BA 1996) lives in Ozark, where he is a business development/loan officer with the Bank of the Ozarks. He serves on the Ozark school board of directors, the Franklin County Single Parents Scholarship Committee, the Relay for Life committee, the Mercy Health/Turner Memorial Advisory Board, and the Ozark Housing Authority Board. Gibbons and his wife, Kimberly, have a daughter, Anna Grace, and a son, Nathan. He lists his activities as hunting and spending time with family and friends, and he volunteers as a basketball and T-ball coach.

**Hunter Goff** (BA 2000) is a pastoral intern at the Bible Church of Cabot. He and his wife, Amber, are expecting a baby this spring.

**Charles E. Gray** (MA 1950) is professor of history *emeritus* at Illinois State University and lives in Springfield, MO.

He writes: "There must be a saying about historians to the effect that 'Old historians never stop doing history.' Or so it seems. Recently, I have undertaken two historical projects. One was to create a database about a U.S. Navy band I played in during the last years of World War Two and to locate the present-day survivors of that unit. The other investigation was to locate Harlin Perryman who was a history graduate student at Arkansas in 1950. With the help of the internet, both undertakings have been successful. I doubt if readers of the departmental newsletter have any interest in an ancient Navy band. However, a few 'oldsters' might want to know that Harlin Perryman can be contacted at 13809 S. Park Drive, Magalia, CA 95954."

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

**Mike Haridopolos** (MA 1993) represents district 26 in the Florida state senate. He lives in Melbourne.

**Kimberly D. Harper** (MA 2007) is reference specialist at the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia. She is finishing a book on racial violence in Southwest Missouri, which is under contract with the University of Arkansas Press. Harper is engaged to Ross Brown (MA 2006).

**William Hamilton Hatcher** (BA 1949, MA 1950, PhD [Duke] 1961) lives in Hattiesburg, MS. He was assistant professor of political scientist at Virginia Tech (1949-59), professor of political scientist at Truman University (1959-62), and professor of political science at the University of Southern Mississippi (1962-1992), where he was department chair between 1967 and 1988. Hatcher was voted one of the ten best professors at Virginia Tech in 1957. He currently has 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and an unpublished manuscript, "The Life and Times of Senator William Maclay of Pennsylvania (1789-91)."

**Jill A. Hatley** (BA 1975, MA 1979) left the corporate oil and gas world last year and set up as an independent landsman. "It's basically researching the history of a tract of land, from the surface to the center of the earth." She lives in Fort Smith.

**Steven L. Hayes** (BA 1969) is an attorney and director of the Novus Medical Detox Center in Clearwater, FL.

**Nathan D. Howard** (PhD) is assistant professor of history at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he teaches courses in Honors World Civilizations, World Civilizations, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, Late Antiquity/Early Medieval Europe, and Renaissance/Reformation. He has also begun a 3-year term on the school's board of athletics

and serves as an assistant coach for the cross country team. Howard published a paper in the Fall/Winter 2007 *Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives* entitled "Honor and Obligation: Bishops' Epistles as Commodities in Late Antiquity," and presented it at the North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting in Chicago this past May. "I continue to study the patronage of early Christian bishops and Lynda Coon still graciously endures my drafts," he writes. Howard chaired a session at the regional Phi Alpha Theta conference in west Tennessee and served as a reader for AP World History exams at Colorado State University in June. He is looking forward to leading a Travel Study to Greece, including sites across the mainland and the islands (including Thermopylae, Athens, Delphi, Olympia, Rhodes, Patmos, Santorini, Ephesus, and Mykonos). "I still follow Razorback sports far more than I should and I love to call the Hogs to upset my Tennessee Vol and Kentucky Wildcat friends around NW Tennessee. The one football game I attended was the victory over LSU. What a pleasure!"

**Ryan Hughes** (BA 2002) is president and CEO of Championship Sports Marketing in Arkadelphia. He and his wife have 3 girls: Reagan (11), McKinley (4), and Palin (6 months).

**N. Wesley Hunt** (BA 2005) is an attorney for Entergy Services in Little Rock. He and his lovely wife, Isabel, were blessed with their first child, William Maxwell "Max" Hunt, on January 21, 2008. Hunt is a member of the Arkansas Bar Association and serves on the Little Rock Racial and Cultural Diversity Commission.

**Elizabeth Jacoway** (BA 1966, PhD [UNC] 1974) is a historian and independent scholar living in Newport, AR. She spoke at the 2008 Southern Historical Association meeting as a part of a panel honoring John Boles, editor of the *Journal of Southern History*. That same day, she was presented with the 2008 Willie Lee Rose Prize, which is awarded annually by the Southern Association for Women Historians to the best book in southern history written by a woman. The book, *Turn Away Thy Son: Little Rock, The Crisis That Shocked the Nation* (Free Press, 2007), also won the 2008 William Booker Worthen Prize presented by the Central Arkansas Library System. The University of Arkansas Press has brought *Turn Away Thy Son* out in paperback.

Jacoway's son Timothy is a second-year law student at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and is awaiting a kidney transplant. Son Todd finished an MA in journalism at New York University and spent the spring in the Middle East writing for a business journal. He is now applying to law schools. Jacoway's husband, Tim Watson, won an award from the Legal Aid Association of Arkansas for being the Outstanding Volunteer Lawyer of the Year.

**Ben Johnson** (PhD 1991) is dean of liberal and performing arts at Southern Arkansas University. He and his wife, Sherrel, have pulled out all the stops in putting together this year's annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association in Magnolia.

**Scott Jones** (PhD 1998) is a Catholic priest who lives and ministers in Milwaukee. After completing his doctorate, he entered the Society of the Divine Savior, a Roman Catholic religious order of priests and brothers. He currently serves as vocation director for his community and also works on the Salvatorian International History Commission in Rome. He is completing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Mundelein Seminary.

**Joseph P. Key** (PhD 2001), assistant professor of history at Arkansas State University, won the Outstanding Teaching Award at ASU for 2007-2008. His essay on the Quapaws appears in the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Key serves on the board of trustees of the Arkansas Historical Association.

**Adam A. Kreuter** (BA 1936) is a retired attorney living in Sturgeon Bay, WI. Of his activities, he writes "at 94, very inactive." Kreuter says he's "lived long enough to become a problem to my devoted children. What is history to many is just an incident of yesterday to me. History remains 'one damned thing after another.'"

**Michael Lindsey** (MA 2004) is an investment banker with Morgan Keegan in Fayetteville. The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies has recently published his book, *The Big Hat Law: Arkansas and Its State Police, 1935-2000*.

**Felicia Long** (BA 1997) is a realtor and associate broker with Coldwell Banker in Jonesboro. She volunteers with Circle of Friends for Arkansas Children's Hospital, is team leader for United Way of Northeast Arkansas, and is an inductee in Leadership Jonesboro. Long is widowed and has a ten-year-old daughter,

Kennedy Lynn.

**Barbara Love** (MA 1967) is professor of education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she has been named teacher of the year. Her daughter graduated from Spelman College this past May.

**Don Walker Love** (BA 1971, MA 1978, EdD 2000) is assistant superintendent for secondary curriculum and instruction with the Springdale school district. He enjoys horseback riding and tractor driving. He and his wife, Ann Hutchinson Love, have been married for 36 years and have 3 daughters: Elizabeth, Leanne, and Charlotte. Love still resides two miles south of Staymore.

**Margaret Gerig Martin** (BS 1947) is a housewife and author of 2 children's books. She lists her activities as garden club, study club, church work, reading, exercise, and community work. She is former chairman of the board of directors of Martin Resources, Inc. Her husband, R. S. Martin, died in 1999, but the business they started has thrived under their 2 sons. She has been elected First Lady of Kilgore, TX, an honor bestowed on those who have participated in community improvement, and has also been citizen of the month and an elder of the First Presbyterian Church. Martin has 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. One granddaughter represents the fourth generation to attend the U of A. Mrs. Martin's father's name is on senior walk with the class of 1914.

**Elizabeth Young Middleton** (BA 2006) lives in Bryant and is an escrow assistant with Wilson and Associates.

**Natalie Brigit Molineaux** (PhD 2001) is assistant professor of history at St. Joseph's College of Maine. She has recently published *Medici et Medicamenta: The Medicine of Penance in Late Antiquity* with University Press of America.

**John H. Morris** (BA 1959, MA 1969) completely retired this fall after 40 years of teaching American history. He lives in Fayetteville.

**Lois Lawson Morris** (MA 1966) lives in Russellville. She worked for the Russellville school system from 1948 to 1957 and then taught at the U of A until 1982. She writes for local history publications, helps preserve old buildings, paints, works some in politics, and is currently studying the rise and fall of Greece and Rome. This year she received a certificate of appreciation from Potts Inn Association. Morris's daughter died of undiagnosed lung cancer 10 years ago, but her grandson and granddaughter visit. "They still want me to talk about the great battles of Rome as told by Reeser and the Civil War

battles as Dr. Hudson told them. Those were great teachers," she writes.

**Annette Morrow** (PhD 2005) has been appointed director of honors at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. She is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year in the history department at MSUM.

**April Najjaj** (BA 1988, MA 1991, PhD [Boston University] 2005) is associate professor of history and director of international studies at Greensboro College in North Carolina. She received a grant to travel to Egypt last October for the purpose of revising world history survey courses in order to reintegrate Egypt into the history of Africa. From April to July of this year, she will be teaching 3 four-week seminars on the history of the Middle East at Ludwigsburg University in Germany.

**Carolyn Kay Nelson** (BA 2004) lives in Van Buren and is a quality monitor and substitute teacher. She lists her activities as boating, hiking, photography, gardening, and scrapbooking. Her eldest daughter, Amy, has 3 sons. Her youngest daughter, Anita, died this past September.

**Landry (Coty) Nichols** (BA 2000) earned his MAT at the U of A last May and is now teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies at McNair Middle School in Fayetteville. He covers history from the Paleolithic Era to the Middle Ages. He writes, "I truly love my new position and am so appreciative of everyone in the history and education departments who helped me earn this teaching opportunity."

**Susana O'Daniel** (BA 2003) seen her opportunities and she took 'em. She is project coordinator for the Northwest Arkansas Tobacco Free Coalition and serves on the executive committee of the Democratic Party of Arkansas. She was an Arkansas delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Denver and cast her vote for Hillary Clinton. Boss O'Daniel also managed a successful Fayetteville city council campaign last fall. She volunteers as a tutor with the Ozark Literacy Council and is a member of the steering committee for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Ozarks affiliate. O'Daniel was recently profiled in the *Northwest Arkansas Times*.

**Gregory Enoch Padgham** (BA 1988) is an attorney and business owner, involved in the export of food products to Central Asia and the Middle East, including on U.S. military and international aid contracts. He and his wife,



Paula Price, live in a circa 1858 home in Princess Anne, MD. They recently adopted a child from Kazakhstan, Samara Eve Padgham, who is now 2.

**James E. Page** (MA 1975, PhA 1979) lives in Lady Lake, FL, and has been a history professor at American Military University since 1993 and at the Villages Lifelong Learning College since 2005. He's been teaching "The Glory of Greece" at TVLLC.

**Marianne Park** (BA 1986) is a mom in Maumelle who enjoys running, swimming, cycling, strength training, church, photography, and kids' sports. She completed her third Ironman triathlon last June and her fifth marathon this January, and placed first in her age group in the 2008 ARKRCA Grand Prix. She has another Ironman slated for this July. Whew! Parks celebrates her 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. Her 5 children are 20, 17, 15, 9, and 7 (4 boys and 1 girl).

**William Jordan Patty** (MA 2003) is processing archivist and librarian at George Mason University Special Collections & Archives in Virginia. He's published "Metadata, Technology, and Processing a Backlog in a University Special Collections," in *Journal of Archival Organization* 6 (2008) and an exhibit review, "The Library of Congress, Enduring Outrage: Editorial Cartoons by Herb Block," in *Archivaria* 64 (Fall 2007). Patty was recently awarded a fellowship for research in Georgia State University's Southern Labor Archive.

**Mark Pryor** (BA 1985) was elected by the citizens of Arkansas to a second term in the United States Senate last November.

**Lyndsey Duckworth Randall** (BA 2005) teaches AP world history at Bentonville High School. She will be traveling this spring with 8 BHS students to World War Two sites in England (London and Portsmouth) and France (beaches of Normandy, Bayeux, and Paris). She is the sponsor of the junior class and the National Honor Society at BHS. She and her husband, Mark, purchased their first home this past summer in Bella Vista. "I certainly miss the care-free days of college," she writes.

**Paul R. Rasmussen** (BA 1978) lives in Allen, TX, and is a region claim manager with CIGNA. He and his wife, the former Jill Dixon, have 2 children: Katie (23) and Peter (20). Rasmussen is Lt. Col. (Ret) with the Arkansas Air Na-

tional Guard.

**Cortney Rakestraw Rogers** (BA 1999) is a sales representative for Pratt Industries, the only 100% recycled corrugate company. She and her husband, Travis Rogers, run T. Rogers Appraisals and Consulting and have their own equestrian center in Siloam Springs named Isuba Valley. It specializes in hunter jumpers. The couple have 8 horses, 3 dogs, 3 cats, and a rabbit. Rogers is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Hunter Jumper Association and the First Christian Church worship team.

**Jessica Rogers** (BA 2006) served in Cameroon with the Peace Corps from June 2006 through June 2008. She taught English and computers to French-speaking high school students. Rogers is relocating to Washington, DC to pursue a career in international development/non-profits.

**Marvin F. Russell** (PhD 1985) is a foreign affairs officer with the U.S. Department of State. He supervises declassification for *Foreign Relations of the United States* volumes, referrals of State Department documents under the FOIA, and the mandatory review provisions of EO 12958 as amended. Russell lives in Maryland.

**Ramsey Ryan** (BA 1976) is a retired manager with AT&T. He enjoys travel and gardening.

**Brian Schoen** (BA 1997, PhD [University of Virginia] 2004) is assistant professor of history at Ohio University. Johns Hopkins University Press will publish his book, *The Fragile Fabric of Union: Cotton, Federal Politics, and the Global Origins of the Civil War*, later this year. Schoen lives in Athens with his wife and 2-year-old daughter. He has published essays in the *Journal of the Early Republic* and *Global Perspectives on Industrial Transformation in the South*, ed. Susanna Delfino and Michele Gillespie (2005).

**John R. Scott** (BA 1973) was elected last May to a second term as administrative judge for the 19<sup>th</sup> West Judicial District, Benton County, AR. The Arkansas Supreme Court has appointed him to its child support committee.

**Richard A. Selakovich** (BA 1976) is an accountant with the Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration. He has been married to the same wonderful woman, Dale, for over 28 years. She is an oncology specialist and chemo nurse. They have 3 children: Kirby (25), who graduated from the University of Colorado; Caitlin (23), a junior at UALR; and Patrick (20), a junior at the U of A. Selakovich communicates regularly with many history professors and students from the early 1970s. He enjoys run-

ning and golf.

**Lindley Shedd** (BA 2006) is media services librarian at the University of Alabama.

**Rachel Skoney** (BA 1981, MA 1991) of Fayetteville is a library assistant at the U of A libraries. She is active in the Funeral Consumers Alliance of North-west Arkansas, Spay Arkansas, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the "War is not the answer" sign project, and an animal shelter foster program.

**Betty Newton Smith** (MA 1971) retired in 1999, after teaching social studies for 28 years at Fayetteville High School. She enjoys traveling, quilting, fishing, photography, reading, writing, and community service. Mrs. Smith has received the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award from the U of A, the J. C. Penney Golden Rule Award, and the Northwest Arkansas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee Award. She has been married to Leortice Smith for 41 years. They have 2 sons and a 4-year-old grandson. She writes, "Presently, my husband and I are enjoying life one day at a time. In 2008, our UAPB class celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> class reunion in Pine Bluff and had a wonderful time."

**Clayton J. Smith** (BA 1999) is associate attorney with the McHughes Law Firm in Little Rock. He is active in Big Brothers Big Sisters.

**Michael J. Spivey** (BA 1987) was recently named Vice-President of Global Compliance at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

**Patricia Stone** (MA 2002) teaches biology at Hacker Middle School in Mountain Home, ID. She moved there in 2004 after many years of service with the Lincoln, AR, Consolidated Schools. Stone lives in Boise and enjoys both summer and winter sports (including scuba diving, skiing, hiking, and horses) with her lifetime companion, Glade. Stone volunteers with the World Center Birds of Prey Conservation Center. Her daughter will be joining her in Idaho to attend BSU. Her son is employed by a private electrical contractor and is currently working at Baghran Air Force Base in Afghanistan.

**Michael Strickland** (MA 1993) is coordinator of state library services for the Arkansas State Library in Little Rock. He chairs the scholarship committee of the Arkansas Library Association and is Area 9 representative for the Patent and

Trademark Library Association.

**John J. Stuart** (MA 1975) is professor of history and government at Texarkana College. In February 2008, he attended the Texas Community College Teachers Association annual state convention in Dallas.

**Christopher Tynes Teter** (BA 1987) lives in Fort Smith and works in food service management. His daughter, Carolanne, attends Fort Smith Southside High and continues to be the light of her dad's life. She even awarded him a father-of-the-year trophy. Carolanne wants to attend the U of A like her parents. "Next to my daughter," Teter writes, "my degree from the U of Arkansas is my proudest moment." Teter enjoys camping, spelunking, and collecting beer cans.

**Tommy R. Thompson** (MA 1965), professor *emeritus* of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, lives in Omaha and enjoys reading and visiting grandchildren in Florida and Colorado. In 2008 *Wisconsin Magazine of History* published his article on Camp Randall, a Civil War POW camp in which a number of Arkansas soldiers died, including one of the author's ancestors.

**Connie Capers Thorson** (BA 1962, PhD [University of New Mexico] 1970) lives in Albuquerque. After retiring from the University of New Mexico libraries in 1995, having been head of the Acquisitions Department and the Reference Department as well as bibliographer for English and American literature, she served as director of the Pelletier Library at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, until she again retired in 2000. Her husband, James L. Thorson, is an *emeritus* professor of English at the University of New Mexico. Since they both retired, they have spent 5 of the last 8 years in Europe. Both were Fulbright Senior Scholars in Minsk in 2005-2006. They are working on a volume of manuscript newsletters, dating from 1678-1681, collected by Narcissus Luttrell during the Popish Plot period. The original newsletters reside in Codrington Library at All Souls College, Oxford.

**Kermit F. Tracy** (BA 1985) is a Union Pacific locomotive engineer based in North Little Rock. For 15 years, he has also been a member of the Arkansas Army National Guard. Tracy recently completed a second tour with Operation Iraqi Freedom, with the 142<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade out of Fayetteville. He has been married for 18 years to Annette

Tracy, who works for the Little Rock Police Department crime scene unit. They have 2 daughters, Eryn (14) and Morgan (10). Tracy recently read John McCain's *Faith of My Fathers* and noted the underreported fact that Admiral Stew McCain was the commander of the Fast Carriers Task Force during World War Two. "What a family!"

**Scott Tucker** (BA 1984) is a partner in the Little Rock office of Friday, Eldredge & Clark, Arkansas's largest law firm. He chairs the firm's railroad practice group. Tucker was listed in the 2008 and 2009 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Arkansas's Top Lawyers* under the specialty of railroad law. He and his wife, a pharmacist, have a daughter and son, ages 11 and 9, and black lab.

**Jerry Vervack** (BA 1966, MA 1977, PhD 1990) is dean of social and behavioral sciences, education and legal studies at Northwest Arkansas Community College. His 2 daughters, Natalia (11) and Alexandra (8), are Russian and come from northern Kazakhstan but now speak perfect English "with an Arkansas accent."

**Dennis M. Wagemann** (BA 2003) is an academic and admissions adviser at Northwest Arkansas Community College. Every year, he sounds a tad more desperate in his assertions that the Cubs will win the next World Series.

**Elizabeth Salisbury Warren** (BA 1994) is a healthcare law attorney at Bass, Berry & Sims, PLC, in Nashville, TN. She and her husband, Kevin, have 2 sons: Jude (5) and Xavier (3). She looks forward to teaching them more about history as they get older. Right now, they are mostly interested in pirates, dinosaurs, and Thomas the Train. She writes, "I keep hearing about professors retiring, which makes me feel sad that students won't get to learn from Drs. Sloan, Bukey, Edwards, and the list goes on and makes me feel old to know that most of those who taught me are retirement age."

**Michele Wasson** (BA 1975, MA 1982) is department chair for social studies at North Little Rock High School, East Campus. She sings in the sanctuary choir at PHBC and is field rep for Ultimate Choice Travel.

**Bobby J. Watson** (BA 1973, MA 1975) is a software consultant and recently started his own firm. He and his wife of 34 years, Priscilla, live in Keller, TX, and have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. He writes, "I would love to hear from some of the guys I went to graduate school with in 1974-1975. Great Years."

**Barry Roland Weaver** (BA 1955) of Jasper writes weekly columns for the *Newton County Times* on air quality and environmental

subjects. As chair of the Newton County Wildlife Association, he is involved in the monitoring of herbicides and prescribed burns. Weaver was chair of the Arkansas chapter of the Sierra Club between 2004 and 2006.

**Andrew Wehrman** (BA 2003) is completing a doctorate in history at Northwestern University. He has recently won one of the most prestigious awards in colonial history, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts' Walter Muir Whitehill Prize for his essay "The Siege of Castle Pox." The essay will be published in the *New England Quarterly*.

**Tawana Phillips West** (BA 1968) is a retired teacher and librarian. She is active in Sequoyah United Methodist Church, Smocking Arts Guild of America, Arkansas Association of Instructional Media, the NEA, and the AEA, and enjoys sewing, knitting, smocking, reading, volunteering, and traveling (she went to Slovenia, Bosnia, Croatia, and the Netherlands last spring). Her husband, Leon, is a professor of mechanical engineering at the U of A. Their son, Jason, has a son, Jonathan David, born in 2007 and is expecting a daughter in 2009. Daughter Caroline works for Standard & Poor's in Chicago. Before retiring in 2007, West was named teacher of the year at Walker Elementary School in Springdale. She was a Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar to Japan in 2000.

**John McDaniel Wheeler** (MA 1966) retired after 35 years teaching in the department of history at Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX, where he won an outstanding teacher award three times. He maintains residences in San Angelo and in his hometown, Camden, AR, and is active in historical preservation in Camden.

**Brian David Wilson** (BA 1994) is, all at once, adjunct assistant professor of higher education at the U of A, adjunct instructor in psychology at Northwest Arkansas Community College, academic coordinator of the Upward Bound program at NWACC, and Arkansas membership coordinator for NASPA. He also sits on the board of the Benton County Literacy Council. Wilson writes, "I'm married to a beautiful lawyer-Kristin-and have two precocious red head children-Ethan, age 5, and Jenna, age 4. We live in Bentonville in an almost completely renovated house. I still need to finish the bathrooms and the upstairs bedroom. What a mess."

**Kyndall Wilson-Jenkins** (BA 2005) is a social studies teacher and department chair at Harrison High School, where she is also Key Club sponsor and co-sponsor of the History Club. She received the 2007-2008

Missouri-Arkansas Key Club Faculty Sponsor of the Year Award, and belongs to Harrison's Junior Auxiliary and Kiwanis Club. She and her husband, James, have been married since 2006.

**Robert L. Wood** (BA 1984) is Director of Operations for J. B. Hunt Transport. He and his wife, Sandra Kay, enjoy spending time with their 3 grandchildren. Wood belongs to the National Defense Transportation Association and Kappa Alpha Alumni Association. He is Grand Clayton of the Clayton Society.

**James A. Wooten** (MA 1950) is a retired FBI special agent. He lives in Shreveport and lists his activities as "mostly hunting and looking after grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

## DEATHS

**Matthew B. Kirkpatrick** (PhD 2008), a doctoral student in the Department, died August 7, 2008, in Springdale. He had been at work on a dissertation about Jewish refugees from Vichy France. Born in Port Arthur, TX, on October 11, 1979, Kirkpatrick earned a BA in 2002 at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, TX, and an MA from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls in 2004. He taught both at the U of A and the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith and was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Fayetteville. Kirkpatrick is survived by his wife, Naomi, his parents, Reed and Chris Kirkpatrick, and a brother, Daniel. The U of A awarded him a posthumous doctorate. The Department has established a graduate teaching prize, the Matthew B. Kirkpatrick Memorial Teaching Award, in his honor.

**J. Fred Patton** (MA 1936) died in Fort Smith on July 6, 2008, at the age of 101. Patton was born in Dyer, AR, and participated in the town's celebration of the Armistice in 1918. He spent his teen years in Alma, and, after earning his BA at the University of Arkansas in 1929, returned there to teach and then serve as principal at Alma's high school. He later taught economics, government, and American history at Fort Smith High School. Patton wrote the first comprehensive history of Fort Smith, which went through a number of editions, the most recent being *The History of Fort Smith, 1817-2002*. After marrying Bernice Garrison in 1936, Patton taught

government and economics at Fort Smith Junior College (now the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith). He then returned to Fort Smith High School as vice-principal and dean of boys. In 1950, he became general manager of England Brothers Truck Line and spent the next twenty-five years in the trucking business. After retiring, he organized his own tour company. He sat on the Sebastian County Quorum Court, the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas River Navigation Board, and the Fort Smith Museum of History board, and served as president of the Arkansas Trucking Association and the U of A Alumni Association and as vice-president of the Fort Smith school board. Fort Smith honored him by renaming its Garrison Avenue Bridge the J. Fred Patton Garrison Bridge.

**Julia Margaret Roberts** (BA 1944), a generous benefactor of our Department, died June 5, 2008, in Norman, OK. She was born in Pawhuska, OK, on August 4, 1922. After graduating from Pawhuska High School and earning her bachelor's degree in history at the U of A, Roberts joined the U.S. Navy and served as a corpsman at Bethesda Naval Hospital for the duration of World War Two. She then became a social worker and worked with children and families at Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City in the 1950s and 1960s. After earning a MSW in 1968, she accepted a position with the Garfield County Health Department's Child Guidance Center in Enid, OK, where she worked until retiring in 1984. After that, she volunteered at the Museum of the Cherokee

Strip in Enid. Roberts enjoyed traveling in the U.S. and abroad, as well as reading, sewing, gardening, cooking, and working in various political and service organizations, including the Enid Writers' Club. She established the Department's J. Margaret Roberts Endowed Award Fund, which annually honors an outstanding senior history major. Contributions to the fund in her honor may be sent to the Department care of Lynda Coon, chair.

**Betty Becker Walt** (BA 1959, MA 1961) died October 25, 2008, in Little Rock. She spent her childhood in Camden. After earning her degrees at the U of A, she taught history at Little Rock University (now the University of Arkansas at Little Rock) from 1961 to 1964. She was later active in Arkansas Pioneers and enjoyed genealogical research. Betty Becker Walt was a life member of the Arkansas Historical Association.

# NEWSLETTER

Editor: *Patrick Williams*

Assistant Editor: *Rebecca Wright*

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