History Newsletter, 2015-2016

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of History

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Hammond’s Got a Revolution

Our new East Asian historian, Assistant Professor Kelly Hammond, was lucky to secure a spot in the Department before they build that wall—you know, the one that will stretch from the Bay of Fundy to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. But as much as the young Canadian yearns to breathe free, she hasn’t melted in our pot quite yet. Last fall, after her Toronto Blue Jays bit the dust in the ALCS, the fifth-floor boys paraded her around in a Kansas City Royals cap. Photos might suggest that she took it all in good humor. But we suspect that, privately, she’s looking forward to the Department’s next Cultural Revolution, when those same boys will be forced to don dunce caps and confess their “errors.” This humiliation will be carried out Canada-style, of course. “Aboot time for some self-criticism, eh?”

Hammond was educated in the old country, earning her BA in history and political science from Bishop’s University in Quebec and an MA in East Asian history from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. She then crossed the line to secure a doctorate from Georgetown University. She specializes in the history of Islam in East Asia, particularly the political, social and cultural history of Chinese Muslims from the Qing Dynasty through the People’s Republic. Her current project concerns Muslims during Japan’s occupation of China, and their role in prompting “an on-going dialogue between the Japanese Empire and the Chinese Nationalists about strategies for managing minority populations.” Broader interests include imperialism and nationalism in Asia, minority populations in China’s borderlands, World War Two, espionage history, and the relations between nomads and settled peoples in East Asia. Hammond has worked as a writer for the National Geographic Society and Cengage Learning and has been a guest on the Ottoman History Podcast. She has held fellowships at Georgetown and Beijing Normal University, and from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Most recently, she won a research grant from the Center for Chinese Studies in Taiwan and spent this summer affiliated with the Academia Sinica in Taipei, where she conducted research in Nationalist archives.

Kelly Hammond spent her first year in Fayetteville teaching Chinese history, world civilization, and the Second World War in the Pacific. This past spring, she also led an undergraduate seminar on (what else?) the Cultural Revolution. Periodically, her students would spill out of the classroom to jeer at and even jostle senior members of our faculty. The young pioneers aren’t big on deference, it seems.

International Man of Mystery

Shawn Austin. Does that name ring a bell, boomers? Wasn’t he in her majesty’s secret service? Or was he the dude from UNCLE with the equally dreamy Russian sidekick? No, it seems our old-timers’ memories are playing tricks. Assistant Professor Austin insists he crosses so many borders (those of Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, and Uruguay this summer alone) not to foil Mao-jacketed bad guys with missiles and piranhas but instead in the interests of researching and teaching the history of colonial Latin America.

We are inclined to believe this isn’t just a cover story (though, just in case, we would warn young Austin that Professor Starks has poison-tipped knives in her shoes). Any decent intelligence service
The Inns of the Court, rather than the sort of bar from which many of her now colleagues have regularly to be fetched by their anxious children. Pepitone has presented papers before the American Historical Association and the North American Conference on British Studies and at the Folger Library, and has just published an article in the journal of Women's History titled "Gender, Space, and Ritual: Women Barristers, the Inns of the Court, and the Interwar Press." Dr. Rocío Gomez has been pitching in around here since before Kathy Sloan disappeared into the maw of an authoritarian state. And, with prospects dimming for the quick return of our dear without a name whose office is without a number, the Department thought it wise to shore up our standing in modern Latin America by making Gomez's position more permanent. She teaches courses in Mexican history colonial and modern Latin America, the Latin American city, and Brazil, and has also allowed the Department to expand its offerings in environmental history and the history of medicine and public health. A graduate of Hendrix College, Gomez did master's studies here at the U of A before moving to the University of Arizona, where she completed her Ph.D. In 2014. She already has a contract with the University of Nebraska Press for publication of her book, Silver Veins and Dusty Lungs: Water, Public Health, and the Environmental Legacies of Industry in Modern Mexico, 1835-1945.

Would it be the Holy Trinity, the Ronettes, or the red, white, and blue, we like things in threes. The Department added three more full-time faculty in 2015-2016, and it brought in another power trio for 2016-2017.

Sarah Rodriguez has staked her claim on the patch of antebellum territory abandoned by Beth Schweiger. She'll be yet another member of our faculty who chooses to study Texas but from the safe distance of Fayetteville. Dr. Rodriguez earned her doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation, "Children of the Great Mexican Family: Anglo-American Immigration to Mexican Texas and the Making of the American Empire, 1820-1846," directed by Stephen McCurry, portrays an American destiny that was less than manifest, but instead ambivalent, contingent, and contested. Her article, "The Greatest Nation on Earth: The Politics and Patriotism of the First Anglo-American Immigrants to Mexican Texas," is forthcoming in the Pacific Historical Review. Rodriguez has held fellowships at Penn, the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, and the Smithsonian. She has also been managing editor at Early American Studies, the McNeil Center's journal, making her more than qualified to take over History Newsletter.

Department members of a certain advanced age overlapped their Dependencies when they found out well secured a new historian of the British Empire named Jon Pepitone. It turns out, though, that Lauren Pepitone is no relation to the Yankee first baseman of the 1960s—and is also quite a lot smarter (after one of his drug busts, some might recall, Joe Pepitone claimed not to have known that was less than manifest, but instead ambivalent, contingent, and contested). Her article, "The Greatest Nation on Earth: The Politics and Patriotism of the First Anglo-American Immigrants to Mexican Texas," is forthcoming in the Pacific Historical Review. Rodriguez has held fellowships at Penn, the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, and the Smithsonian. She has also been managing editor at Early American Studies, the McNeil Center's journal, making her more than qualified to take over History Newsletter.

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Third, we’re not sure and Trish Starks off-smoking in the girls room. Many were discovered to 1963, when he stated that “I can’t make cannibalism the theme for the proceedings for the second year in a row (only tardily did he register that the buffet tables were piled high with fava beans and chianti). Last year, faithful readers of History Newsletter possibly got caught up in poppies, setting off a sallay that decimated the ranks of our best and brightest—explaining the sharp decline in enrollments this year in history classes and our plummeting number of majors. Thanks again, Laurence. None the wiser, it seems, Dr. Dominquez welcomed guests by quoting Marc Bloch concerning historians’ appetites for human flesh (“The good historian is like the giant of the fairy tale. He knows that wherever he catches the scent of human flesh, there his quarry lies”). The newsletter editor’s appetites actually run more toward a stiff drink and an Old Gold, but perhaps he is not a historian at all.

Dr. Rocio Gomez and Alpha chapter president Jason Phillips then initiated this select few into Phi Alpha Theta. Frank, Emu, Belmont, Sydney A. Combs, Brenda Cook, Sydney R. Cook, Jared W. DeVore, Jessica A. Pengelly, and Brandon M. Stienke. Oddly, this was conducted without the standard oath-taking and ritual. Perhaps with our taste for human flesh, the traditional animal sacrifice deemed so little at the time. Drs. Kelly Hammond and Lalah Welch then donned their lab coats to induct Colette Brashears, Greyson Teague, and Emily Chanmanivong into Pi Gamma Mu, the national honors society in the social sciences. The following history majors were recognized as having been recently accepted into a new life: Nathanial Conley, Madeleine Forrest, and Michael McGee. George Billingsley titled the best paper on a Middle Eastern or Asian topic: James Brown, Gordon McNeil Graduate Paper Award for an outstanding paper by a graduate student: Elizabeth Withey, Helen E. Huq Coucke and Adyln & Harry Kennedy Memorial Travel Fund for research abroad: Rebekah McMillan, James J. Hudson Research Fellowship for a graduate student researching a military history topic: Anna Marie Martin, Jesse Taylor, J. Endowed Scholarship: Stuart Bailey, Michael Bohlen, Jama Grove, Scout Johnson, Alex Marino, Amanda Meier, Jared Pack, Jason Phillips, Eric Totten, Colin Walker, and Arley Ward, Mary Hudgins Endowed Scholarship for support of students of Arkansas History: Ed Andrus, Michael Anthony, Sarah Riva, and Laura Smith, Mary Hudgin's Arkansas History Research Fund to support students of Arkansas history: Rodney Harris, Chelsea Hodge, and David Schieffler, Matthew B. Kirkpatrick Prize for Excellence in Graduate Teaching: David Schieffler, Oscar Fender Award for the best paper on Arkansas or Southern history: Scout Johnson, Ralph V. Turner Travel Award for the support of travel, study, and research in England and/or Scotland: Rebekah McMillan, Walter Lee Brown Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Graduate Fellowship: Camille Goldmon, William B. Gatewood Graduate Fellowship: Daniel Elkin, Willard B. Gatewood History Graduate Fellowship: Sanket Desai and John Treat.

Bachelor godfather Alessandro Brogi had his own loaves and fishes to distribute as director of undergraduate studies. The following awards were also presented—and, in some cases, received: David W. Edwards Scholarship for an outstanding undergraduate in the study of history: Stephen Cook, Jared DeVore, Greyson Teague, Madison Wieters, and Hayden Wyatt. George W. Ray Memorial Memorial Award for a History major interested in the study of western civilization: John Grant Addison, Georgia V. G. Saunders Award for an outstanding student who is a veteran or child of a veteran: Andrew Dixon, Gordon McNeil Award in European History for the best paper on European history: Caroline Potts, David W. Edwards Scholarship for a History major with the highest GPA: Andrew Dixon, Taylor Sibbe, and Margaret Watermann, James J. Hudson Award for Military History: Andrew Dixon, Phi Alpha Theta Undergraduate Paper Award for an outstanding paper: Margaret Watermann, Robert E. Rorer Classical Studies Award for an outstanding paper: Megan Price, Sidney Moncrief Scholarship for African American history: Tabitha Orr Stokely-Mckee, Family International Student Scholarship to pursue research and study opportunities: K. Christina Martin. No-shows, jaded by the whole business of being given money, arranged for the direct deposit of their prizes in their bankers’ accounts.

Certificates of Academic Excellence are issued to those whose GPAs are up in the stratosphere, up where the air is clear. These are our first ten for 2016: John Grant Addison, Michael Anthony, Sally Averitt-Hubbard, Caatlin Beasley, Emily Beesams, Samantha Conner, Stephen Cook, Michael Crafton, Andrew Dixon, Conner Doyle, Tyler Dunn, William Finkelstein, Jake Golden, Heather Hansberger, Embern Harris, Maurice Humphrey, Joshua Jenkins, Andrew McBride, Mace McNeill, Nathaniel Mickelson, Tabitha Orr, John Parker, Andrew Peck, Jordan Peden, Jenna Poe, Caroline Potts, Diego Quinones, Jessica Ramirez, Jay Reynolds, Christina Robles. Amy Rogers, Joannette Seykora, Peregryn Shattuck, Megan Shrewsbury, Brandon Stienke, Greyson Teague, Colin Walker, Margaret Watermann, James Watson, Amanda hitie, and Trenton Yearley.


History majors Grant Addison, Andrew Dixon, and Margaret Watermann were named to the Arkansas Alumni Association to the 2016 Class of Razorback Classics, honoring the top eleven male and female graduating students who have distinguished themselves by academic excellence, leadership, and campus or community involvement. Fulbright College honored Addison, Dixon, and Watermann, as well as Sally Averitt-Hubbard, for ending their studies with a perfect 4.0 GPA (after completing more than half their coursework at U of A). In the meantime, a number of our majors showed every sign of seizing power next spring. Corbin Stinnet won a SURF grant from the Arkansas Department of Education, as well as a research grant from the University of Arkansas Medical School Library, for his thesis project on pellagra in Arkansas, overseen by Michael Pierce. Greyson Teague won a SURF grant to research the career of Arthur Mitchell. Census’ first black Democrat (Patrick Williams is “directing” his work). Among this year’s graduates, Grant Addison’s and Margaret Watermann’s thesis work was also supported by the highly competitive SURF grants, while Caitlin Beasley won a research award from the University of Arkansas Medical School Library.

Oxie Nikes Trix’s Study

Talk about red ink! Last year, History Newsletter reported that Associate Professor Trish Starks had won a $121,250 grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct a study titled “Federable Fumbles: 100 Ways the Government Droped the Ball” Starks’ second grant is highlighted as a particularly prominent instance of outlandish and extravagant federal spending. Lankford’s report quotes from the grant to prove just how wasteful the funding is: “This study will produce the first solo-authored monograph in Russian or English to explore the history of tobacco use and government initiated cessation programs in Russia in the context of the country’s complex social, cultural, and political changes of the past 130 years.” The project’s potential to uncannily predict the culture of tobacco using newspapers, journals, industry publications, etiquette manuals, propaganda posters, popular literature, films, cartoons, and advertising images. Yes, that sure sounds crazy alright.

The carrot-topped solon concludes his article by winding it up by saying, “this year, it nevertheless promises to be reached. BGF, you’ll recall, has directed the following history textbooks: Senator James Lankford has tagged Starks as almost singlehandedly responsible for the American people. Leave the study of Russian cigarettes to the Russians.” Lankford declined to comment for this story, as she was hovering off with a clutch of food stamps to buy some smokes.

Lankford’s report notes that the grant cost the federal government an astonishing $48,500. This is much, much more, of course, than what the feds spend subsidizing agribusiness and the tobacco industry (most as much as Bret Bielema makes in a day!). For his part, the Senator is a far more careful steward of taxpayers’ dollars than the guy who3 has been pushing the public clock co-sponsoring legislation that is certain to be vetted and promoting initiatives in “defense of marriage.”
Schweiger Books

Chalk up another casualty. Last year’s Newsletter reported that a dirty war against the Department had claimed four of our best. All at once, Lynda Coon, Kathy Sloan, Trish Starks, and Ben Grob-Fitzgibbon vanished from Old Main. And, then, December brought the disappearance of Associate Professor Beth Barton Schweiger. She was last seen being hustled off by a tall Canadian (when are we going to build that wall anyway?) (when we’re going to build that wall anyway?). It’s said she’s now being held in Seattle. As far as anyone knows, Barton Schweiger, having staked her scholarly career on the argument that southerners are going to build that wall anyway? (when we’re going to build that wall anyway?), has been hired to teach World Civilization and British decolonization and missions in Africa, and Modern Imperialism. We know Justin Gage’s m.o. by now. He quietly sneaks up on professors and students, and makes some statement that, if you think, “I don’t believe you. I see that from a different perspective...” He will be serving the Department as an instructor in 2016-2017.

As far as anyone knows, Jeffrey Grooms managed to make the跑 season by disembodying his defense in the whole of history—or, at least, History’s history. The candidate was in Rhode Island; his advisor, the Arab, was holed up in a broom closet at the American Embassy in Tehran, hiding out for the Development of Nature and Society in Egypt. (“Dr. Andra Staintong on joined with an ex-patriate from the Bushwhackers,” said the main man.) That left only Richard Sloan to stand up for the good old-fashioned American Grooms of phoning in his dissertation, titled “A Gentleman’s Burden: Difference and the Development of British Education during the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries.” Grooms did hard time at the U of A, writing an honors thesis, “The Lance of St. George: Urbanization, Unification, and the Spread of the Ghost Dance.” It earned him summa cum laude in 2013-2014. Dr. Howard will be teaching at Lone Star College in Texas this fall.

Brian Hurley had his committee walking the floors, walking after midnight, walking the plank, walking it off, and walking a mile for a Camel. What a trip. Mr. Hurley got him walk a mile for a Camel. What a trip. Mr. Hurley got him a nice, big, hefty gavel. And, when the time came to hand out awards and honors, the Department will make a killing. Our faculty members continue to be recognized for excellence in the academic triad of research, teaching, and service. With respect to Elliott West, even Trump felt compelled to tweet “Really people, I’m a pygmy by comparison. A pygmy.” West’s status as one of the finest historians at work today was further confirmed by his being named the recipient of the 2016-2017 Visiting Professor of American History at Oxford University. Established in 1922, this professorship allows a “distinguished American scholar” to spend a year at Oxford—and, boy, do they mean distinguished. West’s predecessors as Harvard’s professor emeritus include Peter Goldsworthy, C. Vann Woodward, Allan Nevins, David Potter, John Lewis Gaddis, Eric Foner, Joyce Appleby, and dozens of others well known to every reader of this newsletter. We look forward to Yut’s follow-up to J. Frank Dobie’s A Texan in England.

Schweiger earned a BA magna cum laude some years back, followed by a PhD from Queen’s University in Belfast. While at Fayetteville, she taught both halves of World Civilization, capstone courses in British decolonization and missions in Africa, and Modern Imperialism. We know Justin Gage’s m.o. by now. He quietly sneaks up on professors and students, and makes some statement that, if you think, “I don’t believe you. I see that from a different perspective...” He will be serving the Department as an instructor in 2016-2017.

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What do you do when feel a low rumbling of the lecture site, then you hear a high-pitched creak, and then, as well, Grooms won Fullbright College’s J. Hillman Whyell award for outstanding teaching by a graduate student in 2012. For years now, Rebecca Howard has been regaling us with stories about the Civil War and its aftermath in the Ozarks—drenched patriarchs, barely endured massacres, and rowdy Union veterans who, even in the late 1860s, flipped off the rebs rather than clapping hands across the bloody chasm. Called “Bushwhacker Belles” until a lesser historian swiped the title, her dissertation, “Civil War Unionists and Their Legacy in the Arkansas Ozarks,” won the Arkansas Historical Association’s 2016 Foster-Beason Award. Howard has an unspeakable Ozark pedigree—one half Towntown and the other half Madison County—but went to Texas A&M for her bachelor’s degree. Discovering that Aggie jokes were all too true, she hurried back to Northwest Arkansas as quickly as she could—for work to make a house and for doctoral study with Dr. Jeanne Whylye. She also served as assistant editor on the History newsletter. Howard is a force to be reckoned with in the fields of southern, religious, and American intellectual and cultural history. She came with a book already out from Oxford University Press, The Gospel Working Up: Progress and the Pulpit in Nineteenth-Century Virginia. She has become widely known for her important work in the nineteenth-century South, several distillations of which have appeared in the Proceedings of the American Anti-Slavery Society, the Journal of the Early Republic, and the Journal of the Civil War Era. We trust Schweiger’s captivity won’t delay completion of her eagerly awaited book, or the next. Think Marc Bloch. Think Fernand Braudel. Great stuff gets written in stir.

Every May made future contact iffy in that year. Schweiger had to secure Grob-Fitzgibbon’s direction, in 2010, (“Palestine: Linchpin of Empire”). He defended “The Grey Men of Empire: A Decolonization of Christianity in Colonial Kenya,” last November and wasted no time in taking a tenure-track position at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, TN, from which she earned a BA magna cum laude some years back, followed by a PhD from Queen’s University in Belfast. While at Fayetteville, she taught both halves of World Civilization, capstone courses in British decolonization and missions in Africa, and Modern Imperialism. We know Justin Gage’s m.o. by now. He quietly sneaks up on professors and students, and makes some statement that, if you think, “I don’t believe you. I see that from a different perspective...” He will be serving the Department as an instructor in 2016-2017.

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Woods’ War on Ignorance

Shortly after completing LBJ: Architect of American Ambition (2006), Randall B. Woods called aides into his oval office (yes, sticklers, we know it’s actually a parallelogram, but you try telling RBW that). He told them “Boys, now I’m gonna write the best damn book on the Great Society that ever was. And, let’s be honest, it’s gonna be the biggest damn book on the Great Society. Hell, boys, I guess it’s gonna be the only damn book on the Great Society.” Through arm-twisting, log-rolling, and his mastery of the research and writing process, Woods has brought forth Prisoners of Hope: Lyndon B. Johnson, the Great Society, and the LBJ Library, published this spring by Basic Books—but only after a too-close-to-call cloture vote. Vetoed by colleagues who came to call themselves “Prisoners of Prisoners of Hope,” the book has inspired our chair Calvin White to declare a War on Ignorance. He promises the “maximum feasible participation” of the junior faculty, and has elevated the position of newsletter editor to cabinet rank.

Prisoners does more than simply reprise the biography’s treatment of LBJ’s domestic agenda and accomplishments. Woods offers his fellow Americans an unprecedented consideration of how the Great Society fit into larger patterns in American reform. He shows how Populism and the New Deal shaped Johnson but also considers what set the Great Society apart from earlier liberal movements—particularly its commitment to civil rights. It’s all here, folks—Medicare and Medicaid, the Civil Right Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Economic Opportunity Act and Community Action Programs, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, clean air and clean water legislation, Medicare and Medicaid, the Civil Right Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Economic Opportunity Act and Community Action Programs, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, clean air and clean water legislation, the Economic Opportunity Act and Community Action Programs, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, clean air and clean water legislation.

Overall, I am happy to report that the department is currently growing and remains one of the most research productive in the College. Our Ph.D. program is now recognized as one of the second largest on campus, and we continue to place our graduates in tenure track and post-doc positions. Just this past year, the department saw seven of its graduates receive tenure track positions at institutions across the country. Congratulations to you all, and best wishes as you take your careers.

Last year turned out to be a transitional year for the department. Colleagues were informed that two longstanding faculty members, Professors Beth Schwartz and Benjamin Grof-Fitzgibbon, would be leaving their tenured positions to pursue other opportunities. The relocation was to the great Northwest where she now works in the nonprofit world of philanthropy. Grof-Fitzgibbon headed the call of the late night phone. It was a call issued by the United States Department of State. He has now received full credentials as a diplomat and is currently working in the Far East. The halls of Old Main are not the same without Schwartz and Grof-Fitzgibbon, but we wish them both the best in their academic and home front, the department welcomed three new arrivals to our ranks. Prof. Shawn Austin joined the department as our new Colonial Latin Americanist. Prof. Austin researches and writes on colonial Paraguay, and we have heard nothing but good things about his teaching. Prof. Todd Cleveland, the department’s new Africanist, hit the ground running. Cleveland’s love for Africa and desire to expose others to the continent led him to establish a study abroad to South Africa during his first year. Cleveland researches and writes on Lusophone Africa with a concentration on the mining industry, tourism, and the environment. Prof. Kelly Hammond joined the department as our new East Asia historian. Hammond researches and writes on the history of Islam and contemporary Asia, particularly focusing about medical anthropology and the political, social, and cultural history of Chinese Muslims from the Qing Dynasty through the People’s Republic of China. The book he is working on is a rather smooth transition into the department, and we wish them much success as they begin their careers at the University. In addition, after a busy hiring season, the department will welcome three new colleagues for 2016-2017. Prof. Sarah Rodriguez will research, write, and teach in the field of antebellum history. Prof. Lauren (Ren) Pepitone will serve as our new Victorianist, and Prof. Rocío González will join the tenure-track faculty as an environmental historian with an emphasis on Modern Mexico. Over the next year, please extend a warm welcome to our new colleagues.

Not only did the department witness transitions within the faculty ranks, but several of our colleagues began new administrative positions. Prof. Laurence Hare agreed to serve as the new director of International Relations, taking on the program’s legion of responsibilities. Meanwhile, Cleveland C. Burton Endowed Chair. Chancellor Joseph Steinmetz appointed Prof. Charles Robinson to the position of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. Robinson now oversees a budget of over $87 million, not bad for a historian! Who says the analytical and writing skills historians develop aren’t useful?

Prof. Kathy Sloan accepted an appointment to serve as the associate dean of humanities for Fulbright College, replacing our very own Lynda Coon who had, in turn, been elevated to dean of the Honors College. Coon and Sloan, for the past seven years, led our department through a period of tremendous growth. Their administrative acumen became well known across campus as they successfully guided many of us through the tenure and promotion processes. Sloan’s decision to join the dean’s office left a vacancy in the chair’s position, so friends, find out more, and if you have an hour like nothing I had ever seen before. And, sticklers, we know it’s actually a parallelogram, but you try telling RBW that. It’s all here, folks—Medicare and Medicaid, the Civil Right Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Economic Opportunity Act and Community Action Programs, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, clean air and clean water legislation.

Letter from the Chair

Calvin White, Jr.

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Since taking on the job as director of graduate studies this past August, I have been impressed with the activities of our current graduate students and the literal flood of original research papers, articles, book reviews, and dissertations they produce each and every year. Many thanks to those graduate directors who have gone before me—Trish Starks, Kathy Sloan, Rick Sonn, and David Sloan—who helped start the journeyes of the graduate students who finished this year.

And what a year it was for the history department—we saw the budding of eight PhD students who now are primed to exit the nest and take flight to the next chapter of their academic lives. The following successfully defended their dissertations in the past year:

American History:
The Denotation of Christianity in Colonial Kenya* (Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon)
Justin Gage, *Intertemporal Community: The Spread of the Ghost Dance* (Beth Grob-Fitzgibbon)
Rebecca Howard, *Civil War Unionists and their Legacy in the Arkansas Ozarks* (Jeanne Whyne)
Blake Duffield, *The Greif Men of Empire: Framing Britain’s Official Mind, 1834-1937* (Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon)

Jeffrey Grooms, *Singing Like a Canary: ‘O say Can you see the US passport, perhaps too much, in my classes, but my students cheer every time I sing it.*

Matthew Parnell, *Youth ... Power... Egypt: The Development of Youth as a Sociopolitical Concept and Force in Egypt, 1805-1937* (Joe Gordon)
Likewise, the ever-busy faculty also supervised the passage of seven MA students who successfully completed their defense last summer:
Stuart Bailey, “Volkswagen and Volkswagen: The Concept, the Car, and the Company in Four Germanies and the United States” (Laurence Haire)
Aric Hughes, “A Light in Darkness, Oscar Micheaux: Entrepeneur, Intellectual, Agitator” (Calvin White)
Karl Krotke, “The Growth of the Russian Orthodox Church in America: Influences during the Tenure of Bishop Tikhon” (Trica Starks)
Anna Crayton, “John Paul Hammerschmidt and the Early Struggle for the Construction of Interstate 49” (Jennie Whyne)
Chadwick Toy, “The Way of the Gods: The Development of Shinto Nationalism in Early Modern Japan” (Elizabeth Markham)
Max Brinson, “A Watchman on the Walls: Ezekiel and Reaction to Invasion in Anglo-Saxon England” (Joshua Smith—English)
Wen Yang, “The Principle of Dong Zhongsui’s Omen Discourse and Wang Chong’s Criticism of Heaven’s Reprimand in the Chapter ‘Quan Guo’ (Liang Cai)

The department also honors the following students who passed their comprehensive exams and entered the ABD ranks this year: Anne Marie Martin, Baris Basturk, Jason Phillips, Daniel Fischer, and Rebekah McMillan.

In an increasingly rough job market, several of our graduates have secured gainful employment, the ultimate test of a historian’s might!”
Bianca Rowlett accepted a tenure-track position in history at University of South Carolina-Sumter for Fall 2016.

Amanda Ford left the department mid-year for a tenure-track position at Carson-Newman University for Spring 2016.

Blake Duffield accepted a tenure-track position in history at Central Baptist College for Fall 2016.

Rebecca Howard has taken a tenure-track position in history at Lone Star College for Fall 2016.

However, those graduate students who have yet to experience the delight of a successful thesis or dissertation defense will redouble their efforts when no ditches—they continue to rack up awards and honors for the department each and every day. Here is but a sampling of some of those awardees:

Misti Harper, ABD, won the highly competitive Fulbright College Dissertation Research Award ($5,000) to support her dissertation “And They Entered as Ladies: When Race, Class, and Black Femininity Clashed at Central High School,” directed by Dr. Calvin White.

Chelse Hodge, PhD Student, received the Arkansas Women’s History Institute’s Susie Pryor Award for the best unpublished essay on Arkansas, and history for “The Coal Operator’s Daughter: Folklore and Labor Activism in the Upland South,” directed by Dr. Melissa Stone.

Michael Powers, PhD Candidate, won a Global Youth Fellowship from Tulane University’s New Orleans Center for the Gulf South which will enable him to conduct research on his dissertation, “The Commercial Union of the Three Americas: Major Edward Burde and Transnational New South Visions, 1870-1928,” directed by Professor Sutherland.

Finally, several of our newly minted PhDs were honored for work done while they were students here.

Rebecca Howard received the James L. Foster and Billy W. Beason Award for her outstanding contribution to Arkansas History for the dissertation, “Civil War Unionists and their Legacy in the Arkansas Ozarks” directed by Professor Jeanne Whyne.

Aaron Moulton won the Sturgis Leavitt Award for the best article on a Latin American or Iberian subject from the International Council for Latin American Studies for his 2015 Cold War History article “Building their own Cold War in their own backyard: The Trans-Andean Community of Universities and the Great Caribbean Basin, 1943-1954” directed by Professor James G. Giganinto.

Nikolay Antov, assistant professor, has secured a contract from Cambridge University Press to publish his book, *The Blaabjerg Frontier in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries*. Last January, he represented the U of A and the King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies at the annual delegates meeting of the American Research Institute in Turkey.

Shawn M. Austin, assistant professor, is betting that he will win the prize for crossing the most foreign borders this summer. We suspect Wolkpert, Markham, and Cleveland, at very least, might call that bet and maybe even raise.

Austin was in Cuzco, prepping a study abroad trip for the H2P Passport course, and then pursued research in Sucre, Boliva, and Buenos Aires, and ended up in Montevideo to attend an academic conference and present a paper. Last May, Austin went to his son’s baseball game in Prairie Grove and was thrilled to discover that History's own Brenda Foster was the umpire. This being his first year here, he is only beginning to appreciate the range of Brenda’s talents, which include, for instance, synthesizing water during dry spells.

Carre Banton, assistant professor, isn’t speaking to the newsletter. Out of kindness, I suppose. But it hasn’t escaped our attention that Banton spent much of the academic year in New York City, making the most of a research fellowship at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. This summer, she led the U of A biannual study abroad trip to Ghana.

Aaron Moulton, assistant professor, is singing like a canary: “O say can you see the dawning’s early light…” This was the big event of 2015. I had to sing that at our Fort Smith ‘we don’t build walls’ office, to become a US citizen after many, many years of my holding operation, perfectly content with a green card. But it’s time to vote now! I have bragged about my new passport, perhaps too much, in my classes, but my students cheer every time I sing it.

*The Talk of the Gown*

*Johnie Milton, assistant professor, is...*
During the 1970s appeared this year in a book aptly titled Reassessing America in the 1930s: U.S. Public Diplomacy and the Rebuilding of America’s Image Abroad (Manchester University Press). And so did an essay and an article on the usual Eurosceptics. And I’m still working on the rarely explored (at least by US subjects) US-Italian relations through the lens of the Garibaldians that will see the light of day at some point.

Evan B. Bukey, professor emeritus, presented the Sol and Toby Reich lecture on “New Insights on the Holocaust” at the Interdisciplinary History Studies Annual Meeting in April. He reported that when Hitler’s People’s Court, hoping to generate two books from this research. In her new role as Dean of the Honors College, she has enjoyed partnering with the amazing faculty of history to increase international educational experiences of honors students at the U of A. This summer, they could join Todd Cleveland and Alex Marxo in South Africa. Stay tuned in January 2017 for H22Passport in Peru with Shawn Austin and Laurence Hare (H22 Passport is the embedded study abroad section of the three-semester honors sequence in world cultures: the Honors Humanities Project).

Freddy Dominguez, assistant professor, is not speaking to History Newsletter. A close friend of Tudor politics, he must have sensed the editor is headed for the chopping block. Let’s hope he’s right.

James Gigantino, associate professor and associate chair, began a week-long backpacking trip in Yellowstone National Park country last summer before he was the department’s director of undergraduate studies, a position he held for about two months. After a few weeks of working without cell service, he got back into civilization with a series of text messages from newly elected chair Calvin Cleveland, handed over the (and lockbox) of the U of As Kings Fahd Center for Middle East Studies and went off on a sabbatical year. He published a piece entitled “Crosscutting Boundaries in Middle Eastern Film” in History Compass and has essays forthcoming in a collection on the history of the internet, edited by Geoffrey Jensen and Eric Kurlander. He also presented a paper at the 2015 Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting in April.

Rocio Gomez, assistant professor, has scored a contract with the University of Nebraska Press for publication of her first book, Silver Violets and Dusty Lungs: Water, Public Health, and the Environmental Legacies of Industry in Modern Mexico, 1835-1945. Todd Cleveland, professor, handed over the (and lockbox) of the U of As Kings Fahd Center for Middle East Studies and went off on a sabbatical last fall. He published a piece entitled “Crosscutting Boundaries in Middle Eastern Film” in History Compass and has essays forthcoming in a collection on the history of the internet, edited by Geoffrey Jensen and Eric Kurlander. He also presented a paper at the 2015 Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting in April.

The Department’s earnest hope is that our PhD students’ contributions to scholarship don’t end with completion of their dissertations. No, we expect that once that doctoral thesis is honed and buffed and polished, once the errant which becomes a that and comprised is used correctly, it will become an honest to God book published by a distinguished press. Recently, a whole slate of our alumni have taken that next step. Michael Davis, associate professor of history at Liberty University, saw his Politics in Usual, Teddy Dewey, Franklin Roosevelt, and the War Terrible, Presidential Campaigns of 1944 published by Northern Illinois University Press. This study of Dewey before he climbed aboard the wedding cake began as a dissertation directed by Randall Woods and defender in 2005. We sensed that Derek Everett would never stop talking about state boundaries and, sure enough, his dissertation, scouted out by Elliott West, finally crossed the line and became Creating the American West: Boundaries and Borderlands (University of Oklahoma Press). His dissertation surveys on the subject at Metropolitan State University in Denver. Michael Martin has built a machine the Regents might envy as director of the Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and managing editor of Louisiana History. Appropriately enough, his biography, Russell Long: A Life in Politics, appeared in 2014 from the University Press of Mississippi. It is an amended version of his 2003 dissertation chaired by Randall Woods. Jason Pierce has been struggling mightily to meet Texas’s desperate need for enrollment as associate professor of history at Angelo State University, but he has somehow found time to turn his 2008 dissertation, directed by Elliott West, into Making the White Man’s West: Whiteness and the Creation of the American West, published by the University of Colorado Press. Matthew Stith is similarly bringing light to Lone Star darkness as assistant professor of history at the University of Texas at Tyler. After his defense of his 2010 dissertation, captained by Daniel Sutherland, Stith kept fighting until Louisiana State University Press surrendered Extreme Civil War: Guerrilla Warfare, Environment, and Race in the Frontier this past spring.

The Department might also claim a paternity of sorts in several other recent releases. Geoffrey Jensen (PhD 2009), assistant professor of history at Emory-Riddle Aeronautical University, has edited The Routledge Handbook of the History of American Military, which, lo and behold, includes essays by both Matthew Stith and assistant professor of history Steven Rosales. Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon, as newsletter readers know, has joined the French Foreign Legion. But his Continental Drift: Britain and Europe from the End of Empire to the Rise of Euroscepticism, released by Cambridge University Press the same month as the Brexit vote, was largely written on our dime. All these fine books can be easily obtained from online vendors. But why don’t you order them from your local independent bookseller instead? Waiting a few days won’t kill you.

All the newest make book

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Elizabeth Markham, professor, writes: “For us nothing comes easily to the mind for the newsletter—we had to put a lot of effort into this issue.”

Kelli Hammond, assistant professor, isn’t speaking to the newsletter. But you can read about her elsewhere in this issue.

Lauren Hare, associate professor, published a chapter with Fabian Link (University of Frankfurt). “Prejudice Reconsidered: SS Research and the Archaeology of Haithabu,” which appeared in October in Revisiting the “Nazi Occult”: Histories, Realities, Legacies, edited by Monica Black and Eric Kurlander. He also presented a paper at the 2015 Southern Historical Association conference in Little Rock: “The Fate of Volksgemeinschaft: The Concept and Ethics of Community in Early Postwar Germany.” In March, he was invited by the Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation to the Suzzau campus of Rostum University in China to participate in an international colloquium on “The Internet and the Future.” Hare presented a paper entitled “Historian’s Work in the Age of Facebook and Tomorrow’s Internet,” in which he considered in cross-cultural perspective how cultural visions of the future have changed over time, with a particular focus on the development and utilization of computer networking technology from the 1960s until the Y2K conversion crisis of 1999. Hare’s travels (for research) have taken him to Vietnam and Central Europe, where he joined Dr. Martin Nedbal in leading the inaugural Honors Humanities study abroad course in Vienna and Prague. Closer to home, Hare began serving as director of the Fulbright College International Studies program and co-director with Thomas Gowing of the Fulbright Americas International Studies program. In April, Fulbright College recognized him with the Outstanding Advising Award.

Gordon also screened and discussed Jehane Noujaim’s Oscar-nominated documentary The Square (2013) at ULAR last April. Finally, Gordon was interviewed at length by al-Jazeera in a feature-length documentary on the great Cairo fire of 1919.

Research...to return to Austria in the fall for further study...
overhauling courses we had made to try to accommodate changed student demographics, new course-restrictions, changed regulations about student demographics, new course-restrictions, changed regulations about student demographics, new course...

Charles Muntz, assistant professor, reports that Oxford University Press has accepted the final draft of his book titled ‘Diodorus Siculus and the World of the Late Roman Republic’. It should be available for purchase early next year. He delivered a very successful paper on Diodorus at the annual meeting of the Society of Classical Studies in San Francisco.

Michael Pierce, associate professor, has finished the bulk of the archival research on his book project, which examines the ways that a coalition of trade unionists, black Civil Rights activists, and liberal politicians like David Pryor, Dale Bumpers, and Bill Clinton rejected it in Arkansas.

Steven Robinson, assistant professor, signed an advance contract with the University of Arizona Press to publish his book on the early twentieth-century American political and social reformer, Charles Francis Adams Sr.

James Whistler, who, to commemorate the centennial of the Dublin Easter Rising of 1916, gave an illustrated and musically-introduced talk (during which a terrible beauty was born) on ‘Ireland’s Challenge to Empires’, is currently working on a research project titled ‘Jewish Modernism: Immigrant Artists in Paris, 1900-1940,’ and has submitted a chapter called ‘Jewish Expressionists in France, 1910-1940’ for a book being edited by a German art historian, Dr. Isabel Wünsche, called Expressionism outside Germany: Artistic Networks and Cultural Debates. He also presented a paper, ‘Jewish Modernism: Marketing Art in 1920s Montparnasse’, at the Western Society for French History Conference in Chicago, last November. To further his understanding of what is involved in being an artist, he has been auditing a course on figure painting, which has been challenging, time-consuming, and fulfilling.

Tricia Starks, assistant professor, stepped down as director of graduate student programs this past year to take up the pipe- smoking and finish her monograph on smoking, thanks to the aid of a Grant for Scholarly Research award from the Office of Sponsored Research. She presented a paper on her work at the Social Imaginary in Modern Mexico conference at the National Institute of History and the Social Sciences this past February, and also before the Missouri Council for History Education, and lectured to a packed house at the Old State House Museum in Little Rock.

Sonn continues to lead the screenplay someday and she has already identified which historian-adjacent colleges will play the juiciest roles, including that of the diopo professor who cracks wise.

Richard Sonn, professor, taught a combined honors colloquium/graduate seminar, “Sexuality, Gender, and the State in Europe,” last fall. He had never before combined undergrads and grad students in a seminar, and works with the interactions that took place. In the fall and winter, Sonn served on the British history search committee, which resulted in the hiring of Lauren Pepitone. During the Spring 2016 semester he organized two lectures here in Madison (one of which was on Jewish history and music at the University of Cincinnati, author of Bonds of Brotherhood: Jews and Muslims in France and North Africa, published by Harvard in 2015 and winner of awards in Jewish Studies and Women’s Studies). The other was our very own emeritus, Tom Kennedy, who, to commemorate the centennial of the Dublin Easter Rising of 1916, gave an illustrated and musically-informed talk (during which a terrible beauty was born) on ‘Ireland’s Challenge to Empires’, is currently working on a research project titled ‘Jewish Modernism: Immigrant Artists in Paris, 1900-1940,’ and has submitted a chapter called ‘Jewish Expressionists in France, 1910-1940’ for a book being edited by a German art historian, Dr. Isabel Wünsche, called Expressionism outside Germany: Artistic Networks and Cultural Debates. He also presented a paper, ‘Jewish Modernism: Marketing Art in 1920s Montparnasse’, at the Western Society for French History Conference in Chicago, last November. To further his understanding of what is involved in being an artist, he has been auditing a course on figure painting, which has been challenging, time-consuming, and fulfilling.

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She received her PhD from the University of Arizona, as a delegate with Oxford University Press, and, this past year, directed a panel on ‘The Remaking of Rural Society in the Twentieth Century South: Communities and the Environment in the Lower Mississippi River Valley’, and the other was our very own emeritus, Tom Kennedy, who, to commemorate the centennial of the Dublin Easter Rising of 1916, gave an illustrated and musically-introduced talk (during which a terrible beauty was born) on ‘Ireland’s Challenge to Empires’, is currently working on a research project titled ‘Jewish Modernism: Immigrant Artists in Paris, 1900-1940,’ and has submitted a chapter called ‘Jewish Expressionists in France, 1910-1940’ for a book being edited by a German art historian, Dr. Isabel Wünsche, called Expressionism outside Germany: Artistic Networks and Cultural Debates. He also presented a paper, ‘Jewish Modernism: Marketing Art in 1920s Montparnasse’, at the Western Society for French History Conference in Chicago, last November. To further his understanding of what is involved in being an artist, he has been auditing a course on figure painting, which has been challenging, time-consuming, and fulfilling.

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Can You Help?

Our alumni and friends have been very generous, but we continue to need your support to maintain our tradition of excellence. 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, travel for 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.


Gifts to the Department should be sent to: Dr. Calvin White, 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 Gateway Fellowship may be sent to: 325 Administration Building, 1 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville 72701, while checks to the James J. Hudson Fellowship should be forwarded to: Dean of the Graduate School, 340 N. Campus Dr., Gearhart Hall, Fayetteville AR 72701. Gifts to the Walter L. Brown Endowment should be directed to the Fulbright College Development Office, 525 Old Main, 1 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville AR 72701.

Martha Rice Brewer (BA 1958; MA 2002), has, since 2012, been part of a group of alumni, faculty, and former Fayetteville’s oldest organized church. The First United Presbyterian Church was founded in 1838 and has a long and interesting story. There was one small history written in 1930, but other than that, none has appeared. The group plans to have the book completed by October 2016.

Stephen A. Bunch (BA 2008) lives in Bryant, is licensed in insurance, and currently works as an insurance investigator at the Arkansas Insurance Department. “I always enjoy coming back to Fayetteville to call the Hogs!”

Matt Byron (PhD 2008) became the chair of the history department at Young Harris College last summer. His essay “An Honorable Death?: The Stuart-Bennett Duel of 1819” will appear in the forthcoming book The Field of Honor: Essays on Southern Character and American Identity (South Carolina Press, Feb 2016).“ I couldn’t be prouder!”

Georgia Carter (BA 1958; MA 1999; PhD 2008) was an instructor at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and is now the chair of the history department at South Alabama. She recently published a book, The First United Presbyterian Church of Montgomery: 1780-2013. “I will finish this program on the 4th of July, which will give me an added reason to celebrate. I will then be able to book a formal admission ceremony in the Supreme Court of Victoria. It’s taken quite a while, but I fully expect to be a lawyer by the end of this year! I am hoping to stay in Victoria for the next several years and build my career as a lawyer in Melbourne. I am currently in the process of applying for a permanent residence visa.”

Douglass E. Coleman (BA 1980; MA 1983) writes: “Another happy, healthy 66 years on the clock! I am encouraging others to become more comfortable with the new open office furniture that my workspace in my workplace is adopting. One more change I’ve seen over the years. Shoot, I’m so old now, I can remember doing data retrieval using IBM punch cards! As I mentioned last year, I’ve moved outside management and back to a technical position so that I can better assist the training of others as they begin their professional careers. This is something I find satisfying especially since it allows me to still be quietly influential. This year marks a special milestone for me and my son. Turn 60 in December, and my son graduated from the University of Maryland this past May. My wife and I are still in New Market, Maryland, about equidistant between Baltimore and Washington. After a cool, wet spring we are looking forward to enjoying the warm days of summer, gardening, and keeping busy at each other.”

Charley D. Cotton (BA 1967) is chairman of the board of the Presidential Archives and Leadership Library at the University of Texas at the Permian Basin in Odessa. “I’m retired and currently a resident of Walker, Texas. I was the third time as director of UTPB’s John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute. He is very active in Rotary and will be serving this year as chairman of the board of trustees for Lone Star P.E.T.S., a group that trains over 500 local Rotary clubs to help veterans in their leadership duties. He is also a consultant for leadership education training programs.”

Molly K. Cowan (BA 2013) got her master’s degree in the Art of Teaching (2014) and is pursuing her Ph.D. in sociology, and world geography at Blue Valley High School in Overland Park, KS. She will be leading a trip to Japan with her students in July 2018. Molly recently joined the Kansas City Catholic Pipes and Drums, a bagpipe band. In October 2013, she married Clay Johnson, another Arkansas grad.

Kaleb Cox (BA 2012) graduated from the University of Melbourne in December 2015 with a Juris Doctor degree. In January 2016, he started a six-month program for a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, which is a prerequisite for admission as a lawyer in Australia. “I will finish this program on the 4th of July, which will give me an added reason to celebrate. I will then be able to book a formal admission ceremony in the Supreme Court of Victoria. It’s taken quite a while, but I fully expect to be a lawyer by the end of this year! I am hoping to stay in Victoria for the next several years and build my career as a lawyer in Melbourne. I am currently in the process of applying for a permanent residence visa.”

Edwin D. Crane (BA 1976) lives in Melbourne, Australia. “I am honored by the Oklahoma National Guard Association and made an honorary member for pro bono legal work. Currently I am in conjunction with the group’s annual leadership conference and military ball. This is my 37th year in nonprofit fundraising, with the last eight years spent as a full-time consultant to a variety of nonprofit organizations ranging from social services to the arts and from health care to education.”

John Kyle Day (BA 1997; MA 1999; PhD 2006 [University of Missouri]) is still associate professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He is currently serving on the board of the Arkansas Humanities Council, and on the second and third year as chair. He also serves on the board of trustees of the Arkansas Historical Society.

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Historical Association and on the Drew County Historical Commission and Drew County Historical Society. In 1994, he was appointed to the bench and retired from the bench in 1995, and he served for 17 years in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. Folsom retired from the bench in March 2012. During his tenure, he conducted over 250 trials and held approximately 75 jury trials and 2,000 oppressions. He was also a construction hearing examiner and served by designation on the Courts of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and for the Federal Circuit.

Rita Geiger (BA 1966) was recently selected by the Oklahoma City Alpha Chi Omega Alumnae Chapter as the Alpha Chi Omega Woman of the Year and was honored at the 2016 Oklahoma City Panhellenic Women of the Year luncheon. Last spring she was recognized as one of the 2015 Alpha Chi Omega Real: Strong, Women of Distinction. In May she completed two three-year terms on the Arkansas Alumni Association National Board of Directors.

Charles E. Gray (MA 1950) writes: “In the middle of the last century I earned three degrees in historical studies. Those years I became an emeritus professor of history at Illinois State University. Thus, due to my credentials and experience I became a historian, and due to my longevity I am now a BECOME historian. Currently I am in the process of developing my credentials as a practicing curmudgeon. Best regards to everyone.”

Steve Gunter (MA 1974) has retired from his job as bellman/valet at the Bentonville’s 2C Museum Hotel, where he had worked since the hotel’s opening in 1983. He is now in “the fulltime grandpa business—swimming—tennis—tennis—tennis tomorrow—Life is very good!”

Nathan Howard (PhD 2005) finished his tenth year at the University of Tennessee at Martin where he is associate professor of history. He continues to investigate fourth-century Christianity in the Roman province of Cappadocia and is currently working on a book grant from UT Martin. In August 2015 he delivered a paper at the International Congress on Patristic Studies at Oxford University entitled “Sacred Spectacle in the Lives of the Church Fathers: an analysis of the representation of two Cappadocian saints. In May and June 2016 he presented a paper, “Textual Encounters in Cappadocian Epitaphiology,” at the North American Patristics Society Conference in Chicago and at the College of Saint Louis Lipscomb University. One of his favorite experiences of the year was traveling to Normandy for the first time last August, with tours to the D-Day Beaches, Caen, the Bayeux Tapestry, and Mont Saint-Michel.

Clea Hupp (PhD 2004) is chair of the department of history at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Ben Johnson (PhD 1991) served as interim Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Southern Arkansas University during 2015-16. He happily returns to his full-time faculty position in the history department for 2016-17.

Jennifer Koenig Johnson (BA 2008) is a reference librarian at the Springfield Public Library. She recently published “Best Apps for Reference and Information Services: A Guide for Librarians and Information Professionals,” and also reviews books for that journal. She presented “Get App Happy: Utilizing Apps to Enhance Reference and Information Services” at Going Out of Bounds with Reference Services, an Amigos online conference last February. Jennifer and her spouse, Brian, (also U of A graduate ’61), is a relief veterinarian in his retirement years. Their daughter, Ashley, includes 1 great granddaughter. “Love the Razorbacks and would love to host them in one of the two Orlando Bowl games.”

Sam Kellfer (BA 2012) just finished his first year of graduate school at the Boston College School of Social Work and has social work with a focus in geriatrics. He, too, exclaims, “Go Hogs!”

Joseph Key (PhD 2000) is associate professor and chair of the history department at Arkansas State University. He recently finished his second term as vice president of the Arkansas Historical Association.

J.W. Looney (MA 2010) of Mena has a new book, Distinguishing the Righteous: Lessons from the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial (Commission proceedings to be published in fall 2016), and I am at work on a dissertation on a legal history, my dissertation in legal studies from the University of Nevada-Reno. Looney examines the court’s decisions in this tumultuous era and shows how the court balanced the countervailing pressures of the elite class and promote social and political stability by preserving the institution of slavery at the expense of broader economic development.

Jason McCollom (PhD 2015) is chair of the history department at Missouri State University and editor of the Missouri Times and the Missouri Historical Review. He lives in Conway and looks forward to each new edition of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly.

April Brown Najjaj (PhD 1998, MA 1993, MA 1989) is still recovering from a stroke. She lives in Conway and looks forward to each new edition of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly. John H. Morris (BA 1959, MA 1969) moved to Corpus Christi, TX, in 2013, after spending some years teaching as an adjunct at Northwest Nazarene University. He has been on the job market for six years in Tchula in the Mississippi delta. His hobbies are hunting, fishing and gardening. His wife and I enjoy traveling, reading, and writing. Hogs vs. Horns! My wife is a 1970 UT Austin graduate.”

Arthur E. McEnany (PhD 1972) lives in Madisonville, LA. He worked for the Louisiana state senate as a law librarian and then went to the Louisiana state history, and is still struggling to find a teaching position, as “handsome as his great grandfather.” They welcomed their first great-grandchild, Parker, on June 1st, and he’s “as handsome as his great grandfather.” Their other five great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren spent a summer after two years teaching Middle Eastern and American history at Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, FL, and is working hard at “keeping [him] happy with my gourmet cooking.” They welcomed their first great-grandchild, Parker, on June 1st, and he’s “as handsome as his great grandfather.”

J. Paul Moore (BA 1981; MEd 1986) retired from the Edmond, OK, public schools and is working hard at “keeping [him] happy with my gourmet cooking.” They welcomed their first great-grandchild, Parker, on June 1st, and he’s “as handsome as his great grandfather.”

Joseph Key (PhD 2000) is associate professor and chair of the history department at Arkansas State University. He recently finished his second term as vice president of the Arkansas Historical Association. He lives in Conway and looks forward to each new edition of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly.

Dr. Michael Pierce, as well as his PhD student, John H. Morris, reported on his projects. Finally, Dr. Pierce mentioned that one of the highlights of his career was presenting his copy of my Mandolin Magic CD,Patrick postscripted by asking if I knew David Trezvant, who is a professor of history for Arkansas Studies, and son of Brother Al Stricklin of Texas Playboy fame. At Patrick’s suggestion, I contacted the Bob Wills Memorial Foundation and struck up an immediate friendship leading to my present involvement in promoting the uniquely American art music of Bob Wills. The recent passing of the Great Bob Wills legacy in particular. Amazing where a little postscript aside can lead. My best to all History alumni and to those of you whose task it is to carry on the illuminating work of the grandest of departments at the U of A.”

Waddy W. Moore III (BSE 1953, MA 1955) is still recovering from a stroke. He lives in Conway and looks forward to each new edition of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly.
Nicholas Nimocks (MA 1956), when asked for news of the last year, answers “How about news of the past sixty years! Briefly, I have been retired since 1996, after teaching at the University of Kentucky College. All my profs (and I suppose most of my fellow grad students at the U of A are long gone. But I remember them with affection and respect, especially Professor McNeil. After the U of A came Vanderbilt and a PhD. After that came history—in several ways. Thank God for the GI Bill!”

Dr. Nimocks lives in Danville, KY.

Walter Nimocks, after the U of A came Vanderbilt and a PhD. After that came history—in several ways. Thank God for the GI Bill!”

Emily Rogers (BA 2008) writes, “I graduated from U of A in May 2014 with a BA in History and minors in English and French at Pace Academy here in Atlanta.” Caitlin Morris, who teaches history and museum studies, I worked with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. She will be 29 in November and, as of this writing, is engaged to be married this fall in Charlottesville, VA, to Scott Morris, a lawyer in Nashville, Tennessee. She says she ‘graduated from U of A in May 2014 with a BA in History and minors in English and French at Pace Academy here in Atlanta.”

Christopher Teter (BA 1987) is a night lobby supervisor at Gorman Tower Apartments in downtown Little Rock, Arkansas. He is retired from the Marine Corps in 1960 and, upon his discharge in 1964, returned to Missouri. He worked in the petroleum industry as vice president of Jack Pew Oil Company and JBR, Inc. He was also a volunteer fireman in Noel for many years and is now a member of the Noel School Board. Bill Chamberlain is survived by his wife, Barbara, whom he married in 1965, two sons, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Deaths

William D. Chamberlain died on May 27, 2016, in Noel, MO. He was born in 1942 in Hampton, Iowa, and spent early years in Chicago before moving with his family to Noel. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1960 and, upon his discharge in 1964, returned to Missouri. He worked in the petroleum industry as vice president of Jack Pew Oil Company and JBR, Inc. He was also a volunteer fireman in Noel for many years and is now a member of the Noel School Board. Bill Chamberlain is survived by his wife, Barbara, whom he married in 1965, two sons, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Salisbury Warren (BA 1949) continues to practice healthcare law in Nashville, Tennessee. She says she has a wonderful husband (even if he is an engineer) and 2 boys who are in middle school. “The upside of getting older and having a harder time falling asleep is having more opportunities to read, and I still love to read history books.” Last fall we made our first trip with our boys to campus and got to show them our names on Senior Walk. We look forward to future visits (a lot has changed, but thank goodness Braun’s still exists). Our first stop was there for ice cream. Someone please move this franchise east of the Mississippi.”
Hot Off the Press

The latest volume of the Ozark Historical Review is now available online at the Department’s website. Published in the Spring semester by the Department of History, the Ozark Historical Review offers the University of Arkansas’s top history students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels a chance to showcase their original research and historiographic investigations. Here are its latest offerings:


“Divinity and Royalty in the Writings of Motoori Norinaga,” by Chad Totty.


Read these and the past eight seasons’ worth at: history.uark.edu.

Any queries or submissions should be directed to the editor, Prof. Rembrandt Wolpert at: wolpert@uark.edu.

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We would like to thank Jeanne Short, Brenda Foster, Calvin White, Jr., and James Gigantino for their assistance.

Patrick Williams
Editor

Melinda Adams
Assistant Editor

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