

# The History NEWSLETTER

A High-Impact Journal for Alumni and Friends, Department of History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

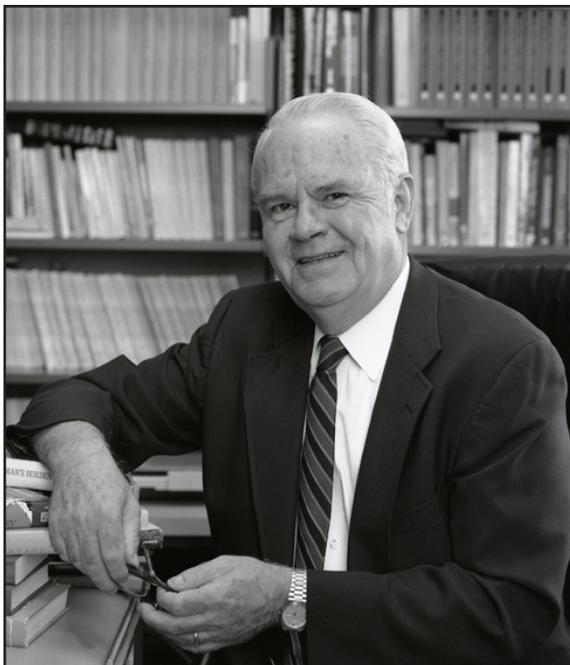
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## Willard Gatewood 1931-2011

Willard Gatewood didn't have much use for blarney or ballyhoo. He would likely have (politely) recoiled—or arched a skeptical eyebrow—at being called the single most influential individual in the Department of History's history. But few of his colleagues, students, friends, or legatees would hesitate to identify him as such. The many tributes offered up after Dr. Gatewood's death in Fayetteville on October 23, 2011, almost inevitably described him as a "Southern gentleman" or "gentleman scholar." But if he was the quintessence of a type, he was also a species unto himself, other members of which exist neither in captivity nor in the wild.

Willard B. Gatewood, Jr., was born on a farm in Caswell County, North Carolina, on February 23, 1931. It took him a while to scrape the tar off his heels (if indeed he ever did). He earned his BA, MA, and PhD all at Duke University, and, though he taught for a year (1957-58) at East Tennessee State University, he subsequently held faculty positions at East Carolina University (1958-60) and North Carolina Wesleyan College (1960-1964). In 1964, he moved on to minister to the bulldogs and the crackers, rising to

professor of history at the University of Georgia. Athens would honor Gatewood both as a teacher and researcher, and, in the space of six years, he directed ten doctoral dissertations there.



Dr. Gatewood

This record clearly piqued the interest of the University of Arkansas, which appointed Willard Gatewood to its first endowed chair, Alumni Distinguished Professor of History, in 1970. In his decades at Fayetteville, Gatewood would reshape History at Arkansas, the history of Arkansas, and the study of U.S. history more generally. As his colleague James S. Chase noted upon Gatewood's

retirement in 1998, "His presence on the faculty over the past 28 years has been the single most important factor in the success of the doctoral program." Indeed, he was the rock upon which that program was built. Gatewood supervised the work of twenty-five doctoral students and over thirty master's candidates. In fact, during his tenure, he directed more dissertations than the rest of the Department *combined*. This included overseeing the work of the first woman to earn a doctorate in history at the U of A (Faye Robbins, 1980) and one of the first two African Americans to do so (Bobby Lovett, 1978). This mentorship created a legacy felt far beyond the Ozarks. Many of his students became distinguished and influential historians in their own right, and, as Bobby Lovett notes, "Many of us have educated and trained our own students to pursue graduate degrees in history. And many of these second-generation Gatewood students have become productive scholars, teachers, administrators, and leaders. In this manner, truly, he was a national asset. Indubitably, the legacy of Willard B. Gatewood, Jr. spans beyond his Ph.D. students into a family tree that lives beyond all of us."

But Gatewood was democratic in working his magic, being an extraordinary teacher of undergraduates as well. Chase noted in 1998 that "his undergraduate courses on the 'Emergence of Modern America, 1876-1917' and 'America between the Wars, 1917-1941' have been nothing less than magisterial." They may also have been among the last classes on campus taught with a lit cigarette in hand, instead of a laser pointer or powerpoint clicker. Gatewood carried a sense of

mission even into his survey classes. As one former student, Mari Serebrov, recalls, "When I asked him why he had insisted on teaching a basic undergrad history course every year when he had come to the university to beef up the graduate program, he said: 'I want those students to realize the world didn't begin when they woke up this morning.'"

Former students and younger colleagues not only recall Gatewood's inspiration but his courtesy and kindness. Newly hired faculty so wet behind the ears as to be decidedly fishy in aspect remember their distinguished elder treating them as equals from day one. Many alums say that it was Gatewood who offered that first bit of encouragement or instilled that first bit of confidence that allowed them to find their way professionally. He "had faith in me long before I deserved it," one writes, while another declares, "The reason I am where I am today is that Dr. Gatewood never gave up on me!" Indeed, his interest in and loyalty to students did not end when their work with him did.

But many also recall an occasionally and delightfully wicked Willard, one who might slyly describe a particularly hapless faculty member (*not in the Department of History*) as "not much smarter than a sheep."

Many of us could hope to build this sort of legacy only over the course of several dozen lifetimes, but Willard Gatewood found time to make a deep mark, too, as a researcher and writer. He wrote, edited, or coedited a dozen books, among them *Aristocrats of Color: The Black Elite, 1880-1920* (1990), which was nominated for a National Book Award, *Black Americans and the White Man's Burden, 1898-1903* (1975), *Theodore Roosevelt and the Art of Controversy* (1970), *Preachers, Pedagogues and Politicians: The Evolution Controversy in North Carolina, 1920-1927* (1966); and, with Timothy P. Donovan, *The Governors of Arkansas: Essays in Political Biography* (1981; rev. 1995). He also published over fifty journal articles. His status as one of the nation's leading scholars of southern and African-American history was recognized many times over. In 1986, Gatewood served as president of the Southern Historical Association, one of the top honors in the field. And at a speech in Muskogee in

1999, John Hope Franklin called Gatewood out of the audience to pay tribute to their intellectual comradeship.

The University of Arkansas, as an institution, also owes Willard Gatewood an unpayable debt. He served as its chancellor in 1984-85 and helped get the ball rolling on a number of signal initiatives, including the restoration of Old Main and the creation of the prestigious Sturgis Fellowships for undergraduates. He also co-founded the thriving University of Arkansas Press. The U of A recognized his manifold

contributions with a Distinguished Research Award, a Teacher of the Year Award, and, in 1994, the inaugural Chancellor's Medal for "excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service to the university." Gatewood's successor as chancellor, Dan Ferritor, told a reporter after his death, "Willard was all that's good about a university. It really is as simple as that. The world has lost a great guy."

History's great guy is survived by his wife, Lu, a daughter, Ellis Elliott, a son, Bill Gatewood, director of the Old State House Museum in Little Rock, and five grandchildren who delighted him. ■

## Department Balkanized

Maybe you've seen Assistant Professor Nikolay Antov at Rick's Café Américain, sitting at that table in the corner, with a cup of coffee and newspapers in all *nine* of the languages he reads spread out around him (that's Ottoman Turkish, Modern Turkish, German, French, Arabic, Russian, Serbian, Bulgarian, and English). Major Strasser has his suspicions, but clearly Antov's letters of transit are in order. He crosses borders frequently and, it seems, without incident.

Nikolay Antov came to Fayetteville not for the waters (we told him the truth about that) but to teach pre-modern Islamic, Ottoman, and Balkan history. He is a native of Bulgaria and earned his B.A. at American University in Blagoevgrad and his M.A. at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. For his doctoral work, he traveled to Chicago, which, we hear, somewhat resembles the Balkans. He held a series of fellowships at the University of Chicago, including the Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion Dissertation Fellowship and the Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship. He earned his Ph.D. at Chicago with distinction in 2011. Dr. Antov's dissertation and forthcoming book concern Ottoman expansion and the formation in the fifteenth and sixteenth century of the Turkish-Muslim community in Deliorum (northeastern Balkans), a region he calls the "Islamic World's Wild West." Antov defines his research interests as the history of ethnic and religious communities in the Balkans, the treatment they were accorded by the Ottoman state, and their importance for the formation of modern national consciousness, Ottoman demographic history, and historical geography. More generally, he studies the socio-economic and cultural development of the Islamic world since the fourteenth century, with emphasis on imperial expansion, especially along its borders with Christendom. Antov served for a year as a visiting assistant professor of history at Tulane before arriving at the U of A in August 2011.

Call us cosmopolitan, Sam. Nikolay Antov has made a good start at filling Bill Tucker's shoes—though not his hats. ■



Dr. Antov

# P.A.T. Awards Ceremonies 2010-2011

Obviously, if they want to be like us, History students are going to need to get used to winning awards. So we educated them in accepting honors with a firm handshake—and an even firmer grip on the prize money—at the Department's annual awards extravaganza on May 3, 2012, at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House.

The afternoon began with the initiation of the following students into Phi Alpha Theta, history's most distinguished honors society: Stuart T. Bailey, James M. Brown, Emily A. Bullington, Mary McDade Casteel, David P. Chaffin, Sharon L. Fox, Ronald J. Gordon, Jennifer A. King, Ivan N. Porter, Sharon M. Possehl, Mason J. Sams, Lydia R. Thompson, Joshua P. Trimble, Charles B. Withnell, and James Campbell Woods, Jr. Alpha Chapter president Alexandria Gough administered the oath, and vice president Aaron Moulton handed the initiates roses, prompting several aged faculty members to recall Ferdinand the Bull.

The proceedings then took a decidedly Vegas turn. Faculty presented the Department's awards with well-practiced gags, song and dance routines, and, in a few cases, acrobatics. They were ably assisted by showgirls clad in mortarboards and not much else except strategically positioned sequins.

Flashcubes popped as these graduate awards and honors were announced: *George Billingsley Award for the best paper on a Middle Eastern or Asian topic*: Yulia Uryadova; *Gordon McNeil Graduate Paper Award for an outstanding paper by a graduate student*: Misti Harper; *James J. Hudson Research Fellowship for a graduate student researching a military history topic*: Becky Howard; *Jesse Taylor, Jr. Endowed Scholarship*: Max Brinson, Mary Henderson, Alexander Marino, and Rebekah McMillan; *Mary Hudgins Endowed Scholarship for support of students in the field of Arkansas history*:

Rodney Harris, Chelsea Hodge, and Joshua Trimble; *Mary Hudgins Arkansas History Research Grant to support students in the field of Arkansas history*: Edward Andrus, Louise Hancox, and Aaron Moulton; *Matthew B. Kirkpatrick Prize for Excellence in History Graduate Teaching*: Jason McCollom; *Ralph V. Turner Travel Award*: Jeff Grooms; *Walter Lee Brown Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Scholarship for outstanding research in Arkansas or American history*: Brian Hurley; *Willard B. Gatewood Graduate Fellowship for American history*: Justin Gage, Ron Gordon, and Bianca Rowlett; *Willard B. Gatewood History Graduate Fellowship for research and writing a dissertation on any history topic*: Matt Parnell and Jared Phillips.

Sometimes shielding their eyes, sometimes blushing, undergraduates accepted the following awards: *David W. Edwards Scholarship for an outstanding undergraduate in history*: Victor Rojas, Peregryn Shattuck, and Tyrel Weston; *George W. Ray Memorial Award for history major interested in the study of western civilization*: Daniel Gadeke; *Georgia V. G. Saunders Award for an outstanding student who is a veteran or child of a veteran*: Christopher Warren; *Gordon McNeil Award in European History for the best paper on European history*: Lindsey Smith; *J. Margaret Roberts Endowed Award for academic excellence*: Joshua Windsor; *J. William Fulbright Award for senior History major with the highest GPA*: Rachel Albinson, Kaleb Cox, and Rachel Story; *James J. Hudson Award for Military History*: Thomas Richardson; *Oscar Fendler Award for the best paper on Arkansas or Southern history*: Kaleb Cox; *Phi Alpha Theta Undergraduate Paper Award*: Shauna Gibbons; *Robert E. Reeser Classical Studies Award for an outstanding paper*: Tyler Johnson; *Sidney Moncrief Scholarship for African American history*: Joshua Underdown; *Stokely-McAdoo Family International Study Scholarship to pursue research and study opportunities internationally*: James Brown.

A whole boatload of History majors earned Certificates of Academic Excellence for grade point averages way up there around the Van Allen Belt: Rachel Albinson, Stuart Bailey, Mark

Baker, Michael Baker, Stephen Bentel, Adam Bergan, Brittany Box, Hannah Breshears, Mackenzie Brisben, James Brown, Kelsey Castleberry, David Chaffin, Kaleb Cox, Rush Curtner, Brittani Dockery, Emillie Ellison, Shauna Gibbons, John Hannon, Donald Holler, Scott Hyde, Tyler Johnson, Logan Jostad, William Kibler, Ashley Knott, Michael Lewis, Daniel Lightsey, Isaac Morgan, Nolan Moyer, Matthew O'Shaughnessy, Matthew Owens, Cathryn Perreira, Rachael Reagan, Thomas Richardson, Gregory Rogers, Forrest Roth, Lindsey Smith, Rachel Story, Lydia Thompson, Joshua Tillotson, Renee Tobin, Megan Voss, Beverly Wade, Erin Warden, Michael Wendel, Amy Witherspoon, and Thomas Witty.

Alpha Chapter's officers for 2012-2013 are: Mary Katherine Henderson (president); Sanket Desai (vice president); Adam Carson (secretary); and Elizabeth Kiszonas (treasurer). ■

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## The Department's Bookmakers

The chancellor doesn't have a problem with us, it seems. Instead, David Gearhart led the way in honoring the Department's recent authors at a reception at University House on April 2. Nothing got broken and not a single punch was thrown, but the crowd raised such joyful noise that it might have been heard even as far away as the fifth floor of Old Main. The *seventeen* books (and one CD) that members of the Department have produced since 2009 include the work of *emerti* like Evan Bukey, Tom Kennedy, and Bill Tucker who are making a mockery of retirement, junior faculty on their way to their first promotion, and even a few associate professors who, contrary to the stereotype perpetuated by HBO's academic drama, *Deadwood*, did not repair to opium dens upon being awarded tenure. Previous years' editions of *History Newsletter* will give you the lowdown on 2009 and 2010 publications. Here's 2011.

## The War's Cold, but Brogi's Hot

The book is clad in Warhol and the author in Armani, but the beauty of Alessandro Brogi's *Confronting America: The Cold War between the United States*



*and the Communists in France and Italy* is more than skin-deep. Indeed, the *Journal of American History* has termed *Confronting America* “the finest study of the political and cultural Cold

War waged in western Europe between local communists, who made anti-Americanism a central component of their political agenda, and the United States.” Irwin Wall of the University of California, Riverside calls it “a genuine tour de force.” Brogi based this study of the United States’ decades-long encounter with the thriving Communist parties of its western European allies on work in newly opened Communist archives in Italy and France, as well as U.S. presidential libraries and the Department of State. He writes “the main purpose of this book is to examine the resilience of [the anti-American] appeal throughout the Cold War, and to assess how effectively the United States countered it by selecting among America’s various economic, diplomatic, cultural and covert options. In particular, the clash induced Washington to test constantly its own flexibility at home and with its European allies. In part this is a story of how the French and Italian Communists confronted American influence—or even its cultural manifestations defined under the broad and often misleading term ‘Americanization.’ But in confronting this very influential brand of anti-Americanism, the United States was also encouraged to confront itself, its foreign policy, and its own social structure and [liberal capitalist] culture.”

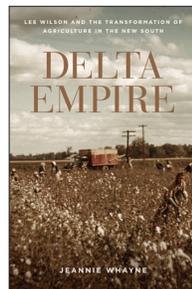
This weighty contribution to the University of North Carolina’s Press’s “New Cold War History” series quickly demonstrated its stature by being the subject of a lengthy H-Diplo roundtable

review in January 2012, which featured the commentary of four prominent scholars along with Professor Brogi’s response.

Readers will find *Confronting America* broad enough in its ken to include allusions to Brogi’s *doppelgänger*, Marcello Mastroianni, as well as to one of Brogi’s former girlfriends, Marilyn Monroe.

## Delta Queen

The same as her subject, Professor Jeannie Whayne has risen from rather humble circumstances to become undisputed suzerain of a rich piece of Arkansas. Through years of hard work and sharp-eyed dealing, Whayne acquired the R. E. Lee Wilson plantation of Mississippi County as her intellectual property. She works this land to tell a larger story of the evolution of southern agriculture and society since the Civil War. Louisiana State University Press published her scholarly version of the “tell-all” biography, *Delta Empire: Lee Wilson and the Transformation of Agriculture in the New South*, this past autumn in its prestigious “Making the Modern South” series.



Whayne shows how, beginning in the 1880s, Lee Wilson parlayed a 400-acre inheritance in Northeast Arkansas into a 50,000-acre dynamo of cotton and lumber production. By the time of his death in 1933, Wilson had become the South’s largest cotton producer, overseeing 2500 employees and fourteen plantations. But if he was producing the quintessential southern product by quintessentially southern methods (tenancy and sharecropping), Wilson looked north for capital, business strategies, and—beset by flood, drought, and, ultimately, the Great Depression—federal aid. Whayne then describes how the Wilson holdings became, in the hands of succeeding generations, the very model of a capital-intensive “neo-plantation,” worked with machines and chemicals

more than by the human hand. Just as she was completing the study in 2010, the Wilson family sold its properties to a group of investors, heralding, Whayne thinks, the emergence of a new model of southern agriculture, “portfolio plantations,” owned as investments by groups with little immediate connection to farming and little engagement with the communities in which their properties are located.

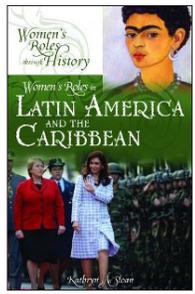
But *Delta Empire* is more than simply accomplished business and agricultural history. Whayne is also an environmental historian, tracing the transformation of a swampy, shaky, heavily forested, and malarial part of the world into fertile farmland harnessed for profit but always subject to nature’s whims. Whayne’s world also has a fascinating social history. She untangles Wilson’s complicated relations with his black labor force. Wilson enforced subordination, but also usually found it in his interests to offer black workers a modicum of security in a hostile environment. And all the white supremacy in the world never kept Wilson from life-or-death struggles with members of his own race, whether over land, labor, or credit.

Other leading historians of the modern South have been lavish in their praise for *Delta Empire*. Nan Woodruff hails it as “the first major study of a modern southern plantation,” and “a major contribution to our understanding of the rise of corporate agriculture in the post-Civil War South.” James C. Cobb says “Anyone seeking a firmer, keener sense of the grand sweep of southern agricultural development will come away thinking this book was written just for them.” *Delta Empire* has already been honored by the Arkansas Historical Association with its 2012 J. G. Ragsdale Award, which goes to the best nonfiction book on Arkansas history published in the preceding two years.

## Sloan Has Some 'Splainin' to Do

It is a sad commentary on the *History Newsletter* editor that, when Kathryn Sloan’s *Women’s Roles in Latin America*

and the Caribbean first came to hand, he could think of nothing better to do than search its index for “Miranda, Carmen” and, very quickly after that, “Hayek, Salma.” But it is a credit to the breadth of the book that he found both included—as well as Malintzin, Michele Bachelet, Gabriela Mistral, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, spinsters, *soldaderas*, slaves, and suicidal bullfight groupies. In contributing to Greenwood Press’s series of surveys of women’s history in various eras and regions of the world, Sloan was assigned what might seem like an impossible task—to synthesize the experience of women in Latin America (including Brazil) and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean from conquest to the present day in only a little more than 200 pages of text. But she does so with aplomb. Beginning with a detailed timeline and overview of Latin’s American women’s history, Sloan offers vivid and refreshingly succinct treatments of women and family life; the trajectories of various sorts of women’s lives from childhood to old age; women, crime, and the law; women’s spiritual lives and encounters with religious institutions; women’s work inside and outside the home; women in art and Latin popular culture; and finally their role in Latin American politics and government. Always attentive to the enormous diversity of Latin America and the Spanish Caribbean, Sloan nevertheless shows that though “divided by class, race, and ethnicity, Latin American and Caribbean women share a common history of subordination, initiative, and agency. Though their gender relegated them to the endnotes of official history, women in this region, time and time again, pushed back the limitations on their rights, autonomy, and ability to voice their opinion. Sometimes they conformed to what society expected of them; sometimes they rebelled. More commonly, they acted out somewhere between conformity and rebellion. In the end, Latin American women played instrumental roles in the development of their societies.” Both those new to

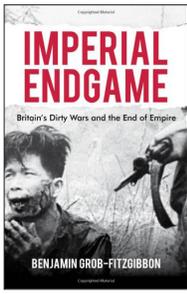


the subject and those seeking an up-to-date refresher course will welcome this handsome volume.

No one should be surprised to find out that the author of *Women’s Roles in Latin America and the Caribbean* is the Department’s *jefa máxima* in waiting.

## Ben’s Dirty Book

Anyone who’s seen Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon in action at a faculty meeting or in the seminar room might already suspect that torture and terror remain part of Britons’ imperial toolbox. But



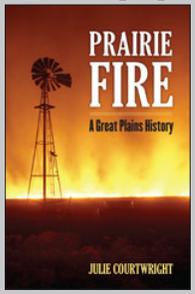
Ben makes a full confession in a scrappy, globe-trotting study of decolonization and counterinsurgency from the end of the Second World War to the aftermath of the Suez Crisis.

Palgrave McMillan published his *Imperial Endgame: Britain’s Dirty Wars and the End of Empire* this past summer. As Grob-Fitzgibbon tells it, “Historians have overwhelmingly held that Britain’s end of empire was a mismanaged disaster. Those who administered it were paralyzed by uncertainty, inaction, and a general lack of direction, and those in charge received contradictory and conflicting advice that crippled proper governance. . . . In this book, I reveal that the policy developed by the government was in fact one carefully calculated to allow decolonization to occur on British terms rather than those of the indigenous people. With remarkable consistency, and in response to the insurgencies in Palestine, Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, and the Middle East, the British government crafted an imperial strategy that was designed to guide much of the formal empire into the British Commonwealth and, as such, into the British and American sphere of influence during the Cold War. When necessary, the government

## Alum is Smokin’

When Department faculty recall our students’ best bits, someone will always invoke Julie Courtwright’s 2007 dissertation on prairie fire and its flaming jackrabbits. Now, the whole world can read Courtwright’s hare-blazing tale in *Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History*, published this past year by University Press of Kansas. Showing every indication of having been mentored by Elliott West, she writes, “Fast-running jackrabbits were even a hazard because the animals frequently caught fire and, in a panic, took off running. As they ran they became living, traveling fire torches, setting new blazes wherever they went” (p. 119).

More generally, Courtwright’s book is a hell-raising environmental history of the fires that have been an essential and persistent part of life on the Great Plains. Whether started by lightning or human beings, they were essential to maintaining the prairie ecosystem but also enormously destructive to people and property. Their suppression in modern times, Courtwright shows, created a new set of environmental problems, including the potential for even more dangerous fires. Courtwright ranges the Plains from north to south and from the sixteenth to the twenty-first century, using diary entries, oral history, newspapers, government weather readings, images and imagery from popular culture, and just about anything else that’s flammable as her tinder. This is truly an illuminating book, but no one who reads it will complain of being burned.



Julie Courtwright—who, her book jacket notes, was “born and raised in the tallgrass prairie of Butler County, Kansas”—now teaches environmental and western history at Iowa State University. She couldn’t be prouder that *Prairie Fire* has been named a Kansas Notable Book. We couldn’t be prouder, either. ■

employed counterinsurgency techniques to achieve this end, isolating potential troublemakers—whether nationalists, communists, or tribal rebels—from the general populace while winning the hearts and minds of the majority of colonial subjects. . . . For those within colonial societies who were willing to follow Britain's timetable toward sovereignty and to do so within the confines of the Commonwealth, the government promised education, social welfare, training in the arts of administration and security. For the minority who rejected Britain's way, however, there could only be the hard hand of war." Grob-Fitzgibbon finishes by noting that, "If there is one clear conclusion to be drawn from the end of Britain's empire, it is that liberal imperialism can only be sustained by illiberal dirty wars. Britain's imperial endgame demonstrates it is possible to achieve success in each." Of all the nations that gained independence from the British Empire in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, only a single one, Aden, failed to align with the West.

*Imperial Endgame* has generated the sort of spirited response among reviewers and critics that many of us can only envy. Richard Aldous of Bard College calls it "a controversial and important book. Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon has no time for conventional pieties." Or neckties. Or *History Newsletter*. ■

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## Out of the Nest

2011-2012 was particularly satisfying for the sheer number of doctorates the Department produced but also because several of those finishing had been on the verge of earning the title ABD *emeritus*.

**Jim Bird** survived some jayhawking by his committee to earn his PhD with a dissertation examining the family background and early life of James H. Lane, the theretofore somewhat shadowy politician, warrior, and scoundrel of Kansas's bleeding years. Dan Sutherland was Bird's commanding officer. Bird had earlier earned a BA, MS, and MA at Pittsburg State University in Kansas, but came to the U of A after a career of

some twenty years in the military. More recently, he has been a contract historian with the Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth and has contributed to histories of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Jami Forrester** had her doctoral committee sawing logs over her study of a Mississippi County timber town, "From Swamp Forest to Cotton: Three States Lumber Company and the Development of Burdette, Arkansas in the Early Twentieth Century." Like her advisor, Jeannie Whayne, Forrester is Arkansan to the core. She is a Batesville native, earned her BA and MA from Arkansas State, and has taught at the U of A, John Brown University, and Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville. She now teaches U.S. and Arkansas history at Northwest Arkansas Community College.

Hailing from Port Jefferson, New York, **David Kirsch** entered our doctoral program intending to write a dissertation about Arkansas's debonair pugilist Sonny Liston. But after the "phantom punch" in Lewiston, Maine, in 1965, Kirsch realized he would have to change his topic. What *ultimately* resulted was "The Silent Arms Race: The Role of the Supercomputer during the Cold War, 1947-1963," engineered by Dr. Alessandro Brogi. Kirsch is something of a lifer here, having also earned his BA and an MA in sociology at the U of A.

Go figure. **Michael Riley** had to travel from Oklahoma, as did his adviser, David Chappell (who continues to haunt our department in afterlife), in order to defend a dissertation about Okies getting killed for killing Okies (i.e. a vivid chronicle of capital crime and punishment in Oklahoma from earliest times). The other committee members took it all in stride, however, having satisfied themselves that both men's visas were in order and having been promised a last meal. A proud and apparently law-abiding resident of Poteau, Dr. Riley teaches history at Carl Albert State College. His BA and MA are from Oklahoma State University.

Like Nikolay Antov, **Sonia Toudji** shows that humankind might yet overcome the tragic consequences of its folly at Babel. Her native languages are Berber and French, but she is fluent

(and how!) in English and Arabic and can read Spanish and Italian. Like the Frenchmen she studies, Toudji came a long way to make Arkansas her home and gets along remarkably well with the natives. She earned her undergraduate degree at Université Mouloud Mammeri in her native Algeria and an MA and doctorate (the latter concurrently with her U of A PhD) at the Université du Maine in LeMans, France. Beth Barton Schweiger headed her remarkably large and varied dissertation committee, which included two faculty members from LeMans, as well as the Honorable Morris S. Arnold, the reigning expert on colonial Arkansas. Judge Arnold is "not at liberty to comment" on his work with the top-secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review but can speak at length about the virtues of Toudji's dissertation "Intimate Frontiers: Sexuality and Kinship among French, Indians, and Africans in the Colonial Mississippi Valley." Fortunately, Sonia has secured tenure-track employment at a nearby outpost where deerskins, bear oil, and information are traded, the University of Central Arkansas. ■

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## Bragging Rights

The other departments have started to duck into the boys room when History strides down the hall. It's not that they're scared we'll steal their lunch money (though that's always a temptation). It's more like fearing they'll look shabby by comparison. While there are those nearby who seem to doubt that History is fit for self-government, people keep pinning medals to our chests and clapping wreaths on our noggins—and we mean the staff's as well as the faculty's.

## Faculty

Demonstrating its prowess in every aspect of the academic enterprise, Department faculty, for instance, *swept* Fulbright College's 2012 awards. University Police had to pull Alessandro Brogi out of the Trevi Fountain so that

# On the Field of Honors

If History's honors students were boastful sorts, they'd sound a lot like Muhammad Ali in his prime. They are the smartest, they are the prettiest, and they speak in rhyme, too.

The following theses won honors for students graduating in 2011-2012: Brittany Box, "The Ranger in the War: An Examination of Brigadier General Ben McCulloch's Command While in Northwest Arkansas, 1861-1862" (director: Bob McMath); Kaleb Cox, "A History of Violence: Thomas Hart Benton and the Impact of Dueling in the Politics of the Old Southwest" (director: Patrick Williams); Rush Curtner, "Ancient China and Its Neighbors: The Exchange of Material Goods" (director: Liang Cai); Britanni Dockery, "Finding a Place on a Crowded Bookshelf: Black Women's Uplift in the Cotton Makers Jubilee" (director: Calvin White); Shauna Gibbons, "White Plague in the Black Population: Race and Contagion in Jim Crow Arkansas" (director: Tricia Starks); Avalon Gurel, "Toy Soldiers and Textbooks: Militarism and Education in Wilhelmine Germany" (director: Laurence Hare); Lindsay Newby, "Representations of Argentine Identity: Tradition, Modernity, and Tourism" (director: Kirstin Erickson); Wade Schilling, "Minding McCarthy: British Intellectual Perspectives on McCarthyism and Postwar America" (director: Alessandro Brogi); and Lindsey Smith, "The Lure of Lucre and the Hurdle of Poverty: The Cistercian Fusion of Spirituality and Monastic Business" (director: Lynda Coon).

History majors were well-represented among this year's inductees to Phi Beta Kappa, the world's coolest and least secret secret society. Alpha Chapter of Arkansas elected James Brown (aka "the hardest working man in show business"), Rachel Reagan, and Lydia Thompson as juniors, as well as seniors Rachel Albinson, Kelsey Castleberry, and Shauna Gibbons. Kaleb Cox, elected last year as a junior, was honored as Phi Beta Kappa Distinguished Scholar for best exemplifying the ideals of the order.

Our less senior majors got their share, too. Matthew Owens won the 2012 Fulbright Prize for Distinction in the Liberal Arts, which is bestowed upon the top rising junior working in the Arts and Humanities. He has begun research for a thesis, "Medieval Ghosts and the Monastic Imagination," under the direction of—yeah, you guessed it—Lynda Coon. ■

he might receive the Master Researcher Award in person. Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon won the Master Teacher Award. Beatlemania hasn't cooled, it seems, but Ben manages to maintain his authority in the classroom in spite of all the screaming girls. Noting that our graduate students are unusually well-informed and well-behaved (except on weekends), Fulbright College honored Kathryn Sloan as this year's outstanding adviser. Some among the younger set don't believe anything's true unless it's on the internets, and Kathy has seen to it that they can do their Departmental business online. And Jeannie Whayne, who never does one thing when she can do four, was this year's recipient of

the John King Service Award. Proving, furthermore, that we're raising the young 'uns right, History's Jeff Grooms won the college's Yowell Award for best teaching by a graduate student.

Apparently, you don't have to share a campus with us to recognize History's excellence. Elliott West has won, or been nominated for, just about every award there is except the Nobel Prize for Physics (and given his abstracted demeanor as of late, we suspect that, too, is in the cards). This year, he received the Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award, which honors a professor on each SEC campus "with outstanding records in teaching and scholarship who serve as role models for other faculty and

students." Indeed, West's tapdancing, for one, has been so widely imitated among his colleagues that Old Main is starting to look like a Busby Berkeley film. This award makes West the U of A's nominee for the SEC Professor of the Year Award, which comes with an honorarium roughly equivalent to what an SEC football coach earns in a day. Meanwhile, Beth Barton Schweiger surged to the top of another conference, the NEH. She won the prestigious and competitive National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, which will allow her to complete her book, *The Literate South: Reading and Freedom in the Early United States*, which is under contract with Yale University Press and "draws on scholarship from bibliography, history of the book, historical linguistics, anthropology, rhetoric, and social history to recover what free and enslaved Southerners read and how they used their books in the decades before the Civil War." Schweiger's is a feat even Fulbright College is bragging about. Jeannie Whayne showed herself to be similarly situated at the top of her discipline by being selected vice-president and president-elect of the Agricultural History Society, an association of scholars outstanding in their fields. And Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon has been impressed into the Royal Historical Society, a group that we assume—*unless informed to the contrary*—chronicles the couplings and uncouplings of England's royal family, as well as its more pulchritudinous in-laws.

## Staff

Anyone who has spent much time around a university knows that even the best teachers and smartest scholars could barely find their way to their classrooms or back to their offices (much less make photocopies) without the help of a hard-working staff. Not surprisingly, then, Department staff members were similarly recognized as the university's best in 2012. This spring, the U of A staff senate designated Jeanne Short, History's Administrative Support Supervisor, as Employee of the Third Quarter (she offers *no* quarter, however, to the Department's enemies).



B. Foster, J. Short, M. Adams

The staff senate also honored Jeanne and her colleagues, Administrative Assistants Brenda Foster and Melinda

Adams, with the 2011 Outstanding Team Award. In bestowing the award, the senate noted that the trio had taken on a number of initiatives and responsibilities above and beyond their “normal” duties. These included administrative work for African and African American Studies, International Relations, and the Ghana study-abroad programs; assorted modernization efforts including adding QR codes to course flyers so that students could access syllabi via their smart phones, and the creation of a “Virtual Bulletin Board”; the establishment of an Alumni

Book Tower, that proudly displays the published work of our alums; and “implementing virtual-based workflows and streamlining the processes for office rotation.” We’re not quite sure what the last bit means but are certain the staff does it splendidly. The faculty celebrates Jeanne, Brenda, and Melinda for their jaw-dropping competence but also for being kind to us even when we’re at our huffiest, and for never reminding us what total goofballs we can often be.

We could not be an award-winning department without our award-winning staff. ■

## Epistle of the Abbess 2012: “Homily on Leadership”

Chapter 64 of the *Rule* of St. Benedict (ca. 550) provides clear guidelines for the election of an abbot (or abbess). These stipulations pay proper attention to the importance of community governance and to the will of the group being governed:

*In choosing an abbot, the guiding principle should always be that the individual placed in office be the one selected either by the whole community acting unanimously in the fear of God, or by some part of the community, no matter how small, which possesses sounder judgment...* (RB 64.1)

This ought to be interpreted as: “the bishop does not appoint the abbot, the monks elect their abbot.”

In the sixtieth chapter of that same *Rule*, Benedict cautions monks against the presence of outsiders whose overweening pride may disrupt the orderly flow of the cloister:

*[An outsider] should subject himself to the discipline of the Rule, and not make exceptions for himself, but rather give everyone an example of humility...* (RB 60.5)

In keeping with the managerial style of the *Rule*, the Abbess advises the exercise of power with humility coupled with the recognition that there are multiple ways to serve a community. Indeed, the historians of Fulbright have benefitted their own flock as well as the wider community of scholars in each of three parts of the academic Holy Trinity—teaching, research, and service—as detailed in the earlier pages of this missive penned by Brother Williams.

My homily on leadership focuses on the activism of the historians executed in two significant ways. First, History is at the forefront of a faculty crusade to bring the condition of the Mullins Library (*Scriptorium*) to the attention of the research ambitious Upper Administration (*Curia*) of the University of Arkansas. Second, a select group of historians have “built up their strength and [have gone] from the battle line in the ranks of their brothers to the single combat of the desert,” where they “fight against the Devil” (RB 1.4-5). These stalwart soldiers have fended off assaults on the discipline of the *Rule* from those who would abandon its precepts. They have risked much to protect the novices of the College, and, in so doing, they have followed the teachings of St. Benedict on administration: abbots must take special care for the young and the old, and pastors must remember that governance of a flock is “a difficult and demanding burden...directing souls and serving a variety of temperaments” (RB 2.31).

The Abbess and Vice Abbess of History hope that the looming academic year will witness the College setting out for “loftier summits of teaching and virtues” (RB 73.9).

The leadership of History gives its humble and heartfelt thanks to the custodians of the Old Main 416 cloister, Melinda Adams, Brenda Foster, and Jeanne Short, an award-winning team who have propelled the historians of Fulbright through a Dark Age.

*Pax vobiscum,*  
Abbess Coon

# Report of the Vice-Abbess, 2012

2011-2012 was another exciting year for the graduate program in History at the University of Arkansas. The Graduate Studies Committee evaluated a record number of PhD applications (27!) and 20 MA applications. There will be 17 new graduate students beginning their studies with us in fall 2012. Arkansans continued to apply to the program, but we also had applicants from Germany, Iraq, California, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Utah. Clearly, the graduate program at Arkansas is on the radar of prospective students searching for a top-notch program.

In past years I have listed the numerous conference papers presented by our students. This year's report will be shorter as Dr. Tricia Starks, Dr. Lynda Coon, and I now post accomplishments of students and faculty alike on History's Facebook site and Twitter feed. Be sure and follow Facebook, Twitter, or the History Department website news link to keep up with the frequent accomplishments of our students. Students, don't forget to inform us when you present papers, publish essays, or earn fellowships.

Our placement record of doctoral graduates in academic positions remains strong. Indeed, our graduates continue to compete for top jobs. This past year, students interviewed with Research I institutions, including the University of Tennessee, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Northern Illinois University. Sonia Toudji accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship in Arkansas history at the University of Central Arkansas after defending her dissertation "Intimate Frontiers: Indians, French, and Africans in the Mississippi Valley, 1673-1803." Several more students will enter the academic job market in the fall and participated in a Job Letter Writing Workshop with Professors Gigantino, Hare, Pierce, Schweiger, Sloan, and Starks.

A number of students completed their theses this year. Edward Andrus defended "The Pine, the Bluff, and the River: An Environmental History of Jefferson County, Arkansas" and is currently a doctoral student in the program. Alex Boucher earned his MA degree with "The Truman Administration and Iran, 1945-1953." Boucher currently lives in Alabama. Chris W. Branam wrote "The Africans Have Taken Arkansas': Political Activities of African American Members of the Arkansas Legislature, 1868-1873," which won the Arkansas Historical Association's inaugural Foster-Beason Award for best thesis or dissertation in Arkansas history completed in 2011. He now covers the U of A for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Nathan Clark defended "Philosophical Influences in the Art of War Found in the Romance of the Three Kingdoms." Clark resides in Conway. Mary Margaret Hui completed her thesis, "To Walk Forth as Men and Women: The Grassroots of the NAACP's Dyer Bill Campaign," and is pursuing a doctoral degree in the College of Education. Sax Wyeth defended his thesis "With Our Backs to the Wall: Entente Grand Strategy in 1918" and has undertaken doctoral studies at Arkansas. Krista Jones earned her degree with "It was awful, but it was politics': Crittenden County and the Demise of African American Political Participation" and works in Special Collections of Mullins Library. Sidhartha Samanta completed his thesis "The Final Transfer of Power in India, 1947-1967."

Doctoral students were just as busy defending their dissertations this past academic year. Jami Forrester, currently an assistant professor at NWACC, defended her work "From Swamp Forest to Cotton: Three States Lumber Company and the Development of Burdette, Arkansas in the Early Twentieth Century." Michael Riley walked the last mile with his dissertation on capital punishment in Oklahoma, while Jim Bird recently defended "A Family Affair: The Pre-Kansas Saga of James Henry Lane." David Kirsch completed "The Silent Arms Race: The Role of the Supercomputer during the Cold War, 1947-1963."

Three MA students have earned graduate assistantships and/or fellowships

to pursue doctoral studies at other institutions. Alexandria Gough will study Native American history at the University of Oklahoma. Mitchell Smith will further his passion for diplomatic history at Ohio University, and Sid Samanta will relocate to Boulder to study Indian history at the University of Colorado.

History graduate students continue to win prestigious Fulbright College awards. This past year Jason McCollom and Jared Phillips garnered the Fulbright Dissertation Award in the amount of \$5000 each. McCollom will pair that with his \$5,000 stipend from the Canadian Embassy to conduct archival research in Saskatchewan for his dissertation, "Political Harvests: Transnational Agrarian Radicalism in North Dakota and Saskatchewan, 1905-1950." This project examines the cross-boundary influences and interactions between organized farmers in the northern plains of the U.S. and Canada. Phillips will conduct research in U.S.-based archives this summer for his project "A Hope Betrayed: Human Rights and the Foundations of the Post-Cold War World." Jeff Grooms won the 2012 Yowell Teaching Prize for his excellent pedagogical talents in World Civilization.

Seven students advanced to candidacy this past year, writing exams in US, British, European, African, Chinese, Latin American, and Middle Eastern history. They are: Kelly Jones, Becky Howard, Jeffrey Grooms, Jared Phillips, Justin Gage, Aaron Moulton, and Amanda Ford. Most have defended their dissertation proposals and are well on their way to completing their dissertation research.

In sum, the Graduate Program in History maintains its reputation for garnering major College awards, fostering heavy conference participation, job market success, and excellent teaching. And let's not forget that our graduate students carry a heavy burden in teaching our core courses in US and world history and attracting new majors to the program.

My last day as Graduate Program Coordinator coincides with Mexico's presidential election on July 1. This coincidence has me pondering the nature of democracy and representative

government. Living in a society wracked by drug cartel violence and growing personal anxiety, Mexicans, by and large, express disillusionment with the political process. They crave security but loathe relinquishing their civil liberties. The democratic opening created by the defeat of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in 2000, a party that monopolized all levels of power for more than 70 years, appears to be shrinking. Most observers expect PRI candidate Enrique Peña Nieto to defeat leftist candidate Andres Manuel López Obrador. Indeed Peña Nieto has been accused of controlling Televisa and therefore dictating the “spin.” Whether the electoral process is clean or not, many Mexicans expect the return of caudillo politics and its tool kit of bullying the citizenry and meddling in elections. Yet Mexicans also know that the reign of the caudillo is brutal but short. ¡Viva la revolución!

Vice Abbess Sloan

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## The Talk of the Gown

**Nikolay Antov**, assistant professor, arrived at the U of A this past summer [see related story]. Since then, he has given a presentation titled “Emergence and Historical Development of Muslim Communities in the Ottoman Balkans: Turcoman Colonization, Conversion to Islam, and the Indigenization of Islam in the Balkan Peninsula” at a conference in Columbus, Ohio. He is working on his book concerning the formation of a Turkish-Muslim community in the northeastern Balkans in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, as well as articles on the demographic and socio-economic history of Dobrudja in the sixteenth century and the development of Ottoman confessional vocabulary in that same century in the context of the Ottoman-Safavid conflict. In the past academic year, he has taught “Introduction to Islamic Civilization,” “Ottoman Empire, 1300-1923,” “Early Modern Islamic

Empires, 1300-1750,” and a reading course on medieval Muslim Spain.

**Andrea Arrington**, assistant professor, prefers exile to doing her duty to *History Newsletter*. We hear that she has contracted with Oxford University Press to co-author the fifth and final volume of its *African World Histories* series, titled “Africanizing Democracies.”

**Alessandro Brogi**, professor, does not identify the “big event” of this past year as his promotion to full professor but instead publication of *Confronting America: The Cold War between the United States and the Communists in France and Italy* by University of North Carolina Press [see related story]. “The long title does justice to this long book,” he says, “and so does the cover design, for which I had to pay dear money to the Andy Warhol Foundation.” We’re sure they needed the dough. In addition to the book, Brogi’s being honored by Fulbright College with its Master Researcher Award doubtlessly greased the wheels of his promotion, as did publication of four review essays in the usual diplomatic history venues and his work peer-reviewing manuscripts for Cambridge University Press and various journals. You’d think he’d stay put now that he’s at the top of the heap, but instead Brogi writes: “I try my best to leave town as frequently as I can. In 2011, invitations to participate in conferences in Ghent, Belgium, and Lucca, Italy, assisted me in this purpose. As far as I could see, the Euro crisis does not seem to affect the lifestyle of either country: fashion-shopping, gourmet-eating, fast-car-driving, fast-trains-riding, martini-drinking, they all seem the same as before; life is good. Oh, yes, and I did present papers, one venturing (for the first time, in my case), into labor history, stepping on Dr. Pierce’s toes. I have noticed that Fayetteville has now added its share of Italian eateries, whether they’re called ‘Vetro’ or ‘Amore’ or ‘Primo.’ I am not going to evaluate, or put my signature on any of them -- just saying. Of course, there is no eating drinking and being merry without some dancing. So, although I now have to drive all the way to Rogers when I want to dance some tango, I try to keep my feet (sliding) on the floor at least twice a month. I know, it’s a meager schedule, but Rome is

now waiting, and I hear that tango can be danced there on a daily basis! I am doing research there all summer long.” Ain’t life sweet?

**Robert Brubaker**, visiting assistant professor, has been teaching world civilization and South Asian history. For a time, he came within inches of colliding with the newsletter editor nearly every day. So now he avoids the newsletter editor entirely.

**Evan B. Bukey**, professor *emeritus*, retired, we suspect, just so he could stick the Latin at the end of his title. He never intended to do any less work. Over the past year, he read and refereed manuscripts for Stanford University Press, the *Journal of Modern History*, and the Austrian Academy of Sciences. He moderated a panel, “The Holocaust and Its Aftermath in Austria,” at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association in Louisville. Bukey also taught an eight-week course, “Hitler, Appeasement, and the Nazi Conquest of Europe,” for the Osher adult education program. As president of the North American Friends of the Documentation Archives of the Austrian Resistance, he can be spied most nights a table or two away from Nikolay Antov at Rick’s Café Américain.

**Liang Cai**, assistant professor, has signed a contract with the State University of New York Press (one of the leaders in her field) to publish her manuscript “Performing Historical Narrative: Sima Qian, Witchcraft, and Confucians in Western Han China (206BCE-8CE).” She delivered an invited talk, “Hermeneutics of Omens: Political Application of Moral Cosmology and Its Bankruptcy in Western Han China (206 BCE -8 CE),” to the East Asian Studies Program at Princeton University, May 16th, 2012. She published several articles--“Excavating the Genealogy of Classical Studies in the Western Han Dynasty (206BCE-8CE),” in the *Journal of American Oriental Society*, and “Recasting the Ruling Class: Re-reading the Witchcraft Scandal in the Western Han Dynasty” in the *Bulletin of Hunan Provincial Museum*. Another is being considered by the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Liang will be at Cambridge next year, having been named the 2012-2013 Arkansas

Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College, where she will begin work on her second book, tentatively titled "Reviving the Muted Bureaucrats: The Formation of the Chinese Imperial Bureaucracy." She and two colleagues have won a \$25,000 grant from the Honors College to fund an interdisciplinary course, "China's Foreign Trade and International Order," which will take in everything from the Han Dynasty to Wal-Mart.

**Jay Casey**, visiting assistant professor, wastes less time than the rest of us hanging around the halls of Old Main, doing the dozens or shooting off firecrackers. He holds a PhD from the University of Houston and teaches whole legions of students Arkansas history and world civilization.

**Lynda Coon**, professor and chair (whether she wants to be or not), continued ministering to her flock of labile historians. But, in May and June 2011, she followed Carolingian churchman and courtier Theodulf of Orléans from Paris down to the Aquitaine, gazing at his mosaic of the Ark of the Oratory of St. Germigny-des-Prés and confronting the borderlands between the Frankish North and the Visigothic South. She was sufficiently calmed down by January to deliver a paper at the meeting of the American Historical Association.

**Robert Finlay**, professor, is away on leave. We don't know where. His next book, *Weaving the Rainbow: Visions of Color in World History*, is under contract with University of California Press.

**James Gigantino**, assistant professor, started off the year traveling to Oxford, UK, and presenting a paper at the Rothermere American Institute. Two fellowships (the David Library of the American Revolution Research Fellowship and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Esther Ann McFarland Fellowship for Research in African American History) allowed him to escape Arkansas's hot summers in arctic Philadelphia. While there, he took the opportunity to serve as a commentator on a panel on late eighteenth-century abolitionism at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, which met in the city of Brotherly Love in July. He sped down I-95 later that month to present his own research

at the Conference of Army Historians in Arlington, Virginia. Returning to Arkansas in August, Gigantino set out to teach two new courses: a graduate seminar on American slavery to twelve budding young MA and PhD students as well as an undergraduate African-American history course. After a quick research trip to South Carolina over the holidays, Gigantino began teaching the department's new senior capstone seminar, "Race in American History." He also gave a repeat performance of his Tuesday night US I survey course. Shouting and other boisterous noises could be heard coming from his Old Main classroom as students engaged in role-playing simulations in which they acted out several major events in American history. The newsletter editor attributes his increasing deafness, in part, to the class's reenactment of the Haymarket bombing. Gigantino won another three fellowships in spring 2012 to support the last leg of research for his current book project: a faculty summer research stipend from Fulbright College, a research grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, and a Jacob M. Price Visiting Research Fellowship from the University of Michigan. In April, he travelled to Milwaukee. Though too young to get a joke whose punchline is "That's the beer that made Mel Famey walk us," he delivered a paper on slavery and citizenship in nineteenth-century New Jersey at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians.

**Thomas W. Goldstein**, instructor, is another one of those Germans who have been able to emigrate from Chapel Hill since the collapse of the wall. We don't know if he and Laurence Hare are members of the same clandestine service or warring ones. Goldstein wrote a dissertation at UNC on East German literary intellectuals and is here on a three-year visa to teach world civilization, modern European history, and World War Two. His wife, Elizabeth Smith, will be teaching U.S. women's history at the U of A in the fall.

**Joel Gordon**, professor, is director of Nasser studies at the U of A. He has contracted with Cambridge University Press to edit *Nasser: A Critical Introduction*, one of the frontliners in a

new series, and is a primary consultant on a Nasser documentary with filmmaker Michal Goldman, who received an NEH Bridging Cultures grant for the project. Gordon will be script editing this summer. He has recently published a journal article ("Broken Heart of the City: Youssef Chahine's Bab al-Hadid [Cairo Station]," *Journal of Cultural Research* 16:2-3 [2012]: 217-37), a long review essay ("Writing the Arab Spring," *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review* 2 [2011]: 84-99), and a number of pieces for the *Dictionary of African Biography*, Henry Louis Gates and Emmanuel K Akyeampong (eds.), including one on Michel Chalhoub, aka the incomparable Omar Sharif. Gordon delivered a paper, "Chahine, Chaos and Cinema: A Revolutionary Coda," at the Middle East Studies 2011 annual meeting, as well as public lectures on the Arab Spring at Missouri Southern State University and University of Nebraska-Omaha. He co-organized the Arkansas Spring Writers Festival and co-wrote, on behalf of the King Fahd Center (which he directs), a successful grant application to Arts Midwest for the "Caravansarai: Bridging Cultures" initiative funded by the Doris Duke Foundation. Still, he found time to travel to Lebanon and pay respects at the mountain tomb of Jibran Khalil Jibran and at Martyrs Square in Beirut.

**Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon**, associate professor, when not stringing up bunting and popping the corks of countless bottles of pink bubbly in honor of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, has apparently been annoying much of the British historical profession (judging from the reviews following publication of *Imperial Endgame: Britain's Dirty Wars and the End of Empire*, in May 2011). Closer to home, he has also been antagonizing local Arkansans with his suggestions in the local rag that the British Tory Party has successfully made the case that support of gay marriage is a fundamentally conservative position and that the United States may have been better off if they had kept the monarch all those years ago after all. Oh dear. The students, though, don't seem to mind, and seem somewhat touched by his rousing defenses of an antiquated and irrational institution that represents great

wealth and class privilege. Beyond that, Dr. Grob-Fitzgibbon believes everything is, to quote an esteemed colleague, just “jim-dandy.”

**Laurence Hare**, assistant professor, presented papers at three conferences in 2011: “Nationalism, Science, and the Search for Prehistoric Origins in Northern Europe,” at the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study in Chicago; “The Discovery of the North: German Philologists and the Scandinavian Roots of *völkisch* Thought,” at the German Studies Conference in Louisville, KY; and “Thrills and Skills: How the History Classroom Can Be So Much More,” at the AACHT conference in Little Rock. Back in Fayetteville, he took over as faculty advisor for the student-run Society of European Historians, and joined Dr. Pearl Ford of the Department of Political Science in establishing a new U of A chapter of the Pi Gamma Mu social science honor society. Last fall, he taught Wagner, because, he says, it “scares the hell” out of Americanists.

**Elizabeth Markham**, professor, has won the Honors College’s Outstanding Mentor Award for her work with students. She is on leave at the moment, but Rembrandt Wolpert has whispered the following in our ear: Markham attended the Cantus Planus meeting of the International Musicological Society in Vienna last summer and presented a paper. The Study Group was treated to some wonderful performances and visits to monastery libraries. Deeply saddening was the death during the meeting of the great Hungarian chant-scholar László Dobszay, and the emotionally devastating experience of the severest of chants for the dead performed for him in Vienna cathedral, the Stefansdom. Candle-light only.

**Robert McMath**, professor, is dean of the Honors College. That, apparently, is all that newsletter readers need know.

**Charles Muntz**, assistant professor, has seen his first two articles reach print: “The Invocation of Darius in Aeschylus’ *Persae*” in *Classical Journal* 106, and “The Sources of Diodorus Siculus, Book 1” in *Classical Quarterly* N.S. 61. In addition, he presented a paper, “The Myth of Diodorus,” at “Diodorus Siculus: Shared Myths, World Community, and Universal

History,” the first-ever international conference devoted specifically to Diodorus, held in Glasgow, Scotland August 31-September 2, 2011. The conference, he says, “was an absolute blast”--as you certainly already knew if you heard the news reports of half a million people dancing naked in the rain for three days.

**Michael Pierce**, associate professor, spent his fall sabbatical visiting archives in Little Rock, Atlanta, Washington, and Detroit for his next book project, a study of Arkansas’s labor movement and civil rights activism from World War II through the late 1970s. The fruits of this and some earlier labor have begun to appear. He published “Historians of the Central High Crisis and Little Rock’s Working-Class Whites: A Review Essay” in the winter 2011 issue of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. “Orval Faubus and the Rise of Anti-Labor Populism in Northwest Arkansas” appeared in *The Right and Labor in America: Politics, Ideology, Imagination*, ed. Nelson Lichtenstein and Elizabeth Tandy Shermer (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), and “John McClellan, the Teamsters, and Biracial Labor Politics in Arkansas, 1947-1958” came out in *Life and Labor in the New South: Essays in Southern Labor History since 1950*, ed. Robert H. Zieger (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2012). Additionally, Pierce’s “Agrarian Rebel, Industrial Workers: Tom Watson and the Prospects of a Labor-Populist Alliance” can be found in *Southern Populism Revisited: New Interpretations and New Departures*, ed. James Beeby (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2012). In June, he moderated a conference at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock commemorating the accomplishments of Governor Sidney S. McMath and presented a paper that at some point was titled “In Defense of Southern Liberal Politicians: The Case of Sid McMath.” He wore a suit and tie for that one, and it wasn’t even Halloween.

**Charles Robinson**, professor, taught one of his African-American history courses this past spring but largely focused on his responsibilities as Vice Provost for Diversity. Much

of his work has been tied to student recruitment and retention initiatives. He has also facilitated diversity training for the Human Resource unit and has been a guest speaker at several conferences. Two of them, the Attracting Intelligent Minds Conference and the SEC Leadership Conference, were held on the campus. The others, SREB Diversity and Inclusion Conference, The Black and Brown and College Bound Conference, and a McNair Scholars Conference, were held in Atlanta, Tampa Bay, and Durham, New Hampshire, respectively. He was also guest lecturer at an annual event held by the W. E. B. Du Bois Honors Program at Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, Texas. Lastly, he has been selected to participate in this year’s Millennial Leadership Institute, a program designed to train administrators for presidential positions in academic institutions.

**Beth Barton Schweiger**, associate professor, as reported elsewhere, won a prestigious fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to finish her book on the history of reading in the antebellum South. But she’d rather talk about her students: “Dr. Sonia Toudji (PhD 2012) has accepted a tenure-track position in history at the University of Central Arkansas. Toudji’s work was approved by what was most likely the largest and most cosmopolitan committee in the Department’s history--Professors Hélène Aji (Université de Paris), Eliane Elmaleh (Université du Maine), Judge Morris Arnold (Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals), and Professors West, Gigantino, and Schweiger of Arkansas. For her trouble, which included filling out mountains of paperwork in several languages in addition to researching and writing a superb study of Indians, French, and Africans in the Mississippi Valley, she received doctorates from both Université du Maine and the University of Arkansas. Justin Gage passed comprehensive exams in March to his great relief and is working furiously on a wonderful study of how Indian reading and writing sustained the Ghost Dance movement of the late nineteenth century. Gage has received a Gatewood Fellowship to fund his work.

Ronald J. Gordon has triumphed in the classroom this year even as he has received departmental fellowships two years' running for his dissertation, a much-needed critical study of how the emergence of professional medicine challenged the authority of pastors in nineteenth-century America. Louise Hancox took time out from her courses to attend her second seminar at the Center for Historic American Visual Culture (CHAViC) in Worcester, MA. She was co-curator of a terrific exhibit on Edward Washbourne's *Arkansas Traveler* at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and arranged for the graduate seminar in early American history to visit the museum in their first annual road trip earlier this year. Liz Kiszonas holds two graduate degrees in theology and is concentrating on American art history and religion in her work. She will attend a CHAViC seminar this summer on images and the Civil War. John Treat, who began in the MA program this year, is from Searcy by way of Batesville, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Philadelphia and rural Wisconsin. He will begin doctoral studies in the fall and will research American sacred music with some expert mentoring from Elizabeth Markham. Zachary Patterson came south of the (Missouri-Arkansas) border to study the history of Ozark folklore for his MA."

**Kathryn A. Sloan**, associate professor, published *Women's Roles in Latin America and the Caribbean* with Greenwood Press [see related story] and a chapter, "The Penal Code of 1871: From Religious to Civil Control of Everyday Life," in *A Companion to Mexican History and Culture* (Wiley-Blackwell) in 2011. She also presented two papers on the history of suicide in Mexico at the Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies in Park City, Utah. Elected chair of the Department by margins matched only by George Washington and James Monroe (1820), Sloan will assume the position of *jefa máxima* in 2013, after a year's research leave to finish her book project on suicide and modernity in Mexico. Research on that project began in 2007, and Sloan will spend time in Mexico this summer to collect

the remaining documents. She hopes to revisit the project on bullfighting once the northern states of Mexico become safe for travel again.

**Richard D. Sonn**, professor, gave a paper last November at the Western Society for French History Conference in Portland, OR. Titled "Jewish Immigrants and Cosmopolitanism in Montparnasse, 1905-1930," it's derived from his current research project, which has the working title "Jewish Modernism." That same month, he gave the keynote address, "From Paris to Kristallnacht," at Temple Shalom as part of its annual Holocaust conference. Sonn reviewed Anne Cova's *Feminismes et neo-malthusianismes sous la IIIe Republique* for the *Journal of Modern History* and had an article, "Utopian Bodies: Anarchist Sexual Politics," accepted for inclusion in a volume called *Gendered Signs and Sexual Symbols in the History of French Political Culture*, which will be published by Cambria Press in 2012. He also has an essay titled "Jewish Modernism: Immigrant Artists in Montparnasse, 1905-1914" coming out in a collection of essays to be called *Strangers in Paradise: Foreign Artists in France, 1871-1914*. Sonn was hoping to spend the spring 2012 semester in Paris doing research, but so far a bum left leg has kept him grounded. He has a paper accepted by the Society for the Study of French History meeting in York, England, July 1-3, titled "Jewish Artists and Transnationalism in 1920s Montparnasse," which he is hoping to attend if that leg will cooperate.

**Tricia Starks**, associate professor, may not be willing to walk a mile for a Camel anymore, but tobacco still consumes her research time. And now she will have something to show for it besides cigarettes that bear a lipstick's traces and airline tickets to romantic places. The *Journal of Women's History* accepted her essay on Russian women in tobacco advertising for inclusion in an upcoming issue. Dr. Starks spent the rest of her state-sponsored time corrupting the young with her gender and medicine classes (those students study until they need glasses) and her Russian history classes. Fighting the power remains an after-hours hobby.

**Daniel E. Sutherland**, distinguished professor, says he did more talking than writing in 2011. He completed his biography of James Whistler (*now* in need of a publisher), published a counter-factual essay about the artist in Stephen Berry, ed., *Weirding the Civil War: Stories from the Civil War's Ragged Edges* (University of Georgia Press), and gave a talk on Whistler and *japonisme* as part of the U of A's Asian Studies lecture series. He required a private railroad car (and, sometimes, a blockade runner) to carry him to all the places he was asked to speak about Civil War guerrillas--after-dinner talks in Missouri and Illinois, a pair of lectures at University of Leiden, Netherlands, speeches at Drew University in New Jersey, Civil War Roundtables in South Carolina and Minneapolis-St. Paul, the University of Mississippi, the Missouri Historical Museum in St. Louis, and the Arkansas Historical Association conference in Fayetteville. Sutherland also conducted a seminar over a number of months at the Fayetteville Public Library, "Let's Talk about the Civil War." Having the tables turned on him, Sutherland was the *subject* of an essay in Judith Lee Hallock et al., *How Historians Work: Retelling the Past--From the Civil War to the Wider World* (State House Press).

**Elliott West**, Alumni Distinguished Professor, continued working on "Creating the West," a history of the American West from 1848 to 1877, but completed a collection of essays (fourteen) that will appear this fall from the University of Oklahoma Press. He also published "Soothsayer," an article on Sitting Bull as a spiritual leader, in *American History*. West won't be fenced in when it comes to teaching. He served as lead faculty on five Teaching American History workshops in Connecticut, Washington, Mississippi, Colorado and Oklahoma; directed for the ninth year a Gilder-Lehrman Seminar on "The Great Plains: American Crossroads" at the University of Colorado; and conducted two online seminars ("webinars") with public schoolteachers through the National Humanities Center. The boy orator

also delivered the annual Critchlow Lecture at Weber State University, and keynote addresses to the Society of Southwestern Archivists and at a conference on Theodore Roosevelt and the American West at Dickinson State University. Through it all, he has possessed a crooked smile but straight teeth.

**Jeannie Whayne**, professor, saw her book, *Delta Empire: Lee Wilson and the Transformation of Agriculture in the New South*, published by LSU Press in December 2011 [see related story]. It thereupon won the Arkansas Historical Association's J.G. Ragsdale Award for nonfiction. Even before *Delta Empire* saw the light of day, Whayne had already launched research on a new project that focuses on the interrelation between Memphis and the immediate vicinity—eastern Arkansas, northern Mississippi, and western Tennessee—in fashioning the region's cotton economy. Whayne presented a paper on the topic in August 2011 at the Rachel Carson Center in Munich, Germany. It will be published in a volume of selected papers from that conference. A revised version of an essay she published some years ago in *Locus* on prohibition in Arkansas appeared in the Spring 2012 issue of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Whayne gave a paper at the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers in October 2011 entitled, "Three Women, Three Wills." She will present a different version of that paper at the Rural Women's Studies Conference in New Brunswick in August 2012. Whayne co-edited a book with Angie Maxwell and Todd Shields, *The Ongoing Burden of Southern History*, which will be published by LSU Press in the fall of 2012. She has been elected vice president and president-elect of the Agricultural History Society, an interdisciplinary and international association of scholars. In April, she assumed her duties as president of the University of Arkansas's Teaching Academy (after serving a year as vice president), and has been named a co-director of the university's Teaching and Faculty Support Center, where she

will serve a three-year term beginning in August 2012. No wonder she won Fulbright College's John E. King Award for Service.

**Calvin White, Jr.**, assistant professor, has completed his fifth year in the department. Although worn, he has survived and is about to go through the tenure mill. His book, *The Rise to Respectability: Race, Religion, and the Church of God in Christ* (University of Arkansas Press), is due on the shelf in late October. He and Dr. Arrington are scheduled to make their second study abroad trip to Ghana, tracing the transatlantic slave trade, Ghanaian independence, and modern day tourism. In addition to doing his duty to the History Department, he is director of the African and African American Studies program. He and his wife are still enjoying Fayetteville, the campus, and the wonderful October days.

**Patrick G. Williams**, associate professor, survived being called a "prostitute" by Rush Limbaugh and a "can of tomatoes" by ESPN's Teddy Atlas. Few people appear to have seen his welterweight bout on *Friday Night Fights*, a circumstance for which he is profoundly grateful. Though more than a little punch-drunk by now, he continues to edit the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* and has a bilious little piece on southern Democrats forthcoming in a collection of essays celebrating and vivisectioning C. Vann Woodward's *The Burden of Southern History*. Williams is frequently mistaken for a Midcentury reenactor.

**Rembrandt Wolpert**, professor, writes: "The most thrilling thing about the year was that nothing thrilling happened. I continue to preach that multi-disciplinary is not the same as interdisciplinary, that five people from different subjects working together don't make interdisciplinarity. Interdisciplinarity, if it exists, resides inside an individual . . . oh well. Last summer for the first time in my life we endured an extremely hot Cambridge in the Anderson room of the University Library--plastic armchairs and no air-conditioning in the reading-room, and plastic

chairs and freezing air-conditioning in the tearoom. A complete survey of the Kikutei collection of musical manuscripts was done, and one scroll (a copy of 1566) was de-and re-encoded, properly indexed and catalogued, and is awaiting a digital rebirth in the library. I also did some work in Vienna, which somehow manages to keep the K.u.K. mentality as if Habsburg was still ruling the cultured world. I experienced the protectiveness of my credit card company, who somehow didn't think that Austria was part of Europe (I had dutifully announced that I would spend my time in Europe--somehow to make the list shorter.) They blocked my card when I tried to use it in Austria (maybe they thought it belonged to the British Empire? Australia?), and I spent a week getting credit-card refusals and very strange looks. December saw me chasing Japanese rare books in a Bavarian library--alas, they had that habit of pointing always to another one that needed or still needs consulting. There are so many that I see no end to that job. The tavern near that library is excellent. That's why we historians love archives. So--a boring archival year, really. The sort I love."

**Randall B. Woods**, distinguished professor, has completed his book, *America's Jesuit: William Egan Colby and the CIA*, and submitted it to his publisher, Basic Books. He was one of three keynote speakers at a symposium, "Revisiting the Great Society: The Role of Government from FDR and LBJ to Today," held at Hunter College in New York City on March 13-15. Participants included Bill Moyers, George McGovern, Walter Mondale, James Farmer, and Taylor Branch. Donovan's song "Mellon Fellow," it turns out, was written just for him. From April 25 through May 4, Woods served as Mellon Visiting Professor at Clare College, Cambridge. He taught a two-week seminar on the Johnson presidency to Cambridge doctoral students and keynoted a one-day international conference on the Years of LBJ. In next year's *History Newsletter* you just might read that Randall Woods has become the barbecue king of Taylor, TX. ■

# Alumni Round-Up

**Jesse Adkins** (BA 2005) has accepted a position as an attorney with the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency in Washington.

**Barry Allen** (BA 1969) is a pediatrician at a clinic in Rogers.

**Justin Allen** (BA 1995), after serving as Arkansas's Chief Deputy Attorney General, is again a partner at Wright, Lindsey & Jennings, LLP in Little Rock. Since returning to WLJ, he has been pursuing a government relations practice. He was named to *Arkansas Business's* "40 under 40" in 2011. His wife, Nikki, who is an RN, began working as a school nurse in their home town of Sheridan in the fall of 2011. Their three children, Blake, Sophie, and Max, turn 9, 7, and 5, respectively, in 2012.

**Janet Allured** (PhD 1988), a professor of history at McNeese State University, identifies her most recent accomplishment as becoming president of the "large and fun-loving" Louisiana Historical Association. Her granddaughter, Peyton, continues to be the apple of her eye. Allured remembers Willard Gatewood as "a wonderful mentor. . . the epitome of grace, always wreathed in cigarette smoke, and with a devil-may-care attitude (Q. 'Dr. Gatewood, isn't smoking banned in this building?' A. 'They can fire me')."

**Michael Arrington** (BA 1969; MA 1971; PhD 1982) became Executive Director of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities in 2008, and he travels a lot, visiting Baptist schools in the U.S. and abroad. Before that, he spent 10 years at Carson-Newman College as provost, after 28 years (1973-2001) at Ouachita Baptist University as VPAA/professor of history (he taught history full time for only one year in 1973-74). He and his wife, Pamela Norwood Arrington (Arkansas alumna and retired professor of education who taught at OBU and Carson-Newman for 38 years), moved to Rome, GA, in 2011 to be near their daughter, Ashley Ellington (graduate of OBU, Vanderbilt,

and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government), and her family. He counts hanging out with the grandchildren, ages 4 and 1, as his favorite activity now. He recalls Willard Gatewood, Jack Hudson, Gordon McNeil, David Sloan, Robert Reeser, and David Edwards as "role models and great professors."

**Jeff Aulgur** (MA 1991) is department head and assistant professor of the Department of Professional Studies at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. A 23-year member of the Army Reserve, Aulgur is also Operations and Training Sergeant Major for the 102<sup>nd</sup> Training Division at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

**Jack Stokes Ballard** (BSE 1950; PhD 1974 [UCLA]), retired Air Force officer, educator, and author, currently has five books in print and is researching two others. He most recently published *Commander and Builder of Western Forts: The Life and Times of Major General Henry C. Merriam* (Texas A&M University Press, 2012) and *Fort Logan* (Arcadia Press, 2011). Dr. Ballard lives in Centennial, CO, serves on the board of directors of Friends of Historic Fort Logan and Historic Littleton, Inc., and is adjunct history instructor at History Colorado Museum.

**Bob Besom** (MA 1972, PhA 1975) says "2011 was a whole lot like 2010, 2009, etc.," which presumably means that while he is purportedly retired he continues to process archival material for U of A's Special Collections. He thought he was finishing up with the Union Saw Mill papers but recently came into an additional large body of financial records. Bob and Patty Besom's daughter, Lela, has moved to Seattle and found a job at a private school.

**Robert Patrick Bender** (MA 1993; PhD 2001), tenured history professor at Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell, had his second book (*Worthy of the Cause for Which They Fight: The Civil War Diary of Brigadier General Daniel Harris Reynolds, 1861-1865*) published by the University of Arkansas Press in November 2011. On March 17, 2012, there was a presentation and book signing at Lakeport Plantation in Lakeport, AR. He recalls that while being in awe of the depth and breadth of Dr. Gatewood's scholarship, "I never felt intimidated in

his presence because his demeanor was always so personable and inviting."

**Paul Blissit** (BA 2008) is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade history teacher at Hot Springs Middle School.

**Chris W. Branam** (MA 2011) won the Arkansas Historical Association's James L. Foster and Billy W. Beason award for best thesis or dissertation in Arkansas history completed in 2011. He is a reporter for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

**Paul Brewster, Sr.** (BA 1986; PhD 2007 [Southeastern Baptist Seminary]) is pastor and professor at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA. He delivered an address, "Andrew Fuller and the Napoleonic Wars," at the "Baptists and War Conference" at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville last September and published "Out in Journies': Village Preaching and Revival among 18<sup>th</sup>-century Particular Baptists," in the *Andrew Fuller Review* 1 (Sept. 2011): 5-11. Brewster traveled to India in the autumn to train pastors there. His eldest child is being commissioned as an army officer, a daughter studies accounting at Union University, and another intends to pursue a missionary career at Moody Bible Institute. "Our nest is emptying!"

**Ross Brown** (MA 2006) is Assistant Attorney General in the Missouri Attorney General's Office and maintains a website on the history of Joplin, MO ([www.HistoricJoplin.org](http://www.HistoricJoplin.org)). He recently judged history websites for a History Day competition, but when he tried to quiz middle schoolers on which branch of historiography their websites were built upon he was largely ignored. He received a "good job!" letter from the Missouri Attorney General lauding his knowledge of history when it came to a case involving the return of medals belonging to a veteran of the First World War to his surviving descendants. He is married to Kimberly Harper (MA 2007) whose own set of accomplishments is outlined below.

**Miles Bryant** (BA 2011) studies history at the College of Charleston and the Citadel.

**Jay Carney** (BA 1999) is "settling in nicely" to his recently acquired tenure-track position as assistant professor of theology at Creighton University

in Omaha, NE, where he teaches “Church History” and “Introduction to Christianity.” He recently earned a university fellowship to pursue research on post-conflict reconciliation efforts in a Catholic diocese in central Congo, and an article he developed from his 2010 Phi Alpha Theta lecture (“Beyond Tribalism: Alternative Political & Theological Visions in Late Colonial Rwanda”) will soon be published in *Journal of Religion in Africa*. He writes, “I would like to thank Lynda Coon and UARK History for the opportunity to teach world history last spring—this offered valuable experience before I started here at Creighton.”

**Jon David Cash** (BA 1979; MA 1983; PhD 1995 [University of Oregon]) remains in his hometown of Crossett, AR, and continues his dual career of freelance historian/front desk clerk at America’s Best Value Inn. The St. Louis Baseball Historical Society plans on hosting him as a guest speaker and publishing his article, “Chris Von der Ahe, the American Association versus National League Cultural War, and the Rise of Major League Baseball,” in their forthcoming *St. Louis Baseball Journal*. Jon vividly recalls Willard Gatewood as an exceptional teacher and scholar, the true founder of the University of Arkansas Press, and a kind and patient mentor of generations of University of Arkansas history students.

**Ellen Compton** (MA 1963) has been selling and signing tons of copies of *Fayetteville*, a pictorial history that she co-authored with Charles Alison, which was published this past year by Arcadia Press. Her story is that she has retired from Special Collections at U of A, but she is frequently seen in its vicinity.

**Harold Coogan** (MA 1966) is a semi-retired history teacher who, in addition to being an adjunct faculty member, lists the following activities: horse racing, quorum court J.P., horse racing, local history projects, and horse racing. To his dismay, his son and grandson are history teachers. He writes, “Many of the older CLIOs can relate to my comment that I have acquired the Ollie O. Maxfield attitude of scorn, ridicule, anger, and dismay toward my ‘know-nothing’ freshmen PSI students.”

**Julie Courtwright** (PhD 2007) is assistant professor of history at Iowa State, where she teaches U.S. environmental

## 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, 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 Jr. Scholarship Fund**, 14) **The Stokely-McAdoo Family International Study Scholarship**, 15) **The Walter L. Brown Endowment in History**.

**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, 1 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, 1 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville 72701, while checks to the **James J. Hudson Fellowship** should be forwarded to: Dean of the Graduate School, 50 Stone House North, 1 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville 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. ■

history and the American West. She published *Prairie Fire: A Great Plains History* with University Press of Kansas in October 2011 [see related story]. It has been named a Kansas Notable Book.

**Blair Cockrum Cromwell** (BA 1997) serves as vice president of communications for the Bentonville Convention and Visitors Bureau but is also a board member of the Rotary Club of Bentonville and the Bentonville Public School Foundation, founder of the Bentonville Half Marathon, and chair of NWA Business Women’s Conference. She and her husband, Rich Cromwell, have two daughters—Greer, 4 and Scout, 2—and are expecting a third child in August 2012.

**Bryant E. Crooks** (BA 2010) is currently enrolled at the U of A School of Law and is expecting to graduate in May 2013. He was runner-up in the 2012 Ben J. Altheimer Moot Court Competition and also garnered an honorable mention for Best Brief.

**Erik Paul Danielson** (BA 2001; JD 2004), is an attorney at law in Booneville. It runs in the family, it seems, Danielson being the son of Justice Paul Danielson and Judge Elizabeth Danielson.

**John Kyle Day** (BA 1997; MA 1999; PhD 2006 [U. of Missouri]), has been awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He currently serves on the advisory board of

Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, is president of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, and is on the board of directors of the Arkansas Humanities Council. Last summer, he participated in the NEH program, "African American Struggles for Freedom and Civil Rights, 1865-1965," hosted by the W. E. B. DuBois Institute at Harvard. His daughter, Sabrina, was named to the Drew Central Honor Roll for 1<sup>st</sup> grade, December 2011, and his family is expecting a little boy in May.

**Thomas DeBlack** (PhD 1995) is professor of history at Arkansas Tech. He has been making the most of the Civil War sesquicentennial, speaking to a number of state and local historical associations. He is completing a centennial history of Arkansas Tech as well as revisions to his chapters of *Arkansas: A Narrative History*. He and his wife, Susan, live in Conway. Their mighty gifted and talented daughter, Susannah, is in the second grade.

**Michael Wade Derden** (BA 1995; MA 2000) is Social Science Division Chair at National Park Community College in Hot Springs.

**Tom Dillard** (MA 1975) has retired as head of Special Collections at the University of Arkansas libraries but continues to write his weekly Arkansas history column for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

**Jared Dockery** (MA 1997; PhD 2008), assistant professor of history at Harding University, taught at Harding's Florence, Italy, campus during the fall 2011 semester. He also taught on Harding's brand new American Experience tour during May 2012. They visited the Cumberland Gap, Cane Ridge Meeting House, Jamestown, Williamsburg, Washington, D.C., and Antietam. He became a first-time uncle on December 20, 2011, and says, "Kinsley Abigail Dockery is, of course, above average in every way."

**Susan Dollar** (PhD 2004), associate professor of history at Northwestern State University of Louisiana at Natchitoches, writes of Dr. Gatewood: "I never had him for a history class; and I never heard one of his lectures, but I will remember Willard Gatewood for the many lessons and stories that he took time to share

with me. When I recall my friend Willard, I remember first a gentle-souled southern gentleman, a keen scholar with an inquisitive mind; a nurturing spirit, a kind heart, a warm sense of humor and a wry smile. And his stories linger even as the ubiquitous cigarette smoke dissipates, stories of his youth in North Carolina, of his early years in teaching. Stories of making his way up an icy Cleveland Street, one step at a time, using an old blanket for traction, of making some extra cash in college portraying a medical doctor for a movie short to be seen in theaters, a short assuring the American public that 4 out of 5 doctors could testify as to tobacco's healthful qualities. And then there was the one about having to bail more than one faculty member out of jail. . . . Dr. Gatewood shared his time generously with us, his fellow explorers of the past and the human experience. It was an immeasurable pleasure to have shared part of the journey with him."

**G. Wayne Dowdy** (MA 1991), History Department Manager at Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library in Memphis, TN, published *A Brief History of Memphis* (History Press, 2011) and was subsequently interviewed by C-Span's Book-TV regarding the book.

**Lloyd Nolan Duck** (BA 1975) of Plano, TX, rebranded his business as DBG Advisors last November and specializes in selling privately held companies. Lloyd Nolan Duck III earned a JD from Baylor Law School earlier this year.

**Ann Amerson Engeler** (BA 1963) retired in January 2011, after forty-seven years of teaching (twenty-two years at the secondary level and twenty-five years in higher education). Having taught public school in Arkansas, New Mexico, and Missouri and college in Connecticut (including UConn, University of Hartford, and Eastern Connecticut State University) and Arkansas (Northwest Arkansas Community College), she says that she's enjoying not grading papers for the first time since she was 6. She lives in Springdale.

**David Finch** (MA 1970) counts himself an "old retired guy," though he still does some adjunct teaching. He has seven wonderful grandchildren. Finch says Dr. Gatewood's teaching was "always an inspiration to me."

**James Finck** (PhD 2008) says his biggest news this year was being hired as an assistant professor at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. He also has two publications coming out this year. He has not had time for much new research, as he is USAO's only American historian at the moment and instead spends his time with students and developing new classes to teach.

**Tom Forgey** (MA 1966; PhA 1974) retired in 2002, after thirty-seven years at Southern Arkansas University. He says, "I fondly remember my fellow graduate students; there were seventeen of us in 1964, and most went on to careers in education."

**Buck T. Foster** (BA 1997; MA 1998), visiting professor of history at the University of Central Arkansas, presented a paper at the Old State House on Fort Smith and the Civil War, which was covered by C-SPAN. He also has recorded two podcasts for the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission on Fort Smith refugees and Fort Smith bushwhackers. Gov. Mike Beebe has appointed him to the Prairie Grove Battlefield Commission. On top of all that, he endowed the Arkansas Historical Association's James L. Foster and Billy W. Beason Prize for best thesis or dissertation on an Arkansas topic, which was awarded for the first time this year. On a personal note, he had one daughter graduate from the U of A in May and has one daughter, who is a soccer star, in first grade.

**Zach Gastelum** (BA 2011) will be attending graduate school at the University of Oklahoma.

**Gretchen Gearhart** (BA 1983) recalls that the first class she took after returning to the U of A at age forty-seven was the History of the American People, 1877 to Present with Willard Gatewood. "The class met in Ozark Hall in that blistering hot summer, thankfully at 7:30 a.m. Dr. Gatewood's lectures were so engrossing that my attention never flagged. All his students benefitted from his teaching, but I am also grateful to him for his encouragement, which gave the confidence I needed to succeed in earning my degree."

**Jill Geer** (BA 1992; MA 1996) is Chief Communications Officer with USA Track & Field. She writes, "A slight

change in title and a major move across the country were the focuses of 2012. My work-related travel was the most intense it has been in my 12 years with USA Track & Field. It included trips to Great Britain and South Korea, as well as across the country several times over as USATF held track meets, searched for a CEO, and transitioned me from my home in Boston to what will be my new home in Indianapolis. Last fall my job moved from a senior-advisor-type role to one in which I oversee five departments as well as an outside agency, so my family and I will relocate to USATF HQ in Indy sometime in 2012, given that is where everyone I supervise and work with or for is located. We have bought a home in Indianapolis three blocks from Butler University, so as to soak up any wayward brainwaves and smarts that might waft over. Until the end of the school year, my husband (who left the coaching profession after almost twenty years and is now pursuing his passion—music—full time) and kindergarten-aged son remain in Massachusetts as I commute to the Midwest.” She says her most exotic trip of the year was to Daegu, South Korea, for the World Track & Field Championships, where she spent her 41<sup>st</sup> birthday. A few members of the U.S. team (including an Olympic gold medalist or two) sang happy birthday for her; fortunately, they did not follow it up with a kimchi cake. She recalls the sight of Dr. Gatewood “strolling up to Old Main on cold winter days, wearing only his blazer, cap, and scarf to guard against the elements. As long as he had on his little cap, he said, he was good against anything Arkansas’s winters had to offer.”

**Charles E. Gray** (MA 1950), long-time emeritus professor of history at Illinois State University, continues to read, write, and research. An article entitled “The Twin Engines of Social Change—New Knowledge and Technology” has been accepted for publication in the *Fourth R*, a journal of the Westar Institute (Jesus Seminar). He extends “greetings and best wishes to the University of Arkansas department of history and to that shrinking number of Arkansas professors and graduate students of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.”

**Richard L. Gray** (BA 1989) recently opened up Jensen & Gray, P.C.—a full-

service small firm in the St. Louis area. His son Avery and daughter Olivia are both doing well in school, 6<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade respectively.

**Michael Hammond** (PhD 2009) has been promoted to associate professor of history at Southeastern University in Lakeland, FL, and will chair Historical, Legal, and Leadership Studies there beginning this August. He led a faculty seminar on college learning and student identity formation in the spring and served on a presidential task force on governance and strategic planning. Hammond delivered the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day lecture at Taylor University this past January.

**Kimberly Harper** (MA 2007) won the 2011 Missouri Humanities Council’s Distinguished Literary Achievement Award (non-fiction) for *White Man’s Heaven: The Lynching and Expulsion of Blacks in the Southern Ozarks, 1894-1909* (2010), which began life as her master’s thesis. The University of Arkansas Press will issue a paperback edition this fall. In 2012, *Elder Mountain: A Journal of Ozark Studies* will publish her article, “When Hollywood Came to the Ozarks: The Making of *Jesse James*.” She’s married to Ross Brown (MA 2006).

**Jill Hatley** (BA 1976; MA 1980) is an administrative assistant at the Fort Smith Housing Authority.

**Christine Edmisten Hilker** (BA 1975) has been married for thirty-six years to the same guy, never left Fayetteville, found the perfect profession (for left brain dominant thinking) that combines history with art, architecture, and the environment, and started the first in-house, online, visual image database for the Fay Jones School of Architecture—where she is the director of the CM Smart Multi-Media Resource Center. She has been twice elected to the executive board and has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award (2008) by the Visual Resources Association. In her spare time, she enjoys horseback riding (hunter-jumper and fox hunting) and is treasurer of the North Arkansas Jazz Society.

**Bill Horton** (BA 1997; MA 2000) lives in Rogers and is an attorney at Nolan, Caddell & Reynolds. He has been named to “40 under 40” and Top 100 Trial Attorneys in the state by the National

Trial Lawyers Association. He has also received the Rising Star Mid-South Super Lawyer award.

**Nathan D. Howard** (PhD 2005) has been plenty busy. Last June, he received tenure and was promoted to associate professor of history at the University of Tennessee-Martin. He led a travel study to Greece and Turkey and also visited Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. In July 2011, he travelled to Costa Rica on a mission trip, and in August, he presented a paper, “The *Vita Macrinae* as Theological Invective,” at the International Conference on Patristic Studies at Oxford (UK). He also continues to serve as the volunteer assistant coach for cross country and track at UT-Martin.

**Ben Johnson** (PhD 1991) writes funny stuff for the AACHT bulletin. To wit: “Ben Johnson gratefully turned over the dean of liberal and performing arts duties [at Southern Arkansas University] to more capable hands. During his four years he was able to axe degree programs in Deconstructed Conceptual Choreography and Air Guitar Composition but must report that the interdisciplinary Blank Page as Post-Digital Medium endured. He now has ample time to serve as vice-chair of the State Review Board for Historic Preservation, on the board of editors of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, and on countless university committees that somehow remained in his portfolio when he flew the administrative coop.”

**Larry Jones** (BA 1975; MA 1983) is a high school teacher and college adjunct instructor in Fort Smith. He taught AP and honors U.S. history and AP American government and politics at Northside High School from 1975 to 2009 and coached the school’s academic quiz bowl team between 1986 and 2004, achieving two national championships, seven top-ten national rankings, and seventeen state championships. He has also been teaching U.S. history and U.S. government at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith since 1989. In 2006, the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers bestowed the Teacher of the Year award upon him. His wife, Aiida Jones, has been a nurse practitioner of oncology since 1973, and his son, Neil,

graduated from the U of A in 2002. Jones is a home brewer of stouts and porter ales, an active member of Soka Gakkai International, Nichiren Buddhism, and he has been battling Parkinson's Disease and winning since 2006.

**Veda Boyd Jones** (MA 1974) is the author of 42 books, mostly nonfiction. *Joe's Ghost*, her newest release, a fiction e-book for adults that is set in Joplin, MO, is available for Kindle or Nook. You can visit her website at [www.vedaboydjones.com](http://www.vedaboydjones.com).

**Barbara Roberts Keene** (BA 1961), a licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed professional counselor, has worked at Episcopal Counseling Center, Inc., in Orlando, FL, since 1997. She is certified in family mediation, gerontology, and crisis management, and runs caregiver support groups. In 2011, she celebrated 50 years of marriage to her husband, Dr. R. Bruce Keene, who attended the U of A 1957-1960. They are both major Razorback football fans. "The SEC is always the place for the strong-at-heart!" Their son is gunnery sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Joseph P. Key** (PhD 2001) is associate professor of history at Arkansas State University and has been elected vice-president of the Arkansas Historical Association.

**Charles King** (BA 1990) won the 2011 National Jewish Book Award in the category of "writing based on archival research" for *Odessa: Genius and Death in a City of Dreams* (Norton, 2011). He is currently writing a history of Istanbul from the 1920s to the 1940s and continues to teach in the School of Foreign Service and Department of Government at Georgetown University.

**Bobby L. Lovett** (MA 1969; PhD 1978), professor *emeritus* of history at Tennessee State University, retired last December. His book "A Touch of Greatness": *Tennessee State University, A History, 1912-2012* is due out this summer from Mercer University Press. He won "Best History Book" from the Tennessee Library Association and the Tennessee Historical Commission for *The Civil Rights Movement in Tennessee: A Narrative History* (University of Tennessee Press, 2005). Dr. Lovett has 5 children and 5 grandchildren.

**W. Matt Malczykcki** (BA 1997; PhD 2006 [University of Utah]) is assistant professor of history at Auburn University. He specializes in classic Islamic history.

**Sarah Brooke Malloy** (MA 2005) is secretary to the directors at the Old State House Museum in Little Rock. She contributed an article on Joe C. Hardin of Grady to the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* and is editing the Trulock family correspondence.

**Margaret Gerig Martin** (BA 1947), co-owner of Martin Companies, Kilgore, TX, has been very active in her community. She's published 2 books of poetry for children, taught Sunday school for 60 years, served on the board of the Kilgore Independent School District for 12 years, organized Kilgore Church Women, and is a member of the Coterie Club and Evergreen Garden Club. Mrs. Martin has been inducted into the Kilgore Independent School District Hall of Fame and was elected First Lady of Kilgore, and received the 2011 Champion for Youth Honor from the Boys' and Girls' Club of Gregg County, TX. Her sons, both U of A graduates, established a chair in the Walton School of Business in her honor.

**Michael Martin** (PhD 2003) is Cheryl Courrégé Burguières Professor of History at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He was named director of the Center for Louisiana Studies last August. As director, he oversees all operations related to the Center's mission, including the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press, the archives and research division, and the Center for Cultural and Eco-Tourism. Martin also serves as managing editor of *Louisiana History*, the quarterly journal of the Louisiana Historical Association.

**Brian S. Miller** (MA 2000; PhD 2006 [University of Mississippi]) is assistant professor at Charleston Southern University, where he received the Faculty Member of the Year Award in 2008 and Excellence in Teaching Award in 2009. He wrote a chapter, "Grappling with the Governorship: The Fall and Rise of Bill Clinton," for a forthcoming collection on Clinton. He has been married to Donna Miller since July 4, 2010. His son Chris Breece graduated from University of South Carolina, December 2011, while son Josh Breece graduated from South

Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, May 2011. He also has a son, Sam Breece, and a daughter, Bekah Breece.

**James Paul Moore** (BA 1981; PhD 1992) has released his latest CD, *Mandolin Magic*. It features jazz mandolin—a solid body, single strung instrument, much more like a guitar than a traditional acoustic mandolin—and contains standards from the great American songbook as well as five original pieces, one of which ("September Rain") was written 30 years ago when he was attending U of A. Moore is a retired psychologist and cancer survivor and says in battling the disease he relied on tactics used successfully by the Allies against the Nazis—knowledge he acquired years ago in Evan Bukey's classes. Moore tells us: "Please take care to keep alive the standard of uncompromising excellence embodied so masterfully in Dr. Willard Gatewood. He's a tough act to follow, but the job is yours."

**John (Chip) Mula** (MA 1969) worked with the Oklahoma Department of Education from 1970 until 1996 and then in the lab at OU Medical Center. He retired in 2005. He and his wife, Maureen, have two daughters and a son, as well as nine grandchildren. They own a winter home in Galveston but return to Oklahoma "in time for tulips and tornadoes."

**Lester Niblock** (BA 1981) was commissioned in the Marine Corps the day after his graduation in 1981. Thirty years later, plus a few days, he retired at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. "As I approached retirement, the Marine Corps saw fit to move my family from Germany to Virginia—much to my daughter's dismay, as she was a rising high school senior. We survived our 15<sup>th</sup> move and my daughter graduated valedictorian from Quantico High School. She received an appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and is undergoing 'indoctrination' into the Merchant Marine Academy's Regiment." Niblock enjoys golf and is USMC Program Manager with CGI Federal. Upon his retirement from the Corps, he received a Legion of Merit (3<sup>rd</sup> award). "It was truly an honor to serve our

Country!" The Department is equally honored to have Colonel Niblock as an alumnus.

**Howard A. Nobles** (BA 1965) lives in Benton and is an educator. He also writes poetry, has published two books, *Poems from a Baseball Fan* (2004) and *Lost in Limerick Land* (2011), and served as president of the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas and the Poets' Roundtable of Saline County. He enjoys tennis and golf, too. His wife, Brenda Hudson Nobles (a psychologist), his sons Ethan and Zack, his father, his sister, and a brother and daughter-in-law all graduated from the U of A.

**William Jordan Patty** (MA 2003), works as a processing archivist/librarian at George Mason University Libraries, and has been accepted into the PhD program in the GMU History Department. His daughter, Eleanor Margaret, was born June 14, 2011.

**Faye Robbins** (PhD 1980) lives in Fort Worth and is a retired college teacher and retired vice president of a charitable and educational foundation, Cockroft Forum for Free Enterprise. In 2011, she published a slim volume of poems entitled *Linger Awhile*. She and her husband, Wayne Robbins (EdD 1974) recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary (50 years). They have one son (an attorney and author) and three grandchildren.

**Cristine C. Rom** (BA 1973) is library director at the Cleveland Institute of Art and in 2011 was awarded the institute's highest honor, the Medal for Excellence, which is given to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the visual arts locally, nationally, or internationally. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Phi Mu, and Phi Alpha Theta.

**Bianca Rowlett** (MA 2007) is a PhD student and instructor at the U of A. She presented a paper, "The Kirkpatrick Doctrine and Human Rights: Neoconservative Foreign Policy in the Reagan Administration" at the 2011 conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

**Budd Saunders** (BA 1963; MA 1965; ABD) describes himself as "a retired troublemaking rabid yeller dog Democrat. After over 10 years writing

a news column of imperishable prose I no longer do so. The paper I wrote for was bought by another. The new owners said they had no place for a retired troublemaking rabid yeller dog Democrat. I told the new editor I hoped when he went home his mother didn't wag her tail and bark with joy. But rather bit him on the leg." Saunders is active with the Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corp, which raises money to buy property around the Fayetteville National Cemetery. At present they have bought enough to expand burials for veterans until 2013. Budd has received awards for his dedication to the goals of the National Cemetery, which has been declared a National Shrine. There are only 5 others so designated. He is still married to Nancy Armitage Miller, whom he calls "an Ivy League, Stanford, Oxford and U of A educated intellectual, bleeding heart liberal. On St. Patrick's Day this union will have lasted 32 years. I don't understand that either."

**Mari Serebrov** (MA 2002) is a writer/editor. She currently covers regulatory issues involving biopharmaceuticals for *BioWorld Today*, a Thompson Media newsletter, and is writing an historical novel about the 1904 Herero genocide in German Southwest Africa (she serves as historian for the Herero Genocide Reparation Committee in Namibia). She has also written *The Life and Times of W. H. Arnold of Arkansas: Reconstructing the Southern Ideal* (an offshoot of her master's thesis). She adds, "Both my husband, Job Serebrov, and I were appointed to state offices by Gov. Mike Huckabee, who officiated at our wedding in the arboretum by Old Main. (Job and I met in a graduate history class at the U of A, so Old Main seemed the appropriate place for our wedding.) We left Arkansas in 2007 when Job accepted a presidential appointment at USDA, which he held until January 2009. Job is currently serving as an appellate judge for an Indian tribe in California. We recently moved to New Hampshire to be closer to our three grandchildren."

**John A. Simpson** (MA 1974) of Kelso, WA, has managed to balance historical research and publication with a 34-year career teaching 9<sup>th</sup>-grade history. He writes of Willard

Gatewood, "he provided wonderful suggestions and his cheery personality made him an approachable man. In later years I always made a special point while attending Southern Historical Association conferences to seek him out at the display booth of the University of Arkansas Press. Our visit was always a highlight for me. Who would have known at the time that my thesis on the *Confederate Veteran* magazine would anticipate many subjects discussed in Lost Cause monographs published in the 1980s and '90s (as well as my own books and encyclopedia entries on the subject)? Gatewood remained proud of my scholarly accomplishments three decades after I left Fayetteville."

**Betty Newton Smith** (MA 1971) is a retired social studies teacher who taught at Fayetteville High School for twenty-eight years. She now fills her time with traveling, reading, canning, scrapbooking, quilting (she's donated over 200 quilts for babies and senior citizens), photography, and has won several community service awards, including the M.L.K. Award, the Golden Rule Committee Service Award from J. C. Penney, and the O.E.S. Award. Betty and her husband, Leortice, just celebrated their forty-fifth wedding anniversary. Together they have two sons and one grandson. Of her education, she says, "I give special thanks to A. M. & N. College at Pine Bluff (UAPB) for giving me courage and a good foundation to complete my education career. I also thank the U of A for letting me continue my education studies." She reminds us that "dreams will take you anywhere you want to go."

**Theodore Somach** (BA 2011) is general manager at Music Expo, Inc., his father's music merchandise company. With the help of his father and an entertainment lawyer, he incorporated a new record label, Vinyl Legacy, LLC. National distribution is through MUD Entertainment—one of the largest in the U.S. Somach is credited in best-selling author/T.V. news and radio personality Larry Kane's upcoming book, and his father has a book about Led Zeppelin (*Get the Led Out* [Sterling Publishing]) coming out in the fall (he has a nationally syndicated radio show of the same name).

Theodore recently spent two weeks in Switzerland. When he returns from a trip to Israel in the spring, he will split his time between Philadelphia and South Florida (Boca Raton).

**Thomas Stearns** (PhD 2005) has been granted tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor at Young Harris College in Young Harris, GA. He chairs the history department there.

**Dianna Kirk Thayer** (MA 1974) and her husband have retired to Hot Springs. She spent 30 years in Columbia, MD, teaching history at Howard Community College and University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Her son John, a graduate of St. Mary's College, is a musician, and her son James just graduated from UMBC. Her current activities include singing with the Hot Springs Music Festival Chorus and SAI *Cantate*, volunteer work, travel, gardening, and reading history. She says, "I'm retired. I can do anything I want!"

**Kermit "Frank" Tracy** (BA 1985) just completed his third combat tour in Iraq as a member of the Arkansas Army National Guard—in Operation New Dawn 10-11 with the 77<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade. He has now deployed with all three combat brigades of the Arkansas Army National Guard in Iraq, all while being employed with Union Pacific Railroad as a locomotive engineer as well as being a father and husband. "I have been extraordinarily busy since 9/11 as a proud patriot and soldier. I know very few these days who can say what I have said and done for America at the expense of my personal and family time."

**Jerry Vervack** (BA 1966; JD 1970; MA 1977; PhD 1990) is dean of Social & Behavioral Sciences at Northwest Arkansas Community College. He adopted two sisters from Kazakhstan in 2005. Natalia and Anna, both Russian, are now 14 and 11 years old.

**Andrew Vines** (BA 1995; JD 1998), an attorney with Wright, Lindsey & Jennings, LLP, is a member of the American Bar Association, Arkansas Bar Association, Pulaski County Bar Association, Defense Research Institute, and Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel, and was recently named a member of the prestigious American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). In 2005, he was given the Outstanding Young

Trial Lawyers Award by the Arkansas Association of Defense Council, and, in 2009, he was listed in *Arkansas Business's* "40 under 40." He and his wife, Brooke (BA 95-Communications), live in Little Rock and have a son and daughter, twins Fischer and Bella, born on August 7, 2009.

**Andrew Waddell** (BA 2009), an agent for Shelter Insurance in Little Rock, recently got engaged to Brittany Baughman and is planning a July 14<sup>th</sup> wedding. He is also a leader of young adults at New Life Church of Greater Little Rock.

**Elizabeth Salisbury Warren** (BA 1994), a healthcare attorney in Nashville, TN, says she is married to a great guy (Kevin) and has two wonderful boys she is trying to raise as history scholars. "Luckily, Tennessee has plenty of Civil War history to offer. This year, I took the boys to visit Fort Donelson and Lookout Mountain."

**Bobby Watson** (BA 1973; MA 1975) is now a self-employed human resource/payroll software consultant after having spent several years employed in the industry. He stays pretty busy keeping up with his wife, three kids, and six grandchildren. He and his wife, Priscilla, live in Fort Worth, TX, and are avid baseball fans (they support the Texas Rangers). They are also involved in their church and numerous charitable organizations.

**James A. Wooten** (MA 1950) lives in Shreveport and is a retired FBI special agent who enjoys hunting and family activities.

## Deaths

**William Fadjo Cravens II** died in Fort Smith on February 19, 2012. He was born in the same city on January 28, 1929. Both his grandfather and his father represented the region in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the twelve-year-old Fadjo was present in the House gallery when Franklin Roosevelt delivered his "Day of Infamy" speech on December 8, 1941. After earning a degree in history at the U of A, Cravens worked for 31 years at Merchants National Bank, which his family had founded in the 1880s. But, as his son said, "He was the first to say banking wasn't his real love. It was history, specifically Arkansas history and Fort Smith. It really just drove him."

Cravens collected historical documents, photographs, and other artifacts over many decades and was instrumental in the establishment of the Fort Smith National Historic Site. Fadjo Cravens was married to Kate Sparks Bemis, who died in 1994. They are survived by 6 sons, 15 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

**Lois Lawson Morris** (MA 1966) died in Russellville on October 16, 2011 at age 96. She was a native of Antoine, AR, and educated in Delight and at Henderson State University. She taught in Delight and Russellville, before becoming an assistant professor of secondary education at the U of A in 1955. She was best known for her training of history teachers. Morris retired in 1982, having been honored ten years earlier by the Arkansas Teachers' Association as best college teacher of the year. Razorback great Jim Lindsey said of Morris, "I couldn't say enough nice things about her as a person, teacher, role model. That was her goal in life—to give everyone a leg up, a little better than how she found them." The U of A Board of Trustees praised her for fostering strong collegiality and friendship among the faculty, both in her department and across the university. In retirement, she painted and researched and wrote history, including an article published in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*. She and her husband, William Doyle Morris, had a daughter. They are survived by two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Paige E. Mulhollan** (MA 1962) died in Fayetteville on June 30, 2012. He was born in Fort Smith on December 10, 1934. After completing a master's degree at the U of A under the direction of Walter Brown and publishing several articles in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Mulhollan became a faculty member in the Department, serving as an instructor and then assistant professor between 1963 and 1970. He earned his doctorate in history at the University of Texas in 1966 and played an important role in assembling the oral history collection of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library. He subsequently held teaching and administrative positions at Kansas State University (associate dean of arts and sciences and associate professor of history), the University of Oklahoma (dean of arts and sciences and professor of history),

and Arizona State University (executive vice president and chief operating officer). In 1985, Dr. Mulhollan became president of Wright State University in Dayton, OH, serving in that position until 1994. He and his wife, Mary Bess, thereupon moved to Hilton Head, but in 2005 they returned to Fayetteville, where Dr. Mulhollan took leading roles in the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks and the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society. A passionate sailor and birder, Mulhollan served as an official for the 1996 Olympic sailing trials and achieved a birder's life list of over 670 species. He is survived by his wife, two sons, three grandchildren, and a great grandchild. ■

## 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:

"Creating the Thomas McRae Sanatorium for Negroes: Race, Contagion, and Space in Jim Crow Arkansas," by Shauna Gibbons.

"Escape from the 'Floating World': Kabuki Theater in Conflict with the Bakufu Government of Tokugawa Japan (1600-1868)," by Suzanne Schenewerk.

"Erotic Dream and Governmental Nightmare: Use and Censorship of Pillow Books in Edo Culture and the Influence of the 'Floating World,'" by Emily Chase.

"An Assessment of Transformations in American and Canadian Women Homesteaders in the Mid-Nineteenth to Early Twentieth Century Wests," by Rachel Albinson.

"The Métis and the Manifest Destiny of the Canadian Northwest," by Donald Holler.

Read these and the past four seasons' worth at: [history.uark.edu/5628.php](http://history.uark.edu/5628.php). Any queries or submissions should be directed to the editor, Prof. Rembrandt Wolpert at: [wolpert@uark.edu](mailto:wolpert@uark.edu). ■

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# The History NEWSLETTER



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