

---

---

# The Historian

---

---

Volume 6 Issue 1

August 2002

---

---

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

## GREETINGS

### From the Desk of the Chairman

Greetings, and best wishes at the beginning of a new academic year. As you will read herein, it has been a very good year for the history department and for its alumni.

Special kudos go to Drs. Jack Ellis and Lee Williams for organizing an impressive semester - long lecture series on "The Civil Rights Movement in Alabama." They were ably assisted by Dr. Sheri Shuck and by our highly capable administrative assistant Beverley Robinson. This program had reverberations around the state, and greatly increased ties with Alabama A&M University, the co-sponsor. Among other financial sponsors of the program, special thanks to the Bankhead Foundation.

The department's scholarship winners for 2002-2003 are as follows: Christina Lester is the recipient of the John Hendricks scholarship; Gina Lee won the Junior Heritage Woman's Club scholarship; Lisa Sutherland and Michelle Patton received Frances Roberts scholarships. Congratulations to all.

Our students continue to perform well, and go on to make valuable contributions to society as alumni. We had five graduates in the Masters Program this year, a high number for our small program. They will be sorely missed, especially long-time Phi Alpha Theta officers Barbara Wright and Bryan Armentrout.

They made outstanding contributions to the program.

I hope you enjoy news of your fellow alumni herein. Please send us information about your experiences, occupations, and achievements for next year's newsletter. Also, we are seeking your advice on the format of the newsletter, that is, whether to continue to produce a print version or save the department much needed money and only produce it online. Our relatively new web page is located at: [www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/history/index.html](http://www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/history/index.html). Come visit and reacquaint yourself with faculty (older members had the privilege of having their photos touched up).

Finally, thanks to all of you who responded to our November phonathon with generous gifts to bolster the Frances Roberts scholarship fund.

Sincerely,  
Philip P. Boucher, Chair

## Grady Set To Publish Major Work on John Patterson

Former UAH Department of History graduate student Alan Edwin Grady is set to publish a critical analysis of the political life of former Alabama attorney general and governor, John Patterson. The new book is based largely upon research done for his three hundred-plus page master's thesis, entitled The Campaign for Decency: John Patterson as Alabama Attorney General, 1955-

1959. Completed in December 1992, this fine work was directed by Dr. Lee E. Williams, II with the assistance of Drs. Andrew Dunar and Johanna N. Shields. Grady found that Patterson impressed Alabamians with his attacks against gangsters, corruption, loan sharks and, most of all, civil rights activists. The study described Patterson's foray into politics in 1954 after the gruesome murder of his father, Albert Patterson, who had battled corruption on every level in his hometown of Phenix City, Alabama, then well known as the headquarters of the "Alabama Mafia." The thesis also closely examined John Patterson's actions as Alabama's Attorney General, the political and social environment in which he operated, as well as the image he conveyed to Alabamians during that period. In like manner, Grady inquired of Alabamians' concept of decency and Patterson's ability to identify with that concept, which contributed to his election as governor in 1958.

Expanding upon this thesis, Grady received a contract from The University of Alabama Press for the publication of a book that more thoroughly explores the life of John Patterson. In the wake of this revelation, Patterson is actively and aggressively seeking to stop publication of Grady's work in an attempt to protect his image from being tarnished and to produce a more favorable legacy for himself. These actions notwithstanding, this new and penetrating history of the life of

John Patterson shall prove extremely illuminating.

## FACULTY

**Philip P. Boucher** - Boucher continued to work on the first volume of his two volume "France and the Greater Caribbean." A Humanities Center grant facilitated research in the Library of Congress and the John Carter Brown Library. He chaired sessions at two conferences, the Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction held at the phenomenal Huntington Library in Pasadena, CA, and the French Colonial Historical Society at Yale. For the latter organization, he served on the editorial board of its journal and was named program chairman for the 2003 conference to be held in Toulouse, France. As department chair, he finds the work one part tedious and one part rewarding, as when faculty colleagues realize the achievements described next.

**Andrew J. Dunar** - Andrew Dunar had a most unusual year for a historian—serving as interim chair of the Music Department.

Although he still doesn't know the difference between an augmented sixth chord and a cord of wood, he learned a great deal and heard a lot of excellent music. He also learned that the repertoire of jokes about the readily apparent gap between his musical talents and the logical qualifications for the job is virtually inexhaustible. He began to teach the HY 490/590 senior seminar in the spring semester. He continues to work on a post-presidential biography of Harry S. Truman, and on an oral history of The Farm, a hippie community founded thirty years ago in Summertown, Tennessee, southwest of Nashville.

**Jack D. Ellis** - During the past year, Jack D. Ellis worked with

colleagues at both UAH and Alabama A&M in planning and overseeing the special series, "The Civil Rights Movement in Alabama." The thirteen-week event attracted an average audience of 300 and generated considerable interest within the local and state community and the press. Funded by UAH and Alabama A&M, as well as by numerous outside sponsors, including the Alabama Humanities Foundation, *The Huntsville Times*, DESE Research, Inc., the Bankhead Foundation, and MEVATEC Corp., the series brought to the two campuses in the fall of 2001 many of the most prominent veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, along with leading modern historians. With Professor Lee Williams, Professor Ellis helped prepare the grant application to the Alabama Humanities Foundation. During the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ceremonies at UAH this past January, he, Professor Williams, and other faculty involved were honored with a special citation from the presidents of UAH and Alabama A&M.

Professor Ellis also continued his research on African-American physicians in the Deep South between Reconstruction and the Civil Rights Movement, and to date has completed a total of seventy-five interviews of doctors and their families recounting their experiences of medical practice under segregation. In February 2001, he presented a RELACS paper on his research. In November, 2002, he will give a paper on his work at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association in Baltimore in a session focusing on professionalism and medical practice among Black doctors in the South.

**Richard A. Gerberding** - Dr. Gerberding spent the spring

## The Historian

semester in England and Italy working on his project concerning the medieval Lombard author, Paul the Deacon, and the Carolingian court. He also finished the final revisions of his textbook for Houghton-Mifflin Publishers.

**Virginia Martin** - Dr. Martin's first book, *Law and Custom in the Steppe. The Kazakhs of the Middle Horde and Russian Colonialism in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*, was published by Curzon Press (London) in 2001. She attended two conferences in Fall 2001. One was an international workshop at the Martin-Luther Universität in Halle, Germany on the topic of the "interaction of nomadic and sedentary peoples in the old world arid zone." Her paper was on Kazakh land disputes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The other conference was the annual meeting of the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) in Madison, WI, at which she presented a paper on "Perjury in the Colonial Courtroom: the Meaning and Practice of Oath-taking among Kazakhs in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century" and attended meetings of the Executive Board of CESS, to which she was elected in Winter 2001. As a member of the CESS Board, she is also serving as Editor-in-Chief of the *Central Eurasian Studies Review*, a scholarly journal first published in Winter 2002.

As if research, conferences, professional service and a myriad of teaching and service activities at UAH are not enough to keep her busy (or drive her mad!), Dr. Martin devotes all of her "free" time to her lovely family – two daughters, Julia (5) and Anna (1) and husband, Kevin.

**John K. Severn** - Professor Severn continues in his capacity as Director of Undergraduate Advisement for the College of Liberal Arts, and in his efforts to

### 3

complete his manuscript on the Duke of Wellington and his brothers. In March he presented a paper at the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe held in Baton Rouge entitled "The Political General: Wellington from India to Salamanca." At that same meeting he was asked to assume responsibilities as treasurer of the Consortium.

**Sheri M. Shuck** - This academic year, Sheri Marie Shuck focused on completing research on her manuscript, "Voices From the Southern Borderlands: The Alabamas and Coushattas, 1500-1859." Receiving funding from two consecutive UAH MiniGrants, Shuck conducted research at the Library of Congress, Center For Louisiana Studies, New Orleans Historic Collection, and the British Public Records Office in London. In the spring, Shuck visited the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation in Livingston, Texas, where she met with tribal elders and discussed their history and material culture.

Shuck presented her research on the Alabama and Coushatta tribes at RELACS in September. She also presented a paper entitled, "Holding the Balance and the Division of the Alabama Nation, 1714-1763," at the *Gulf South History and Humanities Conference* held in Mobile, Alabama.

Shuck is currently working as a consultant for the Burritt Museum's new exhibit "Living With Nature," funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Shuck is responsible for directing its Native American component, focusing on the Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Choctaw tribes.

This summer, Shuck received the Clements-DeGolyer Research Grant, which enabled her to study at the Center For

Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

**Stephen P. Waring** - Stephen Waring is up to the same stuff. He tried to keep his desk clean--and failed. He tried to stay out of trouble--and failed. Waring somehow managed to win election as president of the UAH Faculty Senate for 2002-03. As president-elect, he spent lots of time listening to faculty planning (haranguing), paying attention to administrative planning (plotting), and representing the faculty (complaining) to the administration. Waring continues to work on his history of the space shuttle *Challenger* accident. To help progress in his research and writing, he won a NASA Summer Faculty Fellowship to work at Marshall Space Flight Center in the summer. This meant that for the first time in decades Waring worked from eight-to-five. He enjoyed working in a different place in a different culture, even though that meant having his notecards checked at security everyday. Hanging out with aerospace engineers and space scientists was fun!

**Lee E. Williams, II** - During the Fall Term of this academic year, Dr. Williams taught a section of HY 102, HY 414/514 and helped to team-teach Honors 399-01 [The Civil Rights Movement In Alabama]. He also served as principal investigator for the highly successful Civil Rights Movement In Alabama Project which covered the entire Fall Semester with a series of thirteen weekly offerings. During the Spring Semester, Dr. Williams taught Hy 225 while administratively helping to bring to conclusion the Civil Rights Movement In Alabama Project. Concurrently, Dr. Williams served

## The Historian

as director of the UAH Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Dr. Williams served on the Directors' Council, the Deans and Directors' Council, the Academic Council, the Administrative Council, and the Alabama Classroom Enhancement Project Proposal Evaluation Committee. He participated in a recruiting venture to Oakwood College, and served on the UAH Alabama Alliance For Minority Participation Review Committee. He holds memberships in the UAH Chapter of the National Archeological Society, the Black Heritage Council of the Alabama Historical Association, the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, and the Alabama Historical Association as well as the advisory board of the Burritt Museum. He served as third reader for Barbara Wright's thesis.

He received two plaques for his work with the Civil Rights Movement In Alabama Project: one from President Frank Franz (UAH) and President John Gibson (Alabama A&M University), and one from the Huntsville-Madison County Chapter and the Alabama Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He received a certificate of appreciation for the Tennessee Valley Jazz Society. He also served as keynote speaker for "Men's Day 2002" at the Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Furthermore, he presented an informal lecture to the UAH Political Science Club regarding the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama, and received his UAH thirty-years' service recognition clock. The Office of the Provost granted Dr. Williams a sabbatical leave for the 2002-03 academic year.

## STUDENTS

**Donna Castellano** - As a part-time instructor for the department in Western Civilization, I actually spend more time at the department and its classrooms now than I did while attending classes before I (finally) earned my degree in Spring 2001. In addition to teaching, I have become involved in several organizations dedicated to the preservation of Huntsville's history by safeguarding its architectural past. The purpose of one of these organizations, the Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association (THPDA), is to maintain the Weeden House, the home of Maria Howard Weeden, a late nineteenth-century artist who supported herself after the Civil War by her poetry and drawing of freed slaves. Although her poetry reflects the paternalistic racial views of former slaveholders toward African-American men and women, her drawings dignify and humanize her subjects during a period when African-Americans were depicted artistically as caricatures of a racial stereotype.

The Weeden House operates as a museum that offers visitors a glimpse into upper-class life in a small town in antebellum Alabama. Until recently, the museum's directors have neglected to address some of the important questions of race, class, and gender which defined the lives of the people who lived in this house over its approximately two hundred year history. Drs. Boucher and Dunar have offered to provide research support to the Weeden House through Phi Alpha Theta. Through the department's support, it is hoped that the history of the Weeden House can be expanded to include the history of all people who made their home under its roof.

**Joe Green** - I am still attending the University of California-Riverside. I am making progress academically

towards completing my doctorate. I am in the middle of a two-year stint in Mexico. I spent the last year in Mexico City, working at various archives there. The next year will be spent in Guadalajara. For this trip, I received a grant from UC Mexus, an interdisciplinary, UC-wide institution that focuses on Mexico and Mexico-US relations.

**Tracy Snyder**- I am a recent recipient of both an Emmy Award and a Radio and Television News Directors' Award for news excellence. I have left local news for network news. I work for NBC as a National Assignment Manager and Writer. I am responsible for covering national news across the U.S. and getting video, SoundBits, and scripts to all NBC affiliates. The national stories you see on local news in Huntsville come from our work in Charlotte. I am also in charge of gathering news items from affiliates. I am responsible for coordinating efforts in Charlotte with the network desk for MSNBC in New Jersey and NBC-owned and -operated stations, like Chicago, Washington, DC, and Burbank. I also work with the Today Show and Nightly News to ensure those programs get items they need. Since September 11<sup>th</sup> the desire for national news has increased, and I enjoy covering the President and the Pentagon. I enjoyed the opportunity to be part of NBC's Winter Olympics coverage. With NBC I also get the chance to work with some entertainment coverage as well.

I live in Charlotte, North Carolina, but I get to travel. I have especially enjoyed traveling across the Southeast. Within the last year, I have visited Washington, DC, Richmond, Durham, Raleigh, Asheville, Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, Jacksonville, Orlando, Miami, and Key West. Recent stories I have written include shark

## The Historian

attacks, Spring Break arrests, and restoration work on the Confederate submarine "Hunley." I also have overseas trips coming up to Paris and Amsterdam.

**John McKerley**-I received my MA in History from the University of Iowa in 2001 and was accepted into the department's Ph.D. program. I'm going to take my comprehensive exams next fall. The tentative titles of my three teaching fields are "Race, Labor, and Radicalism in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era," "The U.S. South from Slavery to the Age of Jim Crow," and "Modern Africa." Currently, I am trying to turn my MA essay, "Too Mixed Up': Class, Color, and Community in the Alabama Coalfields," into an article.

Publications: My entry on the Boston Police Strike of 1919 will be appearing in the upcoming Encyclopedia of Organized Labor, edited by Robert Weir.

Conference Papers: "Memory and Mythmaking: Cultural Politics, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the National Civil Rights Museum" (given at the Missouri Valley Historical Conference in March 2001)

Awards: University of Iowa Crossing Borders Fellow, 1999-2000. Graduate Student participant in the International Forum for U.S. Studies (IFUSS) trip to South Africa (August 2001)

Teaching: I'm teaching a class of my own design entitled, "Segregation in the City: Birmingham, Alabama, and Johannesburg, South Africa in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century."

Union: I'm also a proud steward of UE-COGS (Campaign to Organize Graduate Students) Local 896.

**Beth Hancock**-received a teaching position in the History Department at Gainesville College in Gainesville, GA.

**Dr. Sarah Kidd**-has defended her dissertation and graduated from the University of Missouri.

**Claus Martel** - (B.A. 1988) a historian at Redstone Arsenal, was honored at the White House in May 2002 for raising a record amount of money for this year's local Combined Federal Campaign. Among other initiatives, he established a website and created an online E-Bay style silent auction to raise money. For example, he persuaded such groups as the North Alabama Jazz Group to perform for the highest bidder. Martel was inspired, he said, to go well beyond normal charitable contributions by the recent death of his mother that resulted from ovarian cancer. "I was pretty stingy with giving. I approach that whole thing with a different set of eyes and that's the way it usually happens." (Huntsville Times, May 19, 2002)

## Phi Alpha Theta

The Tau Omega chapter of the history honorary Phi Alpha Theta initiated four new members at a ceremony last fall at the home of department chair Dr. Philip Boucher. New initiates included graduate student Jason Keenum and undergraduates John Rideout, Christina Lester, and Gina Lee. The chapter's president, Erin Reid, organized a bounteous cornucopia of food for guests. Other officers assisting Ms. Reid throughout the year were Ann Lawson, vice president; Christina Lester, secretary; Bryan Armentrout, treasurer; and Barbara Wright, historian. The Severns once again opened their home for a spring picnic shortly after the end of the spring term.

The chapter has several projects underway or in the early planning stages. One of these is an on-going oral history project in

which members interview UAH faculty members or former faculty members, compiling in the process an oral history of the early years of the university. Another project will be initiated in the fall through the cooperation of former Phi Alpha Theta president and recent UAH M.A. recipient Donna Castellano, who has recently assumed supervisory responsibility over the Weeden House on Gates Avenue, one of Huntsville's historic buildings. (See Donna's report on p. 4)

## The Society for Ancient Languages

The Society had another very successful year. Its members spent the fall semester studying Latin poetry. In the spring they tried something different: they investigated the Latin writings of three "modern" authors, Bacon, Galileo, and Newton. In April they hosted Professor David C. Lindberg of the University of Wisconsin, one of the discipline's leading scholars of medieval science, as their distinguished guest lecturer.

## History Forum 2002 October 10-24

### *The Women's Movement in the United States Since 1890*

This year the UAH History Forum, with support from the Bankhead Foundation, is presenting a three-part lecture series, "The Women's Movement in the United States Since 1890." The goal of this year's forum is to provide a multicultural perspective exploring women's leadership during the progressive era, the rise of women in the workplace, and issues currently confronting professional women. The sessions will be held on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Roberts Recital Hall on the

## The Historian

UAH campus. The following is a schedule of the sessions:

### October 10 – Keynote Speaker – Dr. Robyn Muncy, "Women, Democratic Politics, and Progressive Reform, 1890-1925."

Robyn Muncy is an associate professor of U.S. History and Women's History at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is the author of *Creating a Female Dominion in American Reform 1890-1935* (1994) and co-editor of *Engendering America: A Documentary History, 1865 to the Present* (1998). More information can be found at:

<http://www.inform.umd.edu/Hist/Bio/muncy.html>

### October 17— Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland, "Feminism in the Business World: Evaluating Women in the Corporate Culture."

Angel Kwolek Folland is the director of the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research and a professor of history at the University of Florida. She is the author of *Engendering Business: Men and Women in the Corporate Office, 1870-1930* (1994) and *Incorporating Women: A History of Women and Business in the United States* (2001). More information can be found at:

<http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/halohead/prof1.html>

### October 24 – "Past, Present, and Future: Challenges Facing Women in the 21st Century"

This last session will consist of a panel discussion including leading women of Madison County who have taken part in the great historical and social changes in women's professional status over the last half century. Participants will relate their experiences in the professional world since the modern Women's Movement and discuss the challenges ahead.

## Black History Month

The Department of History, in conjunction with the Office of Multicultural Affairs, undertook or participated in the following activities during Black History Month 2002 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville:

- The Black Student Association Town Hall Meeting, Union Grove Gallery.
- The Huntsville-Madison County and Alabama Conference Emancipation Proclamation Celebration, Madkins' Chapel CP Church [Huntsville, Alabama]
- Completion of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama Project
- One-woman play entitled "And Aren't I A Woman: The Life of Sojourner Truth," by Ms. Kathryn Woods.
- The Office of Multicultural Affairs Black Student Roundtable.
- Lecture to UAH Political Science Club on The Civil Rights Movement in Alabama.
- Office of Multicultural Affairs' Annual Black History Month Luncheon with Judge M. Lynn Sherrod as Keynote Speaker.

## History Tournament

Six years ago the history department initiated a contest for local high school history students. The department expected that the contest might foster an interest in history, reward students for their academic preparation in history, and bring local high school students to the UAH campus. Since then the contest has grown. In its second year, other departments joined, and the College of Liberal Arts expanded the event into an annual UAH Liberal Arts Tournament Day.

For this year's tournament on April 17, the departments of art,

communication arts, political science, and psychology joined our department to stage the event. Approximately 550 students, most from Huntsville and Madison County, but some from as far away as Birmingham, came to Chan Auditorium and to the Art Department spaces in Roberts Hall. Seven high schools participated in the history contest: Bob Jones, Catholic, Grissom, Huntsville, Johnson, Randolph, and Sparkman. The history contest is divided into two sections: U.S. history and world history. Team awards went to the top three teams in each contest, and plaques to the top ten individuals in each contest. In the U.S. contest, Bob Jones teams took the first two awards, with Randolph narrowly edging Grissom for third place. Bob Jones students swept the top six individual awards, and eight of the top ten. In the world contest, Grissom dominated, winning the team contest and the top two individual awards, as well as seven of the top ten individual awards. Randolph and Catholic rounded out the top three teams.

Many people from around the campus helped to make this year's tournament a success. President Franz addressed the students at the beginning of the awards ceremony. Enrollment Services provided box lunches for all the students and their teachers, and offered \$500 scholarships to the winners of each contest. The dean's office supplied awards for winning teams and individuals. Testing Services again helped score the tests. Our own Beverly Robinson coordinated the event, as she has done every year since the history contest began in 1996.

## History Forum 2001 The Civil Rights Movement in Alabama

The fall semester of 2001 saw one of the most successful and

## The Historian

exciting lecture series in UAH's history. "The Civil Rights Movement in Alabama," a 14-week program that rotated between the campuses of UAH and Alabama A&M, attracted record crowds and continued the History Forum's long tradition of addressing issues of broad concern to contemporary audiences.

Organized by Professors Jack D. Ellis and Lee E. Williams, in collaboration with colleagues from UAH and Alabama A&M, the series opened with a powerful keynote address by Pulitzer Prize winning writer Taylor Branch, author of *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63*.

In the weeks that followed appeared some of the best-known veterans of the struggles of the 1950s and 1960s. With all flights cancelled during the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>, Freedom Rider Diane Nash again rode a bus--this time from Chicago to Huntsville--where she reminded the standing-room only crowd that one of the great lessons learned by her generation was that violence must not be allowed to dictate the course of history.

That same message came in subsequent weeks from Fred Gray, attorney for Rosa Parks; Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, veteran activist of Birmingham; J. L. Chestnut, author of *Black in Selma*; Odessa Woolfolk, a founder of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; and Congressman John Lewis, who was at the head of the march on Pettus Bridge during the clash known as "Bloody Sunday" in 1965.

Special sessions with panels composed of veteran activists and modern scholars focused on events in specific cities and regions, including Mobile, Huntsville, Tuskegee, and Lowndes County. The final session featured sociologist Aldon

Morris, who offered a personal perspective on the legacy of the movement.

As one of the chief sponsors of this historic series, thanks to the generosity of the Bankhead Foundation, the department of history is proud to have played a part. “The timing was especially appropriate,” Dr. Ellis says, “given the racial divide that still exists in America. The Civil Rights Movement ranks alongside the American Revolution in significance, and future leaders will never appreciate the importance of human freedom without knowing what happened here in Alabama.”