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# The Historian

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

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## GREETINGS

### From the Desk of the Chairman

This note will be my final greeting to you, dear friends and alums, because my term as chair of the department ended August 25. The putting together of the annual newsletter has been one of the more enjoyable of my duties over the last four years. Thanks once again to Bev Gentry (née Robinson) for coordinating this task.

Allow me briefly to present some highlights of the 2003/04 academic year. First, the department successfully completed a review of the last eight years. Thanks to faculty and Bev for the hard work involved in this comprehensive review. The department is holding meetings to address some of the concerns expressed by the outside review committee. No doubt next year the incoming chair, Dr. Dunar, will report to you about those changes. All in all, however, the outside review committee responded very favorably to the department's record of achievement. Let's give ourselves an A-.

It is with pleasure that I introduce our newest faculty member, Dr. Molly Johnson, to you. She graduated from the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana before arriving here last fall. She specializes in modern German history, and her dissertation examined the political, social, and cultural role of sports as a tool for state-building in communist East German. Besides

the normal array of courses, she is introducing one on European women's history and future hopes to add a class on the history of the world since 1945. When I started at UAH in 1974, I thought history ended in 1945, with the post-war world as the subject for journalists and political scientists. Molly, who was born about 1974, obviously has a different perspective. Finally, Molly won a grant to return to Germany this summer to conduct research.

There are two special alumni that I'd like to recognize here (see p. 4 for more "News of Graduates"). Valerie Seaquist (BA, 1983) has recently retired from a successful career at UAH. She reached the position of Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs. (Who said, "what can you do with a history degree?") Val has generously established a history scholarship in her name. Should you wish to contribute to that fund, please send a check payable to The Valerie Seaquist Scholarship, Attn: Gloria Greene, VBRH E15. Val indicates she will sit in some of our master's level classes via the listener license option. We welcome her back.

Dr. James Isbell and his wife gave a generous gift to the department to help update classroom technology. In his spare time, James teaches a variety of classes for the department, including a well-received course on the military history of the United States.

At the honors convocation last spring, the award for top

undergraduate went to John Howard, who is pursuing a law degree at Tuscaloosa. John also won the Colonel Walter Aston Chapter, Colonial Dames XVIII Century History Award and the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Alabama History Essay Award. Noeleen Laughlin won the Daughters of American Colonists award and was one of four recipients of the Frances Roberts scholarship. The others are Steven Straits, Dustin (Shawn) Youngblood, and Joseph Richardson. Danielle Sorrell is the recipient of the Junior Heritage Women's Club scholarship.

It was extremely difficult this year to choose an outstanding graduate student, as we had four people who could have won in another year. We selected Erin Reid, but we proudly also recognize the outstanding records of Ann Lawson, Leah Butler Faris and Shannon Durham. I think my colleagues would agree that we have never had a better class of masters' graduates.

In the balance of the newsletter you will read about department and individual faculty achievements. 2003/04 was a very busy and productive year.

Sincerely,  
Philip P. Boucher, Chair

## RENOVATIONS

It has been a busy summer for Roberts Hall. Workers installed

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two new elevators. We combined classrooms 405 and 406 into one large classroom similar to 412, and relocated the seminar room to room 423. All the classrooms received a fresh coat of paint, new carpet, and new student desks. All the classrooms have new multi-media equipment. We are excited about the positive improvements to our building. It really looks nice!



Knocking out the wall between classrooms 405 & 406



New Seminar Room 423

### History Forum 2004

October 12-28, 2004

#### “Sports and American Culture”

Are sports merely a form of entertainment and mass consumption, an “escape” from the stresses of everyday life? Or do sports in fact reflect and also shape the very fabric of American society and culture? History Forum 2004 seeks to encourage the UAH and North Alabama community to consider sports as a lens through which one can examine broader issues in American society, politics, and culture. The first

speaker explores the intersection of baseball, patriotism and national identity during the Civil War. The second speaker will illuminate modern conceptions of gender as they are articulated through women's basketball. The final speaker will examine the challenges faced by black athletes in the twentieth century. Join us to reflect on how deeply sports has mattered in the history of America.

All three lectures will be held at 7:00p.m. in Roberts Hall Auditorium on the UAH Campus. The dates, speakers and titles are:

**Tuesday, October 12:** Dr. George Kirsch, Manhattan College, “Baseball in Blue and Gray: The National Pastime during the Civil War.”

**Thursday, October 21:** Dr. Pamela Grundy, Independent Scholar, “Amazons or Glamazons: Womanhood and Women’s Basketball.”

**Thursday, October 28:** Dr. Charles Ross, University of Mississippi, “Race and Sport: The Struggle for Equality On and Off the Field.”

### HISTORY ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP TO BE ESTABLISHED

Donna Castellano and Ann Brady have announced plans to establish a History Department alumni scholarship. “This scholarship would not only help further the education of talented history students, but provide a way for graduates to give back to a Department that has given so much to us,” explained Ms. Castellano. You will receive more information regarding this important initiative soon. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact Beverley Gentry in the History

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Department office for more details or you may email Ms. Donna Castellano at [embark7@comcast.net](mailto:embark7@comcast.net).

### History 490/590 Seminar

As all alums surely recall with fondness, the Senior Seminar (History 490) is designed to be a capstone course in which students demonstrate their mastery of the tools of an historian by writing a major research paper as well as writing critiques and reviews. Each student presents his or her work to the class. This year twelve undergraduates and four graduate students completed the course, writing on topics that ranged in time from the Roman Empire to the present, and geographically from the Middle East to Scottsboro, Alabama.

Each year students vote for the best papers in the class. Since each student reads all the papers and everyone hears presentations by each member of the class, students are well qualified to judge the work of their peers. The best essays are singled out for recognition in a journal that includes all essays written for the course. This year’s winning undergraduate essays were Allen Atkins’s “Malcolm vs. The Nation: A Bloody End,” and John Howard’s “Altruistic or Non-Altruistic Motives? Cuba, Economic Imperialism, and U.S. Hegemony.” The winning graduate essay was Tim Simpson’s “Preventable Tragedy: The British 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne at Arnhem: Operation MARKET-GARDEN, September 1944.”

### FACULTY

**Philip P. Boucher** – Dr. Boucher finished his 30<sup>th</sup> year in the history department, and it was a good year. After a hectic fall preparing the

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department for its five-year external review, he traveled to the European Institute at Fiesole above Florence to present an invited paper. He was on blessed Sabbatical this past Spring. In the time not spent revising his manuscript volume on the French in the Caribbean in the early modern period, he did research at the John Carter Brown Library, gave an invited paper at the Omohondro conference at Williamsburg and had the honor of giving a banquet talk commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the French Colonial Historical Society. In June, he helped sponsor a major conference at the John Carter Brown Library commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of Haitian independence.

**Andrew J. Dunar** – Dr. Dunar continues to serve as the editor of the *Oral History Review*, ably assisted by Gina Nix, a graduate student in the department. Last fall he presented a paper on Wernher von Braun in Cleveland as part of NASA's celebration of the Centennial of Flight. He is working on a book-length oral history of The Farm, a hippie community near Nashville, and on a history of Boulder City, Nevada, the city that began as a construction camp for the building of Hoover Dam, which was the subject of his earlier book.

**Richard A. Gerberding** – Dr. Gerberding continues to teach history and Latin. This year saw his co-authored textbook, Medieval Worlds, enter its second printing. He reviewed Andrew Gillett's Envoys and Political Communications in the Late Antique West for The International History Review, and he has been busy designing a class he may teach in Rome, Italy in May 2005.

**Molly W. Johnson** – Dr. Johnson spent eight weeks during Summer 2004 in Berlin, Germany, completing research for her book manuscript Sports, Mass Mobilization, and the Everyday Culture of Socialism in East Germany. In addition to working in archives and libraries, she also conducted oral interviews with citizens of the former East Germany. In the coming year, she will revise her book manuscript for publication, and will present her work at the German Studies Association annual conference in Washington, D.C. and at the Social Science History Association annual conference in Chicago.

In addition to regular teaching responsibilities, Dr. Johnson also gave guest lectures in Introduction to Women's Studies and Introduction to Global Studies during Spring 2004.

Dr. Johnson, together with Dr. Shuck-Hall, are organizers of the 2004 History Forum on "Sports and American Culture" and advisors of the department's new History Club. Highlights were field trips to Alabama Constitution Village and Shiloh National Military Park.



Shiloh National Military Park.

**Virginia Martin** – Dr. Martin was kept busy this year with a few new courses – a graduate course in Russian/Soviet history and the second half of the new World History sequence (HY104). She continues to contribute significant

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time to professional service, mainly in two roles: as chief editor of the *Central Eurasian Studies Review* and as "mentor" to a historian in Kazakhstan as part of a program sponsored by George Soros's Open Society Institute. In June, she met with the Kazakhstani historian in St. Petersburg, Russia, where both worked in archives and libraries on their research projects. Dr. Martin is writing two conference papers for presentation in the fall; these papers will incorporate the fruits of this year's research on the history of the Kazakh steppe in the Russian Empire in the first half of the nineteenth century.

**John K. Severn** – Dr. John Severn filled in for Dr. Boucher as chair during the spring semester. He continued in his role as treasurer of the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe and as Coordinator of Undergraduate Advisement for the College of Liberal Arts. Fall of 2004 will find him on sabbatical leave finishing his manuscript on the Duke of Wellington and beginning research for a new project.

**Sheri M. Shuck-Hall** - This academic year Professor Shuck-Hall is completing final revisions on her manuscript, Shifting Borderlands, Enduring Identities: The Alabamas and Coushattas, 1500-1862, which is currently under consideration with the University of Nebraska Press. It traces the history of the Alabama and Coushatta tribes from their origins in Alabama to east Texas, while exploring themes of borderlands, pan-tribal confederacies, and tribal identities.

Shuck-Hall presented some of her new findings on American Indian identity and coalescence at the annual meeting of the American Society of Ethnohistory in California. She is currently working on the

development of a public history program at UAH.

**Stephen P. Waring** – Dr. Stephen Waring had another NASA Summer Fellowship at Marshall Space Flight Center; again he was the only historian so honored. He conducted oral history interviews of Marshall officials and continued work on his manuscript on the space shuttle Challenger accident. In the fall, Waring took a sabbatical and continued writing. In the past year he has traveled to Germany and Italy. He also is the sole representative of the faculty on the leadership team for the re-accreditation of UAH.

**Lee E. Williams, II** – During the academic year 2003-2004, Dr. L. E. Williams, II participated in the following activities:

- \*Member, Dean and Director's Council
- \*Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs
- \*Member, Administrative Council
- \*Member, Black Faculty Recruitment and Retention Advisory Council
- \*Member, Louis Stokes Alabama Minority Participation Program Advisory Committee
- \*Member, Alabama Civil Rights Movement Symposium Committee
- \*Member, Interfaith Mission Service One Huntsville Group
- \*Member, College of Liberal Arts Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee
- \*Member, BellSouth PLUS Grant Advisory Committee
- \*Keynoter, Northrup-Grumman Black History Month Commemoration Program
- \*Chairman, Thesis Committee for Ms. Erin Reid
- \*Service Recognition, Interfaith Mission Service Annual Dinner
- \*Classes Taught: HY 102, HY 225, and HY 366
- \*Manuscript Reviewer, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and

the Civil Rights Struggle of the 1950s and 1960s: A Brief History with Documents, David Howard-Pitney (ed.) Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2004.

\*Consultant, Harcourt School Publishers, Orlando, Florida

\*Member, Education Department Portfolio Review Committees for Monica Williams and Bryan Gustafson

### News of Graduates

**Sarah Kidd** reports: "this is Sarah Kidd ('BA 90 and MA '93; PhD University of Missouri '02) . I am currently an Assistant Professor of History at Bethel College, a small private liberal arts college in McKenzie, TN. Every year the student body votes for Teacher of the Year, and for the academic year 2003-2004, the honor went to me! I just arrived at Bethel last fall, and it is the first time a first-year professor got it."

**Bob Anderson** majored in history in the early 90s. After a few years he went to University of Georgia law school and graduated in 2001. He is about to take a job clerking for a federal judge in the District Court in Wilmington, Delaware.

### LCDR Cindy M.

**Rodriguez** earned her commission at Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI in June 1990, after graduating from the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) with a degree in Russian Area Studies. At this time, women were not allowed aboard U.S. Navy combatants so after attending Intelligence School, she was assigned to a P-3C Orion squadron (VP-26) in Brunswick, ME. She deployed with her squadron twice to Sigonella, Sicily, where she was involved in NATO operations in Bosnia. Her next assignment was U.S. Central Command

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(CENTCOM), where she was the senior Pakistan/India analyst. As such, she made several visits to Pakistan and India. She later became a Watch Team Chief. She then moved to Fallon, NV, and trained deploying Carrier Air Wings at the Navy Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC). At NSAWC, she was the Iran analyst and later became the Strike Cell Division Head. From NSAWC she joined the crew of USS BATAAN (LHD 5), a large deck amphibious carrier, stationed in Norfolk, VA, as the Senior Intelligence Officer. While on the BATAAN she deployed to the Arabian Sea a week after 11 September 2001, and conducted operations off the coast of Pakistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. During this seven-month deployment the ship was used as a prison for high-value Taliban detainees, and a hospital for Northern Alliance casualties. She was also part of BATAAN's January 2003 surge-deployment to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF). During this six-month deployment the ship was transformed into a Harrier (AV-8B) carrier. Its Harriers destroyed over 470 targets, helping to attrite three Republican Guard Divisions.

LCDR Rodriguez is currently earning her Masters degree at Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL. She resides in Prattville, AL with her five dogs, and has follow-on orders to U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in Miami, FL.

**Tracy Snyder** reports : "I am still working for NBC News based in Charlotte. I am an Evening Assignment Manager-- which basically means I am a "gatekeeper" of news stories, events, planning, live coverage, and a host of other things. I work primarily with NBC owned-and-

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operated stations, such as WNBC in New York, along with MSNBC, CNBC, and the Today Show news department.

I have been traveling quite a bit...I spent a week in Manchester, NH for the primary in January. I just learned I have been assigned to Greece for the Olympics-- an overseas assignment I'm just thrilled to receive! It will be an interesting time-especially with NATO security inside the media village- but it's an opportunity I just could not refuse. I'll be staying into September for some independent travel...so I'm busy researching all the sites."

**Mark Crosswhite** was named Vice President and Associate General Counsel for Southern Company Services.

**Todd Veland** is teaching social studies at Claxton High School in Georgia, and has even designed a new course called "U.S. and World Affairs." He heartily thanks the department for preparing him so well for his career.

**Donna Castellano** continues to help the department by teaching 100 and 200 level classes.

**Leah Butler Faris** will be teaching at Bob Jones High School. **Ann Lawson** will be teaching at Catholic High School.

We encourage all alumni to keep us informed of their activities. You may reach us by email at [history@uah.edu](mailto:history@uah.edu). Check out our website at [www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/history/index.htm](http://www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/history/index.htm).

### History Tournament

On April 15 the History Department, in conjunction with the Departments of Art and Art

History, Political Science, and Psychology, once again hosted the UAH Liberal Arts Tournament Day, an event that annually draws approximately 500 area high school students to participate in academic competition. The History Department's own Beverley Gentry has been the prime organizer of the competition since its inception. "I'm very honored to be involved in such a great event," she said. "The high school students really enjoy it."

A total of nine teams representing six schools (Catholic, Covenant Christian Academy, Lincoln County (Tennessee), Randolph, Sparkman, and Westminster Academy) took part in the U.S. History competition, answering multiple choice questions and writing an essay. Randolph's "A" team won the team competition, and six Randolph students placed in the top ten in the individual competition. Catholic's "A" team finished second, and Lincoln County, the first team from out of state in the history of the tournament, finished third. Randolph also dominated the World History competition. Randolph students took the first nine places in the individual competition, and Randolph's "A" team took first place ahead of Catholic and Covenant Christian Academy.

Once again the History Department had help from many members of the UAH community in staging the tournament. The history faculty contributed questions for both history tests. Dean Kirkpatrick addressed the students at the beginning of the awards ceremony, and her office contributed awards to the winners of the team and individual competition and also provided box lunches for the students and their teachers. Enrollment Services offered \$500 scholarships to the winners of each contest. Testing

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Services again helped score the tests. Carole Vargo, the staff assistant in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, helped decorate the stage.

### Phi Alpha Theta

Academic Year 2003-04 was a quiet one for the Tau-Omega chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, but several members worked hard to maintain an honorable profile for our department's honorary society. Gina Lee (now Mrs. Nix) completed a 2-year tenure as chapter president. She worked hard to organize member involvement in key departmental and college events such as the History Forum in the fall and the Campus Visit Days in the spring. We will miss her leadership and ever good cheer, but are looking forward to a new academic year with incoming president Tim Simpson. A large number of members graduated in the past year, so 2004-05 will be a year of rebuilding and engagement in new activities.

New initiates in 2003-04 were graduate students Leah Butler (Faris), George Kappler, Jonathan Leggett, and Tim Simpson, and undergraduates John Gipson, Alyce Hothem, Brandon Hyder, Megan Keller, Noeleen Laughlin, and Taylor Pontius. In addition to new student members, the chapter welcomed a new faculty advisor: Dr. Virginia Martin assumed that role from Dr. Philip Boucher while he was on sabbatical during the Spring semester and she continues as advisor this year.

UAH-PAT alumni, take note: as long as you maintain your membership, you can stay involved in our chapter's activities! Please contact Dr. Martin at [martinvi@uah.edu](mailto:martinvi@uah.edu) if you would like to be added to our email list.

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### **The Society for Ancient Languages**

Under the capable leadership of Shawn Youngblood, the Society for Ancient Languages had a magnificent year of Ovid. In the fall semester members studied Ovid's Metamorphoses and in the spring his much less widely known work, the Fasti. During April they were very fortunate to have as their distinguished guest Professor Karl Galinsky of the University of Texas, Austin. Professor Galinsky delivered memorable lectures to both students and non-students. Members of The Society were also able to spend time visiting with him, a very special privilege since he is the country's leading authority on Ovid.

### **Black History Month**

Dr. Williams, II reported a good year for the Black History

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Month activities. Listed below are the activities that OMA sponsored:

- Feb. 2-30: Art Exhibit in Union Gallery
- Feb. 7: Co-sponsorship of Huntsville Chamber Music Guild's Nmon Ford Concert
- Feb. 13: Black Student Association/Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Valentine's Ball
- Feb. 18: OMA/Honors Forum Real World Seminar about African American Muslims, featuring Mr. Khalil Alim
- Feb. 27: OMA Black History Month Luncheon, keynoted by Dr. Richard Bailey