

# The Historian

The Newsletter of the Department of History

*The University of Alabama in Huntsville*

## Dr. Gerberding's Castle is a Second Home for the History Department

By Shawn Youngblood, Outstanding History Undergraduate, 2005

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The Castle Grand Souci is the home of Dr. Richard Gerberding, well-known Professor of History here at our very own UAH. The name is a play on words taken from the name of Frederick II of Prussia's summer palace at Potsdam, called Sans Souci, which means "Without Worry." Grand Souci is meant to be a similar retreat from modern-day pragmatism, a retreat that is sometimes not only valuable, but necessary to balance our perspectives and to think about the deeper things of life. Remaining true to his humorous tone, however, Prof. Gerberding endearingly calls his ongoing creation, "Grand Souci," or "Big Worry," and refers to it as a folly. Others who have experienced Grand Souci see it as more of a masterpiece, nonsensical, foolish, extravagant, and costly as it may be.

The creation of a castle is no easy task, so Prof. Gerberding heeded the advice of one Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, an architect and engineer living in Rome during the first century B.C. Vitruvius composed ten books on architecture (*De Architectura*) in which he espoused form's servility not only to function but also to aesthetics. It is not enough for a building to serve some purpose (although

Prof. Gerberding would argue that the Grand Souci has none), but it must also have an appearance that gives credence and legitimacy to that purpose.

Sitting on the Elk River in Rogersville, Alabama, Grand Souci boasts elements from several architectural styles spanning over eight hundred years. While living in the bottom room of what is now the tower, Prof. Gerberding began building the main hall in 1989. This main hall includes a loft bedroom over a multi-tiered bathroom and, opposite the loft across the main hall, a minstrels' gallery. The sturdy walls, high ceiling and small windows are of twelfth-century Norman design, yet are localized by the use of Alabama red-clay bricks for the walls and floor. Open beams in the two story ceiling and a raised wooden platform for the dining area give the room a cozy, rustic feel despite the large open space. Especially eye-catching and personalized are the two walls on which portraits display generations of Gerberdings. The center of attention, though, is the large, stone fireplace, around which informal gatherings frequently turn into unforgettable evenings of storytelling and discussion. Windows completely fill the back wall over-

looking the river and open onto a spacious veranda, which itself leads to a beautiful courtyard and fountain.

The original plans for the castle stopped. The loft was to be the main bedroom, and its vantage point, which provides a breathtaking view of the sunrise over the river below, was the focus around which the rest of the castle was built. Though Prof. Gerberding did not set out to build a full-scale castle, Grand Souci soon took on an identity of its own, one which has yet to allow construction to cease.



## Dr. Gerberding's Castle (continued)

A tower is one of the most identifying characteristics of a castle, and Grand Souci is no exception. Completed in 1996, this tower is a full four stories high, the bottom floor of which has remained as a guest bedroom, complete with its own bathroom. Wooden stairs carry you up to the sixteenth-century Dutch kitchen, which has brick floors and walls, a wooden island, cabinets and a pantry. The countertops are tile, accenting a single, center tile brought from the nineteenth-century home of one of Prof. Gerberding's ancestors in Ballymagory, Ireland. For an added touch of style, not to mention convenience, a dumbwaiter travels between all four floors.

Just down the hall from the kitchen is the wooden staircase leading to the rest of the tower. The floor above is the main bedroom, beautifully crafted with wooden floors and open wooden beams in the ceiling. (In case you were wondering how to reach the minstrel's gallery in the main hall, there is a wonderful little outdoor catwalk that connects it and the main bedroom!)

At the very top of the tower rests my favorite room in the house, the study, which, like every other room, has its very own fireplace. Now high above the river, the view is absolutely spectacular. For a panoramic scene, you may walk yet another outdoor catwalk across to the flat roof of the main hall. Looking over the battlements here you may see the entire estate, from the two-story dock (complete with its own drawbridge) on the river below, to the newly added gatehouse in front.

The gatehouse is the phase of construction currently

underway (its completion is projected to be toward the end of this year). An excellent opportunity for someone to live in a castle complex, the gatehouse is actually a separate guesthouse. Situated above a one-car garage on either side of the drive-through, the living portion is two stories, the living room of which has its own vaulted ceiling and open beams. The kitchen windows at the back of the gatehouse reveal a wonderful view of Grand Souci across a central courtyard, whereas the windows at the front look across a moat to the barbarian lands beyond. Once the portcullis has been lowered across the drive-through, it and an eight foot wall separate Castle Grand Souci from the rest of the world.

All who have visited Grand Souci have been rewarded with a heightened

sense of *dignitas* that can only derive from taking pleasure in those things which, if not vital for everyday life, allow us to act consciously and with conviction.

For fourteen years now, the Society for Ancient Languages has held its annual Convivium here. Each and every spring, sixty people fill the main hall to celebrate *otium cum dignitate* with delicious food, intriguing conversation, wonderful music from the *Vox Angelica* (they truly do have angelic voices), and after-dinner speeches from some of the nation's leading authorities on the ancient world. The reputation of Castle Grand Souci now spreads far and wide, as does the reputation of its lord. We should all be proud of Prof. Gerberding's valuable contribution to our community, both in his castle and in his ideology.

Our abilities make us human, but it is what we choose to do with these abilities that make us valuable members of society. Vitruvius was careful not to allow pragmatism to dominate architecture and lauded style that spoke to the more important elements of our humanity. Prof. Gerberding has certainly continued that tradition and has created a home that conveys a respect for the past, a sense of dignity in the present, and a hopeful outlook for the future. The personality of this creation is a reflection of that of its creator, both of which have made a lasting impression on countless souls traveling through our community. We owe him our thanks for showing us all the value of folly.



## Department News

### Greetings from the Desk of the Chairman

It has been a busy and productive year for the history department. In addition to our customary activities, the department has undertaken some new activities in response to last year's program review, and assisted in university accreditation activities by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the education accreditation association, NCATE.

The most significant changes involve the history curriculum. Some courses will be dropped, and others added. In response to comments from our program review and from students in the senior seminar, we will initiate this year a course at the sophomore level that will be mandatory for majors on historical methodology. The course, which will be taught by Dr. Molly Johnson, will examine research and writing skills, and introduce the study of historiography. This year will also see the introduction of a course in public history that we hope may lead to the development of a public history program. Two of our current students have had internships of the sort that we hope we will be able to stan-

dardize in such a program, Nolene Laughlin at the Space and Rocket Center and Susanna Leberman at the public library (participating in the library's veterans oral history project). Susanna has been involved in other public history activities, and reports on some of these elsewhere in this newsletter. Dr. Sheri Shuck-Hall, who will teach the public history course, will also introduce a course in her specialty, Native American history.

Our students and our graduates continue to make us proud of their achievements. Student awards are discussed elsewhere in the newsletter, but I'd like to emphasize in particular a few of these achievements. Danielle Sorrell, an MA student working with Dr. John Severn, won second place among graduate students at the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference in Mobile in April for her paper, "Soldier Poets: Redefining War and Europe." Two of our MA graduates published books in the spring. Donna Castellano, who has taught several courses at UAH and who is organizing an alumni scholarship campaign, published *Through the Garden Gate: The Gardens of Historic Huntsville*.

Unlike many garden books, Ms. Castellano's shows accurately her interest in history and historic preservation. Dr. Tammy Hall Whitlock, an MA graduate of UAH who earned a PhD at Rice University and who teaches at the University of Kentucky, is the author of *Crime, Gender and Consumer Culture in Nineteenth-Century England*, published by Ashgate.

We are pleased to feature an article about Dr. Gerberding's castle, an amazing structure on the banks of the Elk River in Rogersville that has played an important part in the life of the history department. Dr. Gerberding has generously opened the Great Hall of the castle for Phi Alpha Theta initiations, the annual convivium of the Society for Ancient Languages, and other departmental functions. We are doubly pleased that the author of the article is Dustin (Shawn) Youngblood, one of Dr. Gerberding's students, a former president of the Society of Ancient Languages, and last year's outstanding history graduate.

Andrew J. Dunar,  
Chair




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## History Forum October 13-27, 2005 "Historic Preservation in Huntsville and the South"

Historic preservation has a long history in communities throughout the United States, as people seek to preserve historical buildings and thereby local, regional, and national histories. History Forum 2005 seeks to encourage the UAH and North Alabama communities to explore the many intriguing issues that Historic

Preservation raises. Why do communities wish to preserve historic buildings? What buildings should be preserved? Whose history should be preserved? How do preservation efforts influence economic revitalization and heritage tourism? The first speaker will discuss how buildings along the historic Route 66 reveal key aspects of

American social and cultural history and have therefore become the subject of national preservation efforts. The second speaker Chris Hendricks, a former visiting assistant professor of History at UAH will look at dilemmas encountered in historic preservation

in Savannah, Georgia. The final week will consist of a panel discussion on local and regional preservation issues in Huntsville and in Alabama.

**Thursday, October 13:** Dr. Michael Cassity, Historian and Owner, Michael Cassity Historical Research and Photography, "

## History Forum (continued)

"Derelict Buildings and Broken Dreams: Route 66 and the Transformation of America," 7:30p.m., Chan Auditorium.

**Thursday, October 20:** Dr. Christopher Hendricks, Associate Professor of History, Armstrong Atlantic State University, "'Why Can't We Tear it Down?': His-

toric Preservation in Savannah, Georgia," 7:30p.m., Roberts Hall Auditorium.

**Thursday, October 27:** Donna Castellano, Historic Huntsville Foundation; Philip Dotts, Public FA, Inc.; and Ardeania Ward, Black Heritage Council, Alabama Historical Commission, "Local

and Regional Perspectives on Historic Preservation. A Roundtable Discussion," 7:30p.m., Roberts Hall Auditorium.

## Reaching Out to the Community and the World: The History Department in Global Studies and Public History

The History Department played a central role in launching the University's Global Studies Program, and this fall initiates a new area of study, public history. Following are articles describing each of these activities, and an essay by graduate student Suzanna Lebermam, who is already deeply involved in public history activities.

### Public History

The UAH History Department is initiating a course in public history, a step toward establishing a public history program under the direction of Dr. Sheri Marie Shuck-Hall. Public history applies historical knowledge and methods in public and private settings outside of academia. It addresses areas as diverse as public policy, historical editing, local and community history (historical societies), archives, oral history, public history as a business, museum programs, historical sites interpretation, and historical dramatizations for the media. This program will diversify and enhance the department's graduate and undergraduate offerings. The Public History program will also utilize faculty

expertise and relationships with local and state museums, archives, and libraries. UAH will be providing the only public history course in the greater Tennessee Valley. Future plans include the development of an internship program for students, preparing students for employment opportunities in the private and public sectors. A few of our students have already completed internships working with Huntsville's Constitution Hall Village, the Veterans Oral History Project, and Space Rocket Center.

### History Department in Global Studies

Dr. Shields, Dr. Gerberding, and Dr. Johnson made contributions to UAH's new Global Studies Cognate. Dr. Shields headed a successful effort to gain grant support for Global Studies. Dr. Gerberding serves on the Global Studies steering committee and taught one of its first courses, a History of the City of Rome. The course held five lectures during March at UAH and then another ten in Rome itself during early May. Dr. Johnson gave three guest lectures in Global Studies 200,

the interdisciplinary introductory course for students completing the Global Studies Cognate. She also received funding from the Global Studies program to develop a course proposal for Summer 2006. The course, tentatively entitled "Berlin and Beyond: Germany's Past, Europe's Future," would be taught in Huntsville and in Berlin, Germany.

### A Journey Through Public History

By B. Susanna Leberman  
Graduate Student, UAH  
Department of History

Fall 2005 is going to be an exciting time for those students planning to take the new course, Public History. I did a trial run of this course as an independent study last year. It turned out to be an extremely fulfilling opportunity as I took my historical training and turned it into an active skill. I have been no stranger to public history as I have worked, since 2000 for Early Works' Alabama Constitution Village (ACV), a reconstructed living history museum of Huntsville's downtown square where in 1819 Alabama became a state. As a

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*"Dr. Sheri Marie Shuck-Hall. Public history applies historical knowledge and methods in public and private settings outside of academia."*

## Student Active in Public History (continued)

pre-teen I had volunteered at the village during the summer, and grew up wanting to experience dressing in costume while doing real day-to-day activities that people in 1819 would have done. That is why the tour guides at ACV are called historical interpreters. It was from this background that I came to an academic study of public history. Public history is a multifaceted term, which students in the class will no doubt debate and discuss, but for this journey I will define it as action. "Tell me and I will forget, show me and I will remember." Public history holds many opportunities to make use of forgotten resources that could enrich so many lives, as I have come to experience in Huntsville through my work with the Library, the Heritage Room Archives and Probate Office, the Marshall Space Flight Center archives, and the Pilgrimage and Bicentennial committees.

One of the first requirements for my independent study was to work with the Madison County Public Library on their participation in The Veterans History Project, a national program sponsored by the Library of Congress and the American Folklore Society to document the personal histories of U.S. war veterans. I attended an oral history workshop on how to interview a war veteran, and the next week had my first assignment. I had interviewed people for my thesis work on mills, but nothing could have prepared me for the amazing story I was about to hear. The Nazis at the Battle of the Bulge had taken Mr. Barnard Levine as a prisoner, and as a Jew he faced untold hardships. A copy of his incredible story, along with a Pearl Harbor survivor, a bomber mechanic, an intelligence officer, and many other phenomenal experiences are housed in the Library Archives in the Heritage Room. It

has been a privilege to help veterans tell their stories and preserve their wisdom. Each story has affected me personally, deepening my understanding of life, war, and combat. What started out as a class assignment has become a passion, and now I am helping to train other interviewers to keep this project alive.

Through my thesis project and work with public history I was introduced to one of the greatest treasures at the public library, the archivist Rena Pruitt. She has opened to me a world of opportunity by first asking me to write a series of articles on the photographer Lewis Hine, who made three separate visits to Huntsville to investigate child labor. A public history exhibit of Hine's Huntsville photographs followed the articles. This project required me to dig deep for information on the photographed children, and since Hine had taken the time to write down their names, it was possible to piece together individual stories of these children of Huntsville industry. My research for the exhibit introduced me to Ronda Larkin and the other wonderful researchers in the Madison County Probate Archives, also located on the third floor of the Library. Together, with all these available resources, we created an exhibit that has proven to be on the pulse of public interest. Huntsvillians are extremely interested in all aspects of their ties to cotton manufacturing, and this has been exemplified by how many times I have been asked to speak about my research. I hoped that my first public history exhibit would, in some way, inspire individuals to reexamine what they know about their community and themselves. I was happy to hear that at least one visitor was taken by surprise when he recognized his grandfather in a photograph, and realized that

the family never knew of the moment in time when their grandfather had been singled out by the famous Lewis Hine.

Helping to stir the public's historical interest was a gratifying feeling. I continued to explore this area of public history when the Huntsville Pilgrimage society needed volunteers to act as historical characters in the Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll. I wound up writing three scripts and participating by portraying Elizabeth Adeline Hurd, a schoolteacher from the 1840s who came to teach at one of Huntsville's female academies, and died shortly after from a fever. The cemetery stroll had a large turnout, and is proving to be a popular historical event. Another experience combining popular culture with history presented itself in the form of screenwriter Mark Saltzman, who was working on a made for television movie about the early space program. Based out of California, he needed someone locally to do research. Saltzman contacted the UAH history department for someone who might be interested, and I responded. He needed to know mundane details of everyday life in 1950 Huntsville, such as the names of barbers or favorite diners. It was intriguing to see what information someone writing a historically-based movie would need to enrich a viewer's experience. This was an easy research task due to the vast amount of local material that has been saved in the Heritage Room. The project also required research on the early space program, which caused me to extend my usual library resources to include the NASA archives at Marshall Space Flight Center, and that in itself was a very fun and interesting experience.

UAH could not have chosen a better time to offer a course on public history. Huntsville is in the midst of its

Bicentennial celebrations. There is much to be done, and I am looking forward to being involved. The Library is publishing a book looking back over the past 200 years of Huntsville history. Twenty local historians and researchers were asked to compile a timeline by decades, and I was asked to detail the 1820s. Throughout the year the library is sponsoring a series of programs, and they have asked me to help organize and speak at Septembers program on the subject of Huntsville's textile industry. Drumming up public interest in history has been beneficial to me by allowing me to explore the community in which I live, and has permitted me to work with many talented professionals who have valued my training and willingness to participate. Not only have I had the benefit of becoming part of Huntsville's public history community, but I have seen how the general public hungers to explore its past, even controversial subjects such as child labor. Huntsville holds many opportunities for the aspiring historian, and I hope this public history course in the fall will give other students the inspiration to take their own journey, challenging the public with new information that has the power to redefine and enhance the community in which we live.



*“This year eleven undergraduates and three graduate students completed the course, writing on topics that ranged in time from the time of the late Roman Empire to the present, and geographically from Ireland and Constantinople to Huntsville.”*

## History 490/590 Seminar

The Senior Seminar (History 490/590) is the capstone course for undergraduate history majors. Students demonstrate their mastery of the tools of an historian, writing a major research paper and writing critiques and reviews. Each student presents his or her work to the class in a formal presentation. This year eleven undergraduates and three graduate students completed the course, writing on topics that ranged in time from the time of the late Roman Empire to the present, and geographically from Ireland and Constan-

tinople to Huntsville.

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 Peter Alvarez’s “President Kennedy’s Management of the Missile Crisis,” and Erin Dailey’s

“The Roman Irish and the Roman English of the Dark Ages.” The winning graduate essay was Brad Lewis’s “Divide and Conquer: The Purpose Behind the 1901 Alabama Constitution.”

## Departmental Honors

The College of Liberal Arts held its annual Academic Honors Convocation on April 12 in the refurbished Roberts Recital Hall. Several graduating history majors and graduate students were among those honored. Shawn Youngblood received departmental honors for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement, and Gina Nix and Laurice Smith shared the award for Outstanding Graduate Achievement. The department

presented each honoree with a reference book in his or her area of interest. The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Alabama annually presents an award to a UAH history student who has written the best paper dealing with American history in the colonial or early national period. This year’s recipient was Gina Nix, who won the award for her essay “Misunderstood: Misconcep-

tions that Shaped the Lives and Histories of Frontier Women.” The Colonel Walter Aston Chapter of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century History Award, also an annual award, went this year to Danielle Sorrell.

## Brad Lewis Receives James Madison Fellowship

*“Congress established the fellowship in 1986 to improve teaching about the United States Constitution in secondary schools.”*

Brad Lewis, a graduate student in the History Department, is the recipient of a prestigious James Madison Fellowship. Congress established the fellowship in 1986 to improve teaching about the United States Constitution in secondary schools. Recipients receive up to \$24,000 in support to cover the costs of tuition, fees, books, and room and board. As part of the fellowship, Lewis will attend a month-

long summer institute at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, for which he will receive six graduate credits. Recipients must agree to teach American history, American government, or social studies in grades 7-12 for one year for each year of fellowship support they receive.

Lewis earned a B.A. in history from Auburn University in 1993, and an M.S. in social

studies from Alabama A&M in 1998. He teaches 11<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. history and 12<sup>th</sup> grade American Government and Economics at Ardmore High School. This spring he won honors as the Limestone County Teacher of the Year. His classmates in History 490/590 selected his paper, “Divide and Conquer: The Purpose Behind the 1901 Alabama Constitution,” as the best graduate paper.

## Phi Alpha Theta

Nine new members joined the Tau Omega chapter of the history honorary Phi Alpha Theta during the 2004-05 academic year. Usually the majority of new initiates are undergraduates, but this year six of the new members were graduate students. At the fall initiation at the home of Dr. Philip Boucher, the chapter initiated Susan Kusterle, an undergraduate history major, and graduate students Sam Havelly, Michele Kinney, Janet Pryor, Danielle Sorrell, and Doris Williams. At the spring initiation at Dr. Gerberding's castle, undergraduates Robert

Boyd and Nicole Flaherty and graduate student John Huggins joined the chapter. The student members of Phi Alpha Theta have developed a tradition in recent years of providing sumptuous feasts at the initiation celebrations, and this year was no exception. Officers this year included Tim Simpson, president; Taylor Pontius, vice president; Janet Pryor, secretary/treasurer; and Danielle Sorrell, historian. Dr. Martin served as faculty advisor, and Dr. Dunar substituted for her during the spring semester while she was on sabbatical.



## Phi Alpha Theta Conference

UAH graduate student Danielle Sorrell's paper, "Soldier Poets: Redefining War and Europe," won second place in the graduate student division at the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference at Mobile in April. Only a PhD candidate's work placed above Sorrell's paper, which she originally prepared for Professor Ellis's 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe course. Twenty-five graduate and undergraduate students presented papers at the conference. Sorrell was the only UAH student to attend.

Sorrell's paper examined the work of three British poets whose work centered on their experiences in World War I: Rupert Brooke, Siegfried Sassoon, and Wilfred Owen. In an interview for UAH Insight, which featured her award in its May 2 issue, Sorrell explained that "Their work before the war depicted a romantic, heroic view of war. . . . Following the war, their view was disdainful and sardonic."

She is working on an M.A. thesis examining Quaker influence on the British aboli-

tion movement under the direction of Dr. Severn. After graduation she is considering continuing in graduate school, seeking a Ph.D. with the goal of becoming a history professor. She is also weighing another option; she works part-time in a wine store in Huntsville, and she may pursue a career in the wine industry.



## New Course Offerings

Dr. Shuck-Hall and Dr. Johnson are both introducing new history courses in 2005-2007. In Fall 2005, Dr. Shuck-Hall is teaching a 400/500-level course, "Public History." Students will learn how to utilize their history degrees in non-teaching fields, such as historic preservation, museum studies, oral history, and archival work, and public policy. This course will be a first step toward establishing what

we hope will become a new Public History program that will eventually include a student internship program with local organizations. Dr. Shuck-Hall has also introduced a 300-level course on Native American History. Scheduled for Spring 2007, students will learn about Native American tribes and their respective histories and culture from pre-history to present. This course has been

awarded a Global Studies development grant to diversify UAH course offerings. In Spring 2006, Dr. Johnson will teach a 200-level course, "Historical Methods." This course will introduce history majors to the methodologies of historical research and will prepare students for 300-and 400-level history courses.

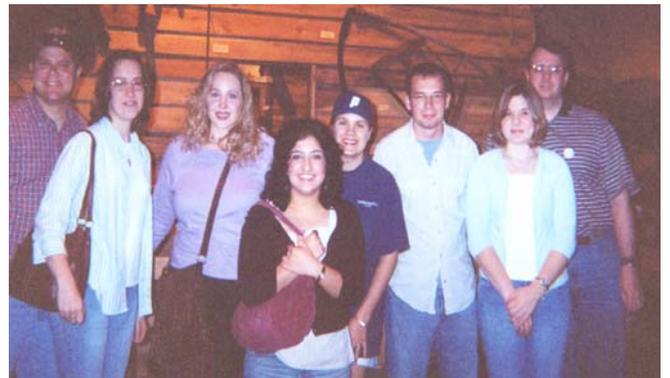
## SEWHA

The UAH History Department co-sponsored with Alabama A&M the annual meeting of the Southeast World History Association (SEWHA) in October 2004. The theme of the conference was "*Pax et Imperium: Empires and Imperialism in World History.*"

Drs. Virginia Martin, Sheri Marie Shuck-Hall and Molly Johnson were on the Program and Local Arrangements committee. They did a marvelous job. Drs. Philip Boucher and Andrew Dunar also contributed to the smooth functioning of the program.

## History Club

The History Club, revived in Spring 2004, had a very successful 2004-2005 year. In Fall 2004, students took a trip to Cathedral Caverns. Furthermore, the History Club co-sponsored a mock presidential election along with the Political Science Club. Then, in Spring 2005, students traveled to the Hermitage and the Parthenon in Nashville, TN. We look forward to more fieldtrips and activities next academic year!



## History Department in Women's Studies

Both Dr. Shuck-Hall and Dr. Johnson contributed to the success of UAH's Women's Studies Programs in 2004-2005. Dr. Shuck-Hall continued her work as advisor of the Women's Studies Student Organization. She also organized the annual Women's Studies Essay Contest, which received a record number of submissions. Both Dr. Shuck-Hall and Dr. Johnson also gave guest lectures in UAH's introductory interdiscipli-

nary Women's Studies course, and Dr. Johnson served as a member of the Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee and also taught a new class, "Women in Modern European History."

## Professor Featured in German Newspaper

Dr. Molly Johnson conducted oral history interviews as part of her research on how the East German state used sports as a vehicle for social control during the Cold War. A German newspaper featured her project, and published the following picture and caption

Obwohl er immer wieder betonte, dass er die Zeit vor 1990 noch gar nicht erschöpfend aufgearbeitet habe, holte der Anaburger Radsportvereinschef Heinz Rühlicke im Gespräch mit Molly Wilkinson Johnson viele Details aus seinem Gedächtnis. (MZ-Foto: Thomas Christel)

## Faculty

**Philip P. Boucher** – Dr. Boucher was pleased to return to the status of regular faculty after a four-year sentence as department chairperson. In fall, 2004 my graduate students in HY 680 (Studies in Early Modern Europe) read and critiqued my book manuscript on the early history of the French in the Caribbean. They and I profited greatly from the experience. In the realm of scholarship, this year saw the appearance of a French translation of my 1989 book, *Les Nouvelles Frances: France in the Americas, 1500-1815* (Septentrion Press of Montreal). In March the University presented me with a very nice watch for completion of thirty years of service. Say it is not so.

**Andrew J. Dunar** – Dr. Dunar began a second term as department chair in August 2004, having previously served as chair from 1995-2000. He is completing service as editor of the *Oral History Review*, and is wrapping up work on a book on the 1950s and one based on oral history interviews with residents of The Farm, a hippie community near Nashville. He and Dr. Waring jointly presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians in San Jose, California.

**Richard A. Gerberding** – Dr. Gerberding has had a quiet year. In addition to his normal teaching he has been active in initiating the Global Studies program, and preparing for a course conducted partly in Italy. In May he taught "Rome, The Eternal City" to fifteen UAH students. Part of the course was done here at UAH but for two weeks the group heard lectures in the mornings and then toured the major monuments of Rome in the afternoons. In his off hours, he has been working on the gatehouse to his castle.

**Molly W. Johnson** - Dr. Johnson spent three weeks in Germany during Summer 2005, conducting interviews with former citi-

zens of communist East Germany who were active in sports in the 1950s. She will incorporate insights from the interviews into the book manuscript she is preparing this summer, *Sports, Mass Mobilization, and the Everyday Culture of Socialism in East Germany*. She will also present her research findings at the annual conference of the Oral History Association in November 2005. In addition, Dr. Johnson spent a fourth week in Germany in Summer 2005 doing preparatory work for a course to be proposed for Summer 2006. The course, to be taught in Huntsville and in Berlin, Germany, is tentatively entitled "Berlin and Beyond: Germany's Past, Europe's Future."

**Virginia Martin** – Over the past year, Dr. Martin has made two archival research trips, to St. Petersburg, Russia and to Almaty, Kazakhstan, as she continues work on her project investigating the roles of Kazakh Sultans in the colonial political culture of the Kazakh steppe in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Last fall, she presented two versions of a paper on one Sultan, Chingis Valikhanov, at the annual conferences of the Central Eurasian Studies Society and the Southeast World History Association (which was held in Huntsville and which she helped organize). Her teaching, from which she took a break during a spring sabbatical, continues to emphasize world history, both at the introductory survey level and in upper level courses.

**John K. Severn** – John Severn spent the fall of 2004 on sabbatical during which he began research on a new project concerning Britain's last years in India. He took time out to investigate the history and application of Tuscan culinary arts. In the summer of 2005 he sat in for Dr. Fran Johnson as Associate Provost while she was on medical leave.

**Sheri M. Shuck-Hall** - This academic year Professor Shuck-

Hall completed final revisions on her manuscript, *The Alabama and Coushatta Indians: A Journey to the West*, which is currently under review at the University of Oklahoma Press. It traces the history of the Alabama and Coushatta tribes from their origins in Alabama to east Texas, while exploring themes of American Indian worldviews, pan-Indian alliances, and ethnic identity. Shuck-Hall organized a panel and presented her research on American Indian migration in the southern border regions last November at the annual meeting of the American Society For Ethnohistory in Chicago. This year, she has co-organized three panels for the same organization which will meet in Santa Fe, New Mexico. At the conference, Shuck-Hall will be presenting her current research on American Indian slavery, which will appear in a book-length volume that she is co-editing entitled, "Mapping the Shatterzone: The Consequences of Indian Slavery in the Southeast." Shuck-Hall is currently working on the development of a public history program at UAH, and will be teaching the course for the first time this fall.

**Stephen P. Waring** – Stephen Waring continued grading papers at the normal pace, but increased his rate of diaper changing. In November, Stephen and his wife, Dr. Lillian Joyce of the Department of Art and Art History, added a second little historian, Eleanor Audrey. Meanwhile Dr. Waring has kept slugging away at his Challenger manuscript, and wrote a conference paper with Dr. Dunar about the controversy over their NASA history contract. Waring and Dunar used the tag-team technique to deliver the paper at the Organization of American Historians annual conference this spring. Waring labored to use another side of his brain by developing digital image and map slides for his introductory survey courses (no students

were injured in the process). He also served on several committees that are seeking re-accreditation for UAH; Waring attended a zillion meetings and somehow managed to maintain his enthusiasm for university life.

**Lee E. Williams, II** – During academic year 2004-2005, Dr. L. E. Williams, II participated in the following activities:

- Member, Deans and Directors' 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
- Classes Taught: HY 102, HY225 and HY 364

## News of Graduates

**Tammy Hall Whitlock.** Tammy completed her MA in history at UAH in 1993, and earned her PhD at Rice University. She reports: "My book **Crime, Gender and Consumer Culture in Nineteenth Century England** has just been published in the History of Retailing and Consumption series by Ashgate. Using trial records, advertisements, newspaper reports, literature, and popular ballads, it analyzes the rise, criticism, and entrenchment of consumerism by looking at retail changes around the period 1800-1880 and society's responses to them. It challenges the view that women were helpless consumers manipulated by merchants' use color, light and display into making excessive purchases, or even driven by their desires into acts of theft. This study of retail crime also provides the first detailed history of the middle-class woman 'kleptomaniac' in 19<sup>th</sup> c. England. I finished the book while teaching at the University of Kentucky where I have just taken a full-time lectureship in British History and methodology. I live happily in Lexington, Kentucky with the three M's—Michael, Miles, and Maeve."

**Donna Castellano.** Donna earned her MA in history at UAH in 2001. She has remained a supporter of the history program since graduation. She has taught several courses, helped students make contact with historical resources in the community, and is organizing a fund-raising appeal to establish a History Alumni Scholarship. She will appear on a History Forum panel discussing historic preservation in Huntsville on Thursday, October 27. This spring she published her first book, **Through the Garden Gate: The Gardens of Historic Huntsville.** When the Huntsville Times reviewed the book, it quoted Donna on her philosophy of historic preservation: "Preservation is not just saving

needs to be saved. I wanted to undercut the elitism perceived about historic preservation." The book is available at Brooks and Collier, Shaver's Bookstore, Books-A-Million, and Harrison Brothers Hardware for \$30. She participated in the UAH Library's Fall Frolic in August as one of several authors signing copies of their books. Fifty percent of the sales price of books sold at the library book signing will be donated by the Historic Huntsville Foundation to the History Alumni Scholarship. (\$15 per book).

**John McKerley** is about to begin his seventh year of graduate study in the University of Iowa's History Department under the expert guidance of Professors Shelton Stromquist and Leslie Schwalm. While at the UI, John has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including a dissertation research fellowship from the Gilder Lehrman Institute in American History, and published his first professional project, a history of Carpenter's Local Union 1260 in Iowa City, Iowa. Next year will also be his sixth year as a graduate instructor in the Department. In the fall, he will be teaching a course of his own design on emancipation, Reconstruction, and post-bellum citizenship in the United States. He likely will repeat this class in the spring along with teaching a section of his course on twentieth-century American labor history for the UI's continuing education program. When not busy teaching, John continues work on his dissertation, tentatively titled "Across the Bloody Chasm: Race, Suffrage Restriction, and Partisan Identity in Missouri, 1860-1910."

He is scheduled to present a paper based on his research at the upcoming meeting of the American Studies Association in Washington, D.C., in November, and he hopes to have another paper proposal accepted to the Organization of American Historian's Midwest regional conference in 2006. Next year, he and his wife will return (or, in Heather's case, move) to Alabama to be closer to his family and finish writing. With any luck, he will be on the job market in time for the American Historical Association's 2007 annual meeting in Atlanta.

**Laura (Argent) Harris.** "Since graduation in May, 2004, I have married and moved to Montgomery, where I am currently seeking employment as an American History teacher in Secondary Education in the surrounding counties. In the meantime, I am seeking to

**Michele Kinney.** Michele, who completed work on her MA this summer, has received a teaching assistantship and an \$8,000 fellowship to the Transatlantic Ph.D. program at the University of Texas at Arlington.

**Gina Nix.** Gina, graduated last spring, has accepted a position as a teacher at Cullman High School. She will teach 10th grade U.S. History and 11th grade Advanced Placement U.S. History.

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) or [dunara@uah.edu](mailto:dunara@uah.edu). Check out our website at [www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/history/index/htm](http://www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/history/index/htm).

## SACS Re-accreditation

The History Department this year contributed to UAH's effort to gain re-accreditation as an institution of higher education. The university gains accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, better known as SACS. To be successful in its SACS review, the university must demonstrate to a board of external reviewers that it has achieved its educational mission and has plans to improve its performance. The History Department authored a report on its mission, teaching, research and service. In addition, members of the department have served on SACS committees, including Andrew Dunar and John Severn. Stephen Waring, because he loves bureaucracy so, has served on several committees; he wants to see how much he can stand.

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## History Tournament

The annual Liberal Arts Tournament Day has become something of an institution at UAH. Begun nine years ago as a history contest for local high schools, the 2005 version of the tournament on April 13 included contests in U.S. history, world history, government, and psychology. This year eight local high schools participated in the history competition: Bob Jones, Buckhorn, Catholic High School, Covenant Christian Academy, Johnson High, Madison County High, Randolph, and Westminster Academy. Buckhorn and Covenant Christian Academy were first-time participants.

Students competing in the history contest can take a test in either U.S. history or world history. In each test, students answer 75 multiple-choice questions and an essay question (that serves as a tie

breaker). The top ten individuals and top three teams win plaques, and the individual winner in each contest is eligible for a \$500 scholarship to UAH.

In the U.S. contest, perennial powerhouse Bob Jones took first place, winning seven of the top ten Individual awards enroute to a convincing victory. Randolph, another school that scores well year in and year out, won the other three individual awards and took second place. Third place went to Catholic High School. Results in the World History contest were more evenly distributed, with students from Covenant Christian Academy, Catholic, Buckhorn, and Randolph winning individual awards. Covenant students won the first two places, carrying their team to a third-place finish. Catholic won first place,

Randolph second.

UAH M.A. graduates have always had an impact on the Tournament. **Penny Wood** initiated the first history contest in 1995. For several years **Jo Gartrell** brought a team from Hazel Green. And this year, first-year teacher **Ann Lawson** brought a team from Catholic High School that won a team award.

Supporters of the competition include the UAH Office of Admissions and Dean Sue Kirkpatrick of the College of Liberal Arts. Beverley Gentry, senior staff assistant in the Department of History, has organized the tournament since its inception. Melinda Lyles of UAH Testing Services has helped grade the tests each year.

## The Society for Ancient Languages

Under the leadership of Leslie Hodges, the Society had a hormonal year: it studied Latin love poetry from the ancient Romans to the Renaissance. Some of the translations caused blushing and giggling, but in general the sessions were wonderful. The year saw two highlights: One was the visit to UAH in March by Professor Julia Gaisser of Bryn Mawr College who delivered engaging lectures on Catullus and the different ways he has been perceived throughout the ages. The second, at least for seven members of the Society, was the chance to study and tour Rome as a part of UAH's new Global Studies Program.

## Dr. Ingram Returns as Eminent Scholar

Recent graduates may recall the visit in the spring of 2004 of Dr. Edward Ingram under the auspices of the Humanities Center's Eminent Scholar program. Dr. Ingram is Emeritus Professor of Imperial History at Canada's Simon Fraser University, and the founder and editor of the *International History Review*, a highly acclaimed journal of international relations. Dr. Ingram is teaching a course on Imperial Britain, which will be a 400/500-level course open to upper-division undergraduates and graduate students.

Dr. Ingram will give a public lecture entitled "Puppet and Puppeteer: Britain in Iraq" on Tuesday 4 October at 7:30 p.m in the Roberts Recital Hall, sponsored by the Global Studies program. He plans to give another lecture later in the semester, the date and time of which will be announced shortly. During his last visit, his two memorable public lectures, on what appeared to be an emerging American empire and on the relationship between the United States and Britain, challenged the audience with perspectives different from

those prevalent in the American media. Dr. Ingram's visit will afford the UAH community, and especially those interested in history, to meet and exchange ideas with an historian of international repute, a witty, charming and provocative guest. We all welcome him, and look forward to having him among us for another semester.



## Black History Month 2005

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

The Office of Multicultural Affairs Black Student Leadership Roundtable, Morton Hall Room 343, 8 February 2005, 5:45 P.M.

Real World Seminar, in Conjunction with the Honors Program, Featuring Mr. Galen Razzaq and FluteJuice Productions, 8 February 2005, 11:30 A.M.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs' Annual Black History Month Luncheon with "The Singing Men" of Oakwood College Church, University Center Exhibit Hall, 24 February 2005, 11:15 A.M.



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**Department of History**



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<http://www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/history/>

### ***Eminent Scholar Address***

- *Dr. Edward Ingram, UAH Eminent Scholar in the Humanities, "Puppet and Puppeteer: Britain in Iraq," Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 p.m., Roberts Recital Hall, sponsored by the UAH Global Studies program.*

### ***UAH History Forum 2005***

- *Dr. Michael Cassity, "Derelict Buildings and Broken Dreams: Route 66 and the Transformation of America," Thursday, October 13, 7:30 p.m., Chan Auditorium.*
- *Dr. Christopher Hendricks, "Why Can't We Tear it Down?": Historic Preservation in Savannah, Georgia," Thursday, 20 October, 7:30 p.m., Roberts Recital Hall .*
- *Donna Castellano, Ardeania Ward and Philip Dotts, "Local and Regional Perspectives on Historic Preservation, A Roundtable Discussion," Thursday, 27 October, 7:30 p.m., Roberts Recital Hall .*