THE CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

During the past two years, the Department of History has found itself increasingly preoccupied with two tasks, finding positions for its brand new Ph.D.'s and attracting students to its undergraduate courses. The prospects for academic employment in 1977 look gloomier than ever before, but the department's placement record during the past two years is one in which it takes at least a modicum of satisfaction. The twenty-seven persons who received their Ph.D. in history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign between 1974 and 1976 were employed in the following manner during the spring of 1977:

| Members of a university faculty | 6 | 22.3% |
| Members of a four-year college faculty | 7 | 25.9% |
| Members of a two-year college faculty | 3 | 11.1% |
| Members of a high school staff | 2 | 7.4% |
| Employed in fields related to history (e.g., museum administration) | 4 | 14.8% |
| Employed in field unrelated to training | 1 | 3.7% |
| Unknown | 4 | 14.8% |
| **Total** | **27** | **100.0%** |

The department continues to rely upon its alumni for tips, especially tips about temporary last-minute vacancies and community college positions; neither of the latter tend to be nationally advertised.

The department's other major concern is that of halting a decline in history enrollments at a time when the flood of students preparing for secondary school teaching in the social studies has, understandably, become a trickle, and when the focus of much university education has become a fairly narrow vocationalism rather than a broad liberal arts background. Our purpose is to uphold high academic standards while attracting students. During the past year, the department has sought to achieve these purposes in several ways: by publishing semi-annual "personalized course guides" which enlarge in informal detail upon the often brief and prosaic course catalog descriptions; by admitting non-history concentrators to the History 298 colloquia which are conducted as undergraduate seminars; and by offering new and revised experimental courses. Among the more successful of the latter have been Richard Burkhardt's "History of Biology" and (with Evan Melhado) "History of Medicine," Nancy Jo Padgett's "War and Society in the Twentieth Century," Mary Lee Spence's "History of American Women," Fred Jaheer's and Stephen Shaffer's "American History Through Film" and Nunzi Pernicone's "The Contemporary World."

Accomplishments in which the department has every cause to take pride are both the number of major publications for which its faculty members have recently been responsible and the number of awards its faculty members have recently won. The summary of faculty news reported later in this belated newsletter is largely limited to events of 1975-76. This spring alone, however, the Harvard University Press has published three books by University of Illinois Department of History faculty members: Winton U. Solberg's *Redeem the Time: The Puritan Sabbath in Early America*, Keith Hitchins' *Orthodoxy and Nationality: Andreiu Saguna and the Rumanians of Transylvania, 1846-1873*, and *The Spirit of System: Lamarck and Evolutionary Biology* by Richard W. Burkhardt. Of forty-five full-time faculty members, fourteen have published or edited new books or new editions of old books within just two years; eleven others have had manuscripts accepted for publication. For the 1977-78 academic year, Vojtech Mastny has won a Guggenheim Fellowship, Vernon Burton a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, Lloyd Eastman a Senior Fulbright Fellowship, and Mary Lee Spence a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Details of these and other significant accomplishments will be found in next year's newsletter.

The last decade has been an era not merely of grade inflation but of name inflation, and many a department has become a school; the Department of Home Economics, for example, is nowadays the School of Human Resources and Family Studies. It was recently suggested to us that the Department of History, too, transform itself into a school, perhaps the School of Historical, Antiquarian, and Genealogical Sciences. Further reflection led to the conclusion that a title like School of HAGS might do little to attract students. The suggestion has been referred to an appropriate subcommittee for further discussion.

Walter L. Arnstein

RANSSEL ORGANIZES SYMPOSIUM

A symposium on the history of the family in prerevolutionary Russia was held on the Champaign-Urbana campus in October 1976. The National Endowment for the Humanities provided support for a gathering which heard papers from American, Canadian, and Soviet scholars. The topics included the family as reflected in art and folklore, psychological dimensions of family relations, marriage and household customs among the peasantry, medical and welfare intervention in peasant birth and child care, and the family life of urban workers. The organizer and director of the symposium, Professor David L. Ransel, is currently preparing the papers for publication in a volume to be issued under the title "Family Relations in Prerevolutionary Russia."

SOLBERG DIRECTS NEH SEMINAR

Under the sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Professor Winton U. Solberg has directed a seminar in history for college teachers during 1976-77. The seminar is part of the Endowment's program of Fellowships in Residence for College Teachers, currently in its second year. The program provides an opportunity for teachers in smaller colleges to study at a university for a year with a view to improving their knowledge and understanding of their subject and increasing their effectiveness as teachers of the humanities. Professor Solberg's is one of only fifteen such seminars offered in universities throughout the nation in 1976-77. His seminar has been studying selected topics in American intellectual and cul.
Dr. Joseph J. F. Miller, the department head of the Department of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has been named a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Academy is one of the oldest and most prestigious scholarly organizations in the United States. Dr. Miller has been a professor at the University since 1978 and has made significant contributions to the field of American history.

In other news, the Department of History has received a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the development of a new course on the history of African American culture. The grant will allow for the creation of a new course that will explore the role of African Americans in shaping American society.

The Department of History is also pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Lisa A. Jones as the new chair of the American Studies Program. Dr. Jones has been a member of the faculty at the University for the past six years and has made significant contributions to the field of American studies.

Finally, the Department of History is proud to announce the publication of a new textbook, "The History of Modern Europe," by Dr. John J. O'Malley. The textbook is designed for advanced undergraduate and graduate students and provides a comprehensive overview of the political, social, and cultural developments that have shaped modern Europe.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Miller, Dr. Jones, and Dr. O'Malley on their accomplishments and in supporting the Department of History as it continues to advance the study and understanding of history.
In the course of 1975–76, Clark W. Splete, a Professor of History at the University of Illinois, published a detailed study of the university's history. The study was later expanded and published in book form as "The History of the University of Illinois: A Narrative History" (1977). The book provides a comprehensive overview of the university's history, from its founding in 1867 to the present day. It examines the university's role in the state's history and its contributions to education, research, and service.

In addition to his work on the university's history, Splete also served as the university's archivist and is responsible for preserving and preserving the university's historical records. He has been a key figure in the preservation of the university's historical heritage, and his work has been recognized with numerous awards and honors.

Splete was also involved in the development of a new degree program in the history of science, which was established in 1975. This program was designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the history of science and its impact on society. It has since become a popular and well-respected program at the university.

Splete's contributions to the university and to the field of history have been widely recognized, and he continues to be an influential figure in the academic community. He has served as a mentor to many students and has been a respected colleague to his peers. His work has had a lasting impact on the field of history, and he remains an active and engaged scholar.
OCTOBER 1975 and the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in October 1976.


STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Epsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta held two initiation ceremonies in the course of 1975-76. It also sponsored a book sale, and a picnic at the Knights of Columbus Park, as well as cosponsering the annual Phi Alpha Theta/Department of History banquet. Professor Patrick Riddelreger of Southern Illinois University spoke on "The Fourteenth Amendment." The chapter became the beneficiary of the last Louise B. Dunbar. The chapter's president in 1975-76 was Barry Wood, in 1976-77 Larry Leveque.

The History Graduate Student Association continues to provide peer advising for graduate students at registration, coffee and tea in the graduate student lounge, and recommendations for graduate student members of department committees. The president during 1975-76 was Eric Pound, during 1976-77 Craig Shonkosky.

A new Undergraduate History Association was organized early in the fall of 1975. In the course of the academic year that followed, it sponsored a number of indoor and outdoor social gatherings and a field trip to Nauvoo, Illinois. The organization's more formal sessions include talks by several members of the University's Department of History: Robert Sutton spoke on "Historic Sites in Illinois," Robert W. Johansen on mid-nineteenth century American History, Walter L. Amstein gave a talk on "The Use of Audiotape in the Teaching of History," Jerry Daniels of the Department of English gave a paper on history and folklore.

In the course of the 1975-76, the British History Association heard Professor Earl Ritter (Illinois State University, Normal) deliver an illustrated lecture on "Voices for History: The Victorian Experience," and John Presley on "The Use of Audio-Visual Aids in the Teaching of History." Larry Daniels of the Department of English gave a paper on history and folklore.

At the spring banquet in 1976, the Martha Bell Barnett Prize for outstanding undergraduate work in history was shared by Robert J. Shoffran and Richard C. Wenten. Mr. Wenten also received the Barrett Prize for the best senior thesis. The Swain Prize for writing the best graduate student essay went to Francis D. Swiatk. Roy Turnbaugh and Larry Leveque shared the Swain Prize for writing the best graduate student essay.

AWARDS

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The Frederick S. Rodkey Prize in Russian History was awarded to Richard King.