HISTORY AT ILLINOIS

FROM THE NOT-SO-EASY CHAIR

The 1976-77 academic year (with a spillover into the current year) was the year that the department coped with COPE, the University's Council on Program Evaluation. This body was set up six years ago in order to superintend the process whereby every University school and department, in due course, justified its educational purposes in lengthy statistical, as well as narrative, detail. The process involved (1) a questionnaire evaluating the department filled out by undergraduate history concentrators and by graduate students in history; (2) a questionnaire filled out by each member of the faculty about his or her own professional background, accomplishments, and affiliations; (3) a questionnaire, filled out by all faculty members who chose to do so, evaluating the department's executive officer; (4) a lengthy narrative report prepared by that same executive officer outlining the department's history, organization, objectives, criteria for merit increases and promotions, teaching assignment policies, advising policies, and other such subjects; and (5) some twenty statistical tables, at least half of which had to be compiled by the department. After an interval the process was climaxd by a COPE-sponsored visit to the campus late in February 1978 by three distinguished historians, Samuel P. Hays of Pittsburgh, Lacey Baldwin Smith of Northwestern, and Peter H. Smith of Wisconsin.

Pending a final report on the department by COPE, members of the department have thus far been compelled to look upon statistical self-analysis as a reward in its own right. For the most part they have found mathematical confirmation for what hitherto had been random impressions. Thus, at the time the survey was taken, 49 persons were associated with the department: 39 with tenure or tenure track appointments wholly in the Department of History, 6 with appointments partly in the Department of History and partly in another University subdivision, and 4 temporary visitors. For these 49, the median age was 42 and the average number of years since receiving the Ph.D., 12. Of this number, 34 had published at least one book and 41 at least one article in a scholarly journal; 30 had held office in at least one national or regional professional association; and 18 were serving on at least one journal editorial board. An average of two faculty members per year had received promotions to the rank of associate professor or professor during the previous decade.

Similar statistics were accumulated about courses, degrees awarded, and students. The department has been offering an average of 155 separate courses during each academic year plus summer. During the ten year period 1966-75, a total of 2,006 students received a B.A. with a major in history, 650 an M.A. in history, and 123 a Ph.D. in history. The results of the survey of current graduate and undergraduate students indicated that most students were well satisfied with most aspects of the department's program: they regarded it as neither too easy nor too difficult, its structure neither too flexible nor too rigid, its orientation neither too general nor too detailed. A significant number of graduate students suggested that courses were not sufficiently well integrated and provided an insufficiently "sound theoretical framework," but both undergraduates and graduates gave high marks to the quality of instruction, and, in the case of graduate students, even higher marks to the department's secretarial staff. On a scale of five, both undergraduate and graduate students gave an average grade of four to both their personal sense of dedication to the program and to the degree to which they regarded their program of study as worthwhile.

As last year's newsletter observed, like most other history departments, that of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has had to face the problem in recent years of a falling number of enrollments and a falling number of history concentrators. That decline has not been halted altogether, but by the fall of 1977-78 the department's enrollment level had almost reached a plateau, and at the 100 level the trend was once again upwards.

Walter L. Arinstein

PRUETT TEACHING AWARD FINALIST

John H. Pruett, a member of the Department of History since 1973 and the mainstay of the teaching of History 151 (History of the United States to 1877) since that time, emerged as one of eight finalists for the third all-campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Initially (together with O. Vernon Burton) one of two department nominees for the award, Pruett was chosen successively by the School of Humanities and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as award nominee.

Other members of the department have also been recognized for excellent teaching. In annual surveys, LAS graduating seniors have been invited to nominate their "most effective teacher." Persons named 8 to 13 times are listed as "excellent," those named 14 times...
JAN CUNNINGHAM NEW DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

In July 1977, Judith A. Coray, after five years as chief executive to the Department of History, resigned from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in order to take a position in private industry. Shortly thereafter, Jan Cunningham (who, as Jan Draper, had first joined the department as a clerk-typist in 1971) was persuaded to return after several months in the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese to head the department's secretarial staff. In addition to having gained many years of experience communicating with publishers about book orders and with doctoral candidates about dissertation formats, Jan holds a B.S. degree from the University of Illinois, a master's degree from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. in chemistry. In recent years, Jan has been an associate in the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

MISSION TO WARSAW

Wallace Ferrance returned in June 1977 from a unique and productive term as visiting professor of American history at the University of Warsaw, Poland. He marked the end of a total of four years' work during which he served in turn as a Fulbright lecturer, 1971-73, a United States Information Agency (USIA) lecturer to a newly formed American Studies Center, 1973-75, and a visiting professor at a newly formed American Studies Center, 1975-77.

The Fulbright position is believed to have been the first in American history in a Communist country and marked the beginning of systematic work in the field of Polish-American relations. Ferrance's research has focused on the postwar exchange between Warsaw and Illinois, supported by the Fulbright-American program. In addition, he taught at the University of Warsaw during the 1973-77 period. He also has contributed to the development of an American Studies program at the University of Illinois in Poland, and has provided a significant contribution to the study of East European history.

During the 1975-76 academic year, Ferrance was visiting professor in the United States Information Agency's European Studies program. He served as director of the American Studies Program at the University of Warsaw in 1976 and 1977, and he continued to teach at the University of Warsaw as a visiting professor from 1977 to 1979. He has published extensively on American history and culture in Eastern Europe, and has contributed to the development of American Studies programs in that region.

FACULTY NEWS (of the 1976-77 academic year)

Walter L. Armstrong contributed "George MacArthur Trixyand the boy from Montana," a paper presented at the 1977 Midwest Quart- erly. He gave a paper on Victorian cabaret to the November 1976 meeting of the Western Conference on British Studies and submitted a paper on the British government's new policy on aid to Eastern European countries for the London 1977 conference. He has been named a member of the Distin- guished Advisory Council of the Institute for Humamistic Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. L. Donald Holt, professor of political science, was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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Lloyd E. Eastman is spending the 1973-74 academic year in Tai- 
vian under the auspices of a senior Fulbright Fellowship. He con- 
tributed "Regional Politics and the Central Government: Yunnan 
and the Prince Li Family in Tibeto-Monpa" to the "Memoirs of 

Robert M. McCollory served as commentator at both a special bi- 
ennial symposium in Urbana in May 1976 and at a Southern 
Historical Association session in Atlanta in November 1976. In 
the course of his career, he has also served as a member of the 
American Historical Association (AHA) convention in December 
1976 and to the American Political Science Association in 
September 1977. He has completed three years in a member of the 
AHA's Herbert Adams Prize Committee and of the AHA research 
Division.

William L. Sollberg's long awaited book on The Puritan Found- 
ers of Illinois is the latest on the list of Historians of Illinois 
University Press. History describes the book as "extremely well 
researched, meticulously written," and according to the Religious 
American, "no one should be without a copy." The book of the 
ological and theological materials can be interrelated in a sensitive 
way through a cultural approach to religious materials. Martin Marty, 
the editor of the Journal of Religion, hailed the work as "a model of 
research and graceful writing." Professor Sollberg also conducted 
a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar on the 
Urban campus in 1972 and contributed "Cultural Capital and Con- 
science" in "The Encyclopedia of Illinois History."
1976

Jocelyn Maynard Glenn, a postdoctoral research fellow at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada), is coauthor of the prize-winning article, "The Chicago Business Elite: 1850-1930. A Collective Biogaphy," Business History Review, summer 1976. She presented a paper to the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States and Canada at the University of Vermont in October 1975 and served as a panelist at the Social Science History Association meeting am Ann Arbor during the fall of 1976.

William Harwood has been appointed United States State Department Foreign Service information officer, and is currently located in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he is representing American foreign policy, economics, and culture and society by means of talks, movies, and exhibits.

Philip R. VandenBroeck, assistant professor of history at Purdue University, is responsible for "African Bibliography—History" in the March-April 1977 issue of Concepts and the Humanities.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Epsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta enjoyed a successful year. It sponsored social gatherings, including picnics and pot-luck potlucks; and a series of colloquia in which graduate students presented papers and discussed their current research interests. And a bake sale. At the annual Phi Alpha Theta/Department of History baggage sale in April 1977, the chapter was pleased to present as the main speaker Dr. Laurey Baldwin Smith, distinguished historian of Britain and longitudinal faculty advisor at Northwestern University. Prior to the impact, the Epsilon chapter initiated sixty-eight new members. The chapter's president in 1977-78 was Laurey Leveque, the current president is Robert Spada.

The History Graduate Student Association (HGSa) offers the graduate student access to college information, a chance to voice suggestions among peers, and opportunities to socialize. The organization joined forces with Phi Alpha Theta to host some of the panel's mentioned above, as well as two faculty-student mixers in the fall of 1977. At the beginning of fall term HGSa provides coffee, donuts, and tea for advising for new students. It organizes these activities through the role of soft drinks to the键 fences of the third and fourth floors of Gregory Hall. The organization supports the current emphasis on "hand in mind in word order" by supporting Department of History athletic teams in intramural competition and by participating in the department's "brown bag" seminars. The HGSa president in 1977-78 was Craig Sloker, the current president is Keith King.

The History Undergraduate Association (HUG) had an active year. It began with a student faculty tea at which Professor Charles Stewart spoke. The group also sponsored a movie, "Soldier's Blue," with historical commentaries provided by Professors Mary Lee Spencer and Nancy Jo Pudget. President Fred Goehl of the Department of Economics gave a slide talk about Israel, and Professor Bennett Hill also spoke to the group. The editor of Civil War Quarterly, Dr. John Holdell, addressed the organization on the problems arising from the editing of scholarly journals. Virginia Courson served and continued to serve as president.

An Afro-American History Club was organized in the fall of 1976 by John E. Walker. Among the speakers was Sterling Stover, associate professor in the Department of History at Northwestern University. Edna G. Medford, graduate student in the Department of History, gave a presentation on blacks in history graduate programs. During Black History Month a workshop on blacks in history was held. For the 1978-79 academic year the club will attempt to expand its lecture series.

The British History Association sponsored a full season, and, in the course of the year, it sponsored dinner and wine-and-cheese evening featuring talks by Joseph Trachtenberg's University of Toronto Department of English at "The Battle of St. Hubert" and by T. W. Heeley of the Northeastern University Department of History on "The Politics of British Literature in the Age of the Enlightenment." The British History Society's Department of History on "Conquering to Petition: Lord Mary Wortley Montagu as Feminist and Writer." The topic of the University, history professor John Francis's talk was "A Late-Stuart Leicester Parish: the Rev. Humphrey Mivart." The topic of the University, history professor John Francis's talk was "The Case of the Army, Truly Stated." The organization's prime minister in 1976-77 was Ann Franklin. That position was held by Luicinda McClure during the fall of 1977, and is being held by James Fiksen during the spring of 1978.

AWARDS

At the 1977 Department of History banquet, the Marka Belle Barrett Award for outstanding graduate work in history was awarded to Jeffrey L. Sprague and Mark Bennerchek. Mr. Sprague also received the Barrett award for the best senior thesis (M. Berkeley, who has since become a first-year law student at Harvard, subsequently received the Elpa Watts Stills Gold Medal from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for having achieved the highest score in the entire nation in the most recent uniform CPA examination). Ann E. Franklin received the Lawrence Masterpiece Award as the oldest student to have passed preliminary examinations in History or Medieval history during the previous year. The Joseph Ward Swaim Prize for writing the best graduate student essay went to Richard Douglas King. Gerald Dey and Barry Wittenberg shared the Swaim prize for scholarly publications by graduate students. The first Michael Schur Award for original work by an undergraduate student went to Thomas W. Hermiter. The Frederick S. Roberts Prize in Russian History was subsequently awarded to Robert E. Thompson.