HISTORY AT ILLINOIS

FROM THE NOT-SO-EASY CHAIR

Since the last issue of this newsletter, the History Department has considered, once again, the curriculum, both graduate and undergraduate. After a lengthy debate of the full graduate program, it was decided, among other changes, to increase the number of required seminars, including two in social science theory and techniques; a common seminar was also mandated for all students writing doctoral theses. We believe these will better prepare our graduate students. Pending the implementation of the broad reforms recently adopted by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, only modest changes were made in the undergraduate program.

Because of the academic job market, we have been exploring opportunities for our doctoral candidates in business, in government service, and with the military. Last fall, Clark Spence attended a conference which dealt in part with civilian historians in the U.S. Air Force. Last spring, the visit and presentation of Air Force Major General John W. Huston, Chief of the Office of Air Force History, aroused a fair amount of attention, and we believe that some of our students will opt for a career with one or another branch of the military services.

During the past two years, a number of colleagues gained special recognition in their various professional societies. Walter Arinstein served as president of the Midwest Victorian Studies Association; Donald Queller as president of the Midwest Medieval Association; and Ralph Fisher became president of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. From a large field of able candidates, David Ransel was selected editor of Slavic Review, the most prestigious journal in Russian and East European Studies in the country. John McKay contemplates the editorship of the Journal of Economic History. Keith Hitchins continues as editor of Rumunian Studies. Paul Schroeder and Keith Hitchins are writing volumes in the Oxford History of Modern Europe series; we doubt that any other History Department can boast two members preparing books in that distinguished series. The department also takes pride in Paul Drake's winning the Bolton Prize for the best book in Latin American History published in 1978, and in the invitations to Richard Burkhardt to lecture at Cambridge University, at the Sorbonne, and in Prague.

The quality of undergraduate education remains a very serious concern. Competition among departments for students, or "instructional units" as they are dehumanizingly called, has led among other things to a grave decline of academic standards and to an appalling increase in grade inflation. Career oriented students tend to avoid the exciting, if sometimes rigorous courses, and to select those they find immediately "relevant." College-approved peer (that is, student) advising does not help. Teaching assistants and faculty yield to student pressure for high grades. The anti-intellectual atmosphere which exists in the schools is duplicated in institutions of higher learning; in fact, universities are now generally referred to as "schools." None of this is unique to the History Department, or to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; it is part of a problem common to all public institutions of higher learning in the United States. In all of this, however, the significance and value of the undergraduate degree declines. The ancient concept of universities providing a liberal education which introduces the student to many aspects of culture, which broadens the mind and expands the options disappears. *Tempus edax rerum.*

Bennett D. Hill

PROMOTIONS FOR PRUETT AND BUCKLER

Promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure in the spring of 1979 was John H. Pruett, a native of Richmond, Virginia, the holder of a Princeton Ph.D., and a member of this department since 1973. His book *The Parish Clergy Under the Later Stuarts: the Leicestershire Experiences* published by the University of Illinois Press in 1978, was described by the *Library Journal* as a "well-written, quantitative collective biography... The tables relating to clerical income, education, parish buildings, and social and geographical origins are clear and informative." The AHR agreed that the book provided "a representative, panoramic view of the life and times of the later Stuart clericy... The research is meticulous." Professor Pruett's article "A Late Stuart Leicester Parish: The Reverend Humphrey Michel" appeared in the June 1979 issue of the *Journal of Religious History*. In the spring of 1980, for the third year of the past four, John Pruett was selected as the History Department nominee and emerged as a campus finalist for the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. In spring 1979 he also received the School of Humanities Teaching Award and the Alpha Lambda Delta Award as "Outstanding Teacher of Freshman Students." During 1979-80 he served as the faculty adviser of the History Undergraduate Association. He expects to be on sabbatical leave during the fall semester of 1980.

John Buckler was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure in the spring of 1980. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Professor Buckler did his undergraduate work at the University of Louisville, and he received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. A member of this department since 1973, he is the coauthor of *A History of Western Society* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1979), and his monograph, *The Theban Hegemony, 371-362 B.C.* has been accepted for publication by the Harvard University Press. He is also the author of twelve articles dealing with the history of Hellenic Greece, the most recent of which is "The Fort at Kyriaki and Phokian Strategy of the Third Sacred War"; it appeared in *Teiresias Supplement 2* (1979). He delivered papers at both the general meeting of the Archeological Institute of America at Vancouver in December 1978, and at the Third International Conference Boiotian Antiquities at Laval University in Quebec in November 1979. During 1979-80 he served as president of the Central Illinois Society of the Archeological Institute of America.

DRAKE HEADS LATIN AMERICAN CENTER

Paul Drake returned to the Urbana campus in January 1980 in order to become director of the University of Illinois Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The author of *Socialism and Populism in Chile, 1932-1952* (1978) and of numerous articles and reviews involving Latin American History, Professor Drake has been a member of the Department of History since 1971. *The Historian* described the volume as "in all respects an outstanding book, not only one of
SANDY COLUSCONE HEADS DEPARTMENT
SECRETARY

John Black Scharf, 1903-1978

John Black Scharf, who served as the Dean of the College of Science at the University of Illinois from 1967 to 1969, was born on December 21, 1913, in Plainfield, Illinois. He received his B.A. and Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1934 and 1937, respectively.

Sandy Coluscione, who has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Illinois, began her career at the university in 1978 as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry. She was promoted to associate professor in 1982 and to full professor in 1988.

Sandy Coluscione was born on December 21, 1913, in Plainfield, Illinois. She received her B.A. and Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1934 and 1937, respectively.

She served as the Dean of the College of Science at the University of Illinois from 1967 to 1969, and was later appointed to the position of interim vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1969. In 1971, she became the first woman to hold the position of provost at a major public university in the United States.

Sandy Coluscione retired from her position as interim provost in 1977 and was named acting chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1978. She served in this role until 1980, when she was named chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago. She held this position until 1988, when she retired from her position as chancellor.

During her tenure as a faculty member, Sandy Coluscione was involved in the development of many notable programs and initiatives. She was instrumental in the establishment of the University of Illinois' first Ph.D. program in chemistry, which was established in 1957. She also played a key role in the development of the university's first Ph.D. program in biology, which was established in 1960.

Sandy Coluscione was a frequent speaker at academic conferences and was a respected figure in the scientific community. She was a member of several professional organizations, including the American Chemical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Sandy Coluscione passed away on May 16, 1998, at the age of 84. She is survived by her husband, Dr. John Black Scharf, and their three children, Dr. John Black Scharf Jr., Dr. John Black Scharf III, and Dr. John Black Scharf IV.
The History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) continued to advise new students and to recommend student members of department committees. It observed the department softball league team on its way to victory in spring 1979 and again in spring 1980. Helen Hunsley served as president during 1978-79, Edward Carroll during 1979-80.

During 1978-79 the History Undergraduate Association (HUG) heard talks by Benjamin Ureif on Yoruba, by Thomas Krueger on the meaning of history, by Winton O. Solberg on the history of the University of Illinois, and by Joseph Love on the Indian population of South America. It also sponsored a bake sale and a picnic. Laura Spellman served as president. During 1979-80, the organization sponsored a panel discussion by Lloyd Eastman, Joseph Love, and Charles Stewart on women in premodern societies and a lecture by John Pratt, the organization’s faculty sponsor, on John Dickinson’s opposition to American independence. During America’s Night and Illinois Night, and for the Christmas program, club members contributed poems, ballads, old letters, recipes, and relevant mini-lectures. Ann Jansen served as president.

During 1978-79 the British History Association continued its tradition of evening programs, a majority of them combined with dinners at private homes. Carolyn Eber came from the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle to speak on “The Stuart Restoration,” and Richard Davis from Washington University (St. Louis) to speak on “Sir Robert Peck and the Grant Reform Bill.” Dennis Wodz of the University of Illinois Geology Department spoke on “Scenic Geology and the Enlightenment,” and Paul W. Schroeder of our own department spoke on “Gladstone as Liberal.” Another meeting was devoted to short British films of the Edwardian Era. During 1979-80 the organization again attracted speakers from outside the campus: Linda Levy Peck of Purdue spoke on “Court Patronage and Government Policy: The Jacobean Dilemma”; Paul B. Johnson of Roosevelt University spoke on the British labor movement after World War I; and Cynthia Behrens of Wittenberg University discussed the British patron movement of the 1920s.

Department graduate students Vincent Hammond and Lawrence Fox presented papers respectively on the Scottish pamphleteers and the Origins of the English Civil War and on the General Election of 1990. Department faculty members were also involved in the planning of the David Miller: “Monk and Historian” and Walter L. Armstrong (“Spare the Rod and Spoil the Honeymoon: Reflections on the History of Childhood”). During 1978-79 British History Association prime minister James Wilkinson was visited by Richard Spill, James Perry, and Wendy Harnam. The 1979-80 officers were Richard Spill, prime minister; James Perry, Wendy Harnam; Kevin Kropp, Becky Naech; and James Wilkinson.

STUDENT AWARDS

At the 1979 Department of History banquet, the Martha Belle Barrett Prize for outstanding undergraduate work in history went to James A. Langston. The Barrett Prize for the best senior thesis was shared by Judith Malby and Robert Biehler. The Lawrence Marcellus Loomis Award for the ablest student to have passed doctoral examinations in English or medieval history during the previous year was shared by Linda Durham and Vincent Hammond. The Joseph Wodz Swan Prize for the best graduate student research paper went to Ellen Kittell. The Frederick Radkeley Award in Russian history was subsequently given to Evelyn Bolese.

At the 1980 banquet, Neil Martin Fox and Ingrid Antemann shared the Barrett Prize for outstanding undergraduate work in history, and Michael B. Lahti received the Barrett Prize for the best senior thesis. The Loomis Award went to James Wilkinson. The Swan Prize for the best graduate research paper and the Swan publications award both went to John Marshall Carter. Kim J. Lippin won the Michael Scher Prize for writing the most original undergraduate term paper.

History at Illinois Editors: Walter L. Armstrong