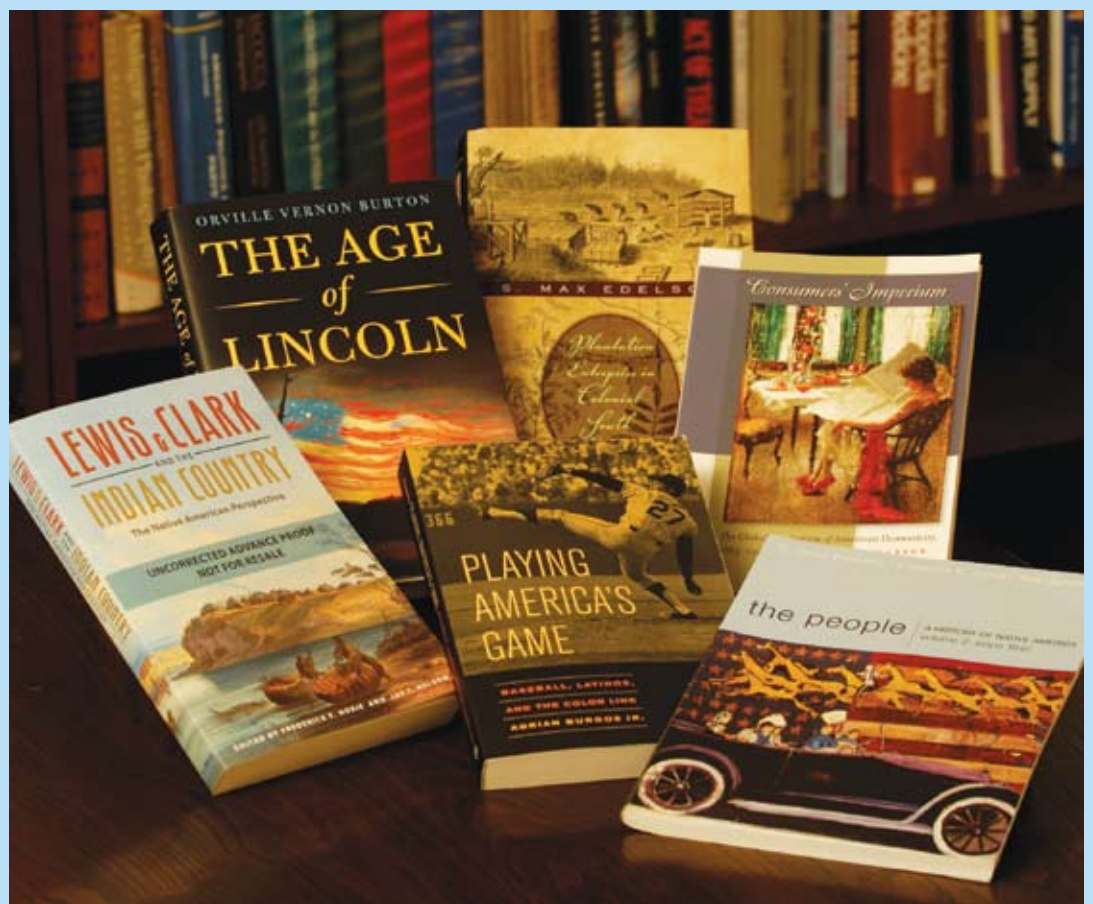


History Illinois



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Annus mirabilis

PAGE 2

Letter from the Chair



“This is a moment of great opportunity to turn an already excellent group of historians into a powerhouse.”

One afternoon late last fall I got a call in my office from someone at the University of Illinois Foundation telling me that Thomas M. Siebel had generously offered to endow a \$2 million chair in the History of Science and that our department had been chosen for the honor. Mr. Siebel, a graduate of the University of Illinois with a B.A. in history, is the founder of Siebel Systems, Inc., a Fortune 500 Company. He and his wife Stacey have been and continue to be enormously generous donors to the University: The Siebel Chair in the History of Science preceded a \$100 million gift to the University of Illinois announced in June 2007. Needless to say, we are still reveling in the news from that brief but glorious phone call.

As many of you reading this will know, for almost three decades the UIUC Department of History has boasted a coterie of well-respected historians of science, medicine and technology. As a group, scholars like Richard Burkhardt (emeritus) and Lillian Hoddeson (the newly appointed Thomas M. Siebel Chair) have introduced countless undergraduates to the field and prepared some of them to enter leading graduate programs in the history of science. Among those, we are lucky enough to count Professor Rayvon Fouché, a 1991 graduate of UIUC with a degree in the History and Philosophy of Science, whom we in History recently hired jointly with the African American Studies and Research Program as our historian of science and technology. With the opportunities opened up by the endowed Siebel chair—which includes monies for library acquisition and for the support of graduate student research—we will be in an even better position to train young Ray Fouchés in a variety of careers of the kind that an education in the history of science nurtures: from academics to CEOs to environmentalists to nuclear physicists to computer graphics specialists and beyond. Given the university’s strength in science and engineering, it makes sense that its science studies program should become one of the best in the nation. Thomas Siebel’s gift will enable that, and so much more—making the history of science the beating heart of the well-rounded 21st century education.

Showcasing History as the center of the arts and sciences curriculum at Illinois is a major preoccupation of ours these days. To test our mettle we underwent an external review of our entire program last September, inviting a team of experts from peer institutions to review our graduate program, our undergraduate offerings, our scholarly accomplishments and our potential areas of growth and development. We prepared for nearly a year for the visit, drafting a one-hundred page document outlining our accomplishments, strengths, weaknesses and short- and long-term goals. The external review team, which spent several days on campus talking to History faculty, graduate students, majors and office staff alike, concluded that “this is a moment of great opportunity to turn an already excellent group of historians into a powerhouse of undergraduate teach-

Cover photo by Thompson • McClellan

Cover design: The new cover design conveys the richness of history through time and place. The artistic ornaments represent Greek, African, Native North American, Byzantine, Gothic, Roman, Chinese, Maori, Japanese, Egyptian, Persian, European, and Indian cultures over a colorful timeline.

History @ Illinois Editors:

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ing, graduate training, and ground-breaking research.” According to their report, “our unanimous impression was of a first-rate department made up of distinguished and promising scholars who have made the most of scarce, diminished resources, and yet are poised to emerge as one of the best programs in historical studies in the country.”

This is both good news and an ongoing challenge in the current fiscal environment in public higher education. Happily, our faculty continues to distinguish itself through ground-breaking scholarship in ways that bring recognition to the department and underscore the centrality of History’s excellence to that of the campus as a whole. We have had two Guggenheim Fellowship winners in a row (Professors Diane Koenker and Mark Steinberg) and an NEH winner as well (Professor Frederick Hoxie). Adrian Burgos’ book, *Playing America’s Game: Baseball, Latinos and the Color Line* (University of California Press), won the Latin American Studies Association prize—and as this publication was going to press we received the news that Vernon Burton’s *The Age of Lincoln* (Hill and Wang) has won the Heartland Prize, sponsored by the *Chicago Tribune*, for non-fiction. We continue to contribute to the production of new historical knowledge and to the teaching of history through our graduate program, where students do award-winning research through exposure to our faculty and our library archives and collections and train to become the next generation of scholars and classroom teachers as well. In fact, one of our graduate students, Julilly Kohler-Hausmann, won campus recognition for her undergraduate teaching last spring, the second year in a row that honor has been captured by History. Not least, our wonderful undergraduates push us in new and untold ways as they grapple with history’s meaning and significance for the new millennium. They have breathed new life into the History honor society, Phi Alpha Theta, and we are daily inspired and humbled by their talents and the ability to show *us* how understanding history can change the world.

These phenomenal activities, together with all the other amazing daily work of our faculty, students and staff, are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the signature excellence of History at Illinois. In order to highlight the many scholarly and pedagogical projects we are doing we are moving ahead with our plans for the establishment of our Center for Historical Interpretation, which is beginning to organize events in anticipation of the Lincoln Bicentennial, 2008-2009. We aim to make the Center a place of public engagement and scholarly exchange, and we look forward to having the chance to meet you at some of its programs in the near future.

All the best,

Antoinette Burton, Chair

Professor of History and Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies

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Banner Year for Americanist Historians

Annus mirabilis: the dictionary defines the Latinized term as “a year of wonders.” There may be few times when the label is suitable, but for U.S. historians at UIUC, last year truly brought a wondrous outpouring of new books. Six major works in the field appeared during the 2006-2007 academic year. In subject, style, and methodology, the books vary greatly, but they are all already garnering attention and accolades.

There’s little doubt that **Associate Professor Adrian Burgos, Jr.** has hit a home run with his new book *Playing America’s Game: Baseball, Latinos, and the Color Line*, published last year by the University of California Press. Despite the wealth of books on the history of baseball, writers and historians had somehow managed to ignore one of the sport’s greatest stories—the role played by Latinos in America’s favorite pastime. Burgos, who teaches courses on U.S. Latino history, African American Studies, sports history, and urban history, shows that in fact Latinos have been a significant presence in organized baseball right from the beginning. In his study of Latinos and professional baseball from the 1880s to the present, he tells a compelling tale of the men who negotiated the color line at every turn, sometimes passing as “Cuban” or “Spanish” in the major leagues or seeking respect and acceptance in the Negro leagues. He shows how Latinos were “central figures in baseball’s racial saga,” and how they and African American players worked closely together in the Negro Leagues to “challenge the dictates of baseball’s Jim Crow system and the color line imposed by Major League Baseball.”

In this, his first book, Burgos draws extensively on archival materials from the U.S., Cuba, and Puerto Rico, as well as on Spanish- and English-language publications, and interviews with Negro league and major league players. He demonstrates how the manipulation of racial distinctions that allowed management to recruit and sign Latino players provided a template for Brooklyn Dodgers’ general manager Branch Rickey when he initiated the dismantling of the color line by signing Jackie Robinson in 1947. Burgos’ examination of Latino participation before and after Robinson’s debut

also documents the ways in which inclusion did not signify equality and shows how notions of racialized difference have persisted for darker-skinned Latinos like Orestes (“Minnie”) Miñoso, Roberto Clemente, and Sammy Sosa. This is clearly a story with great national resonance: since publication, Burgos has been traveling the country for book store signings, radio broadcast interviews (in English and Spanish), and lectures to popular and academic audiences alike. In August 2007, the Latin American Studies Association named *Playing America’s Game* winner of the first Latino/a Book Award.

While Burgos above (and Edelson below) published their first monographs in American history last year, **Professor Vernon Burton’s** *The Age of Lincoln* (Hill and Wang, 2007) is cast in the mold of the interpretative synthesis produced by a masterly, mid-career historian. Burton is a leading historian of the American South, whose inspirational teaching has long been recognized on campus and nationally. His much-awaited study provides a sweeping narrative history of American social, religious, and intellectual life from the age of slavery up to the era of Jim Crow. In the finest tradition of grand narrative history, Burton presents an overarching thesis and deftly selects poignant episodes and memorable anecdotes to tell his epic story. Dis-



Vernon Burton

tinctively, he integrates into his narrative the voices of the poor, women, war resisters, immigrants, and minorities. Early reviews of the book have likened the work to such classic historical texts as Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.'s *Age of Jackson* (to which it pays titular tribute) and James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*. Barely off the press, the book won the Heartland literary award for nonfiction, given yearly by the *Chicago Tribune*.

Burton's intriguing thesis is that Lincoln's most profound achievement was not the abolition of slavery but the enshrinement of the principle of personal liberty protected by a body of law. The outbreak and course of the Civil War, he proposes, should be seen in the light of competing notions of what "freedom" meant rather than (as has usually been the case) as a bloody conflict over states' rights or black emancipation. Lincoln's greatest legacy, Burton continues, was to oversee the vast expansion of federal power—which was pragmatically necessary to win the Civil War—but justified in ideological terms as the best means to protect personal freedom for all, something to which the government had hitherto paid little attention. Focusing on the half-century from the 1840s to the 1890s, Burton emphasizes that Lincoln was able to hijack the South's appeal to religious principles without diminishing his reverence for the secular Constitution, a potent combination that gave his visionary fusion of federal power and individual rights the staying power to outlast its betrayal during and after Reconstruction. In the academy and beyond, readers are likely to be debating Burton's major re-reading for years to come.

Associate Professor Max Edelson's book, *Plantation Enterprise in Colonial South Carolina* (Harvard University Press, 2006), is another highly impressive scholarly debut. A student of Early American history, especially the colonial South, Edelson joined the Department of History in 2001. In his articles and book, Edelson has pioneered a creative, powerful blend of economic, environmental, and cultural history.

Plantation Enterprise examines and reinterprets one of the nation's oldest symbols—the southern slave plantation. Edelson reconstructs in meticu-

lous detail the interactions between planters, slaves, and the natural world they colonized to create the Carolina Low-country. White European settlers came to South Carolina in 1670 determined, Edelson

shows, to possess an abundant wilderness. Over the course of a century, they settled highly adaptive rice and indigo plantations across a vast coastal plain that eventually became one of the most prosperous (and repressive) regions in the Atlantic world. Forcing slaves to turn swampy wastelands into productive fields and to channel surging waters into elaborate irrigation systems, planters initiated a stunning economic transformation.

The result, Edelson contends, was two interdependent plantation worlds. A rough rice frontier became a place of unrelenting field labor. With the profits, planters made the city Charleston and its hinterland into a beautiful, refined place to live. From urban townhouses and rural retreats, they ran multiple plantation enterprises, looking to England for affirmation as agriculturists, gentlemen, and stakeholders in Britain's American empire. The closing chapter of Edelson's study, titled "Henry Laurens' Empire," provides a fascinating portrait of a "forgotten founding father" whose plantation business was the best documented in colonial America and who served as first president of the second Continental Congress. Offering a new vision of the Old South that was far from static, Edelson's book reveals the plantations of early South Carolina to have been dynamic instruments behind an expansive process of colonization. In recognition of its scholarly and intellectual merits, *Plantation*

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**Adrian
Burgos
and Kristin
Hoganson**

Banner Year, continued

Enterprise in Colonial South Carolina has been awarded the 2006 George C. Rogers, Jr. Book Award of the South Carolina Historical Society and the 2006 Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Award of the Agricultural History Society.

Also appearing in print during the past academic year was *Consumer's Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865–1920* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007), written by **Kristin Hoganson**. An Associate Professor, Hoganson specializes in the history of the United States in world context, with an emphasis on social and cultural approaches to the topic. Complementing her first, well-received monograph, which explored the public politics of masculinity during the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars, *Consumer's Imperium* investigates the global politics of the private domain of the home. Histories of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, Hoganson explains, have tended to characterize the United States as a culturally expansionist nation bent on Americanizing the world. Hoganson argues, however, that in a reciprocal process this outward reach also led to significant transformations in U.S. culture. Her book looks at such quintessentially domestic places as middle-class American households to find evidence of extensive international connections. Rather than treating households as thoroughly domestic, she treats them innovatively as cultural contact zones. Appreciating the extent to which real homes served as places of foreign encounter, she shows, can help us reconsider the idea of the United States as home.

Hoganson's ambitious book explores this set of themes in five chapters focusing on international sensibilities as manifested through household consumption, fashion, cooking, armchair travel clubs, and the immigrant gifts movement. These chapters touch on topics ranging from curtains to clothing, theme parties, around the world tours, and arts and crafts of the homelands exhibits. Conceptually, the book speaks to the history of globalization by shifting attention from exports to imports, from production to consumption, and from men to women. Densely documented and clocking in at nearly 500-pages, *Consumer's Imperium* finds that globalization did not simply happen out there, by means of American military might and industrial power, but that it also took place at home, thanks

to imports, immigrants, geographical knowledge, and consumer preferences. To understand more fully U.S. women's and cultural history, her book suggests, scholars need to look abroad and to find international history they can begin fruitfully at home.

Completing the cluster of books on American history that emerged from the Department last year are two works by **Frederick E. Hoxie**, Swanlund Professor of History. Like Burton, Hoxie is a nationally renowned senior scholar, but with expertise in the history of the American Indian. With R. David Edmunds and Neal Salisbury, Hoxie in the summer of 2006 published *The People: A History of Native America* (Houghton Mifflin), and in the fall of 2007, he and co-editor Jay T. Nelson published *Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country: The Native American Perspective* with the University of Illinois Press. The former work, in two volumes, is a textbook of American Indian history with a number of innovative interpretative features: the narrative takes an ethnohistorical approach to American Indian history from the arrival of humans on the American continent to the present day. While conveying the effects of European invasion on American Indian communities, the text gives greater attention to the impact of Native actions on the American environment. The authors' Indian-centered point of view treats Native Americans as actors in their own right, existing in a larger, interactive society. As a result some events in American history loom larger than they would in a traditional survey, while others, such as Reconstruction, receive minimal coverage. *The People* also demonstrates that the active participation of American Indians in a modern, democratic society has shaped—and will continue to shape—national life.

Hoxie's second work provides a collection of essays and documents that will accompany his hugely successful exhibition, which he curated in 2005 at Chicago's Newberry Library to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expe-



**Frederick
Hoxie**

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The Guggenheim Five

There are many fellowships for academic scholars, but none quite carry the prestige and prominence of a Guggenheim--the Rolls Royce of the world of fellowships. Awarded annually since 1925 by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, these coveted grants recognize scholars who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts. The Guggenheim Fellowships target “advanced professionals in their mid-careers” with consistent publication records and are intended to give recipients a substantial block of free time in which they can work. Competition for the fellowships is national and, needless to say, intense.

Lately, the UIUC Department of History has been on a roll. In the past eight years, no fewer than five faculty members have won Guggenheims! In 1999, **Professor Peter Fritzsche** received a fellowship, in the field of cultural/intellectual history, for a historical study of nostalgia and modernity. Fritzsche’s project argues that in the Western world the experience of time changed in fundamental ways after the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars. These massive, tumultuous events brought a mutation in the very sense of temporality that had previously underpinned shared notions of the self, subjectivity, and the relation among past, present, and future. Plumbing letters, diaries, novels, memoirs, and autobiographies of the first half of the nineteenth century, Fritzsche discovers new “cultural practices of memory” that



expressed this changing temporal consciousness. The “emergent memory landscapes” of the time, however, were much less secure than their predecessors: fraught with uncertainty and anxiety about the meaning of a remembered past that was now in ruins, the identity of the present age, and the drastically altered possibilities for the future, Europeans fell into a condition of emotional and cultural “nostalgia,” which ironically became part of “modern” consciousness. The discovery of the

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from left:
Diane Koenker,
Lillian Hoddeson,
Peter Fritzsche,
Maria Todorova,
and Mark Steinberg

Banner Year, continued

dition and that in October, 2007 began a five-year, twenty-seven city tour. Like the museum exhibition of the same name, *Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country* broadens the scope of conventional study of America’s most celebrated expedition of exploration to include Native American perspectives. The book’s chapters analyze aspects of the expedition’s long-term impact on the “Indian Country” and its residents, drawing along the way on compelling interviews conducted with Native Americans over the past two centuries as well as on secondary literature, the Lewis and Clark travel journals, and

other primary sources from the exhibition. They also marshal rich stories of Native Americans, travelers, ranchers, Columbia River fur traders, teachers, and missionaries, who were often in conflict with each other and who illustrate how complex were the interactions between settlers and tribal people. “In widening the reader’s interpretive lens to include many perspectives,” Hoxie and Nelson write, “this collection reaches beyond individual achievement to appreciate America’s plural past.”

For the Department’s Americanists, 2006–2007 was clearly one for the history books.

The Guggenheim Five, continued

medieval past, the collection of folktales, and the collection of antiques and family heirlooms were among the new cultural pastimes, practiced in both elite and vernacular forms, that Fritzsche analyzes as responses to the fragmented conception of time in post-revolutionary Europe. Fritzsche's work on this funded project culminated in 2004 with the publication of *Stranded in the Present: Modern Time and the Melancholy of History*, published by Harvard University Press.

A year after Fritzsche's award, **Professor Lillian Hoddeson** received her own Guggenheim fellowship for a very different sort of undertaking. A historian of science and technology, Hoddeson in 2000 was immersed in writing a full-scale scientific and intellectual biography of John Bardeen. All things considered, Bardeen (1908–1991) is probably the most famous figure ever to emerge from any field of science in the U of I community. As a research physicist at the Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey (1945–1951), he had been a member of the team that developed the transistor, a tiny electronic device capable of performing most of the functions of the vacuum tube. For this work, he shared the 1956 Nobel Prize in physics with two colleagues. Meanwhile, in 1951, he joined the faculty of the University of Illinois. In 1972 he shared the Nobel Prize in physics with the American physicists Leon N. Cooper and John R. Schrieffer for the development of a theory to explain superconductivity, the disappearance of electrical resistance in certain metals and alloys at temperatures near absolute zero. Bardeen thus became the first scientist anywhere to win two Nobel Prizes in the same category. The precious free time granted Hoddeson by the Guggenheim Fellowship allowed her to finish her project: to wide acclaim, her *True Genius: The Life and Science of John Bardeen* (Washington D.C., National Academy Press) appeared in 2002. (For more on Hoddeson's work, see "Hoddeson Receives Siebel Chair in Science History," p. 14 below).

The same year that Hoddeson received her funding, **Professor Maria Todorova** was similarly recognized by the Guggenheim Foundation. Somewhat akin thematically to Fritzsche's book, Todorova's project centers on the study of national memory and identity, but in the Balkans rather

than central and western Europe. Todorova proposes to examine the subject through a historical study of the posthumous fate of Vasil Levski, a major figure in the Bulgarian national pantheon and arguably the only uncontested Bulgarian national hero. By exploring the vicissitudes of Levski's heroicization, glorification, consecutive appropriations by different, often opposing, political forces, reinterpretation, commemoration, and finally canonization over a 150 year period, she seeks to provide a powerful historical case study in the formation and evolution of Balkan nationalism. National heroes are a recognized cornerstone of the symbolic repertoire of nationalism, but the exact cultural and political work accomplished by them has varied enormously within the Balkans. Bulgaria—"the Balkan country par excellence"—gave rise, she argues, to a kind of "weak nationalism" that expressed itself above all in cultural forms and was repeatedly humiliated and defeated in its political aspirations. Todorova's research took her to some fascinating venues—including into primary, secondary, and high schools in Bulgaria in order to investigate students' knowledge of Levski. Theoretically, her work on this subject will illuminate a number of ongoing debates—about Balkan nationalism, comparative hero worship, and the construction and transmission of collective memory. As with Hoddeson and Fritzsche, the Guggenheim Foundation is here getting good yield on its investment: Todorova's *Bones of Contention: The Live Archive of Vasil Levski and the Making of Bulgaria's National Hero* is now in press with the Central European University Press and is due out next summer.

More recently, it has been the Russianists in the department who have flourished in the Guggenheim sweepstakes. **Professor Diane Koenker** won her fellowship in 2006. Koenker tentatively titles her project in progress *A History of Soviet Tourism and Vacations*. The history of tourism, she maintains, provides a fresh way to explore the experience of Soviet socialism over the long period running from the 1920s to the 1970s. Tourist travel offered Soviet citizens opportunities to participate in the building of their nation by viewing its natural beauty, by witnessing the economic achievements of socialist planning, and by encountering the

variety of its peoples and their diverse cultures. Complicating the experience, however, was the fact that state-approved vacations simultaneously served as a tool for creating loyal subjects and as a site for individuals to cultivate their own autonomous thinking and aspirations. One analytical goal of Koenker's project, as a result, is to probe "the relationship between state intentions and individual's appropriation of state projects." Another aim is to highlight the evolution of Soviet socialism across half a century, from the post-revolutionary years up through the Brezhnev regime. Koenker is also finding that, despite the official rhetoric of the Soviet Union, both the government's handling of its tourist citizens and tourists' personal experience of travel varied by ethnic identity, "class," and gender. (Most Soviet-era tourists were Russians but they traveled to non-Russian areas of the Soviet Union. Likewise, wives and husbands tended to vacation separately, with women preferring cities or the seashore and men preferring to go solo into the wilderness.) Last year, Koenker co-edited *Turizm: The Russian and East European Tourist under Capitalism and Socialism*, with Cornell University Press, which includes a lengthy chapter of her preliminary research. She is now busily writing up the extended book version of the project.

Finally, Professor Mark Steinberg, Koenker's colleague in modern Russian/Soviet history, received the happy news of his Guggenheim award in the spring of 2007. Steinberg will use the advantages of the Guggenheim to advance his work on a highly ambitious project—a comprehensive cultural history of a single Russian city, titled *St. Petersburg Fin de Siècle: Landscape of the Darkening Modern, 1905–1917*. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Steinberg points out, St. Petersburg was the Russian empire's capital city and a metropolis that defined itself deliberately by its desire to identify with the civilizations of European modernity to the west. He is reading deeply in the fiction, philosophy, poetry, social and political journalism, cultural essays, popular magazine features, newspaper reports, and archival documents of this twelve-year period in order to reconstruct its dominant mentalities and preoccupations. He is also drawing heavily on photography and the earliest Russian silent films. At the core of the book,



Steinberg envisions several thematically interlinked chapters. One chapter reconstructs the overlapping discourses of progress, backwardness, and degeneration that marked early twentieth-century St. Petersburg. Another chapter examines the world of city streets. Another analyzes the ubiquitous theme of public masquerade, disguise, and deception that apparently allowed respectable middle-class men and women to explore their alternative, transgressive selves. And yet another section of the book will explore the mysterious emotional mood of anxiety and melancholy that, Steinberg finds, darkened so much of the thinking and writing of the period. "Portraits of an age" have long been available for such European cities as Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and Berlin during their famous fin de siècle phases. Steinberg's work, which he plans to have completed early in 2009, will provide the first major interpretative account of a Russian metropolis during this proto-Modernist period.

Kudos to Fritzsche, Hoddeson, Todorova, Koenker, and Steinberg, who seem to have "invented" a "new tradition." The Department can only hope it continues into the future.

African American History and Studies at UIUC

by Jessica Millward

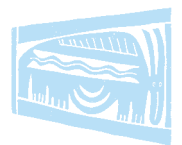
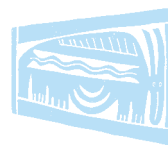
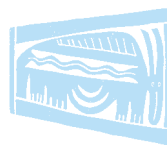
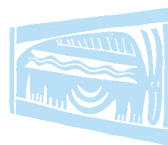
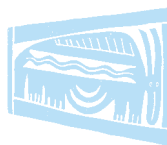
The community of scholars engaged in the study of African American History at UIUC is vibrant, engaging, and growing each year. This is evident in the number of faculty who consider themselves historians of Africa America. Due to the large number of core and zero-time African Americanist faculty, African American history at Illinois is unique in scope and focus. At Illinois, scholars research and teach the eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries. African Americanist-trained scholars study Black women, slavery, the Nadir, the inter-war years, Black Power, Black radicals and Black nationalists, black inventors, the Black working class, the Black elite, community building, education, racial violence, and transnational connections, including African American and Latino relations, and Hip Hop.

Under the leadership of Dr. Sundiata Cha-Jua, Associate Professor of History and Chair of the African American Studies and Research Program (AASRP), and in collaboration with other units, AASRP is beginning to actualize the vision that UIUC will lead the country as “the” place to study African American History. In 2001, the Department of History and the African American Studies and Research Program entered into a partnership to make Illinois a premier site for the study of African American history. In building African American history at Illinois, the department and the program recruited faculty through a variety of institutional mechanisms, including joint searches, targets of opportunity, and cluster hires to focus on attracting historians and historically minded scholars. Since 2001, the History Department and AASRP have jointly hired six African American-

ists, four of whom remain on the faculty presently. Additionally, a considerable number of faculty and faculty affiliates in both units have either been trained as historians or employ historical methods in their scholarship and teaching.

Dr. Cha-Jua suggests that “the movement of African American history from the periphery toward the center of the department is largely a story of the collaboration between the History Department and AASRP.” Cha-Jua also acknowledges that external forces such as “the rise of African American history from a marginal field to a field in the academy contributes to the heightened importance of hiring and retaining African Americanists.”

The growth of African American historians at UIUC is also a result of and a contributing factor to the elevation of United States history in the History Department and factors into the growing national prominence of AASRP as a center for African American history. Core faculty, affiliates, and graduate students publish in key African American journals such as the *Journal of Black Studies* and the *Journal of African American History*; they have won major campus grants such as those sponsored by the Campus Research Board, the Center for a Democratic and Multi-racial Society, the Center for Advanced Study, the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, and the Mellon Faculty Fellows program. Historians of Africa America have also been receiving national awards such as those funded by the Association of American University Women and the Ford Foundation. Members of what is now colloquially referred to as “The Illinois Diaspora” are a prominent force at major Black Studies meetings such as the Association for the Study of African American Life and



Culture (ASALH), the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH), the Association for the Study of the World Wide African Diaspora (ASWAD), the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), and National Council of Black Studies (NCBS). Moreover, several faculty members hold prominent offices in these organizations.

As might be expected, the increased numbers of scholars working on Africa America is reflected in the range of intellectual endeavors underway at AASRP. Presently, there is an African American Studies minor program through AARSP. Plans are also underway to offer B.A. and Ph.D. programs in coming years. Beginning in the fall of 2007, AASRP minors will have the opportunity to earn the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Certificate in Black Women and Gender Studies. Undergraduate students echo their enthusiasm for information learned in African American History and Studies classes. Instructors in AASRP and the Department of History repeatedly appear on the “List of Teachers Ranked Excellent,” at the University of Illinois.

African American Studies and History is extending beyond the borders of UIUC. During the summer of 2007, AARSP sponsored the Kufundisha—KiSwahili to Teach— Summer Teaching Institute. The theme of the seminar was “Teaching the African American Sociohistorical Experience.” The Institute provided educators and social workers in the Champaign-Urbana school districts the opportunity to learn and, hopefully, employ methods of African American History in their classroom. Participants devoted two full weeks to learning aspects of African American History, taking a tour of the Underground Railroad museum, and engaging in critical dialogues about the interplay between theory and the practical day

to day experiences of teaching in the local Champaign-Urbana community.

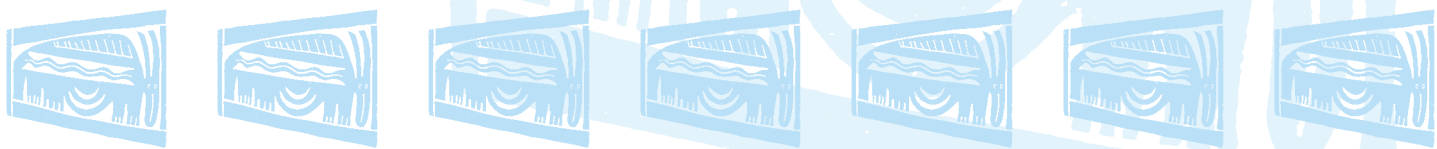
AASRP also has an ongoing relationship with the remarkable new program *HistoryMakers*. *HistoryMakers* is an effort to capture and archive the testimonies and narratives of both renowned and everyday black Americans. AASRP is engaged in a University of Illinois system-wide initiative to produce a series of public engagement venues to bring African American history to life in a way that connects with current issues and public debates on topics such as race, education, inequality, and community development.

UIUC is quickly becoming a center for the exchange of salient dialogues on the state of black scholarly studies. Each fall AASRP and other sponsoring units host the Ida B. Wells Barnett Symposium on Gender and Black Women’s History. AASRP houses the new journal, *Black Women, Gender and Families*. It also hosts a bi-annual conference on Black Studies. During the Spring of 2008, scholars from across the country (and world) will meet to discuss the conference theme “Rupture, Repression and Uprising: Raced and Gendered Violence Along the Color Line.” Featured panelists include Gerald Horne, Sonia Sanchez, Abdul Alkalimat and James Loewen. The conference will provide faculty and students from cross disciplines with the opportunity to present their work and dialogue about new trends in the study of African Americans.

As can be seen, the study of African Americans is itself *making* history in crucial and distinct ways at UIUC.



Sundiata
Cha-Jua



The *Journal of Late Antiquity* to be Housed at UIUC



During the past 50 years the field of study known as “Late Antiquity,” roughly AD 250–750, has come a long way. For generations, this period was dismissed as the “Dark Ages,” where nothing of interest or importance happened, and considered to be either an unwanted appendage of Classical Antiquity or an embarrassing precursor of the Middle Ages. But more recent study has demonstrated that Late Antiquity is an independent period with its own idiosyncratic, unifying characteristics. Late

Antiquity brought the development and expansion of two great monotheistic religions, Christianity and Islam. It saw the political and cultural fragmentation of an ancient world that hitherto had been tending toward ever-larger empires and ever-greater cultural homogeneity. It saw the culmination, in both secular and religious society, of the belief in the rule by law. It witnessed the first mass survivals of original documents in codex (book) form. And it brought artistic trends that focused on idealization, and the privileging of message over form. But one thing that the scholarly field of Late Antiquity lacked was its own professional journal, where the research of scholars in the field could be presented and discussed. Other pre-modern disciplines of longer standing, such as classical, medieval, and Renaissance studies, had a multitude of publication venues, but not Late Antiquity, the scholarly orphan.

This began to change at the meeting of the Society for Late Antiquity at Santa Barbara in 2001, where plans were put in motion to create a new *Journal of Late Antiquity* to fill this glaring gap in the scholarly periodical literature. The most distinguished international scholars of Late Antiquity, in fields including history, philology, religious studies, philosophy, art history, and

archaeology, gave their support to a proposal developed by Professor Ralph Mathisen, then of the University of South Carolina and since 2003 at UIUC. The journal proposal insisted on a large 6½” x 9½” format and the ability to print high quality color photos so as to highlight developments in art, architecture, and material culture to their greatest advantage. Another desideratum was that individual subscription costs be kept low, so as to get the journal into the hands of as many scholars and students as possible. Five different scholarly presses jockeyed to obtain the right to publish what looked to be such a promising new journal. Eventually, the offer from Johns Hopkins University Press, a leader in the publication of scholarship of pre-Modern history, and the publisher of distinguished journals ranging from the *Arethusa* and the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* to the *Journal of Women’s History* (also housed at the UIUC and co-edited by Antoinette Burton, Chair of the Dept. of History), won out.

Ralph Mathisen was appointed the journal’s inaugural Managing Editor, and the first issue of *JLA* is slated to appear in the spring of 2008. As noted on the website for the journals division of Johns Hopkins University Press, *The Journal of Late Antiquity* (JLA) is the first international English-language journal dedicated to the study of Late Antiquity writ large. The journal provides a venue for multi-disciplinary coverage of all the methodological, geographical, and chronological facets of Late Antiquity, going from AD 250 to 750, ranging from Arabia to the British Isles, and running the gamut from literary and historical studies to the study of material culture. One of the primary goals of the journal is to highlight the status of Late Antiquity as a discrete historical period in its own right” (http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_late_antiquity/). Individual subscriptions are a low \$30.00 per year for two issues, and contributions are solicited from scholars of Late Antiquity in all fields and periods.

History Textbook Thrives in Its Fourth Decade

In October 2007, the 9th edition of *A History of Western Society* was published by Houghton-Mifflin Company. The book began in 1976 as an adventure among three young University of Illinois history professors, John McKay, Bennett Hill, and John Buckler. In its third edition, the book became a best-seller, noted for its engaging and accessible prose and its pioneering focus on social history. Thirty years later, it remains one of the most frequently assigned textbooks for college-level and AP Western Civilization courses. In 1983, the three authors renewed their success with *A History of World Societies*; subsequently co-authored with fellow U. of I. historian Patricia Ebrey, now at the University of Washington.

On a rainy fall afternoon in Urbana, the newest member of the writing team, Clare Crowston—who joined the department in 1996—sat down with one of the original authors, John McKay, to discuss the past, present, and future of *A History of Western Society* and *A History of World Societies*.

CC: First of all, we should pay tribute to Bennett Hill, who passed away in 2005. That must have been a very hard moment for you personally as well as for the textbook.

JM: It was a real blow. He was in good health and was coming back from Jamaica and in the process got pneumonia. He died a few weeks later in the hospital, suddenly, at the end of February 2005. We were comrades in arms from the beginning.

CC: When and why did you and Bennett and John Buckler decide to write a Western Civilization textbook?

JM: The reason I got into it was that I wrote a first monograph that got a good reception in economic history and in particular in Russian economic history. I went to the Soviet Union for five months, leaving my wife home with two young children, to do research in the libraries and archives there. I was going to write a history of the Russian petroleum industry to 1914. My materials were supposed to be shipped back through the Consular service and all my notes were lost, not only all my archival materials but everything I had taken with me. I was crushed; for the first time since beginning graduate school I didn't have the next three years planned. An editor from Houghton Mifflin, who was looking

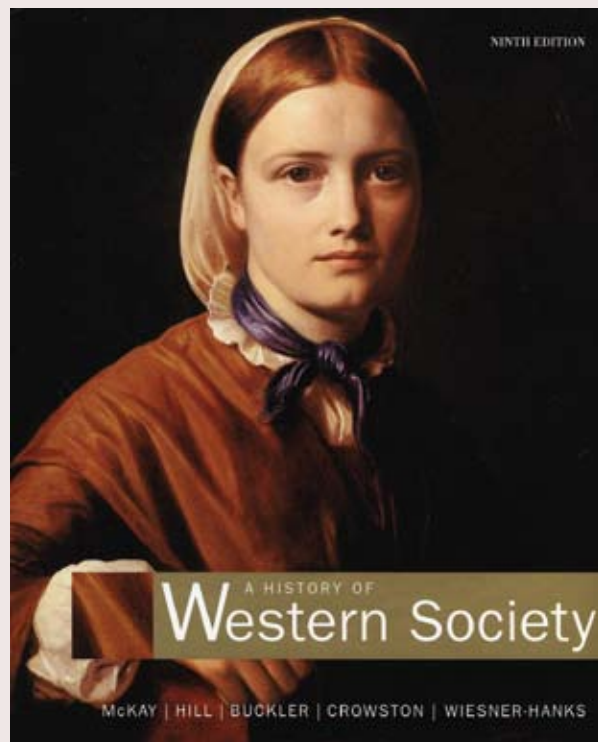
for a new Western Civilization book that would highlight social history, approached us in the fall of 1975. Bennett Hill, John Buckler, and John Dahl (another U of I colleague) had all done manuscript reviews for her. I had taught History 112 (and sometimes History 111) for nine years. To make a long story short, we decided we would try it. Had I not lost my papers, I would have written a third monograph, and I doubt if I would have done the textbook.

CC: When did the textbook become one of the bestsellers in its field? Why do you think it was so successful?

JM: It did pretty well in the first edition for a new book. In the second edition, I remember Bennett called me up and said the editor had called him

and asked: "do you know you have a best seller?" Bennett was ecstatic. In the third edition, it sold a huge number of books and since then it has been a leading book.

I think it succeeded because it was fresh and conveyed the drama of the human experience. It covered the mainline topics with up-to-date scholarship, and it had the newer types of social history. We were the first basic European text to have themes like the family, women, the life of the people, population, and even some sex. We tried very hard to make it engaging and good reading. Enough of it was different to catch people's attention, and eventually *many* other books copied it. And we were lucky: our timing was good, and the publisher really pushed it.



continued on page 12

History Textbook Thrives, continued

CC: Why do you think it continues to be so successful?

JM: I think because we have made an effort to have real revisions that do bring different material in and to keep up with the scholarly literature and the controversies.

CC: How have the themes and content changed over the years?

JM: The content has changed by trying to keep it up-to-date and fresh. The post-1945 content has changed substantially in every edition, trying to keep up with everything from the second oil crisis to the fall of the Soviet Union to globalization. As the modernist, I find this to be a big concern in every edition. Another thing is that there are many more pedagogical features: the biographies, the primary sources, the features on analyzing visual images. Now we also have links to the web and study guides. It's become a little more like I imagine a high school text is written.

I should mention that today I got the advance copy of the new edition, and I am looking forward to putting your material beside mine and comparing the changes. [NB: Clare Crowston has taken over two of Bennett Hill's chapters and five of John McKay's]. Tell me how you changed those chapters.

CC: Well, I changed the Columbus and exploration chapter the most. I transferred the first half, on the wars of religion, to an earlier chapter. This left the whole chapter for the voyages of exploration, European overseas expansion, and the consequences of contact. I put a whole new section in on what is called the "Afro-Eurasian Trade World" before 1492. The idea was to give students more background about what Columbus was looking for when he sailed west. It also helps to bring in the global context of Western Civilization, which is so important for students to understand these days. It meant a lot of new research and writing; that was very challenging and time-consuming.

JM: Western society in a global framework has been a theme in recent editions. If you don't have that now you look out-of-date. For example, I develop the point that Europeans did not have a higher average standard of living at the time of the French Revolution than, say, the Chinese.

CC: I also added material from my own research area. For example, I introduced the concept of the "Industrious Revolution" (borrowed from historian Jan de Vries) to describe the background of the Industrial Revolution as a period when people begin to work harder and put more members of the family to work; it's a turn from the family as a unit of production to wage labor outside the home and reliance on market-produced goods. This concept highlights the importance of consumption in economic growth and also the role of women and women's work in history.

JM : You also seemed to have some interesting new illustrations.

CC: That's something they want us to change in every edition.

We've talked about how our work in the textbook has changed, but how has the textbook industry changed over the years?

JM: One thing that has struck me forcefully has been the switch from four-year to three-year revision cycles. It means we don't have as much time to prepare for the next one, to read and reflect and recharge our batteries.

There are more concerns today with market factors and economic factors, and that affects the writing process in various ways. It's become a very competitive business.

CC: What have you enjoyed most about doing the textbook?

JM: When I lectured in History 112 (now History 142, Western Civilization, 1660 to present), I always thought I was teaching one of the most important courses students could ever take. Not only was their present the product of the past, but that same developmental process would transform their lives and their times in the quintessential human drama—the process of change over time. By writing and revising these texts I was able to present a broad narrative in a different, more literary way as I continued to teach the course at Illinois. It gave me deep satisfaction to think that I had communicated my thoughts to so many students and helped so many instructors all around the country.

CC: What I enjoyed about the revisions was the chance to generalize again after so many years of very specialized research and writing. Now, I feel

like every topic in European (and indeed world) history is of interest to me, and I should learn about it. This has given me a new way to relate to my colleagues, a new appreciation of what I learn from teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, and even a new engagement with the global politics and societies that have resulted from the long-term developments I write about.

JM: When I hear you say that, I want to add that for me it was always a wonderful learning experience. Every edition, it was a joy to read some of these extraordinary books that people write, books I would have never read had I stayed focused on economic development in the nineteenth century. Bennett was the same way; he looked upon every new edition as a learning experience.

CC: What message do you have for students who are reading or who have read your textbooks? (By the way I met a woman today who is an alumna of the History Department and who remembered reading *A History of Western Society* with real pleasure and said it was one of the best textbooks she ever read. You seem to get that response frequently).

JM: I hope that they find it an interesting and rewarding learning experience. It's only an introduction, but it's a good introduction. I was very pleased that Merry Wiesner [another new co-author] wrote in the preface of this edition that many students had told her: "this was not a boring textbook." Over the years, the editors at Houghton Mifflin have said that that was one of the reasons for its success: it was a lively and accessible textbook.

CC: I feel like telling them to hold on to their copies of the book, because they contain so much information about so many places, themes, and events. You may not appreciate it at the end of a long semester, but I know that I go back all the time to my college Western Civilization textbook for general information about so many different periods of history.

JM: Now you'll be able to go back to a textbook that you wrote yourself!

CC: Well, I'll always be grateful for the model you've shown us. Thirty years as a leading textbook, that must be some kind of record!

Phi Alpha Theta Banquet 2006–2007

Graduate Student Awards and Honors

Laurence Larson Scholarship for Studies in
Medieval or English History
Habtamu Menigistie Tegegne

Theodore Pease Scholarship for English History
Michelle Beer

Joseph Swain Seminar Paper Prize
Emily Skidmore

Frederick S. Rodkey Memorial Prize in Russian
History
Rebecca Mitchell

William C. Widenor Teaching Fellowship Awards
Randall Dills
Bryan Nicholson

Teaching Awards

Queen Excellence in Faculty Teaching Award
Professor Carol Symes

Heiligenstein Award for Teaching Excellence by a
Teaching Assistant
Will Cooley

People's Choice Awards for the Best Lecture in a
Survey Course
Professor Mark Leff
Professor Mark Micale

Hoddeson Receives Siebel Chair in Science History



As the Chair's opening letter in *History @ Illinois* announces, the Department this past year received the thrilling news that Thomas M. Siebel, the founder of Siebel Systems and university philanthropist, had endowed a new professorship at UIUC in the field of the history of science. Almost as gratifying was the subsequent news that Lillian Hoddeson is the first recipient of the Siebel post.

Lillian Hoddeson has been affiliated with History at Illinois since 1989. A Ph.D. in Physics, she is also a research physicist, an affiliate of the Beckman Institute, and a Campus Honors Program professor. She has had a long and distinguished career as a historian of science with commitments to rigorous academic research and to the translation of that work into more popular forms and forums. Professor Hoddeson is internationally known and well respected not only among historians of science but also among physicists, a rare accomplishment in the field. Appropriately enough, her global reputation is also linked to the historical production of scientific knowledge at UIUC and throughout the state.

Hoddeson specializes in the history of 20th-century science and technology, including modern physics, electronics, atomic weapons, "big science," and oral history. Her current research interests also include memory and the nature of scientific creativity studies that draw on her training in physics, her years of research in the history of science, and her much earlier research, back in the 1960s, on how children learn science. She currently is working on three book projects: a biographical study of Stanford Ovshinsky, an inventor of alternative energy technologies; a monograph on oral history and human memory; and a study of the discontinued Superconducting SuperCollider project. Her history of "megascience" at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory is currently in press.

Hoddeson's most recently published books are a history of the transistor, *Crystal Fire: The Birth of*

the Information Age, written with Michael Riordan; a biography of the physicist and Nobel laureate John Bardeen, *True Genius: The Life and Science of John Bardeen*, with Vicki Daitch, and the wide-ranging edited collection *No Boundaries: University of Illinois Vignettes*. In 1999, *Crystal Fire* won the first Sally Hacker Prize from the Society for the History of Technology for the best book on technology in the previous two years aimed at popular and academic audiences. *True Genius* was recognized as one of the best intellectual reads of 2002 by the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and was the Silver Winner 2002 for Biography in *ForeWord Magazine's* Book of the Year Awards. Hoddeson also is a fellow of the American Physical Society, the Center for Advanced Study at Illinois, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in 2000. She is a 2001 U. of I. Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) Faculty Fellow in a Second Discipline, cognitive psychology, and a 2000–2001 U. of I. LAS Alumni Scholar.

Hoddeson's extensive use of oral history interviews as a research tool, and her regular graduate seminar on the same subject, have involved her deeply in questions of individual and collective memory. She explored this interest in an interdisciplinary collaboration with other historians, as well as with writers, psychologists, engineers, and sociologists in a faculty seminar under the auspices of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities and later the Center for Advanced Study. She currently is working with Professor Thomas Anastasio in the NeuroTech group at the Beckman Institute on an outgrowth of the memory project in a cross-disciplinary study of analogies between the memory processes of neural and social systems.

Hoddeson is, in short, one of the leading historians of modern physics working today. The department of history is honored to announce her appointment and is grateful to Thomas Siebel for his generosity in endowing the chair, which will support Lillian's scholarly work as well as graduate research and fellowships and library acquisitions in science history throughout the University.

Faculty Promotions

Adrian Burgos, Jr. was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. He specializes in U.S. Latino history, African American Studies, sports history, and urban history. His book, *Playing America's Game: Baseball, Race, and Latinos, 1868-1959*, was published by the University of California Press in 2007. He has taught graduate seminars in urban history, "Race and the City" and "Latino & Cities" in addition to undergraduate courses on Latino migrations and baseball history. His research interests also include Latino urban history, transnational life in Latino America, and Negro League baseball.

S. Max Edelson was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. He is the author of *Plantation Enterprise in Colonial South Carolina* (Harvard University Press, 2006). A specialist in Colonial and Revolutionary America, he has taught courses on the Caribbean, environment and society, and the Atlantic world. He is now researching the Lisbon earthquake of 1755 and its impact on the understanding of empire in Europe and the Americas.

Dana Rabin was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. She specializes in the history of eighteenth-century Britain and teaches courses on British history, the history of crime, early modern Jewish history, and world history. Her book, *Identity, Crime, and Legal Responsibility in Eighteenth-Century England* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2004. Her new book will study British anxieties about empire across the entire eighteenth century as they coalesced around perceived differences of religion, race and gender.

New Faculty

The Department offers its warmest welcome to two new scholars who have joined the UIUC faculty.

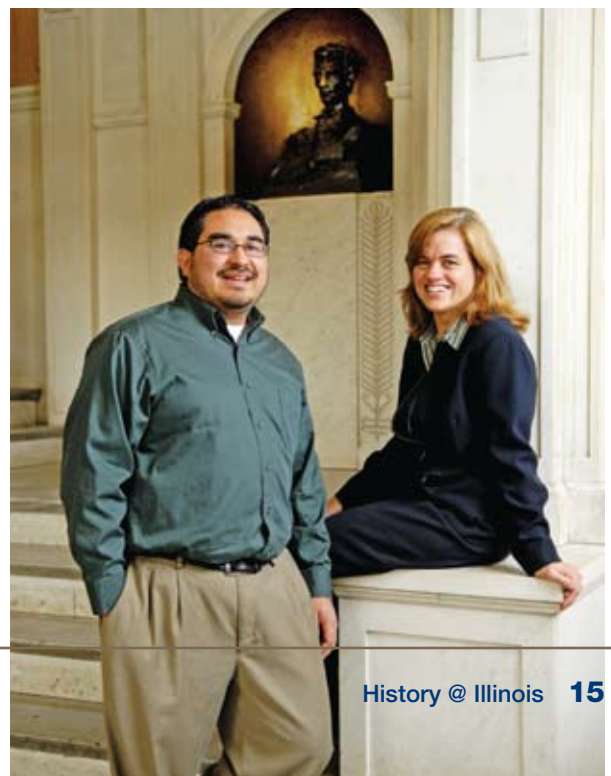
R. Jovita Baber (pictured below right) received her Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago in 2005. She specializes in the legal and social history of Colonial Latin America. Already the author of numerous articles, she is currently revising her book manuscript titled "The Construction of Empire: Politics, Law and Community in Tlaxcala, New Spain (1521-1640)." She is teaching courses on colonial Latin American history, early modern Spain, and modern Mexico.

Matthew Sakiestewa Gilbert (pictured below left) received his graduate training at the University of California at Riverside. He specializes in Native American History, public history, and historic preservation. Gilbert's dissertation (2006) and early articles deal with the history of the Hopi Indians, and his book in preparation is titled "Education Beyond the Mesas: Hopi Student Involvement at Sherman Institute, 1902-1929." He is teaching courses in both the History and American Indian Studies programs.

Faculty Retirement

After many years of teaching ancient Western civilizations to generations of Illinois students, Professor **John Buckler** has stepped down from his teaching post. Buckler hardly needs an introduction to the countless students who have passed through his classes or used the textbook he co-authored with Bennett Hill and John McKay, *A History of Western Society*. (See pp. 11-13.) He is the author of numerous highly regarded books and articles on the history of ancient Greece, including *The Theban Hegemony, 371-362 B.C.* (Harvard University Press, 1980), *Philip II and the Sacred War* (E. J. Brill, 1989), and, most recently, *Aegean Greece in the Fourth Century B. C.* (Brill, 2003). He has also been the recipient of many fellowships and awards, including an Alexander von Humboldt fellowship (1984-86), which he held at the University of Munich.

Matthew Gilbert and Jovita Baber



Graduate Studies at Illinois: An Intellectual Feast



Kathryn
Oberdeck

I find being in my final year as Director of Graduate Studies somewhat bittersweet. Working with our diverse, creative, accomplished, provocative graduate students has been a great honor and inspiration. Having gained a much broader view of the tremendous range and exciting intersections of their research, teaching, and intellectual community-building in a host of reading groups and student-initiated colloquia, I am very eager to have more time to be able to attend more talks, reading groups, and discussions in my

capacity as a research scholar than I do now. Not that I ever doubted it, but now I am all the more convinced that this is one of the most exciting and challenging places to write history and that our graduate students are in very large part responsible for that. My work as DGS has allowed me to survey the full range of methodological, interdisciplinary, and conceptual strides our graduate historians are making daily in ways that I know I won't be able to match as I focus in the future on my own research. I will do my best to keep up and will enjoy being able to participate in ways I have not over the last three years, but I know there are many dimensions of the wealth of historical insight being produced here that I will miss.

The considered conversations that occur in our department across rigorously pursued specialties of time and place are central to the attractive features of our department and graduate program that I get to advertise every year to a parade of interested prospective students. From that group—and many who applied from oceans away and could not visit—we welcomed an enthusiastic group of fifteen, slightly larger than the year before. They came from a diverse pool of 168 applicants that demonstrated again the tremendous appeal of our program. Our continuing students once again excelled in recruiting an eager entering class, proving that our

students remain among our best advertisers, organizing many of the events and colloquia around which visits were arranged and meeting in countless informal discussions that demonstrated the intellectual opportunities to be found here. Adrian Burgos, Assistant DGS for Diversity Initiatives, also put together a stimulating and well-attended colloquium entitled “Beyond the Barrio: Everyday Life in Latino/a America” as part of our ongoing diversity recruitment activities. We plan to continue with such programming this year, while adding recruitment activities geared specifically to applicants in European and Non-West history fields.

Many new degrees, teaching awards, research honors, and a host of prestigious outside fellowships also confirmed the excellence we see our students regularly attaining. Six of our students received their Ph.D.s in 2006-07. Six job-seekers found tenure-track teaching and research positions (in several cases turning down other tenure-track positions to take these), and two former students assumed new tenured positions—at UCLA and Queen's University—while two others took up new jobs as visiting faculty or research scholars. An impressive range of external and internal grants is supporting students who are currently engaged in their thesis research, including fellowships from the German Academic Exchange Service, American Council of Learned Societies, Mellon Foundation, Fulbright program, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, the Sir James Loughheed Award sponsored by the Albert Learning Information Service, a fellowship offered by the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Program, and a Dissertation Fellowship from the Consortium for Faculty Diversity at Liberal Arts Colleges (CFD) Program. Internally we have talented graduate students supported by the Illinois Institute for Research as well as a number of Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships sponsored by the University's area-studies centers. In the area of teaching, Julilly Kohler-Hausmann received the coveted Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Our congratulations to all of these

excellent past and current graduate colleagues; we appreciate the deeply devoted and exceptional work that has produced this gallery of achievements.

The Eighth Annual Graduate Symposium on Women's and Gender History, held in March, presented an impressive program with participants from across the nation and globe, that included two stimulating keynote addresses, one by Joan W. Scott, the Harold F. Linder Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study, on "Clashing Discursive Systems: Western and Islamic Views of Sexuality/Gender," and the other by Tze-Lan Deborah Sang, Associate Professor of Chinese Literature at the University of Oregon, on "Abject Modern Girls in Early-Twentieth-Century China." Year-round graduate students also do much of the work of coordinating the ongoing reading groups that bring students and faculty together to explore, among other fields, Gender and History, Russia, Working-Class History, Early America and the Atlantic World, Early Modern European History, Blackness and Belief, and Environmental History.

We are continuing to explore new venues and programs to improve the history graduate program and its visibility in the university and larger community. Our first-year sequence, in which entering graduate students address broad topics of historiography, method and analysis as these dimensions of historical thought apply across varied geographical, chronological and thematic interests, is entering its third successful year. Plans are also afoot this year to initiate a "History Day" that will feature panels including paper presentations from this sequence alongside some of the research of our undergraduate honors scholars, to showcase to the public the range of exciting research being done by graduates and undergraduates. We built on a year of workshops on diversity in the history profession with a graduate-faculty forum on integrating histories of peoples of color into the curriculum on Western Civilization, US intellectual history, and historiography. We will further carry forth this focus on teaching with a forum on undergraduate teaching more generally as it engages the shared and collaborative efforts of faculty and teaching assistants.

As we build on these achievements and look for new areas where our already nourishing conversations among faculty, graduate students and undergraduates can be enhanced, I am continuously grateful for the creative help of Professor Carol Symes, our TA Coordinator, who is always inventive and inspired in her work with TA orientation,

workshops, and ongoing conversations with our graduate teaching staff, as well as Professor Adrian Burgos, Assistant DGS for Diversity Initiatives, who has provided outstanding leadership in our diversity recruitment efforts. And needless to say, none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the inspiring and sympathetic leadership of our departmental chair, Antoinette Burton. Along with the dedicated and imaginative work of our faculty in mentoring, advising, and teaching graduate students, their efforts promise to continue to add to the delectable and nutritious intellectual menu in History at Illinois.

Information on all our graduate students, current and recent PhDs, and many other related items can be found on the Department website: www.history.uiuc.edu

Entering Graduate Students Fall 2007

Appleford, Simon

M.A. St. Andrews University
US South, Digital

Attig, Derek

B.A. Beloit College
American Cultural History

Bisson, Wilfred M. (Mark)

B.A. Norwich University
Middle Eastern History

Bui, Long Bao

M.A. UC Berkeley
US Political/Diplomatic

Duros, Laura

M.A. Stanford University
Latin American History

Dodson, Heidi

M.C.I.S. University of Texas,
Austin
US South, African American

Greenstein, David

B.A. Vassar College
US Political/Social History

Heinzel, Sally

M.A. Illinois State University
American Cultural and Political

Ivanova, Veneta

M.A. Univ. Sofia-Kliment
Ohridski
Eastern Europe

Jordan, Jason

B.A. Rhodes College
African-American History

Koroloff, Rachel

M.A. Oregon State University
Russia/History of Science

Polansky, Gregory

B.A. Stony Brook University
Germany, Intellectual History

Poppel, Zachary

B.A. University of Denver
Military and Cultural History

Reid, Patryk

M.A. Carleton University,
Ottawa
Russian History

Seawell, Stephanie

M.A. Indiana University/
Purdue
US Urban History

Graduate Student Profiles

At any given time, the Department has a large number of talented graduate students at all stages of their studies working on a tremendous range of historical topics. This has never been truer than at present.

Jesse Murray, for instance, joined the history program at UIUC in the fall semester of 2003, after graduating magna cum laude from the University of Missouri with a double major in History and Russian Languages and Literature. Graced with a coveted Illinois Distinguished Fellowship from the Graduate College, she has immersed herself the past few years in course work in the overlap-

ping fields of modern Russian history, the comparative history of religion, and ethnohistory. Last summer, she exiled herself to Siberia in order to conduct pre-dissertation research, north of the Mongolian border.

For her dissertation, which she is writing under Professor Mark Steinberg's mentorship, Jesse plans to study the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century connection between Orthodoxy and "Russianness" through the lens of religious conversion. During the process of conversion, she points out, both converts and priests were forced actively to negotiate issues of community and belonging as they struggled to understand what Orthodoxy meant for them personally. The communities involved ranged in size from the village parish to the empire itself. Priests and converts defined and disputed the requirements for membership in the communities through issues ranging from language acquisition to the raising of children to marriage and divorce. Jesse will explore these processes of identity definition by interrogating documents from several parishes and a monastery in eastern Russian Empire, specifically in the Siberian region of Zabaikal'e.

In addition to her intensive academic studies the past three years, Jesse has devoted herself to various interesting and worthy activities outside the classroom. She has taught English classes in Russia and has worked as a VISTA Volunteer assisting Russian-speaking immigrants to the United States. Needless to say, for both activities her exceptional Russian language skills proved indispensable. For the 2007 Women's and Gender History Graduate Symposium, she served as co-chair of the organizing sub-committee. This year, she is also enjoying her work as an editorial assistant for *Slavic Review*, where she helps to produce the book review section of the journal.

How to understand Jesse's consuming interest in things Russian? She explains that she grew up in Juneau, Alaska (once upon a time, part of the Russian Empire) and that right beside her family's staid Episcopal Church was a gilt, garishly multi-colored Russian Orthodox Church. "When I was little, I was convinced that it was some sort of fairy church. I've been interested in Russia every since, and since I decided to study Russian history, I've been fixated on religion."

It would be difficult to conjure up a more different line of study from Murray's than **Matt Gambino's**, although both students share the same high level of academic accomplishment and performance. After receiving his B. A. degree in the History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine from the University of Chicago, Matt in 1998 enrolled in the U of I's demanding Medical Scholars Program. He passed his preliminary examinations in 2001, in modern American history, the history of medicine, and the history of science.

Matt is tentatively titling his dissertation "Mental Health and Ideals of Citizenship: Patient Care at St. Elizabeths Hospital in the Twentieth Century." His interests lie in the process by which contested ideas about American citizenship have shaped the delivery of mental healthcare services in American history. The focus of his dissertation is a single, celebrated institution—St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, D.C., formerly a leading federal psychiatric facility and now a municipal hospital of last resort. Through an analysis of case files, administrative records, and research publications, he is seeking to uncover the implicit definitions of disability, improvement, and recovery employed by the institution's medical staff.



**Matt Gambino
and Jesse
Murray**

Graduate Placements 2006–2007

Tenure Track Jobs

Nicanor Dominguez	Boise State University
Theodora Dragastinova	Ohio State University
Jennifer Edwards	Manhattan College
Matthew Jennings	Macon State University, Georgia
Michelle Moran	Montgomery College, Rockville, MD
Christine Varga-Harris	Illinois State University

Hired with Tenure

Frank (Tobias) Higbie	UCLA
Nancy Van Deusen	Queens University

Other Positions

Misha Auslin	American Enterprise Institute, Resident Scholar
Greg Stroud	Bennington College, Visiting Assistant Professor

Other News

We'll leave them nameless, since these decisions are always hard and sometimes controversial, but we also had at least five declined job offers. Three were among those above who took positions elsewhere; at least two came to people not appearing here who decided to devote an extra year to completing their dissertations and then trying the job market again.

He is also using first-person accounts in patient records and the hospital's intramural newspapers to explore the perspectives of patients on their illnesses and the care they received. He argues in the dissertation that American psychiatrists have sought to reconstruct mentally distressed men and women for proper citizenship and that the implementation of these goals has been shaped by deeply-held assumptions about differences across lines of race, ethnicity, and gender. Mark Micale and Leslie Reagan serve as faculty sponsors of his work on the dissertation.

Matt has also distinguished himself in other venues at the University during his grad career. He has worked as a tutor at the U of I Writers's Workshop. He has served as Research Assistant for Professor Barrington Edwards, on the theme of the racial dimensions of behavioral genetics, and for Professor Lillian Hoddeson, on the idea of scientific genius. In 2003, he received a John Bardeen Graduate Student Fellowship through UIUC's Center for Advanced Study; in 2006, he received similar support from the University's Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society. For the past three years, he has been the prime mover behind the History of Science and Medicine Reading Group on campus, and in the spring of 2007 he helped to organize a highly successful conference for MD/PhDs and MD/PhD candidates in the social sciences and humanities.

Equally exciting, Matt is now beginning to present his work to varied professional communities. In the past three years, he has delivered papers at several scholarly conferences in Canada and the States, which he will also do at the January 2008 meeting of the AHA in Washington, D.C. And he is set to make his publishing debut with a forthcoming article, to appear in the Cambridge-based journal *History of Psychiatry*, that examines racial psychiatry among black Americans in the age of Jim Crow.

Having received a Dissertation Completion Fellowship this year from the Graduate College, Matt is presently living in Chicago and plans to be finished writing by August 2008. Following completion of the dissertation, he will return to the College of Medicine to continue with his medical coursework. Ultimately, he hopes to practice psychiatry and teach medical history to students and residents as part of a medical humanities program.

Ph.D.s Awarded, 2006–2007

Nicole Anderson

“New Nations, Anxious Citizens: Social Change and Filmmaking in the West African Sahel, 1950–1980”

Advisor: Charles Stewart

Alexander d’Erizans

“The Strangeness of Home: German Loss and Search for Identity in Hanover, 1943–1948”

Advisor: Peter Fritzsche

Nicanor Dominguez

“Rebels of Laicaota: Spaniards, Indians, and Andean Mestizos in Southern Peru during the Mid-Colonial Crisis of 1650–80”

Advisor: Nils Jacobsen

Matthew Jennings

“This Country Is Worth the Trouble of Going to War to Keep It: Cultures of Violence in the American Southeast to 1740”

Advisor: Frederick Hoxie

Wudu Kassu

“The Ethiopian Orthodox Church, The Ethiopian State and the Alexandrian See: Indigenizing the Episcopacy and Forging National Identity, 1926–91”

Advisor: Don Crummey

Rebecca McNulty Schreiber

“Education for Empire: Manual Labor, Civilization, and the Family in 19th-Century American Missionary Education”

Advisors: Frederick Hoxie and Kathryn Oberdeck

Jason Tebbe

“Domesticating Time: Family and Memory in the German Middle Class, 1840–1939”

Advisor: Peter Fritzsche

Undergraduate Life in the History Department



Undergraduate Studies at Illinois

by Dana Rabin and Chris Cosat

With over 600 majors and about 100 double majors and minors, the undergraduate program in history at UIUC is booming. In 2007 the undergraduate advising office in 300 Gregory Hall underwent a dramatic transformation. Where there was once one office, there is now a suite of advising offices to house the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Undergraduate History Advisor, Chris Cosat. The office is a busy place, and Chris' calendar is filled with student appointments.

Given the higher profile of our History Honors Program, the undergraduate studies committee is assessing the Program with an eye to expanding the number of students who participate. We are eager to encourage qualified students to choose the honors track, culminating in the senior honors thesis. We had nine thesis writers in 2006–2007, and we hope that this trend continues and grows in the coming years.

In addition to the coursework and curricular concerns handled by the undergraduate studies committee, the latest news from the program has been the changing composition of the Epsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, our history honors society. Last year, with the help of Karen Phoenix, our former president, Phi Alpha Theta diversified its membership, inviting undergraduate history majors to join and take part in the leadership of the organization. We held an initiation ceremony in April, which ushered in a class of 60. Led by Megan MacDonald-McGinnis, president, Laurie Schuetter, vice president, Matt Filter, treasurer, and James Garcia, secretary, and a membership that includes both undergraduate and graduate students, the chapter is active and thriving. So far this year, PAT has hosted the successful “welcome back” picnic attended by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates, taken a field trip to the Pullman Houses in Chicago, and begun a tutoring program to help students in the large survey courses. The rest of the year promises to be just as dynamic with an informational session on Teach for America and an historical movie followed by a discussion with a faculty expert. Check out the chapter's Facebook page the next time you are on line.

We always welcome alums visiting the UIUC campus. Next time you are in C-U, please come by and say hello.



Chris Cosat and
Dana Rabin

2006–2007 History Undergraduate Honors Students

Christopher P. Clasby, “The Legacy of the Pompeys”

Advisor: Ralph Mathisen

Stephanie E. Esbrook, “The Conversion of the Aristocracy: Active Women Converters in the Fourth and Early Fifth Centuries”

Advisor: Ralph Mathisen

Kate E. Gustafson, “Please, Mister Postman: Authority and the Epistolary Process in the Letters of Hildegard of Bingen and Catherine of Siena”

Advisor: Carol Symes

Winner of the Martha Belle Barrett Prize for Outstanding Honors Thesis

Ryan M. Karijolic, “The Metropolis in the American Arcadia: Depictions of the City in Popular Fiction from 1840–1860”

Advisor: Larry Ratner

Sarah Beth Okner, “Relocated Classrooms: The Incarceration and Education of Japanese American Students in Wartime Relocation Camps”

Advisor: Augusto Espiritu

Ashley R. Price, “‘Without Her Leave’: The Perception and Portrayal of Sexual Violence in Medieval England, 1150–1450.”

Advisor: Carol Symes

Christopher M. Ramsey, “Overcoming Stigma and Violence: Marquette Park, Chicago, 1966–1986”

Advisor: Mark Leff

David G. Wernet, “Democratic Idealism, Popular Front Ideology and New Deal Liberalism in the Chicago Art Community, 1910–1943”

Advisor: Jim Barrett

Digitization Projects in the History, Philosophy and Newspaper Library



Mary Stuart

For historians of the modern era, newspapers offer a wealth of information about society, culture, and politics. No other source document conveys as readily and vividly the sensibility of an era and the feel of a place. Unfortunately, our use of historic newspapers is often constrained by problems of format and access. Few newspapers were ever indexed at the article level. For all practical purposes, most newspapers are available only on microfilm and obtaining access may involve interlibrary borrowing. Reading microfilm is tedious

under the best of circumstances, even when the latest viewer-scanner technology is available.

Fortunately, digital technology overcomes all of these limitations. We can now create digital facsimiles of historical newspapers that are not only browsable, but fully keyword searchable as well. This is certainly not an inexpensive process, and it is very demanding from a technical perspective. Nonetheless, as anyone knows who has searched historical newspapers online, digitization revolutionizes access to this important source material.

The first digital versions of newspapers were produced in the private sector by companies holding master negative microfilm of the originals. ProQuest launched the *Historical New York Times* in 2001. Thomson-Gale followed with the *Times Digital Archive* in 2003. Within a short time, these efforts spread to the public sector and a handful of libraries embarked on a number of newspaper digitization projects, resulting in *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle Online* and the *Colorado Historical Newspaper Collection*.

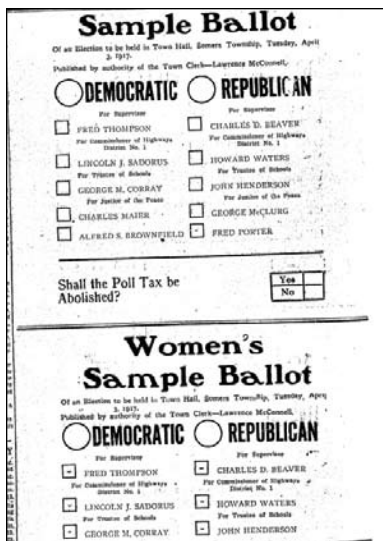
Whether purchased from a commercial database vendor or produced in-house, digitized back files of newspapers are an expensive proposition. It costs nearly \$60,000, for example, to purchase *The Historical Washington Post* for the period 1887–1925, plus \$9,000 per year for a subscription

to the issues for 1926 to 1990, compared with about \$30,000 to convert one decade of a daily newspaper to digital format ourselves. The advantage of in-house digitization is that the content can be produced according to preservation standards and hosted locally.

Shortly after the merger of the History and Philosophy Library with the Newspaper Library in 2005, we began exploring the possibility of digitizing historical newspapers. It is cheaper and generally easier to digitize newspapers from negative microfilm, rather than from the original print copies. Since we owned the master negative microfilm of the *Urbana Daily Courier*, it was a logical candidate for our first newspaper digitization project. Published from 1897 through March 1979 under a succession of titles, the *Courier* provides rich documentation of the development of commerce and industry, the course of local and regional politics, and the history of cultural and social life in our community, as well as the local experience of global events.

Spanning a number of pivotal events in world history as well as key developments in local and regional history, the decade from 1916 to 1925 was an obvious starting point for this project. At the international level, these years saw the entry of the U.S. into World War I, the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the flu pandemic. Nationally this decade encompasses the Scopes trial of 1925, the East St. Louis riots of 1917, the founding of the Ku Klux Klan, Prohibition, the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting female suffrage, and the postwar recovery and rapid rise of science, technology and industry.

The *Courier* documents the impact of these events on the lives of ordinary residents of east central Illinois. It also offers some startling revelations about conditions in Champaign-Urbana. The style and conventions of local journalism in this period can be described as colorful and graphic, if not lurid and gruesome. Through our project, this rich source material is freely available to anyone, anywhere with access to the internet. The issues are presented as cover-to-cover digital facsimiles,



Sample election ballots published in *The Urbana Daily Courier*, March 23, 1917, showing different versions for male and female voters

completely browsable and keyword searchable, with full downloading and e-mailing functionality.

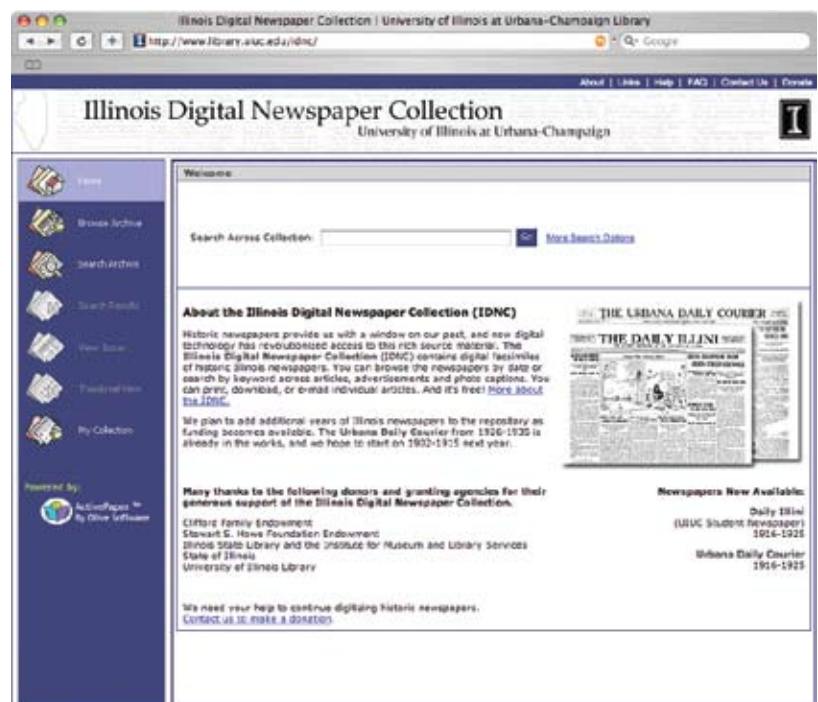
The Library also owns the original microfilm of several decades of our student newspaper, *The Daily Illini*, and in 2006 we began digitizing the *DI* for the same time period. As we soon learned with both of these newspapers, the quality of the original microfilm is a critical factor in a successful digital conversion. Unfortunately, the microfilm produced at UIUC in the 1960s does not meet contemporary preservation filming standards. The *DI* and the *Courier* were then filmed on acetate film stock, which deteriorates significantly over time. Therefore, before scanning the film, we first have to transfer the images to polyester film stock. In some cases, our film is so badly deteriorated that we have not been able to transfer it. We would love to refile the *Courier*, but tragically, all known original print runs were discarded after the film was produced in the 1960s and 70s. If we are ultimately unable to salvage the old film, we will have lost a portion of our local cultural heritage.

The digital versions of both the *Courier* and the *DI* reside in our repository, called the Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection (<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/idnc/>). Now that we have completed digitization of the issues from 1916 to 1935 for both titles, we are making plans to work back to the inception of these newspapers and as far forward as possible. We have used a combination of gift funds and grants for the work accomplished so far, and we are seeking additional funding to continue the project.

Thanks to the Urbana Free Library and the Champaign County Historical Archive, we for-

mally launched the digital *Urbana Daily Courier* on July 28, 2007 with a public presentation in the UFL auditorium. Many former *Courier* employees attended the event and shared their recollections. We were thrilled by the presence at the launch of the general manager and publisher of the *Courier* from 1934 to 1964, Byron Vedder. The launch of the *DI* is planned for early 2008.

In addition to our newspaper digitization projects, we have also undertaken digitization of two decades of the *Illio* (the UIUC yearbook), and we will begin digitizing two vaudeville trade publications, *The Vaudeville News* and *The Player*, as soon as we complete microfilming of the originals. We are also digitizing a portion of the Chuck Olin Film Archive (selections from his documentary film *In Our Own Hands: The Hidden Story of the Jewish Brigade in World War II*), which will be available later this year. In addition, we are working with other colleagues in the Library to assist with the mass digitization of our general collections. Digitization of the *Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey* (translations of extracts from 102 ethnic newspapers published in Chicago between 1861 and 1938) is scheduled for this fall in conjunction with the Open Content Alliance.



Screen shot of the Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection

Staff Highlight:

Tom Bedwell



It's a well-known truism that history department faculty take it for granted how hard University of Illinois staff work. Tom Bedwell, however, so thoroughly exemplifies this fact that graduate students and faculty alike actively appreciate him, even when he has to tell them hard truths about the limits of their fellowships and research accounts. For the past five years, Tom has been crucial to the successful running of all aspects of departmental operations. Although he is technically “just” the business manager, he consistently has the welfare of faculty, students, and staff in mind. This is all the more remarkable given that he is the point person for all financial transactions in the unit, which includes 50 faculty, 120 graduate students, and a half dozen other staff. Not only is Tom our financial brain, vigilantly overseeing the bottom line; he thinks creatively and thoughtfully day after day about how to make History better as a place to work and as an environment for research and teaching.

To Tom falls the awesome responsibility of overseeing the department's multi-million dollar budget. This is an enormous task that requires a multitude of skills, including a knack for numbers, a grasp of complex computer programs, and a capacity to take a bird's eye view of department goals and challenges. He also constructs a mean Excel spread sheet. On any given day, Tom is processing dozens of reimbursement receipts, overseeing TA salaries, negotiating with vendors about contracts, and supervising other staff members. Arguably more departmental business gets negotiated over the threshold of his office than anywhere else in the department!

There is no quarter of the Department in which Tom is not a prime mover. He is certainly a huge supporter of the graduate students, many of whom find in him a sympathetic ear and an advocate for them in the context of the labyrinthine bureaucracy. He also advances the excellence of the grad program in general by helping us to use our funding resources as efficiently as possible, which often involves extra paperwork, in order that our graduate students can all be funded. He has, furthermore, been a leader in addressing the Department's ongoing space crunch, always looking ahead to the next search season in order to make sure we have adequate “real estate” to accommodate new hires.

As many people in the Department know, Tom often stays after hours to work alone in the office. He is extremely professional at all times, and despite the pressures of multi-tasking, he invariably remains in good humor. The Department is profoundly fortunate and grateful that Tom is a part of our community



The Americanization of Laurence Marcellus Larson (1868–1938)

by Walter L. Arnstein

A visitor to the history department conference room (300 Gregory Hall) will encounter the striking oil portrait of Professor Larson looking searchingly into the far distance. Like Evarts Boutell Greene (1870–1947), the first full-time Professor of History and eventual department head at the University of Illinois, Larson too was born abroad. Greene (the eldest son among eight children) was born in Japan; Larson (also the eldest son among eight children) was born on a farm near Bergen, Norway. Whereas Greene's parents were American Congregationalist missionaries, Larson's parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents were all born Norwegians and members of the Lutheran Church.

That Norwegian connection was to play a central role in Larson's life, career, and scholarship. His evocative posthumous memoir *The Log Book of a Young Immigrant* (1939) is the tale of his self-conscious Americanization. Admittedly, he was less than two-years old when he arrived in the United States, and he was to visit Norway only once, fifty-five years later; by then only a single relation, an octogenarian aunt, could still recall his departure. In 1870 the entire family group of eleven (made up of Larson, a sister, parents, grandparents, uncles, and aunts) had embarked on a sailing ship crammed with 273 other Norwegian emigrants. It took forty-nine days for the "Maryland" to plow its way from Bergen to Quebec. More journeys followed: by train to Detroit and to Luddington, Michigan; by ship across Lake Michigan; by further train journeys across Wisconsin; and a twenty-five-mile march by foot to a corner of Northern Iowa.

Within a year, Larson's father had bought a farm first granted by the American government to a veteran of the Mexican-American War; the formal patent bore the hand of lawyer Abraham Lincoln. Soon thereafter he built a log cabin for his growing family. In the course of the next several years he plowed the prairie first with oxen and then with horses, and—in the aftermath of the Great Depression of 1873—he grew corn rather than wheat. In the meantime, his mother cared for the cows and

the hens. For more than four decades, four-fifths of the inhabitants of Winnebago County, Iowa, spoke and read and attended Lutheran services in Norwegian. That religion emphasized the "sinfulness of earthly life" and forbade card-playing, alcoholic

beverages, and dancing. Once American citizens, they voted Republican, but in 1876 they defeated "the Americans" and took over most of the county offices. His father learned to cope with English, but once the son left Iowa he would write to him weekly in Norwegian until the father's death in 1919.

From age eight on, young Laurence became a hard-working farm lad—plowing, harvesting, binding, and cattle herding. Yet he became an increasingly adept reader also; he pored through the Bible, and he first consumed Dickens's *Oliver Twist* in Norwegian as serialized in a weekly Norwegian-American newspaper. He also began to read an increasing number of works in English in the local one-room schoolhouse that met for several months each winter. A few years later, he became the champion speller in the local school, and at eighteen he earned a state certificate to work as a teacher himself.

He was twenty when he took the train to Des Moines to become the "only Norseman on the campus" at Drake University, for him part of an "urban" and "American" world, evangelically Protestant but not Lutheran. Drake vastly expanded his



continued on page 26

knowledge of literature and history. He became a debater and the editor of a student paper, and in due course he found the fellow student (four years younger) whom he would marry in 1895. Lillian May Dodson “was completely American,” an eighteenth-century New Englander on her father’s side, a Virginian on her mother’s side.

Having received his B.A. degree in 1894, he found a post for five arduous years as the principal of a small academy in Scandinavia, Wisconsin, a community in which English was spoken even less often than in Winnebago County, Iowa. In 1899, Larson and his wife were able to escape to the campus of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. There graduate study “was still in the experimental stage,” but the History Department had attracted two giants, Frederick Jackson Turner, of American “Frontier Thesis” fame, and Charles Homer Haskins, the most eminent American medievalist of his generation. It was Turner who supervised Larson’s M.A. thesis on contemporary attitudes toward the American Constitution of 1787. Inasmuch as Larson understood Latin, Anglo-Saxon, and Old Norse, Haskins proposed what became Larson’s Ph.D. dissertation topic and his first book, *The King’s Household in England before the Norman Conquest* (1904).

The Ph.D. conferred in 1902 did not suffice to enable Larson to find a college teaching position. For the next five years, therefore, he worked as a high school teacher in Milwaukee. There, at the recommendation of the Carnegie Institution and with the help of his wife, he completed work on a second book *A Financial and Administrative History of Milwaukee* (1908). Although he had cause to fear that no major university would ever appoint a mere high school teacher, in 1907, on Haskins’s strong recommendation, Evarts B. Greene of the University of Illinois chose to invite Larson for a campus interview.

At a proposed annual salary of \$1,300, he immediately accepted an appointment as instructor. In Champaign and Urbana “the native American element was in complete control and domination,” and there Larson and his wife joined the Congregationalist Church. He was less impressed by the campus and even by the elegant new Auditorium, initially “a veritable cave of echoes.” He was moderately impressed by the

students, even though he had to report to the dean the name of every absentee after each meeting of each class. He was most impressed by the History Department of five (three of whom were subsequently to become presidents of the American Historical Association); in the next three decades, the department grew to twenty-one.

Larson’s academic advance was rapid. He taught a variety of courses on both English and medieval history. By 1913 he had been named a Professor of History, and during those years from his manual typewriter there flowed reviews, articles, and books: *Canute the Great, 995-1035* (1912) and *A Short History of England and the British Empire* (1915). The latter was to be expanded into *A History of England and the British Commonwealth* (1924; revised ed., 1932). Like Greene, he gave ardent support to the American involvement in World War I with articles and pamphlets such as *An Outline of the Historical Background of the Great War* (1918). Soon thereafter he was named Head of the History Department, where from 1920 until 1937 he survived years both of economic prosperity and depression. He also became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Society at Springfield and eventually its President (1935-1938).

Larson found time to take on summer teaching appointments at institutions as varied as Columbia, Harvard, and Berkeley; yet his publications proceeded apace. In 1935 he translated and edited a 451-page volume, *The Earliest Norwegian Laws* (1935); he also published numerous articles on Scandinavian and Norwegian-American History, many compiled in *The Changing West and Other Essays* (1937). In an *American Historical Review* article (October, 1934) on “The Norwegian Element in the Northwest,” Larson gently reminded his one-time mentor, Frederick Jackson Turner, that the latter’s “Frontier Thesis” had neglected the relevant roles of immigrant Poles, Hungarians, and East European Jews, as well as Norwegians.

With his appointment as Vice-President (and therefore as President-elect) of the American Historical Association, the Americanization of Laurence Marcellus Larson had received full validation. A tribute to Larson was organized in Urbana on May 9, 1936. A hundred colleagues and administrators were present for the dinner; scores

more sent telegrams and letters that celebrated not only his scholarship but also his collegiality. A group of former students thanked him for his “ready humor, the depth of insight, the warmth of heart and the unfailing graciousness.” A central event was the unveiling of the oil portrait by Richard E. Hult of Chicago. As Larson’s colleague James G. Randall observed, “the personality that glows on the canvas has something of the humor and twinkle as well as the ruggedness of the man himself.”

The timing of the dinner was propitious. Only a few months after Larson’s formal retirement in September 1937 and less than three months after his official installation (in absentia) as President of the American Historical Association in late December of that year, Larson was dead. A victim of lung disease, he succumbed on March 9, 1938 at his home at 708 Michigan Avenue, Urbana. He and his wife (who died in 1946) were buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Champaign. An annual graduate student prize in his honor and the portrait in Room 300 serve as occasional reminders of his now distant era.

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Faculty Updates

Walter L. Arnstein contributed an article, “Queen Victoria,” to the Scribner encyclopedia, *Europe, 1789–1914*, and book reviews to *Victorian Studies* and *H-ALBION*. He served as plenary speaker at the annual meeting of the Western Conference on British Studies (Dallas) and as co-curator of a UI Library Exhibit on Victorian Entertainments in connection with the annual meeting of the Midwest Victorian Studies Association (Urbana). See <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/rbx/exhibitions/Victorian%20Entertainments/home/home.html>. In the meantime, the Midwest Conference on British Studies (Indianapolis) has established an annual prize as the Walter L. Arnstein Graduate Essay Award.

Gene Avrutin published: “Racial Categories and the Politics of (Jewish) Difference in Late Imperial Russia,” *Kritika*, 8/1 (Winter 2007): 13–40. He will be a Kennan fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Institute for the Spring 2008.

Jovita Baber joined the history department this fall. She thinks of her major accomplishment as settling into the department and life in Urbana-Champaign—both of which she is enjoying immensely. She is also revising her manuscript, “The Construction of Empire: Law, Politics and Community in Tlaxcala, New Spain (1520–1640).” To complete her book, she was awarded a fellowship at the John Carter Brown Library, where she will do research in summer 2008. In addition, she is editing an anthology, “Everyday Negotiations: The Making of Colonial Latin America,” which examines the quotidian negotiations that gave shape to the Spanish empire.

Jim Barrett worked at the UIUC Center for Advanced Study completing a manuscript on Irish Americans and other ethnic groups in American cities. He published “Conscere le vitte della donne che lavorana,” *Contemporanea: Revista di Storia dell’800 e del ’900*, (2007) and “Aspiration and Coercion: Polish Immigrants Become Polish Americans, 1900–1930,” *Przegląd Polonijny* (2008). Barrett gave invited talks at Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland and the University of Erfurt, Germany. With David Roediger, Barrett won the Carlton Qualey Article Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society for the best article in immigration and ethnic history.

Richard W. Burkhardt, Jr. in November 2006 received the History of Science Society’s Pfizer Prize for “An Outstanding Book in the History of Science” for his book *Patterns of Behavior: Konrad Lorenz, Niko Tinbergen, and the Founding of Ethology* (Chicago Press, 2005). He also gave the History of Science Society’s Annual Distinguished Lecture. In April 2007 he traveled to London to give a talk at the London School of Economics as part of a seminar on “How Facts Travel.” He continues to serve as an associate editor of the *New Dictionary of Scientific Biography*.

Antoinette Burton published three essays, including one on new narratives of Victorian political history, and was a plenary speaker at the Northeastern Victorian Studies Association, Harvard University. She presented work from her project on Santha Rama Rau at Yale University and organized a roundtable at the American Historical Association in Atlanta. With Jean Allman she continues to edit the *Journal of Women’s History*.

Vernon Burton served this past year again as chair of the UIUC Faculty Senate. He was also elected to chair the University Senate Conferences for the three Illinois campuses. He continues to direct the Center for Computing in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science, co-chair the Martin Luther King, Jr. campus committee, and chair the campus Lincoln Bicentennial committee. His new book, *The Age of Lincoln* (2007), is the recipient of the *Chicago Tribune’s* Heartland Literary Award for nonfiction.

Shefali Chandra framed new courses on transnational history, imperialism and sexuality, and post-colonial theory. An article, “En/gendering English,” appeared in *Gender and History*.

Tamara Chaplin writes that this has been a banner year. Last spring she presented work at a conference on digitizing television history at the University of London, lectured on French philosophers as part of the European speaker series at Iowa State, and did corporate consulting on body image and masculinity for the Cheswick Group. Thanks to the UIUC Research Board, she spent the summer in Europe beginning a new project on the French sexual revolution. Finally, she is thrilled to announce that The University of Chicago Press has just published her first book, *Turning On the Mind: French Philosophers on Television* (2007).

Kai-wing Chow published an article entitled “Reinventing Gutenberg: Woodblock and Movable Type Printing in China and Europe,” in *Agent of Change: Twenty-Five Years of Print Culture Studies*, ed. Sabrina A. Baron, et. al. (University of Massachusetts Press), 169–92. In May 2006 he was invited to present a paper on “Zhu Xi’s Commentary on the Four Books: Commentaries and Philosophical Construction,” at The International Conference on “Zhu Xi and His Commentary on the Four Books,” at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Ken Cuno published “Contrat salam et transformations agricoles en basse Égypte à l’époque ottoman,” *Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales*, 61/4 (July–Aug. 2006): 925–940 and “United States Policy towards the Middle East,” *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism since 1450* (2007), 3: 1101–1108. He spoke on divorce in Egypt at the Middle East Center of CUNY and on commercial contracts in Harvard’s Islamic Legal Studies Program. Locally he spoke publicly, and he was interviewed and published opinion pieces on the 2006 Lebanon war, U.S. policy in the Middle East, the Iraq Study Group Report, current events in Egypt, and sectarian conflict in Iraq.

Max Edelson presented a paper on the Lisbon earthquake of 1755 at the Social Science History Association meeting in Minneapolis. He discussed meanings of “tyranny” to slave-owning revolutionaries at the Université Paris 7-Denis Diderot. His article on trees and culture in colonial South Carolina appeared in the Summer 2007 issue of *Agricultural History*. For 2007–2008, Max is the Jay I. Kislak Fellow in American Studies at the Library of Congress. During this sabbatical year in Washington, D.C., he will begin research on a history of geography and empire in British America.

Augusto Espiritu participated in the launching of the Philippine Studies Conference in Japan in November 2006, presenting a paper that will soon be published in English and Japanese, doing commentary, and appraising graduate student work along with an interdisciplinary cast of colleagues from Japan, the US, Southeast Asia, and Australia. In fall 2007 he taught three courses for Semester at Sea—Nationalism in the Twentieth Century, Global Migration, and American Empire—and he traveled to Honolulu, Yokohama, Kobe, Qingdao, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, Chennai, Alexandria, Istanbul, Dubrovnik, and Cadiz.

Poshek Fu is on the 2008 American Historical Association program committee and is directing the 2008 AHA film festival. His essay on the Hong Kong-based Shaw Brother pan-Chinese cinema has been translated in *Dangdai dianying (Contemporary Film)* July 2006, a premier Chinese-language cinema journal published in Beijing. His invited essay on “Zhongguo quanqiu: 1997 hou de Xianggang dianying” (“China Global: Hong Kong Cinema after 1997”) has appeared in *Dangdai dianying*, July 2007. He received a Mellon Faculty fellowship and traveled to Canada, China, Hong Kong, and Japan for talks and research.

Caroline Hibbard gave a paper at the UIUC conference “Gender Matters” held in March 2007; it was entitled “The Queen of Love becomes ‘Generalissima’: From Peace to War with Queen Henrietta Maria.” She continued her work as Library Liaison, including service on the Rare Book Room advisory committee and the Rare Book Room selection committee for the Velde Summer Research grants. She served on the Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid Committees. She had a sabbatical leave in Fall, 2006 and completed a long tenure on the H-Albion advisory board. She continues her work on a study of the early Stuart court.

Lillian Hoddeson has been working on two projects of very different character. In one, now in press, she is examining some of the historical consequences of the trend to do larger experiments in groups of several hundred physicists at large laboratories, like Fermilab. The other project, on electronics of submicroscopic scale aimed at reducing global warming, her work highlights the continuing importance of the independent inventor. Finally, along with Kristen Ehrenberger and members of the Neuroscience Program, she has been studying analogies between the memory-making of brains and social systems in an effort to contribute both to neuroscience and history.

Kristin Hoganson celebrated the publication of her second book, *Consumer’s Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865–1920* and, after taking the afternoon off, got cracking on her next project, “Once Upon a Place,” on fictions of locality before globalization. She did a little research in the National Archives on the Kickapoos, delivered several talks, published a critique of the Americanization of the world paradigm in *Diplomatic History* and finally heeded her students’ advice and jumped on the Power Point bandwagon, sound track and all.

Fred Hoxie writes of a year of endings and beginnings. Ended: *The People: A History of Native America* (2007) appeared, and *Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country*, an exhibit he curated in 2005, began a five-year, twenty-seven city tour in October, 2007. A companion volume of essays and documents was published in time for the tour. Beginning: a new project on the history of American Indians and the law. First manifestations: a law review article on Indian citizenship in the era of Dred Scott ("What Was Taney Thinking?") and an NEH faculty fellowship to support research and writing for 2007–8.

Nils Jacobsen enjoyed a sabbatical during AY 2006–07, of which he spent one semester at Harvard's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. Besides writing on his book manuscript about a revolution in nineteenth century Peru, Jacobsen lectured at Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, the Colombian Historians Congress in Bucaramanga, the University of Maine, the Boston Area Workshop on Latin American History, the Rochester Institute for Technology, and Stanford University. The expanded Spanish version of his 2005 book *Political Cultures in the Andes, 1750–1950*, co-edited with C. Aljovín, was published in July 2007 by San Marcos University Press in Lima.

Diane P. Koenker received a Mellon Faculty Fellowship for spring 2007 and a grant from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research for Fall 2007 to continue her project on a history of Soviet tourism and vacations. She presented a paper in St. Petersburg in June 2007 at an international colloquium on historical memory, entitled "Historical Tourism: Revolution as a Tourist Attraction," and she continued to conduct research in St. Petersburg and London. For 2007–2009 she serves as the American Historical Association's representative to the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

Craig Koslofsky continues to work on his study of darkness and the night, "Evening's Empire: A History of the Night in Early Modern Europe." He published an article from the project, "Princes of Darkness: The Night at Court, 1650–1750" in *The Journal of Modern History* 79/2 (2007): 235–73.

Mark Leff observes that perhaps it's only a desperate search for alternatives to the "empathy gaps" that are part of what some call the American "inequality experiment," but the New Deal seems back in vogue: a blurb on FDR for the Winter 2006 *Prologue*, workshops for teachers in Chicago and Urbana, a provocative exchange with a group of visiting Chinese scholars, guest appearances at conferences of policy experts and political scientists.

Bruce Levine writes that in 2006 the *Washington Post* named his last book, *Confederate Emancipation*, as one of the best nonfiction works of the year. In September 2006 he delivered the 11th Annual Elizabeth Roller Bottimore Lecture at the University of Richmond. This past summer, he signed with Random House to write his next book, "The Fall of the House of Dixie," and he twice presented public lectures on "Abraham Lincoln as a Revolutionary Leader" for the "LAS. on the Road" program. This Fall, he proudly joined the faculty of UIUC's African American Studies and Research program.

Harry Liebersohn spent last year at the Wissenschaftskolleg (Institute for Advanced Study) in Berlin, Germany, where he wrote a first draft of a book on the theory and practice of gift-giving in modern Europe. His entry on Leopold von Ranke appeared in the Scribner encyclopedia, *Europe, 1789–1914*, and "Reliving an Age of Heroes with Patrick O'Brian" appeared in *Rethinking History* 11/3 (Sept. 2007): 445–458. He gave several talks on his new work in Berlin as well as one at the University of Konstanz.

John Lynn received the Order of the Moroccan royal family at a ceremony in Rabat, Morocco in November 2006. As president of the United States Commission on Military History, he led the US delegation to the annual congress of the International Commission of Military History, which met in Cape Town, South Africa in August 2007. His project for the last couple of years, a book to be entitled "Women, Armies, and Warfare in Early Modern Europe," has been accepted for publication in 2008 by Cambridge University Press, so he is busily putting the final revision in order.

Ralph W. Mathisen published a book chapter in H. Drake, ed., *Violence in Late Antiquity* (Ashgate, 2006) and an article, "Peregrini, Barbari, and Cives Romani: Concepts of Citizenship and the Legal Identity of Barbarians in the Later Roman Empire," in the *American Historical Review* 111 (2006): 1011–1040. He delivered papers at the University of Colorado; the Byzantine Studies Conference in Baltimore; Aire-sur-l'Adour, France; the University of Leeds, England; Western Michigan University; the University of Cardiff, Wales; and UIUC. He was appointed editor of the *Journal of Late Antiquity* and the Oxford University Press series "Oxford Studies in Late Antiquity."

John McKay is happily passing some of his chapters to Professor Clare Crowston. He has completed his portion of the revisions for the 9th edition of *A History of Western Society*, which appeared in Nov. 2007. Ramblings with JoAnn in a rental car through northern France and an occasional book review were also part of his historical landscape.

Megan McLaughlin organized an international conference at UIUC, held in October 2006, on "The New Eleventh Century." She presented a paper at the conference called "'Disgusting Acts of Shamelessness': Sexual Misconduct and the Deconstruction of Royal Authority in the Eleventh Century" and presented another paper, "The Layman as Woman" at the Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, in Toronto, in April 2007.

Evan M. Melhado published "Health Planning in the United States and the Decline of Public-interest Policymaking." *Milbank Quarterly* 84/2006: 359–440. His research and teaching concern American health care, health policy, and public health from the nineteenth century. He continues as Head of the Medical Humanities and Social Sciences Program in the UI College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign.

Mark Micale spent last year editing *History @ Illinois*, teaching with Clare Crowston a new graduate course on French historiography and completing his book manuscript "Hysterical Males: The Hidden History of Male Nervous Illness," which is now forthcoming with Harvard University Press. He also published two articles on topics in the history of medicine and gave lectures at the University of Michigan Medical School, the Philadelphia Psychoanalytic Society, and the Metropolitan Manchester University, where he was keynote speaker at a conference on Men and Madness. In May, he received an honorary doctorate from his undergraduate alma mater, Washington College in Maryland, and in June he was interviewed about his work on BBC radio.

Elizabeth Pleck gave a paper, "Stolen from Angola," at the conference of Early American History, 1600–1877 in Global Perspective held in Tianjin, China in May of 2007. The speakers at the conference included scholars from many countries, including faculty at Chinese universities who were doing research in early American history. Tianjin University has a graduate program in early American history which encourages Chinese graduate students to do original research in English-language online sources. The special issue of *Journal of Women's History* on Domestic Violence edited by Megan McLaughlin and Elizabeth Pleck will appear in 2008.

David Prochaska continues to focus his research and writing on visual culture. After curating or co-curating two exhibitions for Krannert Art Museum in the past couple of years, he co-chaired a session on photography for the 2007 College Art Association conference. He published an article on a contemporary female photographer of French and Moroccan background, "Returning the Gaze," and another one using film to illumine history and memory in France and Algeria, focusing especially on the controversy over French torture during the Algerian war (1954–1962), which he compared to American torture today in Iraq.

Dana Rabin is enjoying her responsibilities as Director of Undergraduate Studies. In addition to scheduling and curricular concerns, she is at work on her second book tentatively titled "Imperial Disruptions." Her article "The Sorceress, the Servant, and the Stays: Sexuality and Race in Eighteenth-Century Britain" will appear in *Moving Subjects: Gender, Intimacy and Mobility in an Age of Empire* edited by Antoinette Burton and Tony Ballantyne, forthcoming from University of Illinois Press. Most recently she is completing an article titled "Seeing Gypsies and Jews in Eighteenth-Century Britain."

John Randolph has begun work on a new book tentatively titled "The Singing Coachmen and the Society of the Road in the Early Russian Empire." He writes: "After my book on the Bakunin family (Cornell Press, 2007), I got a little tired of drawing rooms. So I decided to study the means of movement in the old Russian Empire." "The Singing Coachmen" tells the story of serf villages obliged to provide drivers and carriages for hire. Along the way, Randolph hopes to discover how mobility structured social and political life at the beginning of modern Russia.

Leslie Reagan won a Mellon Faculty Fellowship for her research on miscarriages and birth defects in the media, medicine, and national politics. As a visiting scholar at University of California, Berkeley during her sabbatical, she completed *Medicine's Moving Pictures: Medicine, Bodies, and Health in America Film and Television* (2007), which includes her article on 1950s breast self-examination films. She also presented several research papers on German measles, gender and vaccine, abortion and midwifery; and "The Baby's Head: A Personal Case Study of Bumps, Clinical Observation, Computers, and the Workings of Diagnosis and Surgery."

Dave Roediger spent 2006–2007 on sabbatical and on a UIUC Center for Advanced Study fellowship researching and writing in Saint Louis. He edited *Best Historical Essays of 2008* (in press from Palgrave) and coedited *The Big Red Songbook* (Charles Kerr, 2007).

Winton U. Solberg's edition of a treatise by John Cotton and two of his essays have been republished. His essay "A Struggle for Control and a Moral Scandal: The Attack on President Edmund J. James and on the Powers of the President at the University of Illinois, 1911–1914" is scheduled for publication in the *History of Education Quarterly*. His book-length manuscript "Reforming Medical Education: The University of Illinois College of Medicine, 1880–1920" will be published by the University of Illinois Press in 2008.

Mark Steinberg presented a talk at the Getty Center in Los Angeles in January 2007 and participated in a later workshop there. He presented research on melancholy, time, and Russian urban modernity to the Research Triangle Intellectual History Seminar in North Carolina and at the University of Pennsylvania. Occasioned by the recovery of more Romanov bones in Russia, Steinberg was interviewed repeatedly by media as far away as Brazil (where his book on the last tsar was translated into Portuguese). He also continues to edit the journal *Slavic Review*.

Charles Stewart received a grant from al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation for the enlargement of his on-line bilingual West African Arabic manuscript data base this past December (now with 20,000 records, soon to contain 35,000 manuscript entries). He has a chapter on that project in press with Human Sciences Research Council, Cape Town that will appear in a conference volume, *The Multiple Meanings of Timbuctu*. He has finalized several entries for the second edition of the *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World* (in press), and is now living in Chicago where he is a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Islamic Thought in Africa, Northwestern University.

Carol Symes is proud to have been the advisor of this year's award-winning Senior Honors Thesis: "Please, Mister Postman: Authority and the Epistolary Process in the Letters of Hildegard of Bingen and Catherine of Siena," written by Kate Gustafson ('07). Her first book, *A Common Stage: Theater and Public Life in Medieval Arras*, was published by Cornell in Fall 2007. Her essay on "Manuscript Matrix, Modern Canon" is the lead article in the first volume of an important new series, *Oxford 21st-Century Approaches to Literature*. The first phase of a book project, on the medieval past and World War I, is supported this year by a fellowship from the Center for Advanced Study.

Maria Todorova's book, "Bones of Contention: The Living Archive of Vasil Levski and the Making of Bulgaria's National Hero," is scheduled for publication in 2008, as is the edited volume "Remembering Communism: Genres of Representation." She authored several articles in scholarly journals, collaborative volumes and encyclopedias, and she gave radio and newspaper interviews in Germany, Denmark, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Croatia. She delivered the third Chancellor's Special Lecture at UIUC (March 2007) as well as guest lectures and conference papers in Zurich, Warsaw, Florence, Belgrade, Lawrence, Washington, and Blankensee.

The History Department is deeply saddened to report the death of Professor Lorman “Larry” Ratner. He died in his home in Champaign, Illinois. His life exemplified that of a teacher, scholar, mentor, and friend extraordinaire.

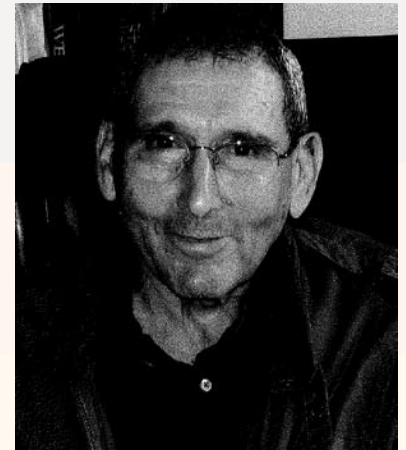
Larry Ratner was born on July 23, 1932 in Brooklyn, New York. As a young teen, Larry went off to Princeton, New Jersey, to attend the Hun prep school. He excelled at school and at both football and baseball. An active athlete his whole life, he played football at Harvard University. During his freshman year, his section instructor (same as a TA here) was one Henry Kissinger. Larry was not impressed. In 1954 he graduated from Harvard with honors in history. If pushed, Larry would share wonderful witty vignettes, telling stories of the many history and political luminaries he crossed paths with at Harvard and later in New York. After graduation Larry tried his hand in business, but realized his true love was the life of the mind and teaching. He returned to the academy and earned a Ph.D. at Cornell University (1961), at the same time teaching at Ithaca College. His dissertation, “Northern Opposition to the Anti-Slavery Movement 1831-1840,” was written under the direction of David Brion Davis.

In 1961 Ratner began teaching at City University of New York, first at Hunter College, where he advanced from Instructor to Professor, and then at Lehman College, where in 1970 he became chair of the History Department, Dean of Academic Planning (1972–74), and Dean of Social Science (1974–77). He was so good at organization and with people that he spent most of his career as a full-time administrator. At the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, he was Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost and Dean of the Faculty (1977–83). He served as the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Centers from 1983-1986. At the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, he served as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences for more than a decade. From 1996 to 1999 he was the Director of the Center for Multicultural Societies. In 1999, he retired as an Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Tennessee. While a full-time administrator, Larry also taught one course every semester, usually at 8:00 am, and he was very happy to resume a concentration on teaching and research when he came to the University of

Illinois with his wife Paula Kaufman. As an Adjunct Professor of History at Illinois, Ratner taught surveys and advanced courses in American history, and he guided a number of Honors theses.

Larry Ratner loved researching and writing and discussing history. He authored and edited eleven books, among them *Pre-Civil War Reform: The Variety of Principles and Programs* (1967), *Powder Keg: Northern Opposition to the Antislavery Movement, 1831–1840* (1968), *Antimasonry: The Crusade and the Party* (1969), *James Kirke Paulding: The Last Republican* (1992), *Andrew Jackson and His Tennessee Lieutenants: A Study in Political Culture* (1997), *Fanatics and Fire-Eaters: Newspapers and the Coming of the Civil War* (with Dwight L. Teeter, Jr., 2003), and with Jon Buenker he co-edited two editions of the reference work *Multiculturalism in the United States: A Comparative Guide to Acculturation and Ethnicity* (1992, 2005). He also served as the General Editor for Prentice-Hall’s American Historical Sources Series and oversaw the publication of eight volumes. Ratner had just completed a manuscript, “Anxious Spirit of Gain,” which he was submitting to the University of Illinois Press, and he was excited about another project in which he would pursue the theme of anxiety over unfettered capitalism and the pursuit of mammon in the antebellum United States.

While this number of books is a major accomplishment, Ratner is also well known for his prowess on the tennis court and ultimately for his integrity, humor, and compassion. His fierce competitiveness in tennis contrasted with his generosity as a historian and colleague. According to Walt Tousey, with whom he shared an office for five years at Illinois and regular tennis matches, “Larry was a fine scholar who took his teaching responsibilities very seriously. Perhaps more importantly,



he embodied the best aspects of what we mean when we describe a person as both a gentleman and human being.” For Vernon Burton, he was a mentor and a wise and good friend.

Ratner married Nina Nutt in 1953 and was widowed in 1988. He then married Paula Kaufman, dean of libraries at the University of Tennessee and now the University Librarian and Dean of Libraries at Illinois. Larry is survived by his wife Paula, four children, and six grandchildren. Anyone interested in a memorial donation in honor of Larry Ratner may do so by contributing to the University of Illinois Library. Gifts should be sent to the Library Development Office, Main Library, and directed specifically to the History, Philosophy and Newspaper Library, in honor of Larry Ratner.

—Vernon Burton

Phillip Shaw Paludan, 1938–2007

Regarded as one of the world’s foremost constitutional, Civil War, and Abraham Lincoln scholars, Phillip Shaw Paludan, 69, died on August 1, 2007, at his home in Springfield, Illinois. His life exemplified that of a professional teacher and scholar. He was generous and supportive of others, particularly younger scholars. He was witty and always fun to be around.

Phillip Shaw Paludan was born January 26, 1938, in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Paludan earned his B.A. and M.A. from Occidental College in California and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1968. His doctoral dissertation, “Law and Equal Rights: The Civil War Encounter—A Study of Legal Minds in the Civil War Era,” was written under the directorship of Harold Hyman (the other history department members of his dissertation committee were Robert McColley, Thomas A. Krueger, Wallace D. Farnham, and law professor John E. Cribbet).

Phil began his teaching career at the University of Kansas, and his teaching adventures drew him beyond Kansas when he took visiting professorships at University College in Dublin, Ireland, and at Rutgers University in Camden. Coming to the University of Illinois, Springfield, from the Univer-

sity of Kansas, Paludan was selected as the Naomi Lynn Distinguished Chair of Lincoln Studies in 2001. Trained as a legal and constitutional historian, Paludan excelled in several genres, including local and community studies, social history, and violence. His many honors include numerous teaching awards and the very prestigious Lincoln Prize in 1995 for his book *The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln*, which was also a History Book Club Selection and a Book of the Month Club Selection.

Among his many other publications is the standard study of the northern homefront during the Civil War, *“A People’s Contest”: The Union and Civil War* (1988). He also wrote *A Covenant with Death: The Constitution, Law and Equality in the Civil War Era* (1975), and the Pulitzer nominated *Victims: A True Story of the Civil War* (1981), a History Book Club Selection and a MacMillan Library of World History Selection. *Victims* is an amazing book, full of empathy and historical imagination. Paludan took the reader into the heads of Civil War soldiers by using accounts by modern soldiers as well as Civil War soldiers. As in all his scholarship, he found universal truth.

Paludan’s other awards include the Barondess/Lincoln Award from the New York City Civil War Round Table and post-doctoral fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Harvard Law School.

His published articles are too numerous to list; one of his earliest essays, “The Civil War as a Crisis of Law and Order,” in the *American Historical Review*, is a seminal work that still influences Civil War scholars, and his latest, “‘Dictator Lincoln’: Surveying Lincoln and the Constitution,” is in the *Organization of American Historians’ Magazine of History*, Volume 27 (January 2007).

Phil Paludan met his wife Marty at Kansas University in 1984, and they married in 1990. He is survived by Marty, two daughters, Karin Sorey and Kirsten Paludan, four step children, Jim Hammond, Brett Hammond, Jill Donatelli and Cody Hammond, and five step grandchildren. According to the *Journal-World* (Lawrence, Kansas, August 4, 2007), his daughter Karin said that her father taught her to keep an open mind, that he liked Lincoln because Lincoln strove to understand people with different opinions.

Renowned as a teacher and scholar, Phil Paludan was even more well thought of as a man of integrity and willingness to help others—students and colleagues alike. As Chancellor Richard Ringeisen told the *State Journal Register* (Springfield, IL, August 3, 2007), “Phil is just the kind of person you’d like to talk with, so we miss him in the sense of his being such a distinguished professor, but also (because) he was such a kind, warm individual.”

—Vernon Burton

Robert F. Erickson, *1923–2006*

Robert Erickson, who received his Ph.D. from the UIUC History Department in 1955, passed away on November 30, 2006. For over three and a half decades (1959–1986), Erickson taught medieval and early modern European history at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

After serving in World War II from 1943–1945, Erickson received his B.A. at Cornell University in 1948 and his graduate degrees several years later in Champaign-Urbana. His dissertation examined the work of the French Academy of the Sciences in Spanish-speaking Latin America during the eighteenth century. Erickson interrupted his graduate education to serve in the Korean War. Upon completion of graduate studies, he took up a teaching post in the Department of History at Butler University in Indianapolis, where he taught until he joined the faculty at SIUE in 1959. During his many downstate years, Erickson had done volunteer work at the Missouri Botanical Garden Library, which was a particular passion of his. In 2005, he had moved to North Carolina.

Deno Geanakoplos, *1916–2007*

Deno John Geanakoplos, who led one of the history department’s most distinguished careers and who was perhaps its only member to specialize in Byzantine history, died in Hamden, Connecticut on October 4, 2007.

Professor Geanakoplos was a renowned scholar of Byzantine cultural and religious history and Italian Renaissance intellectual history. The author of some 13 books and over 100 articles, he was considered one of the foremost Byzantine scholars in the world. Born in Minneapolis in 1916, Geanakoplos studied classical music before becoming a historian. Indeed, he earned a diploma in violin from the Juilliard School of Music in 1939 and even played in the first violin section of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. Simultaneously, he pursued a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Minnesota. After serving in the Second World War, during which time he was stationed in North Africa and Italy, he decided to devote himself to the intensive study of Italian and Mediterranean history. He completed his Ph.D. in these fields at Harvard in 1953.

From 1954 to 1967—formative years of his teaching and scholarly career—Geanakoplos taught at the University of Illinois before joining the faculty at Yale, where he remained until his retirement in 1987. At Illinois and Yale, he taught a range of courses in medieval, Renaissance, religious, and East European studies. He was remarkably erudite. His best known book-length studies are *Greek Scholars in Venice* (1962); *Byzantine East and Latin West* (1966); and a textbook titled *Medieval Western Civilization and the Byzantine and Islamic Worlds* (1979). Arguably no scholar demonstrated in greater detail the intricate interplay between Byzantine and Italian intellectuals and between the Greek and Roman churches. Ironically, Geanakoplos taught at Yale when current UIUC history professors Kristin Hoganson, Mark Micale, and Kathy Oberdeck were studying there. During his career in the classroom, he educated hundreds, if not thousands, of undergraduates about these great eras of Western civilization.

Time and again, Geanakoplos has been described as “a scholar’s scholar.” One former Illinois colleague remembers him fondly as “a congenial eccentric.” Another recalls the tall piles of books, like so many stalactites of scholarship, that covered the entire surface of his office floor space at any given time. Yet from this famously disheveled environment poured forth one highly organized, lucidly written, and intricately researched historical monograph after another. Geanakoplos is survived by his daughter Constance, a concert pianist, and his son John, the James Tobin Professor of Economics at Yale.

Alumni Updates

With his 2000 Ph.D., **Misha Auslin** moved to Yale University where he taught as assistant professor of history for several years. He has now been appointed as a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

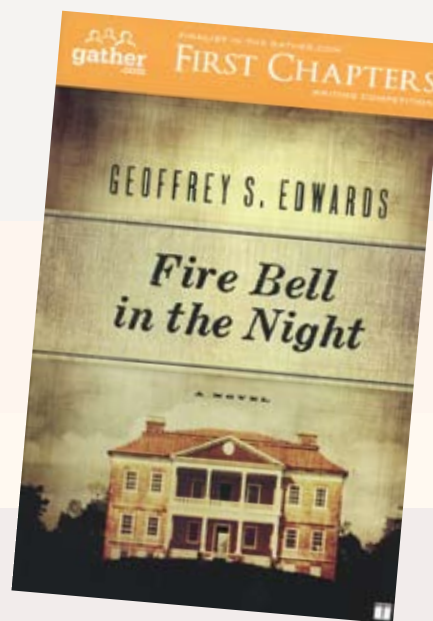
J. David Hoeveler (UIUC, Ph.D., 1971) is pleased to announce the publication of his book *The Evolutionists: American Thinkers Confront Charles Darwin, 1860–1920*, published by Rowman and Littlefield. Hoeveler was also named University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee Distinguished Professor of History by the UW University System President in January, 2007.

Michelle T. Moran, who received her Ph.D. from the history department in 2002, has published an enlarged and revised edition of her thesis under the title *Colonizing Leprosy: Imperialism and the Politics of Public Health in the United States* with the University of North Carolina Press.

Charles G. Nauert is presently Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Missouri—Columbia. He sends along notice of several publications in the field of Renaissance studies, including a new revised edition of his volume *Humanism and the Culture of Renaissance Europe* (Cambridge University Press), *The Renaissance from A to Z*, a desk reference dictionary, as well as three articles, all published in 2006–07. Professor Nauert received his Ph.D. in Champaign-Urbana in 1955.

From all the pieces of information mailed to the newsletter from alumni this past year, one stood out. We cite the letter, and accompanying illustration, below in full:

“My name is **Geoffrey Edwards**, and I graduated in 1999 with a [undergraduate] degree in history from Illinois. Learning from professors at the University is what inspired my passion for history. Specifically, I had Profs. Fritzsche and Steinberg. After two years working on it, this fall my first historical fiction novel *Fire Bell in the Night* was published by Simon and Schuster. The novel revolves around the Crisis of 1850 in the United States and delves into the moral question of complicity and guilt among southerners.



I will be in town on Saturday, October 20, signing copies of my books at Borders bookstore and would love to see some of my old professors.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. I truly wouldn't be where I am today without the history department at the University of Illinois!”

It's fair to say that Geoff's former professors—and the Department at large—salute his remarkable extra credit writing project and wish him all the best with its reception.

Brian Sandberg, Assistant Professor of History at Northern Illinois University, contributed to a collective volume entitled *Alternative Exchanges: Second-Hand Circulations from the Sixteenth Century to the Present*, ed. Laurence Fontaine (New York: Berghahn Books, 2007), with a chapter on “‘The Magazine of All Their Pillaging’: Armies as Sites of Second-Hand Exchanges during the French Wars of Religion.” He also published an article entitled “‘Through Naval Practice and the Association with Foreigners’: French Nobles’ Participation in Mediterranean Religious Struggles, 1598–1635,” *Journal of Mediterranean Studies* 16 (2006): 21–227.

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