



Historically Speaking

Virginia Tech Department of History
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

From the High Chair

A home away from home. . . . On July 1, 2003, the Department of History will officially belong to a new merged college, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. It is both an exhilarating and daunting prospect, a new dean, getting acquainted with new colleagues, reconstituting committees, and working through new budget allocations. There has certainly been an ample dose of complaining about the wisdom of the move, but the deed is done, a new college is born--not quite like the goddess Athena from the head of Zeus, but almost mythic in its impact. We will make it work, but it will require patience, flexibility, and a sense of humor.

Divine intervention. . . . As you may recall from my comments in previous newsletters, the department was asked to accommodate an unfunded Board of Visitors mandate to require every Tech undergraduate to take a U.S. History class before graduating (except for those who had waived it by A.P. credit or SAT II scores). We were facing the task of teaching ca. 4,000-5,000 students a year to fulfill this mandate. We repeatedly petitioned for funds to staff the classes, but the resources provided by the administration were woefully inadequate to meet the student demand. In the face of debilitating budget cuts from the state, the Provost 'cried uncle' and called a moratorium on the U.S. History requirement until 2008. There really was no other logical choice--the numbers simply did not match up, and until the state assumes a proper level of support for higher education, this requirement, however laudable in intent, was only going to succeed in crippling the department's many other diverse missions. We feel an enormous weight lifted off our shoulders.

We will, of course, continue to offer our normal full plate of U.S. History courses from the introductory to the graduate level.

The luster factor. . . . I am delighted to report on a few of the activities of the history faculty in the research, instructional, and outreach areas. Professors Bud Robertson and Jack Davis have continued to advance the missions of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. Thanks to a private benefactor, a 96-page booklet, *Bringing the Civil War to the Classroom: A Guide for Teachers* was distributed without charge to every middle and high school in Virginia. In addition, a 256-page book entitled *Faith in the Fight: Civil War Chaplains* providing the first complete and detailed roster of the 3,500 who served as Union and Confederate chaplains, was published under the auspices of the VCCWS. Professor Davis has also secured a \$209,600 grant to index newspapers of the Civil War period. Other faculty have also been as equally industrious in the business of grantsmanship: Professor Randy Shifflett was awarded an Andrew J. Mellon Foundation two-year planning grant (\$218,535) to sustain and expand his award-winning 'Virtual Jamestown' project. Professor Tom Ewing, in collaboration with seven members of the History Department (Dan Thorp, Mark Barrow, Kathy Jones, Amy Nelson, Woody Farrar, Rob Stephens) and a colleague in the Department of Teaching and Learning have been awarded a two-year National Endowment for the Humanities Exemplary Education grant (\$180,000) to develop on-line teaching modules in U.S. and European history. This is a



Glenn Bugh
Chair

"We will... continue to offer our normal full plate of U.S. History courses from the introductory to the graduate level."

natural extension of a collaborative project (Professors Thorp, Barrow, Jones, and Mollin) to create on-line modules for the introductory U.S. History sequence (History 1115-1116) funded by the Center for Innovative Learning (CIL). What is clear from these exciting projects is that the History Department stands on the cutting edge of instructional and research technology--as befitting a land-grant institution. We are still researching and teaching history, but in more colorful and creative ways. In fact, we have recently hired a half-time computer tech specialist to assist the faculty with their many and diverse digital projects. This is only the beginning. If we receive approval for a PhD in Digital History and Geography, the future will be bustling with technology-based projects.

This is not the time to be shy. . . . You will notice in this newsletter an insert calling upon you, our faithful alumni and alumnae, to help us in this current fiscal crisis. It is very nice to win grants, but as you know, these are only

term monies and restricted to specific projects. The department is doing its best for its history majors under difficult budget demands—in the last two years alone we have been buffeted by two phases of budget cuts amounting to almost \$300,000 along with the loss of two faculty positions. We can no longer count on the state to meet its obligations; we must turn to private sources of revenue. I won't be shy. . . send money. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

With mixed feelings, I report the departure of one of our trusted and beloved support staff, Rhonda Pennington, who has assumed the position of executive secretary of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. We saw her off to the train station with bands playing and teary-eyed speeches. She will be missed—but at least she is only one floor away.

Glenn Bugh

Spotlight: History of the Department

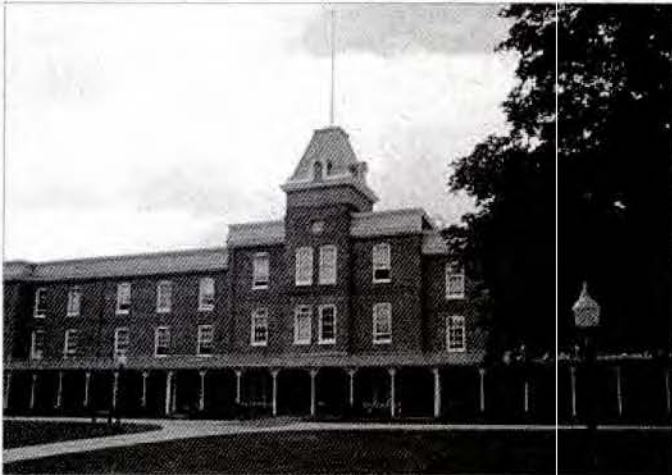
To acknowledge the end of the College of Arts and Sciences on July 1, 2003, and celebrate our existence as part of this college for some 40 years, we thought it timely to update the history of the department since its inception in 1961. This is a daunting task since most of the people who knew the early history of the department are no longer with us. We have attempted to put the pieces together from old graduation programs, catalogues, and the memories of those who were here in the late sixties, the early seventies, and since. We hope you will enjoy this history and send us your comments, as well as any corrections or additions, including the dates of service in the department for those faculty where it is not provided.

Although William E. Dodd briefly taught history at VPI in the first decade of the century before his distinguished tenure at the University of Chicago, the beginnings of the formal study of history here were not auspicious. Instead, the concept that moral philosophy was composed of economics, history, philosophy, political science, and sociology became an excuse to "skimp" on all but the first of these. Instructors with various master's degrees were considered competent to teach service courses in history as a subordinate task to their main responsibilities in economics and business. If too many students enrolled in history, a faculty wife could be lured into teaching history for a small fee. This situation changed after 1945 when large numbers of civilians began to commute here to study. Dr. Weldon Brown was one of the first distinguished history professors hired here; his long tenure, 1939-78, spanned this transition. With degrees from Dartmouth and UNC Chapel Hill, he was a man of wide interests in his teaching. He published three substantial volumes in colonial and recent fields of U.S. History.

Anticipating the reforms of President T. Marshall Hahn (1962-75), history was separated from economics and joined with political science as the Department of History and Political Science in 1961. Both a bachelor's and master's degree in history were authorized in mid-1962. These events occurred during the tenure of the first head of the History Department, Archer Jones. When he began his tenure, he had just published the first of his books on military history. History and political science were separated July 1, 1966 with Dr. Jones becoming head of History and Dr. Joseph Bernd named head of Political Science. In addition to Weldon Brown, the faculty during these years of the late fifties and early sixties included George Shackleford (1954-86); Wilford Lane (1955-86); Leslie Mellichamp (1955-86); Herbert Winnick (1965-69); William Posey; Jack Davis; and William Mackie (1959-91). By 1965 the department had moved from Pamplin Hall to a new home in the Boon House near the duck pond. The change was

History of the Department continued...

short-lived. In 1967, after a fire that burned or blackened the books and papers of the faculty, the department relocated to Lane Hall where it remained until 1971.



Lane Hall 2003

Dr. William E. Mackie served as acting head in 1966-67, as well as in 1977 before becoming head, 1978-81. A historian of British and European history, he exemplified the commitment to excellent teaching and commitment to the needs of students that has always characterized the department. For years he and his wife Sallie opened their home one evening each week for any student to drop by for refreshments and conversation. Among those entering the department during the Mackie years were David D. Burr (1966-2001); Thomas C. Howard (1966-); Gustavus G. Williamson (1966-92); James I. Robertson, Jr. (1967-); Michael V. C. Alexander (1967-2001); James Hawkes; William Hind; and Lowell Dyson. Also teaching in the department during this period were John Fair, Ann Field Alexander, John Martinelli, and Harry Bralley.

Robert G. Landen, who had just published his first book on the Middle East while teaching at Dartmouth, was the second head of the department, 1967-69. He did much to expand the library holdings in history and presided over a major revision of the undergraduate curriculum. His zany sense of humor helped create a positive atmosphere during these years. Joseph Wieczynski (1968-99) and Thomas Adriance (1968-96) joined the tenure-track faculty at this time.

James I. Robertson, Jr. served as the third department head, 1969-77. Dr. Robertson had served as executive director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial and has published extensively on the Civil War period. During his tenure, in 1970, VPI was renamed VPI&SU. Joining the faculty during the early to mid-1970s were J. Dean O'Donnell (1970-); Ronald J. Nurse (1971-2002); William L. Ochsenwald (1971-); Young-tsu Wong (1971-2002); Larkin Kirkman (1971-77); N. Larry Shumsky (1972-); Thomas Dunlap (1975-93); Frederic Baumgartner (1976-); Larry Morrison (1977-83); Albert E.

Moyer (1977-2000); and A. Roger Ekirch (1977-). Among others teaching in the department during the 70s were Wayne Boese, Robert Grathwol, William Hill, Doreen Hunter, Homer LeGrand, Tom Longin, Ron Marchese, John Ross, Arnold Sherman, Richard Viotor, Marty Reuss, Joseph Fry, and Richard Schallenberg. After Dr. Schallenberg's sudden and untimely death, his parents contributed his books as the nucleus of the library of the Center for the Study of Science and Society.

William E. Mackie served as acting head again in 1977 and was officially the fourth head from 1978-81. During this time Merriley Borell (1980-82); Glenn Bugh (1979-); Louise Hoffman (1978-84); Gregory Nobles (1979-82); Crandall Shifflett (1979-); and J. Donald Miller (1979-86) joined the faculty. Also teaching on the faculty during the late seventies and early eighties were Tom Champ, Charlotte Shelton, John Treadway, Sandy Treadway and Charles Reed (joint appointment with Humanities). Visiting professor Michael Hurst of Oxford University served a joint appointment with Humanities and History during several of the Robertson and Mackie years. During this time of expansion, one faculty office was located in the Tech Motel and large survey classes were taught in the Lyric Theatre.

"In 1967... the department relocated to Lane Hall where it remained until 1971."

A major change took place in 1971 when the History Department moved from Lane Hall to the newly constructed McBryde Hall. Robert Landen had been instrumental in the planning of the building and returned for its dedication.

The fifth head of the department, serving from 1981-87, was Harold C. Livesay, a U.S. economic and business historian. He was the author of four books before coming to Virginia Tech and was co-author of a fifth while here. Under Livesay there was renewed emphasis on the research mission of the university. Among those who joined the faculty during these years were, in 1980-81, Arthur Donovan; Richard Hirsh; Max Kele (first director of the Humanities Program and joint appointment with History); Michael Lanza; and Rachel Laudan. In 1983-84 Linda Arnold; Philip Morgan; Peter Wallenstein; and LeeAnn Whites were appointed to the faculty. David Lux joined in 1985-86. In 1986-87 Daniel Thorp arrived for the second and final time; he had been an instructor from 1981-1983.

Crandall A. Shifflett served as interim Chair in 1987-88. He had published one work in the field of late 19th and southern social history at this time. During this time Cynthia Bouton; Anastasia Sims; Michael Cooke; Jean-Claude Crapoulet; and Doug Flamming also taught in the department. During these years there was considerable collaboration with the Humanities Program, including team teaching by faculty (Bugh, Burr, Howard, Reed, Mackie, Hoffman, and others) with faculty in other departments.

Burton I. Kaufman assumed his duties as the sixth head of the department on July 1, 1988 and served until 1995. He had published four books and edited one volume concerning the recent U.S. presidency and foreign affairs. Mary Neth joined the faculty

History of the Department continued...

in 1989. Joining the faculty in 1992-93 were Kathleen Jones and Jere Link. In 1993-94 Hayward Farrar and Amy Nelson came aboard. Peter Schmitthenner joined the faculty in 1994-95, as did Mark Barrow who had served as Visiting Professor from 1992-94. Visiting professors during this period were Paul Finkelman, Kathleen Hilton, Thomas Howe, and Randy Rosenburg. Patricia Tracy, the director of Women's Studies, was also a member of the history faculty during this period.



McBryde Hall 2003

From 1995 until Spring 2000, Albert E. (Bert) Moyer served as the seventh leader of the History Department. Although the title "chairman" or "chair" had been used periodically since at least the Landen years, Bert Moyer adopted it as the permanent designation. Dr. Moyer's specialization was the history of science and he wrote biographies of Simon Newcomb and Joseph Henry. Beverly Bunch-Lyons joined the faculty in 1996-97 and Thomas Ewing joined in 1999-2000. Under the Moyer administration the Board of Visitors mandated an unfunded requirement that all students attending Virginia Tech demonstrate competence in American history. Visiting professors and instructors during this period were Arthur Hirsh, Barbara Reeves, Voula Saridakis, Regan Shelton, Edward Slack, and Steven Soper.

Another major change for the department occurred in 1996 when History relocated to the newly renovated former cadet dormitory, Major Williams Hall (pictured on the first page). Since that move we occasionally have visits from former alumni who ask to see a certain office that used to be their dorm room. One alumnus stated that he had proposed to his wife in Major Williams 409 (now occupied by Peter Wallenstein). If these walls could talk...

Glenn R. Bugh was elected the eighth chair in 2000 and has served to the present. Dr. Bugh's specialization is Ancient and Byzantine history. He is the author of a book on entitled *The Horsemen of Athens*. Juan Floyd-Thomas and Marian Mollin were appointed to the faculty in 2000 and

Alexandra Cuffel and Robert Stephens joined the department in 2001-2002. William Davis was appointed Director of Programs for the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies in 2002. During Dr. Bugh's administration the university has faced critical cutbacks in financial support by the state. It has been a challenge to meet each deep cut while keeping the quality of teaching and diversity of courses offered. However, the U.S. History requirement was still in place and this caused the department to add many sections and hire instructors to teach U.S. history survey courses as well as other upper level courses. Instructors and Visiting professors teaching courses during this period included Ginette Aley, Diane Barnes, Charles Carey, Annette Huston Chamberlin, Ben Cohen, William Green, Heather Harris, Michael Klein, Ralph Lutts, Christopher McDermitt, Jacqueline McNulty, Sarah Mitchell, David Murphree, David Snyder, Amy Tillerson, and Patricia Tracy.

Additional Instructors and Visiting Professors who have taught courses over the years include: Hazel Cline, Jonathan Cooper Smith, Donald English, Joy Harvey, Martin Heyboer, and Buford Williams. Several adjunct faculty serving the department were Ann LaBerge (in the Science Studies Program), Bernard LaBerge, and Arnold Schuetz (International Studies).

The Graduate Program has been steadily strengthened over the years. Serving at various times as Director of Graduate Studies have been Wayne Boese, Homer Le Grand, Michael Alexander, and Larry Shumsky. Crandall Shifflett is the current Director. Entering students choose one of three course concentrations: U.S. History; Race, Class, and Gender; and the History of Science and Technology. The new Atlantic World Studies track within the present history M.A. program has been approved at the Department and College levels. University approval is pending and is likely during the fall semester. The program offers both thesis and non-thesis options. Plans are now underway to develop a doctoral degree program that will have considerable emphasis on digital history.

There have been two long serving Associate Chairs of the department: Thomas Adriance (1968-96) and Daniel Thorp (1996-present). Tom Howard has filled in on two separate occasions and Richard Hirsh stepped in for Dan in spring, 2002. The person in this important position coordinates the undergraduate curriculum and advising for the department. Tom Adriance worked out his scheduling slots for each semester (or quarters before 1988) on index cards on his kitchen table at home. There was no room on his desk in the office (anyone who remembers Tom's office knows

This article could not have been possible without the help of former staff and current faculty members. Many thanks to Carolyn Alls, Diane Cannaday, Peter Wallenstein, Larry Shumsky, William Ochsenwald, James I. Robertson, Jr., Daniel Thorp, Frederic Baumgartner, Glenn Bugh, Crandall Shifflett, and Thomas Howard.

History of the Department continued...

this is true). Dan Thorp uses a bulletin board and 3x5 cards cut in half that he maneuvers around in different times spots. It is like working a giant puzzle, matching classes and professors in time slots that are requested.

From 1963 to 2003, approximately 2500 Bachelors degrees and 260 Masters degrees have been awarded.

"We believe that we will be able to draw on the best traditions of our past...while we plan a future that is creative and innovative."

Classified Staff played a critically important role in the daily functions of the department. Carolyn Alls was head secretary from 1966 to 1982. Some of the secretaries who worked the "front office" in the early years were: Becky Brown, Linda Price, Marlyn Hoffman, Diane Williams, Nancy Moran, Lisa Donis, Donna Jennelle, and Diane Cannaday (1975-81). Rennie Givens served as head secretary for most of the 80s. Patty Mills and Debbie Rhea were secretaries at this time. Staff changes occurred 1988 when Jan Francis and Linda Fountaine joined the department. In 1989 Linda became office manager and Rhonda Wills joined the staff. This same line up was in place from 1989 until spring 2003 when Rhonda left to become office manager of Foreign Languages and Literatures. In the beginning these positions were clerical and the types of work completed were broad and general (typing, filing, bookkeeping). Today each position specializes in more specific areas: Office Manager and Administrative Assistant to the Chair (Linda Fountaine), Graduate and Undergraduate Advisor (Jan Francis), Computer Resources Manager (Dorothy Strater), and Bookkeeper/Receptionist (Susan Archer).

We in the Department of History look forward to our role in the new College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. We believe that we will be able to draw on the best traditions of our past at Virginia Tech while we plan a future that is creative and innovative. You will be able to help by sending us your own ideas and news of your activities. Some of the best moments we have are when we hear from former undergraduate and graduate students about their activities and accomplishments. We hope to hear from you!

My Recollections by Peter Wallenstein

I came to Tech as an itinerant, in 1983, then stayed on a second year, and a third, before I moved into tenure track and stayed on.

My second quarter of teaching (back before Tech switched to semesters), I had a class in Litton-Reaves, known at that time (to most people) as the Animal Sciences building or (to me) as the Zoo. My class, in the large auditorium, had more than 300 students; curvature of the earth set in before the last few rows.

One winter a few years ago, there was a series of ice storms, and I remember watching through my McBryde Hall office window one day as ice-laden branches drooped onto live wires, and balls of flame rolled down the wire. Every once in a while, I'd hear another kind of loud crack, and a big chunk of yet another tree would crumble under the weight of all the ice. Tech continued to have electric power as well as running water, but most town residents went without either for a few days. And as I was leaving campus one day, heading back to the house, I saw a pilgrimage of Tech families trooping toward McBryde, carrying towels and coolers, to use the water or take some back to their homes. The town and the school may be high tech, as they say, but nature plows right onto the stage nonetheless.

In 1997, when I was immersed in writing a book on Tech's first 125 years, I would drop into a zone—depending on what decade (1890s, 1920s, 1950s) I was writing on that day—and I'd feel wonder at seeing people or things that should not have been there. It might be fire escapes on the YMCA (Performing Arts) building, or auto traffic and FedEx trucks, or New Deal buildings (like Burruss)—or any building not part of the Old Upper Quad. It might be female students and female faculty. It might be African American cadets, or female cadets—or black female cadets. Everything and everyone had at some point been brand new, and so it struck me on those days. In various ways, we live the history of our surroundings.

I've taught large classes and small ones, graduate students and undergraduates. Some scenes that stand out: Going over to a student just before class one September day in McBryde 113, having seen people's work on the first few quizzes, and saying, "Mr. Faulk, you are doing exceptional work," and seeing him go incandescent, never having guessed that I had put together his name, face, and performance. (Cordel ended up minoring in Wallenstein before heading off to law school.) Or sending Chuck Carey (whose master's thesis I was directing) off to give a conference paper, and hearing back from him that the organization had awarded him its statewide, multi-disciplinary first prize for his essay. Or watching Cynthia Strickland, near panic but determined to give her paper (written in my Methods course), and then, after seeing her warm to her new role, learning that she had won first prize among undergraduates (now THAT is undergraduate research at a research university). Go get 'em, Strickland.

Civil War Center

The Civil War Center's new teachers guide "Bringing the Civil War to the Classroom" was recently reviewed for sale in the bookstore at Gettysburg National Park and they decided to ask all of their staff who present student education programs (basically the entire permanent Ranger staff) to read the Guide in preparation for the Spring Student Education Season. While the Guide is aimed at the classroom, it will prepare the student (of all ages) to visit and understand the battlefield in its full context.

Rhonda Wills Pennington Moves On

Rhonda Wills Pennington came to the History Department in 1989 to serve as Graduate Secretary. In this capacity she took care of all things dealing with the Graduate Program, i.e. records, contracts, tuition entry, programs of study, as well as graduate student confidante /friend. For several summers in the early 90s, she assisted with the organization and administrative support to the Summer Minorities Program, which brought fifteen minority undergraduate students to Virginia Tech to experience graduate level courses in historiography and research. As the years passed Rhonda became interested in computers. She attended workshops, training sessions and endured many hours of self-instruction in order to become the Computer Technician for the department in 1994. In this capacity she was an invaluable asset to the faculty and staff who were learning the intricacies of computers, both Macs and PCs. After the move from McBryde to Major Williams in 1995, Rhonda maintained two computer labs, and dealt with the computer problems of thirty plus faculty and staff while continuing to serve as Graduate Secretary. In 2001 duties were reassigned and she became departmental bookkeeper and Computer Resources Manager. Again she attended workshops and training sessions etc. to gain the knowledge needed for this position. She received many letters of recognition for fulfilling the prompt pay requirement of the University. This combination of duties was so rare that upon her departure the position had to be split in two to find people qualified for such diverse areas. Rhonda is highly regarded by faculty and staff and was given many presents and a plaque for thirteen years of faithful service to the History Department. She left to become Office Manager of Foreign Languages and Literatures. We wish her the best in all future endeavors.



Rhonda Wills Pennington

Faculty In the News

Frederic Baumgartner

Served as President of the American Catholic Historical Association for 2002.

Glenn R. Bugh

Currently is editing a book for Cambridge University Press called *The Cambridge Companion to the Hellenistic World*.

David Burr

His recent book, *The Spiritual Franciscans*, received the Otto Grundler Prize for the best book of the year in Medieval Studies, the Marraro Prize for best book of the year in Italian History, and the Shea Prize for the best book of the year in church history. Also, the Kalamazoo conference contained a session analyzing Dr. Burr's contribution to Franciscan history.

Charles Carey (Visiting Instructor Spring 03)

Had his book, *The Mexican War: Mr. Polk's War*, chosen as a finalist for the 2003 Western Writers of America Spur Awards.

Hayward Farrar

Is teaching an online course History 3544 World War II during the summer session, writing two book chapters on African Americans and the Military for the *Blackwell Companion to African American History*, submitting an article to the *International Journal of Africana Studies*, preparing a paper to be presented at the VI Conference of the Americas to be held in October in Puebla, Mexico,

working on his books "The Hampton Estate", and "African Americans in a New Age: Baltimore's Black Community 1940-2000," preparing for his fall course on the Vietnam era, and finally working with Mark Barrow, Kathy Jones, Tom Ewing, Amy Nelson, Rob Stephens, and Marian Mollin on the NEH project. Also he plans to catch some major (Orioles, Phillies, and Braves) and minor league (Salem, Pulaski, Princeton and Bluefield) baseball games.

Thomas Howard

A paperback edition of *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Formation of the Modern World*, edited by Thomas Howard, was published in the spring. He will be on research leave in the fall when he plans to spend some of his time in London.

Sarah Mitchell

Spent a month (May-June 2003) as the William H. Helfand Fellow in Early American Medicine, Science and Society at the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Marian Mollin

Has been working on a variety of projects related to her research on gender, political protest, and the history of the American peace movement. She played a key role in the launching of H-Peace, a new network on Peace History and Peace Studies as part of the H-Net Humanities & Social Sciences On-line project at Michigan State University. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the Peace History Society and presented a paper at the Peace History Society's triennial conference. She also organized two events that brought veteran activists to talk about their experiences to public audiences. Dr. Mollin is now working on her book, *Actions Louder Than*

Faculty in the News continued...

Words: Gender, Protest, and the American Radical Pacifist Movement, 1940-1970. She is also team member of the "U.S. History Online" project, which received funding this year from Virginia Tech's Center for Innovation in Learning and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

James I. Robertson, Jr.

His work as historical consultant for the Turner Pictures production, "Gods and Generals," has not ended. Recently he was part of a three-man team that recorded four and a half hours of commentary to accompany the DVD of the movie. The DVD will be released in early August. He has edited the Civil War letters of Capt. John Preston Sheffey of Marion. A member of the 8th Virginia Cavalry Regiment, Sheffey saw much action along the Virginia-West Virginia border. Louisiana State University Press has given tentative approval for publication. Just completed is a biography of Robert E. Lee for young readers. It will be published by Atheneum, the young readers' division of Simon & Schuster. He has also done an article on the 1861 Virginia Convention, which voted in April for the state's secession. The article will appear in *Virginia in the Civil War, Volume 1-1861*, also a pending Civil War Center undertaking.

Peter Schmitthenner

After spending a year and a half in India on sabbatical, Peter Schmitthenner resumed teaching at Tech in January 2003. While in India he conducted research on a project entitled: "Hydraulic Engineering and Cultural Construction in South India: The Legacy of Sir Arthur Cotton, 1803-1899." Dr. Schmitthenner returned to India for several weeks in May to conduct further research on this project and to partake in the celebrations commemorating Sir Arthur Cotton's birth bicentennial. Although he experienced a record-breaking heat wave during his most recent visit to south India, with temperatures as high as 120 degrees F, the bounteous mango season was heavenly!

Crandall Shifflett

Virginia Tech is expanding the scope and use of rare historical materials through the award-winning World Wide Web site *Virtual Jamestown*. The site already integrates rare documents, images, maps, and physical materials, provides historical context, and applies technology as an analytical tool. Thousands visit the site each day to learn more about the history and legacies of Jamestown. Under recent funding from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, researchers will have a new way to conceptualize and access material. Plans include using technology to visualize lost communities and present the Jamestown experience as part of comparative global developments in the Atlantic rim during the early seventeenth century. A new track in the graduate history program has recently been approved to explore Atlantic World Studies through the techniques of digital history. During the Fall, Professor Shifflett, William

Thomas, Director, Virginia Center for Digital History, and William Kelso, Chief Archaeologist, Jamestown Rediscovery, will give a symposium and workshop on Mellon Jamestown at Oxford University and the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom.

Daniel Thorp

Was invited to serve on a panel, "Supplied For Survival: Meriwether Lewis at Harpers Ferry," a Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia in March, 2003.

Graduate Students Making News

On April 4 and 5, 2003, the History Graduate Student Association held the **Sixth Annual Brian Bertoti "Innovative Perspectives in History" Graduate Conference**. Sponsored by the HGSA and the Department of History, the conference provided graduate students a venue to present their research in a professional conference setting. This year's participants represented institutions such as American University, the College of William and Mary, George Mason University, the University of Virginia, and Yale University. The prize for the conference's best paper went to Eric Vettel, a graduate student in the History of Science at the University of Virginia.

Special thanks go to several history graduate students at Virginia Tech for making the conference a success: **Jeremy Boggs, Ellen Brown, Sara Eye, Rebecca Long, Andy Nichols, Tom Sebrell, Tom Snediker, and Jay Swain**. The conference is held in honor of Brian Bertoti, a former history graduate student who began work on the graduate conference six years ago before his sudden death. Brian's parents, David and Kathy Bertoti attended the conference and provided endless support and encouragement.

Jeremy Boggs is going to George Mason University to pursue his Ph.D. in U.S. History, with minor fields being History and New Media and Cultural History.

Ellen Apperson Brown published an article entitled "What Really Happened at Drapers Meadows? The Evolution of a Frontier Legend" in *The Smithfield Review* this spring.

Thomas Sebrell is attending Gonville & Caius College at University of Cambridge for six weeks this summer and will be taking two graduate history courses.

Awards and Recognition

The annual Awards Reception was held April 4, 2003 to acknowledge the winners of the five departmental awards:

The James W. and Martha N. Banks Award: **Alexis Brown**.

The Curtis Award: **Kurt Axt**; honorable mention: **Matthew Krogh**.

Awards and Recognition continued...

The Graduate Digital History Award: **Jeremy Boggs** and **Thomas Snediker**.

The History Prize: **Joshua Thumma**.

The Phoenix Award: **Ryan Gilligan**.

Outstanding scholarship was recognized at graduation, May 10, 2003 to:

Valedictorian: **Amy Seay**

Salutatorian: **Dustin Maxwell**

George C. Marshall Scholars: **Jessie Arnold** and **Matthew Israelson**

Phi Beta Kappa: **Alexis Brown**, **David Carlisle**, **Dustin Maxwell**, **Dustin Mullins**, **Amy Seay**, and **Jennifer Smith**

Phi Alpha Theta inductees for 2003: **Jerome Buescher**, **Janina Decker**, **Nicholas Demask**, **Rebecca Eisenman**, **Sarah Eisenman**, **Sherry Elliott**, **Roxanne Hall**, **Mary Hubbard**, **Donald Kane**, **Ryan Pitcairn**, **Jonathan Tyler**, **Katherine Van Gilst**, and **John Wheeler**.

Congratulations to our 2003 achievers!

Professor from the Past

J. Donald Miller (1979-86) served as Assistant Professor of U.S. History; History of American Foreign Relations; and History of Recent America. Dr. Miller has been at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters, Washington, DC, for the past 15 years. He has been appointed as the NASA European Representative stationed in Paris, where he will represent NASA's programs and offices throughout Europe. He will assume his duties in Paris in fall 2003. He is currently the Executive Director of the NASA Advisory Council, a senior-level Federal consultative panel that advises the NASA Administrator on all matters relating to NASA's responsibilities, programs, policies, and plans. Previously, he served as a Senior International Relations specialist and Senior Policy Analyst in the International Relations Division, NASA where he was the lead for NASA-European space cooperation. He also served as the Branch Chief of the International Program and Policy Office, responsible for the development and direction of NASA's policy towards the states of the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China. In 1996, he received the NASA Group Achievement Award for his leadership of NASA's, Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission Team on U.S.-Russian Space Cooperation (United States-Russian Joint Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation).

Alumni in the News

Philip Shucet ('72) continues to serve as Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation. His mandate from Governor Mark Warner is to make VDOT credible to Virginians and manage its money responsibly. Shucet entered Virginia Tech in 1968. Anti-Vietnam War protests were sweeping through campuses, but Shucet joined Tech's Corps of Cadets. He majored in history, with minors in Russian history and English literature. His writing and research skills have given him the background needed to succeed in the business and political world. He hopes to make VDOT "a sustainably great organization," with management that can adapt to new leadership without yielding up efficiency in project management and budget accountability. Shucet was spotlighted in the June, 2002 issue of *Historically Speaking* as an outstanding alumni.

Wlodzimierz Rozenbaum ('72) is the owner and moderator of the COPD-ALERT Support and Advocacy Group for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, caregivers, and medical professionals. The Internet-based group is affiliated with the major U.S. medical institutions.

Treva J. Carter ('73) joined SFCS Inc. in Salem, Virginia, as marketing manager.

Fr. Richard Mooney ('74) served as campus minister of Va Tech's Catholic campus ministry, the Newman Community, from 1982 until 1991, and now has returned to Blacksburg to take up the same position once again. In the meantime, he served as pastor of Church of the Holy Family in Virginia Beach from 1991 until 2000, and pastor of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Farmville, VA from 2000 until 2002. His work in Farmville included campus ministry at Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College. His return to Blacksburg was un-expected, but welcome.

James D. Heffernan, Jr. ('75) is teaching AP U.S. history via distance learning for the Department of Defense schools in Stuttgart, Germany. He was included in the 2002 edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

William L. Hooker ('85) was promoted to lieutenant colonel and assigned to the Army Inspector General's Office in Crystal City, Virginia.

Thomas P. Hekman ('86) was promoted to commander (O-5), U.S. Navy. He is stationed in San Diego, California.

John T. Overton ('90) was promoted to director of human resources of HCA Montgomery Regional Hospital in Blacksburg, Virginia. He is also director of business and economic development.

Andrew G. Prue ('97) received his navigator wings after completing Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training at Randolph AFB in San Antonio, Texas.

P. Neal Meier, ('90), completed his PhD with a concentration in

Alumni in the News continued...

Leadership in Higher Education in August 2002 at Union Institute & University. He lives in Vermont with his wife, Gayle Myers, MD and is the Executive Assistant to the President of Union Institute & University.

Milton G. Bartley, Jr. ('94) is the strategic sales director at Candlewood Hotel Company, a national extended-stay hotel chain in Southlake, Texas.

Jeff Graveline ('95) went on to Library school and law school. He graduated this May from law school at the University of Alabama. He will be doing commercial litigation and corporate bankruptcy. He is a senior editor on the Alabama Law Review.

Patrick Schroeder (M.A.'95) was selected as the new "Historian" at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park last January. Patrick has written or edited and published 14 Civil War titles to date. His latest book published last year was

"Pennsylvania Bucktails: A Photographic History of the 42nd, 149th, and 150th Pennsylvania Regiments."

Chris Curtis (M.A.'95) accepted a tenure track position at Iowa State University.

Richard B. Ashford ('97) a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, is stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, where he flies Cobra helicopters.

Douglas Appler ('99), a graduate student in Urban and Public Affairs, recently completed a Peace Corps experience in Guatemala. Appler is part of Virginia Tech's Masters International Program (MIP), a degree program set up between the Peace Corps and the university to allow students to make a volunteer experience with the Peace Corps part of earning a master's degree.

Kevin Roberts (M.A. '01) has accepted a tenure-track position at New Mexico State University. The position is U.S./Atlantic World History.

Current Faculty and Specializations

Distinguished Professor: James I. Robertson, Jr. (Ph.D., Emory) Civil War Era

Professors: Linda Arnold (Ph.D., Texas) Latin America; **Frederic J. Baumgartner** (Ph.D., Wisconsin) Reformation, Military, France; **William C. Davis** (M.A., Sonoma State College) Civil War; **A. Roger Ekirch** (Ph.D., Johns Hopkins) Early American; **Richard F. Hirsh** (Ph.D., Wisconsin) Science and Technology; **William L. Ochsenwald** (Ph.D., Chicago) Middle East; **Crandall A. Shifflett** (Ph.D., Virginia) South, American Social, Appalachia

Associate Professors: Mark V. Barrow, Jr., (Ph.D., Harvard) American Environmental, Science; **Glenn R. Bugh** (Ph.D., Maryland) Ancient and Byzantine; **Beverly Bunch-Lyons** (Ph.D., Miami of Ohio) African-American, Women's, and Oral; **Hayward Farrar** (Ph.D., Chicago) African-American, Military; **Thomas C. Howard** (Ph.D., Florida State) Modern England, Africa; **Kathleen W. Jones** (Ph.D., Rutgers) U.S. Women's, Medicine; **Amy Nelson** (Ph.D., Michigan) Modern Russia; **J. Dean O'Donnell** (Ph.D., Rutgers) European Diplomatic, 20th-Century Europe; **Peter L. Schmitthenner** (Ph.D., Wisconsin) Modern South Asia; **N. Larry Shumsky** (Ph.D., UC Berkeley) American Urban, Immigration; **Daniel B. Thorp** (Ph.D., Johns Hopkins) American Colonial; **Peter Wallenstein** (Ph.D., Johns Hopkins) South, Virginia, Civil Rights, Higher Education.

Assistant Professors: Alexandra Cuffel (Ph.D., New York) Medieval; **E. Thomas Ewing** (Ph.D., Michigan) Russian, Education, Women's; **Marian Mollin** (Ph.D., U. Mass) U.S. Social; **Robert P. Stephens** (Ph.D., Texas) Modern Europe/Germany.

Generosity Begins At Your Academic Home

A gift to the History Department can be instrumental in supporting our undergraduate and graduate programs, particularly in these tight budget times. A modest contribution can fund student scholarships here and abroad, graduate student fellowships, and our exciting new program initiatives.

Please contact our chair, Professor Glenn R. Bugh (gbugh@vt.edu) when you submit information about your gift. With your permission, we will list the contributors under the following categories:

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If you are interested in considering bequests or other special gifts, you should speak with Evan K. Bohnen, Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (540-231-8734 or ebohen@vt.edu)



Arts and Sciences 25th Anniversary History Display – 1988



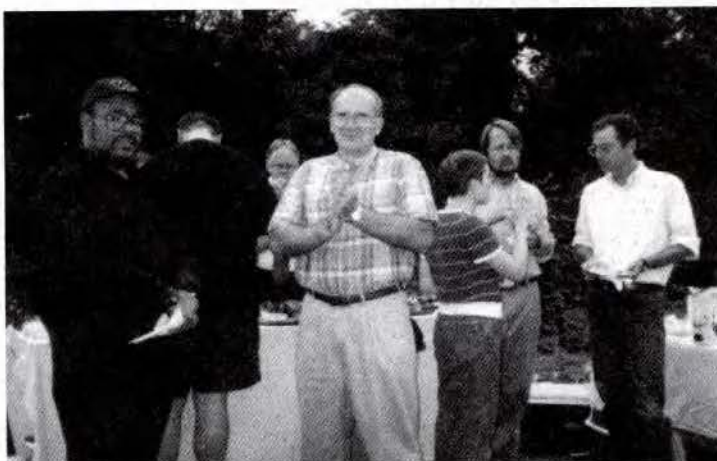
Betsy Mellichamp, Les Mellichamp, Ron Nurse



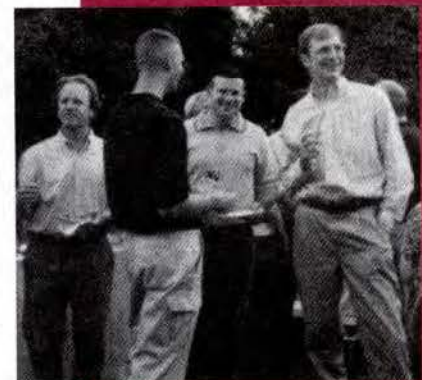
Graduate Students: (L-R) Sarah Mitchell, Chris McDermott, Heather Harris, Regan Shelton, Laurie Eakes, Brick, Paul Grady



Jan Francis, Linda Fountaine, Rhonda Wills – Staff, 1994



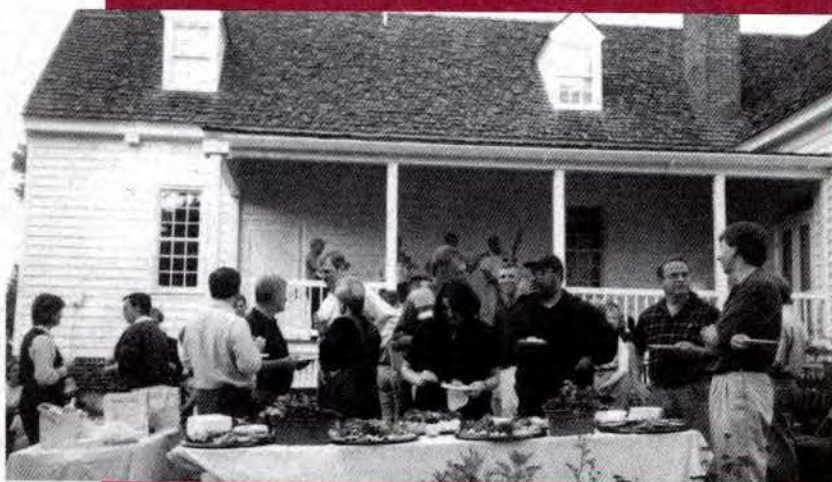
Woody Farrar, Bill Ochsenwald, Fred Baumgartner, Amy Nelson, Mark Barrow, Dan Thorp



Peter Schmitthener, Carlton Fox, Bert Moyer



*Bill Ochsenwald and
Larry Shumsky*



*Departmental Get-Together at Smithfield Plantation –
September, 1998*



William E. Mackie - 1968

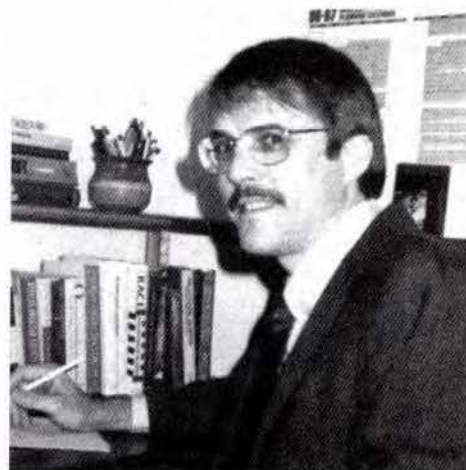
Memories



George G. Shackelford – 1968



*Tom Howard's (center) "Africa in the Modern World" class –
Spring 2003*



Peter Wallenstein -1986



*Harold Livesay, Anastatia Sims,
Thomas Dunlap – 1981*

*Historically
Speaking*

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We Want to Hear from You!

Our Newsletter will continue to feature articles and notes about our History Department alumni/alumnae. We would appreciate information about what you have been doing since leaving Virginia Tech. Please send material to jafranci@vt.edu or *Historically Speaking*, Department of History, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0117

Name: _____

Degree/Year: _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Occupation/Title: _____

Professional Duties: _____

Recent Awards, Grants, Honors, Etc.: _____

Most Influential Professor: _____

Other News and/or Story Ideas: _____

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/history/index.html>

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