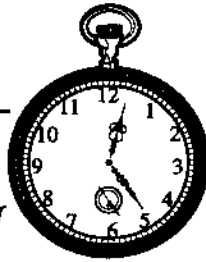


# HISTORICALLY SPEAKING...

## SPRING PRE-REGISTRATION OCT. 21-28



Just when you get into the fall groove, it's time to stop everything and think about what courses you want to take in the spring. Here's how we do it in the History Dept.: Timetables, pre-printed opscans, and all necessary information (course descriptions, advisors, etc) will be in the hall, outside 431 Major Williams (the main office) by Friday, October 17th. The opscan and course history information will be in individual manila envelopes with each student's name on the front. Pick up a timetable, course description and manila envelope, then make an appointment with your advisor by signing your name on a sign-up sheet on his/her door. Dr. Howard's advisees will meet with Dr. Thorp or Jan Francis this time. Their sign-up sheets are outside the main office.

Before seeing your advisor do some research as to what you want to take and what you need to take. Go with a list for the advisor to look over. Always check the fall class schedule that is printed on the opscan to ensure that you are in the correct classes and aren't enrolled in a class you knew nothing about.



## CLUB NEWS

The History Club/  
Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Alpha Theta officers are currently contacting History majors who are qualified to join Phi Alpha Theta.

Sept, 1997. Undergraduate Newsletter, Volume 2.  
Published by the History Department, 431 Major  
Williams, Blacksburg, Va 24061-0117; phone: 540/231-  
8382; Fax: 540/231/8724; email: jafranci@vt.edu

If you have a 3.1 overall qca, a 3.1 qca in major and 12 hours of history courses you are qualified to join. Membership in Phi Alpha Theta is an honor you have earned.

Watch for upcoming Phi Alpha Theta and History Club events. Announcements will be made in class and posted outside 431 Major Williams on the bulletin board.

## GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH

*Dan Thorp, Associate Chair*

In case you haven't heard, registration is coming. I really like this time of year and the chance it gives me to talk to students about what they might do next semester, next summer, or for the rest of their college careers. I also get frustrated at times, but not by students who forget the rules and end up taking required "freshman" courses during their last semester so they can graduate on time. That's a minor problem--if it's a problem at all. What's frustrating are the ones who know every rule, follow them perfectly, and are totally lost without them. They're great at getting through the required courses but nervous at the idea of taking something just for fun or as an experiment. I know they'll graduate on time, maybe even a semester early, but I can't help feeling that they're cheating themselves--missing what may be the last opportunity they have until retirement to devote ten hours a week for fifteen weeks to something just because it's fun, or because they think it *might* be fun.



I'm certainly not saying that you (p.2)

(Money's Worth continued)

should ignore the core curriculum or courses required for your major; but those are only about 2/3 of the hours you need to be graduated. So spend some time thinking about your free electives too. What do you want to know about? What do you wonder about when you're on your own? Do you love looking at stars but never know which one's which? Take an astronomy course. Do you watch World War II movies and wonder what the Germans are saying? Take a German course. Ever wonder where your family came from and why? Set up an independent study. It really doesn't matter to us advisors what you do with your electives as long as it's something you want to do. You're paying a lot of money this year for the privilege of intellectual free choice; don't waste it.



## **INTERESTED IN GRAD SCHOOL?**

Juniors and Seniors now is the time to start planning times to take the GRE (Graduate Record Examination). Application for the test should be made at least 5-6 weeks prior to the test date. Applications and information for the tests are available at University Counseling Center.

Approximate general testing time: 4 hours.  
Approximate subject testing time: 3 1/2 hours. Dates of testing are: November 1, December 13, and April 4. For more specific information, contact Dr. Sherry Lynch at University Counseling Center, 231-6557.

## **CURIOUS ABOUT CAREERS ?**

So you are a History major and worried about what you will do after graduation. Here's what a few of our alumni have done: J. Douglas Wigner Jr, Class of '65, is the

rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lynchburg, VA.; Daniel W. Burger Jr., Class of '66, was appointed president of DuPont Europe, in Geneva, Switzerland; Lance Wallen, Class of '75, is a career officer in the United States Air Force; Philip Williams, Class of '88, is a United States Probation Officer. The only career limitation with a B.A. degree in history is one you set yourself.

Check out the History Career Bulletin Board when you are on the 4th floor of Major Williams (get off the elevator, go up the ramp, through the door and look to your left).

It's never too soon to start planning a career. Tom Howard, Career Advisor, is on leave this year so you may contact Jan Francis in 431 MajWm or Career Services, 3rd floor, Henderson Hall, with your questions next semester.

## **FACULTY IN THE NEWS**

Richard Hirsh was in the *Spectrum* recently in a report on a presentation he gave to the Virginia General Assembly's Joint Subcommittee Studying Electric Utility Restructuring in Richmond. His presentation provided a brief history of events leading to restructuring efforts being made in other state legislatures and in Congress. He likes the fact that his historical expertise is of value in the "real world."

Glenn Bugh was featured in the *Arts & Sciences Magazine* article about A&S professors building a "Hollywood connection." He will appear in a segment for A&E's *Biography* on "Caligula" (that infamous Roman emperor). Also, he was flown to Los Angeles by Greystone film company for a segment on foot soldiers, in which he discusses the Barbarians. Dr. Bugh enjoyed his touch with stardom: "I found it to be a fun, different sort of experience and tried to learn all I could from it, knowing I'm not (p.3)

(Faculty continued)

destined to become the next Harrison Ford." Hey, wasn't Indiana Jones a history professor?

Peter Wallenstein, who has a new book called Virginia Tech, Land-Grant University, 1872-1997, was recently featured in the *Spectrum* and *Blacksburg Sentinel* and on the front page of the Virginia section of the *Roanoke Times*, talking about the book and the history of Tech.

William Ochsenwald was interviewed last week by *Voice of America* and *ABC-Radio News* on current developments in the Middle East.

David Burr has been invited to participate in a symposium on the "Friars and Jews in the Middle Ages" to be held at St. Louis next month; he will give the opening address at a symposium on editing medieval texts to be held at Rome in December; he will give a paper and participate in round table discussions at a colloquium to be held in Narbonne, France in March to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the death of the medieval Franciscan leader Peter Olivi. This year the University of Fribourg Press published his book L'histoire de Pierre Olivi, franciscain persecute.

## STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

On September 30, a group of cadets, other students and alumni hiked 23 miles across two mountains from William Addison Caldwell's homeplace in Craig County to the Virginia Tech campus. Their hike commemorated a similar walk by Caldwell on October 1, 1872, when he became the first student to register at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (Virginia Tech).



Three of these cadets are history majors: seniors **Anthony Hughes** and **Edward Maggio** and sophomore **Eric Dahlquist**. Maggio stated that the hike "was a very interesting experience--after reading about history all these years it was exciting to actually live the recreation of a historical event." Hughes said it was "fun, great historical commemoration of what the first cadet did." Congratulations to these students for making history come alive in their own lives.

## HISTORY IN CYBERSPACE

*Kathy Jones, Assistant Professor*

The History Department has been going on-line!



If you want to study history in a cyberspace environment, check out the webpages of faculty members who routinely use computer technology as part of their courses. Many of us make syllabi, class materials, and grades available on-line. Others incorporate interactive components: discussion lists, study questions, and webpage designing. To see who is doing what, check out the links to faculty webpages from:

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

**CONTRIBUTIONS** to the newsletter are welcome. Send information to address listed on the first page at the top right--(phone or e-mail)

**Happy Halloween --**