



Department of History Newsletter

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HISTORICALLY SPEAKING...

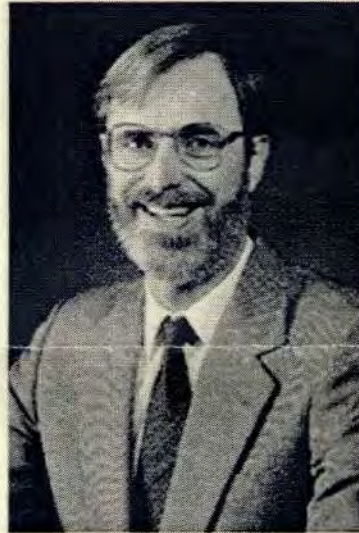
Albert E. Moyer

March 5, 1945 - December 19, 2000

Bert Moyer was born in Connellsville, PA. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in physics from Oberlin College, a master's degree in physics from the University of Colorado, and a Ph.D. in the history of science from the University of Wisconsin. He taught physics for three years at Lees Junior College in Jackson, Kentucky in the late 1960s as part of a government aid program to Appalachia. In 1977 Dr. Moyer came to Virginia Tech where he taught the history of science and served as the chair of the History Department from 1995 until Spring 2000.

Bert was on the Editorial Board of the professional magazine, *Isis*. In 1986 he was invited to an international symposium on the teaching of high school physics in Beijing, China. He was invited to return in 1994 and 1998. He wrote *A Scientist's Voice in American Culture*, a biography of Simon Newcomb, American physicist, in 1992. For the 150-year anniversary of the founding of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., Dr. Moyer was asked to write the biography of Joseph Henry and to give a speech at the 1997 ceremony. Dr. Moyer has been a featured speaker in numerous venues, including the Royal Institute of Great Britain.

An avid hiker, mountain climber, and snorkeler, he spent many summers in the Rocky Mountains



and in Maui, Hawaii. During his summers as a college student at Oberlin, he played string bass in a three-piece jazz combo for the Glacier National Park lodge system.

He was an exceptionally devoted family man. Survivors include his wife, Lynette; three daughters, Holly, Emily, and Rebecca; and a large extended family. The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to all of Bert's numerous friends over the years. A memorial service was held on December 23 at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. Moving tributes were made by Bert's friends, Fred Baumgartner, Gary Downey, Paul Sorrentino, Glenn Bugh, and Richard Hirsh, and other family members.

Memorial contributions may be made to the

Lymphoma Research Foundation of America, 8800 Venice Boulevard, Suite 207, Los Angeles, California 90034, or the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, PO Box 144, Blacksburg, VA 24063.

At the memorial service, Paul Sorrentino said "He had a way of making us see ourselves better, and, in doing so, he enriched our lives. To paraphrase the words of the British poet William Wordsworth, the best parts of Bert's life were those simple, little, nameless, now-remembered acts of kindness and love."

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Reflections From The Chair

Words, hurtful words, soothing words, sad words, happy words. Spoken words, written words, the very stuff of history. They come in many shapes and sizes, monosyllabic and polysyllabic, cacophonous and mellifluous, spoken in English, sort of, and in exotic foreign

tongues: word, Wort, verbum, lexi, mot, parola, cuvînt. Words are the wings of our thoughts, our feelings, our hopes, our dreams, the stuff of what we are and what we can be. There are words to live by, and words to die by. And so I note with great sadness the passing of a dear friend, colleague, and my predecessor as department chair, Bert Moyer. For once words fail me as I think how best to sum up his life and character. Actions, perhaps, speak louder than words—we will dedicate the seminar room to his memory, and plant a tree just for him down by the duck pond.

Lots of goings-on in the department. Our distinguished professors, David Burr and Michael Alexander are retiring as of the end of Spring semester, and we are busily engaged in searches to replace them (as if that were possible). We await the hunnic hordes of students eager to fulfill the university's new U.S. History Competency requirement which starts this coming Fall. The faculty, I am happy to report, are taking all of the excitement in stride. "Bring them on", I hear their voices echo down the halls of Major Williams, "the more, the merrier!" Perhaps these are dream words, words that a new chair wants to hear from his faculty. But don't all historians live in a fantasy world?

Glenn Bugh
Chair

Profiling New Faculty Member Dr. Marion Mollin

Marion Mollin arrived at the History Department this fall along a circuitous and somewhat unusual path. She earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University and then spent ten years as a political organizer before entering graduate school in the early 1990s. She just recently received her Ph.D. in history from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, with areas of specialty in 20th-century U.S. social and political history, women's history, and the history of social movements. Her current project, *Actions Louder Than Words: Gender and*

Political Activism in the American Radical Pacifist Movement, builds on these interests by examining the relationship between gender and political culture in the radical wing of the American peace movement. Dr. Mollin says that "although I miss the New England snow, I love being at Virginia Tech, where I have the opportunity to teach the courses and do the research that I value so much."

Faculty In the News



Young-tsu Wong's new book, *A Paradise Lost: the Imperial Garden Yuanming Yuan*, was published by the University of Hawaii Press, January, 2001.

Peter Wallenstein is associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of the United States in the Nineteenth Century* (with seventeen of his own entries) and co-editor-in-chief of the *Encyclopedia of American Political History* (with twenty of his own entries), due out this spring. His article "Naming Names: Identifying and Commemorating the First African American Students on 'White' Campuses in the South, 1935-1972," appeared in the Fall 2000 issue of *College Student Affairs Journal*. In the Fall 2000 issue of *Diversity News*, he published "Model Universities and Racial Diversity: Undergraduate Enrollment in 24 Public Universities in the South" and "Colleges of 1862, 'Colleges of 1890,' and 'HBCUs': A Brief Account of Past and Present," Part Two, "Twentieth-Century Patterns." At the annual meeting of the American Historical Association (in Boston in January 2001), he presented a paper, "From Donald Murray to Vivian Malone: Voices from the Desegregation of the South's State Universities, 1935-1965" (and at another session—on race, Reconstruction, and the courts—he was chair and commentator). He was Paul Lancaster's guest on "Blue Ridge Nightline," broadcast on Blue Ridge Public Television in January 2001, speaking about "College Desegregation in Virginia."

Peter Schmitthenner's new book *Telugu Resurgence: C.P. Brown and Cultural Consolidation in Nineteenth Century South India* has been released by New Delhi: Manohar Publishers, 2001. It examines the origins and formation of a regional cultural identity that ultimately gave birth to Andhra Pradesh, the first linguistic state formed in India after Independence. The book centers on the scholarly career of Charles Philip ("Charlie") Brown, a British East India Company civil servant who was the pre-eminent nineteenth century Western scholar of Telugu, a major regional language of south India. Dr. Schmitthenner will be on leave in India during the coming academic year (2001-2), conducting research of the expansion and impact of hydraulic projects in nineteenth-century south India.

A. Roger Ekirch's research on pre-industrial sleep was cited in a fall cover story, "Sleepless in America," in *U.S. News & World Report*. His forthcoming book on night in Western history was the subject of a feature article in the January 2001 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine. Dr. Ekirch has an upcoming article, "Sleep We Have Lost," in the April 2001 issue of the *American Historical Review*. In addition he is offering a new course this spring semester, "The Atlantic World in the Age of Piracy."

Frederic J. Baumgartner has been elected vice-president and president elect of the Catholic Historical Association, with a membership of about 1,200 persons.

Thomas Ewing presented two papers in the fall: The first paper was "Schooling Against Patriarchy in the Non-Russian Regions: Co-education in Soviet Schools, 1917 to 1943" presented to the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Denver, November 2000. The second paper was "A Terribly Noisy Science: Soviet Child Study and Educational Psychology of the 1920s and 1930s" presented to the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, October 2000.

N. Larry Shumsky has recently been appointed Series Editor of *Great Cities of the World*. The publisher will be ABC-CLIO, and they ultimately envision somewhere between ten and thirty

volumes, each considering one city. The targeted audience will be the general reader and public libraries.

Linda Arnold's recent publications include "Sociedad corporativa, corrupción corporativa: la resistencia a la subordinación y al abuso de poder" ["Corporate Society, Corporate Corruption: Resistance to Subordination and the Abuse of Power"] in *Vicios públicos, virtudes privadas: la corrupción en México* [Public Vices, Private Virtues: Corruption in Mexico], ed. by Claudio Lomnitz, (Mexico City: CIESAS and Miguel Ángel Porrúa, 2000): 49-63; "Too Few Ships, too Few Guns, and Not Enough Money: The Mexican Navy, 1846-1848" *The Northern Mariner/Le Marin de Nord IX*, no. 2 (April 1999): 1-10; and "Privileged Justice? The Fuero Militar in Early National Mexico" in *Judicial Institutions in Nineteenth Century Latin America*, ed. by Eduardo Zimmermann, (London: Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London Press, 1999): 49-64. Building on the research she conducted while on leave last year, in October she traveled to Veracruz, Mexico where she presented a paper, "La política de la justicia militar" ["The Politics of Mexican Military Justice"] at the I Congreso Internacional sobre las Fuerzas Armadas en IberoAmérica [First International Congress on Armed Forces in IberoAmerica]. Dr. Arnold will return to Mexico again this coming summer to continue to work on her project on Mexican military justice during the early 19th century.

William Ochsenwald has been elected to the Board of Directors, Turkish Studies Association.

Randy Shifflett is on research assignment during the Spring semester as part of his NEH *Virtual Jamestown* grant. He will be working at the Virginia Center for Digital History in Charlottesville. The British Museum has granted a license to place online the rare watercolor drawings of Native Americans by John White. The engravings of Theodor De Bry will also be exhibited alongside the related White drawing with accompanying annotations. This will be the first online exhibit in the U.S. of White's

drawings. Dr. Shifflett will also be working to digitize the extraordinary John Smith map of Virginia. The presentation of the Smith map promises to demonstrate how a discourse of conquest and dominion overlays a narrative of adventure and discovery. Dr. Shifflett will also work on future funding to expand the project into its virtual reality phase.

James I. Robertson, Jr. has collaborated on a second book with artist Mort Künstler, *The Confederate Spirit*, published by Routledge Hill Press. Dr. Robertson's forth-coming work, *Standing Like A Stone Wall*, is a biography of "Stonewall" Jackson for young readers and will be published in May by Atheneum.

Dr. Robertson also reports on the latest progress of the Virginia Center For Civil War Studies: Two videos on "West Virginia as a Child of the Civil War," will be distributed free of charge to all public schools and public libraries in West and western Virginia. The Center is completing work on a book about Civil War chaplains. It will include the first descriptive roster of the 3,600 men who were chaplains in Union and Confederate armies. Stackpole Books is tentatively scheduled to publish this study. The Center has also received full funding for a five-volume work, "Virginia in the Civil War, 1861-1865." It will be published in installments over the next 6-8 years.

Daniel Thorp has been selected as a William J. Fulbright Scholar for 2002. Fulbright Scholars are chosen to foster mutual understanding between the United States and foreign nations, and Professor Thorp will spend six months at the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, New Zealand. During that time he will conduct research comparing the experiences of European colonists who went to live with Native Americans to the experiences of European colonists who joined the Maori in New Zealand and will present a number of public lectures on comparative American-New Zealand history.

Richard Hirsh traces the transformation of the electric industry and examines new technologies that have helped deregulation in his new book, *Power Loss: The Origins of Deregulation and*

Restructuring to the American Electric Utility System. Dr. Hirsh also writes about the roles that market competition and environmental concern play in developing a new system. He states that "deregulation of electric power means a competitive market for electricity purposes. Anyone can buy electricity from anyone who offers it. In deregulated markets, customers can shop for price or for other types of service or power."

Former Visiting Faculty Member Dies

Michael Lanza, former Visiting Assistant Professor, died on November 9, 2000. Professor Lanza taught in the History Department for two years between 1981 and 1984. His focus was American history, with particular emphasis on the history of African Americans and the South. At the time of his death he was working for the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C.

Club News

Phi Alpha Theta is very active this 2000-2001 academic term inducting a total of 29 new members in Fall and Spring. Congratulations to the newest members: Daniel Abell, John Albert, Jesse Arnold, John Brooker, Craig Campbell, David Carlisle, Matthew Coe, Misty Culler, Jacob Drinkwater, Brian Greene, William Groce, Gabriel Henderson, Cari Henson, Elizabeth Hodgens, Jonathan Hoganson, Matthew Israelson, Brian Kane, Sara Kelley, Dustin Maxwell, Kara Morris, Brooke Niess, Suzanne Palmer, April Quesenberry, Kimberly Sharp, Wendy Snidow, Peter Toney, Rebecca Walker, Timothy Work, and Elliott Wrenn.

Students invited to join Phi Alpha Theta must have a 3.1 GPA in-major, 3.0 overall GPA and 12 hours of history completed.

New activities for spring semester include Fun

Friday where students and faculty gather in the department for conversation and refreshments and a Quiz Bowl Tournament between Phi Alpha Theta members and other Phi Alpha Theta chapters around the country scheduled for April.

Alumni Corner



Jim Branscome ('63) is currently the treasurer of the Virginia United Methodist Conference. He spent 15 years in higher education at Longwood College. Jim was in the first graduating class in 1963. He says there were two of them and he was listed first alphabetically—which makes him Tech's first history graduate! His favorite professor was Archer Jones.

Curtis Mimna ('65) is the development consultant for a proposed \$160 million property, St. Regis Hotel and Residences, in Fort Lauderdale, FL. His favorite professor was also Archer Jones.

C.M. Edwards, Jr. ('65 & '74) suggests that the department newsletters be linked to the homepage. (Editor's note: We will be doing so beginning this spring).

Chester Jarosz ('67) is Vice President of First Virginia Bank in Wythe County, VA.

Jim Casada (M.A.'68) retired as professor of history from Winthrop University and is now a freelance writer and just completed a term as President of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. His most influential professors were Dr. Howard and Dr. Robertson.

John E. Krebs Jr. ('69) recently retired after 31 years of teaching in Henrico County.

Kirk Wood ('69), Professor of History at Alabama State University, is continuing his series of book reviews in the *Montgomery Advertiser* on important and controversial topics in American and world history.

Lonnie Barham ('71) teaches middle school

American history in Clarke Co., VA. Lonnie's students are impressed that he was here during the infamous take-over of Williams Hall in 1970 to protest the Vietnam War. Dr. Wieczynski was his favorite professor.

Paul Waibel (M.A. '72) continues as Professor of History at Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi.

Wlodzimierz Rosenbaum (M.A. '72) retired from the Central Intelligence Nonproliferation Center where he was employed as a proliferation analyst. His favorite professor was Dr. Wieczynski.

Lucinda Giorgetti (M.A. '72) is an attorney in Oregon and Washington. Dr. Robertson was her most influential professor.

Bill Ticknor ('73) remembers Dr. Adriance and Dr. Wieczynski as his favorite professors while at Tech. For the last 10 years he has been in charge of the 23 GPO bookstores located across the nation and the Distribution Center in Pueblo, Colorado.

Vaughan Stanley (M.A. '75) is the Special Collections Librarian at Washington and Lee University. He appeared in the new documentary film, "Lee: Beyond the Battles." This film also featured Dr. Robertson.

Eva Baer ('76) is an Interpreter for the U.S. Dept. of State since 1978 (Hungarian and German).

Connie Myers ('77) is a real estate broker with Napier Realtors in Midlothian, VA. Dr. Robertson was her favorite professor.

John E.B. Clark, Jr ('78) is Town Manager of Marion, VA. Mr. Clark said he recently found his father's 1937 VPI Corp of Cadets dress coat. It is blue with red trimmings, has all its buttons, and is in mint condition!

Becky Fillinger ('79) lives in Delray Beach, FL and is the Director of Affiliate Relations for law.com. Professor Shackelford was very influential to her.

William Cuilik ('81) is serving as commanding

officer of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) Forty-Nine based in San Diego, CA.

Greg A. Patchell ('83) works with Lockheed-Martin Astronautics in Denver, Colorado and is also a reservist (an Army Major).

Flurry Dowe ('83) is currently residing in San Diego, CA.

Lawrence Williamson ('84) resides in Pleasant Garden, NC and teaches History of the Americas in the International Baccalaureate Program at Grimsley High School in Greensboro. This is Larry's 17th year teaching. He is also the head coach of our varsity women's softball coach and the head coach of our academic teams. His most influential professors were Dr. George Shackelford and Dr. James I. Robertson.



Ken Reuwer ('87) is a Special Agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service living in London UK. Dr. Robertson and Dr. Thorp were his most influential professors.

Caroline McJunkin Hudson ('88) lives in Lynchburg, VA and is the Director of Finance for the YWCA of Central Virginia.

Paul Pelish ('88) is a real estate attorney in Leesburg, VA. Dr. Robertson was his favorite professor.

Sean Kilcarr ('89) is currently senior editor for *Fleet Owner* magazine. The magazine's web site is www.fleetowner.com. His most influential professor was Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr.

Jeffrey Jones ('89) is a Trust Officer for Planters Bank & Trust Co. of Virginia in Waynesboro, VA.

John Bergquist ('90) lives in Salt Lake City, UT and works as a genealogical researcher.

Tanya Higgins (BA '91, MA '93) lives in the Bronx where she teaches at an all-boys middle

school, St. Ignatius. Her most influential professor was Dr. Alexander.

Scott Hummel ('91) began a new position at Georgetown University in Washington, DC in July 1999. As the Service Learning Coordinator, he is working with the faculty to develop opportunities to integrate students' community-based service with classroom-based theory. His most influential class in the History Department was Dr. Thorp's Historical Methods class.

Robert Freis ('93) is employed by Robinson Family Newspapers in Salem, VA and has started a Civil War battlefields touring business. The website is www.CivilWarWeekend.com.

Eric Smith ('93) is in research and development for a leading pharmaceutical company, Pharmacia Corporation. His most influential professor was Dr. Robertson.

Barry Cross ('94) is Traffic Engineer Technician for the city of Blacksburg.

Anita T. Mack, 2Lt. ('94) is currently stationed at Dyess AFB, Abilene, TX as a USAF navigator on a C-130.

Daniel J. Palmer (Valedictorian '94) graduated in Dec. 2000 from Virginia Tech's Center for Public Administration and Policy with an MPA and is currently the Assistant Director of Development for the College of Arts & Sciences at Virginia Tech.

Christopher Yianilos ('94) is the Legislative Counsel to Senator John Warner.

Bruce Watson ('95) is currently a full-time English instructor at Virginia Tech teaching satire and creative writing.

Paul Lineburg ('95) lives in Salem, VA and teaches U.S. History at Cave Spring High School in Roanoke, VA. His most influential professor was Dr. Robertson.

Kevin Walker, Capt. ('96) is a security Forces Officer in the Air Force stationed with the 820th Security Forces Group at Moody Air Force Base,

Georgia.

Michael Budronis ('97) lives in Bellmore, NY and works as a Lab instructor for radio labs & television news station at New York Institute of Technology. His most influential professors were David Burr and Daniel Thorp.

Anthony Hughes ('98) has been serving as an officer in the Navy on a frigate out of Japan.

Gregg Dean ('98) is teaching 8th grade World Geography at Drewry Mason Middle School in Ridgeway, VA. Dr. Wallenstein was his most influential professor.

Matthew Widmer ('99) states his most influential professor(s) were Dr. Burr, Dr. Farrar, and Dr. Ochsenwald.

John Toler II ('99) is in aircraft sales with Corporate Jet Sales in Middleburg, VA. John says his favorite professors were Dr. Arnold and Dr. Robertson.

Innovative Perspectives in History Annual Graduate Student Conference

Each year the History Department graduate students organize and conduct a weekend conference, "Innovative Perspectives in History." Students from Virginia Tech and other graduate programs present research papers at the conference. This year's conference will be held March 16-17. Two nationally known historians are invited annually to give keynote addresses. This year's speakers are Ed Ayers and Kenneth Noe. This conference is an excellent opportunity for students to participate in one of the most important professional activities of practicing historians. For more information contact Peter Toney at 540-953-4709 or email ptoney@vt.edu.

Attention Alumni!

The response to the last newsletter was overwhelming! To those of you who have not responded, let us know what you are doing and where you are located. Return this form or email your update to us. Our address can be found at the top of the first page of the newsletter or you can simply email jafranci@vt.edu

Name: _____

Year Graduated: _____

Address: _____

Most Influential
Professor: _____

Ideas for Stories _____

Did you know???....

There are many different ways to give to your favorite programs at Virginia Tech, including the Department of History. Most people know about making cash donations, but there are other methods to give that may better suit your financial situation. You may be surprised to learn what kinds of gifts Virginia Tech accepts, and how you can avoid some taxes you thought you would have to pay. For more information about giving stock, receiving income in exchange for your gift or making a donation through your estate plans, please contact Connie Talbott, the Director of Development for the College of Arts & Sciences, or one of our gift planning professionals at (800) 533-1144.

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