

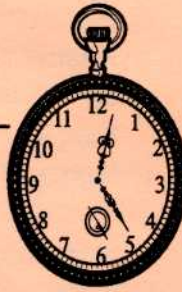
HISTORICALLY SPEAKING...

**Greetings from the
Department of
History for the
1998-99 academic year.**

As the new millennium nears, historians will be reflecting on the past one thousand years. Many scholars will be focusing on the human richness of the process rather than the products of the past ten centuries. Choosing to downplay results--august political creeds, lofty scientific theories, and decisive military battles--they will, instead, be finding insight and delight in the daily doings of people from all cultures and social levels. They will be discovering engrossing stories in the mundane workings of medieval stone masons rather than in the massive cathedrals they were building.

These historians have a perspective that might serve you as a student. The gist of most human stories lies in the process rather than the product. As you begin this academic year on the eve of the new millennium, you might resolve to prize each dash to class, each quirk of your most eccentric professor, and each contentious opinion that you encounter over dinner. Neither a final grade nor a diploma can fully capture the essence of the university experience. Seize the day.

**Bert Moyer
Chair**



July, 1998, Undergraduate Newsletter, Volume 4.
Published by the History Department, 431 Major
Williams, Blacksburg, Va 24061-0117; phone: 540/231-
8382; Fax: 540/231-8724; e-mail: jafranci@vt.edu

MID-SUMMER DOLDRUMS?

It's hot and humid
and you are BORED.

You begin to miss good

old Blacksburg and even miss going to class. Never fear! In less than 30 days you'll be back on campus. With this in mind, perhaps it is a good time to reflect on past achievements or failures. Did you accomplish all you set out to do last school year? Did you make the grades you wanted? If the answer is yes, then you are on the right track and need to keep doing what is working for you. If the answer is no, then only *you* can make the changes necessary to succeed.

There are many sources for help (academically and psychologically) on campus. The list is long and if you can access the Virginia Tech Homepage at <http://vt.edu> you will find many helpful sites. Here are just a few:

Career Services:

231-6241

<http://www.career.vt.edu/>

Third Floor Henderson Hall

Counseling Services:

231-7473

<http://www.ucc.vt.edu/>

152 Henderson

Academic Enrichment:

231- 4133, priceam@vt.edu,

<http://www.vt.edu:10021>

[/studentinfo/acadenrich/oaeprograms.html](http://studentinfo/acadenrich/oaeprograms.html) or 122 Hillcrest Hall.

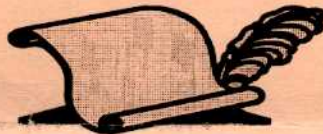


Another helpful site is our own History Department homepage (a plug for our excellent page created and maintained by Rhonda Wills, computer guru and Graduate liaison) located at <http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/historyhomepage/UndergraduateProgram.html> (or link through VT Homepage). You can link to many helpful sites under "Advising Resources." If you cannot access the World Wide Web, call the phone numbers listed above or drop by the offices once you are on campus.

But, alas, the bottom line is all the help in the world can't change bad habits. Only you can do that.

HERE'S
WHAT THE
FACULTY

DID THIS SUMMER!



Peter Schmitthenner participated in a Fulbright group study seminar entitled "Contemporary China: A View from Two Cities." He spent a month of lectures and excursions in China divided between Beijing and Guilin, a small city located in the southern Guangxi Autonomous Region known for its beautiful karst landscape. He will use the seminar experience to enhance the Chinese culture component of the Humanities Asian Cultures course sequence which he regularly teaches. In addition, Dr. Schmitthenner recently submitted for publication his book manuscript entitled Telugu Resurgence: C.P. Brown.

On July 10th and 11th **Glenn Bugh** presented a Smithsonian Institution Residential Seminar in Washington, D.C. on "Venice and Byzantium: A Meeting of East and West." Dr. Bugh explored the legacy of Byzantium on Venice and their historical interactions. 125 participated including a former senator. In late June he gave a paper in Liverpool, England at a conference on "Hellenistic Economies." While there he also explored Roman forts and Hadrian's Wall. (Editor's Note: What about the Beatles' childhood homes?)

Albert Moyer has a feature article coming out in *Scientific American* this fall, "Simon Newcomb: Astronomer with an Attitude." *Scientific American* is available at most book stores and news stands. Dr. Moyer was also a guest at a Sino-American conference on "Humanistic Factors in the Development of Modern Science and Technology," held June 1998, in Beijing, China; the conference was sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. While in Beijing, he also gave an invited presentation at Tsinghua University.

James I. Robertson, Jr. just finished production with Blue Ridge Public Television of "Forgotten Battlegrounds," an hour-long documentary of the Civil War in Southwest Virginia. It airs for the first time on August 20.

Fred Baumgartner spent several days interviewing members of the House of David community in Benton Harbor, Michigan in July. It is a Christian communist society that dates back to 1907 and has now nine surviving members, all over the age of 70. The

research is for his book on the history of millennialism in Western Civilization, which is scheduled to be published in June, 1999.

Thomas Howard spent Spring Semester at the Virginia Tech Center for European Studies and Architecture in Switzerland. This summer he is teaching summer school and dreaming of the Swiss Alps. He wants to encourage all history students to investigate the possibility of studying a semester in Switzerland or study abroad in general before graduating.

Speaking of Switzerland, History's front office staff members **Linda Fontaine** and **Jan Francis** had the incredible opportunity to spend ten days in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland at the Center. They were part of a group of eighteen faculty and staff members that toured Italy and Switzerland as a study project led by **Arnold Schuetz**, chair of International Studies. Dr. Schuetz is the person to see about applying to do a semester in Switzerland. In the fall he can be located in 119 Major Williams Hall. Linda and Jan have photo albums if you care to see what they saw in Italy and Switzerland. They highly recommend doing a semester abroad.

Darleen Pryds will be presenting a paper, "A Reconsideration of Lay Preaching: The Papal Stance" at a conference in Rome in September. The Conference is called "Innocent III: Urbs et Orbis. Also, on Sunday, November 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dr Pryds has organized the first Labyrinth walk at Virginia Tech. Called "Finding a Place for

Contemplation," this Labyrinth walk is the first such event to offer two labyrinth models for walking meditation. Labyrinths are meandering, single paths that were implaced in Medieval Cathedral floors. The unique feature feature of the Labyrinth walk on November 1 is that there will be two different Labyrinths to walk through: the Reims Labyrinth and the one at Chartres. Lectures will be offered on November 1 and in weeks preceeding the event to explain the history of labyrinths. Contact her for materials and lecture possibilities. For more information, contact DarleenPryds at dpryds@vt.edu or by phone 231-7004. Also visit her at her website: <http://www.cis.vt.edu/fac/pryds/default.html>

Peter Wallerstein has relaxed this summer by doing the following: participated in July on an interdisciplinary panel on John Brown at a conference of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic; spoke about Virginia Tech to half a dozen meetings sponsored by Alumni Association chapter groups in Rhode Island, Maryland, and Virginia; did research as part of his project on the 1950s desegregation of southern public higher education; and published an essay on "Early Blacksburg, 1740s-1840s," in the bicentennial book about Blacksburg, published in July.

SEE YOU IN AUGUST!!

**HISTORY DEPARTMENT
VIRGINIA TECH
431 MAJOR WILLIAMS HALL
BLACKSBURG, VA 24061-0117**

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Permit No. 28**