



Historically Speaking

The Department of History Newsletter
A University Exemplary Department

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 VirginiaTech



From the Chair

During this past academic year the students and faculty of the Department of History have once again amassed an enviable record of achievement. We not only graduated nearly two hundred majors during our fall and spring commencement exercises, a record number for our program, but our students earned a great many well-deserved accolades. Our local Phi Alpha Theta chapter, for example, gained formal recognition as the best history honor society chapter in the nation. We had ten majors present their research at the Phi Alpha Theta regional meeting in Lynchburg, eight who completed honors theses in the spring (a record for our department), eight who received invitations to join Phi Beta Kappa (the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society), seven who presented at the Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research Conference (more than any other department at this university), four whose research appeared in the first issue of the newly launched *Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review* (about which more details are found below), and three who published articles in the most recent issue of *Philologia*, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Science's undergraduate research journal. This was also more contributions than any other department, prompting the director of the Undergraduate Research Institute to dub *Philologia* "the other history journal."

Our M.A. students have also enjoyed much success. Four of them produced excellent master's theses, four received Virginia Center for Civil War Studies Scholarships, and one, Laura West, was honored with the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Working together, our M.A. students also did a first-rate job of organizing and hosting the Annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History conference, which attracted 29 students from 16 different universities across the eastern United States. This was the fifteenth consecutive year of this highly successful conference, an impressive record that would be unthinkable without the hard work and dedication of our talented graduate students.

Encouraging, supporting, and mentoring these



Mark V. Barrow, Jr., Department Chair

accomplished students are a terrific group of faculty who have also enjoyed a wonderful year. Our two recent hires, Professors David Cline and Dale Winling, launched a public history program here at Virginia Tech that not only promises to provide our students with important new skills but also serves the university and local community in vital ways. At the college level, Professor Kathleen Jones received an award for Graduate Student Advising, Professor Brett Shadle received a Certificate of Teaching Excellence, and Professor Rob Stephens received an award for Undergraduate Research Mentoring. Professor Marian Mollin earned the university's Diggs Teaching Scholar Award, bringing to twelve the number of our faculty who have been honored with major college or university teaching awards. Professor Larry Shumsky published a volume on homelessness in America, Professor Fred Baumgartner published a monograph on how war was declared in Early Modern Europe, and Professor Roger Ekirch continued to garner international acclaim for his fascinating research on the study of sleep patterns in pre-industrial Western society. And Professor Helen Schneider finished serving a two-year term as Research Fellow at Oxford University.

More details about these and other noteworthy departmental accomplishments are contained in the pages that follow. Suffice it to say here that we would be unable to enjoy this impressive level of success without the continued generosity of thoughtful donors who have provided critically needed funds to support scholarships, organize student conferences, and help young researchers travel to archives and libraries and present their work. Please consider adding your name to the growing list of proud alumni who are helping us to shape the History Department into the truly first-rate program that we all seek and deserve.

★ Department News ★

Service-Learning Kakuma

Brett Shadle, Associate Professor of History, recruited and trained two undergraduate students—**Victoria Heath** (History and Political Science) and **Maria Evans** (Urban Affairs and Planning)—to work in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, in northwestern Kenya, this past summer. This camp serves more than 70,000 refugees who have fled wars from neighboring countries. Professor Shadle guided the students through a semester-long training session in the spring, and then accompanied them to Kakuma for several weeks in the summer. To make this unique service-learning experience possible, Shadle worked closely with the Lutheran World Federation, which handles many of the social services in the camp. Professor Shadle plans to continue this program again this spring and summer.

The Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review Launched

In the spring of 2012, the department issued the first number of a new peer-reviewed undergraduate research journal, *The Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review*. This exciting new venture is made possible by a dedicated staff of reviewers and editors. Under the direction of **Professor Robert Stephens**, the journal's founding editor, Managing Editors **Stephen O'Hara** and **Heather Lennon** worked closely with a team of Associate Editors—including **Victoria Heath**, **Alison Hight**, **Brian Marshall**, **Rebecca Middour**, **Gabi Seltzer**, and **Waheed Sheriff**—to recruit submissions, find reviewers, copyedit articles, and move them through the publication process. The journal may be accessed here:



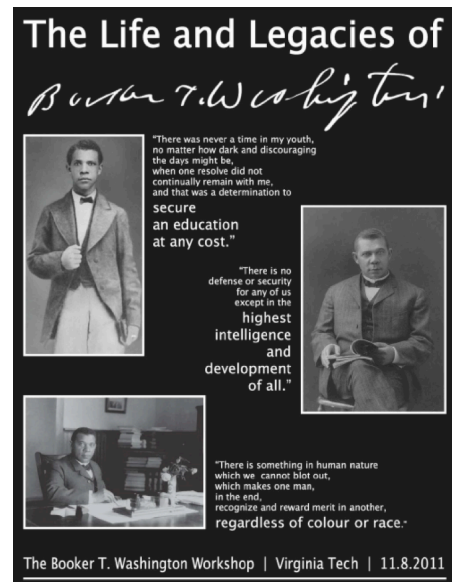
<http://www.history.vt.edu/vtuhr/index.htm>

The Undergraduate Historical Review highlights the best research being produced by undergraduate scholars here at Virginia Tech. “VTUHR provides an avenue for undergraduate historical research to flourish beyond the classroom. History is an expansive and evolving field, and we believe that students’ research should join this ongoing dialogue” says Stephen O’Hara, Managing Co-editor for the first issue. The first issue included articles by **Chris Whitney**, “The Silent Decade: Why It Took Ten Years to Ban DDT in the United States”; **Rae Kennedy**, “The Cold War Propaganda of Project Apollo”; **Myles Dauterive**, “Going Critical: Three Mile Island and the Federal Reform of the Nuclear Power Industry,” and **Luke Kalnajs**, “The New Life of Latvians in America.”

We look forward to continuing this exciting new venture with a second issue this coming spring.

Booker T. Washington Teachers Workshop

On November 8, 2011, the Department of History collaborated with the National Park Service Booker T. Washington National Monument to offer a one-day workshop for teachers on “The Life and Legacies of Booker T. Washington.” Among the approximately 60 participants were K-12 teachers from several different districts in the region, pre-service teachers enrolled in Virginia Tech licensing programs, and volunteer historians from the National Monument. Funding was provided by the National Park Service, and the workshop was organized by the Department of History and Continuing and Professional Education at Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech participants included faculty members **David Cline**, History; Virginia Fowler, English; **David Hicks**, School of Education/Teaching and Learning; **Daniel Thorp**, History; and **Peter Wallenstein**, History; as well as students **Katherine A. Goins**, a senior History and Biology double major; **Erin M. Lord**, a master's student in History and School of Education/Curriculum and Instruction; and **Mallory Orrison**, a History alumna (B.A. 2011) enrolled as a master's candidate in the School of Education/Curriculum and Instruction. The event was organized by **Tom Ewing**, Associate Dean and History, **Laura West**, English, and Goins, with assistance from Cline, Hicks, Lord, Thorp, and Wallenstein, as well as **Mark Barrow**, History, and Sharon Zuckerwar, School of Education.



15th Annual Bertoti Graduate Student Conference

The 15th Annual Bertoti Conference on Innovative Perspectives in History proved another rousing success. The keynote address by Michael O'Mally, of George Mason University, was wonderful, and the lunch address, by Karen Flint, of UNC-Charlotte was also excellent. Another highlight of the conference was a Careers in Public History Roundtable that featured several of our former M.A. students (**Robert Teagle, Amy Coffman, and April Cheek-Messier**) sharing their experiences working at historic sites and public memorials around the Commonwealth.



Twenty-nine graduate students from sixteen universities (including Yale, Villanova, William and Mary, UVa, Rice, Georgetown, and several others) presented papers on a variety of topics. Ten faculty and graduate students from History, ASPECT, and STS offered helpful, supportive commentary on the papers. Our graduate students not only presented a number of papers themselves, but also organized the conference, served as panel moderators, and kept everything running smoothly. Several volunteers from Phi Alpha Theta helped with registration. And as always, Kathy and Dave Bertoti were there for support. The conference offered a wonderful showcase for the great work our graduate students and faculty do in the History Department at Virginia Tech.

New Faculty Join the History Department

The Department of History is delighted to announce the arrival of three new faculty who joined us in August 2012: **Danna Agmon, Melanie Kiechle, and Dennis Halpin.**

Danna Agmon is an Assistant Professor in the History Department, and a Core Faculty member in the Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought (ASPECT) Doctoral Program. Trained in an interdisciplinary program, she received a PhD in Anthropology and History from the University of Michigan in 2011. Her specialty is the history of French empire in the early modern period, and her research explores the fraught intersection of commerce and conversion in the eighteenth-century French colonies, specifically in South Asia and the Indian Ocean.

Currently she is working on a book manuscript titled "An Uneasy

Alliance: Traders, Missionaries and Tamil Intermediaries in Eighteenth-Century French India," which is based on her dissertation. This project examines the reliance of French colonial officials, traders and Catholic missionaries in the colony of Pondichéry, India, on a cadre of Tamil men employed as commercial brokers and religious interpreters. It examines global imperial history through a resolutely local lens and demonstrates that Pondichéry was a locale where the internal contradictions of the French imperial project, which sought to simultaneously profit, colonize, and proselytize, became glaringly apparent.



An article drawn from this project, "Intermediaries on the Move: Mobility and Stability in the Making of Colonial Go-Betweens in Eighteenth-Century French India," will appear in a volume titled *Intermédiaires culturels/Cultural Intermediaries*, published by Honoré-Champion Press. Her work has been supported by a Bourse Cha-teaubriand, the Council for European Studies, and the University of Michigan's Institute for the Humanities.

A commitment to interdisciplinary exploration informs Danna's teaching as well as her scholarship, and she looks forward to offering History courses and ASPECT seminars in historical anthropology, micro-history, and comparative legal and imperial history. Prior to her academic work, Danna was a journalist, and worked as an editor in the news desk of *Ma'ariv*, a large daily newspaper in Israel.

Melanie Kiechle, an Assistant Professor in the Department of History, was born and raised along the Canadian border in northern New York, and has been moving progressively--but slowly--southward ever since. Melanie completed her BA at Colgate University in 2003 and joins us from Rutgers University, where she has just completed her PhD in history. Melanie's current research addresses beliefs about fresh air and foul odors in nineteenth-century United States. Accordingly, Melanie has cultivated an interest in powerful stinks, as well as in cultural, environmental, urban and medical history, and the history of science. While working on her dissertation, Melanie was a residential fellow at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia and received an ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Grant.



Dennis P. Halpin, a Visiting Assistant Professor in History, was born in Sumter, South Carolina but grew up in Sarasota, Florida. After completing his MA at the University of South Florida he began his PhD at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. He is primarily interested in race, class, and gender in nineteenth and early twentieth century US cities. His dissertation, “Reforming Charm City: Grassroots Activism, Politics, and the Making of Modern Baltimore, 1877-1920” is a reexamination of the Progressive Era from the viewpoints of African Americans, women, immigrants and laborers. In the next year he plans to convert his dissertation into a book manuscript.



sentation to her Afro-American History course entitled “Black Women, Slavery, and Resistance in America” that was subsequently broadcast on C-Span as part of its Lectures in History Series on December 17 and 18, 2011. Bunch-Lyons, who works on Virginia Tech’s National Capital Region campus, taped the lecture on the Blacksburg campus in October. The lecture was later broadcast on C-SPAN and is now archived here: <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/beverlybunchlyons>.

Hayward “Woody” Farrar Jr., Associate Professor of History, has been named the Gloria D. Smith Professor of Africana Studies by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1992, Farrar has dedicated himself to counseling, mentoring, and advocating for underrepresented students, student athletes, and students in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.



Faculty News



Linda Arnold, professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and renowned authority on the history of Mexican law, has been conferred the title “professor emerita” by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

A member of the Virginia Tech community for 29 years, Arnold developed and taught more than a dozen undergraduate writing intensive courses and Area 7 courses in the Curriculum for Liberal Education, and has directed nearly 30 undergraduate independent studies. She was a pioneer in digital history and, along with her students, created the website, *The Mexican-American War and the Media*.

For her distinction in teaching and mentoring, Arnold received two Certificates of Teaching Excellence from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (formerly the College of Arts and Sciences) and a Certificate in Recognition of Teaching Excellence from the University Writing Program.

Arnold is the author of nine books; 12 articles in peer-reviewed journals; 17 chapters in edited anthologies; 16 book reviews; and 39 digital archives, compilations, archival guides, and archival finding aids. In addition, she served on the editorial boards of three academic journals, offered numerous workshops to students and faculty in Mexico, and was a member of numerous doctoral committees for student completing their degrees at Mexican universities.

Beverly Bunch-Lyons, Associate Professor of History, delivered a pre-

He was the advisor of the Virginia Tech chapter of the NAACP from 1992 to 2005, the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity from 1999 to present, the Kemeti Benu Order Inc., from 1995 to 1998, and the Enlightened Gospel Choir. For his efforts, Farrar has received numerous awards, including the 2005 Overton Johnson Presidential Award, the 1999 and 2000 Black Caucus Leadership Award, and the 1998 Black Caucus Faculty Member of the Year Award.

Heather Gumbert and Rob Stephens are founding faculty principals for the Honors Residential College at East Ambler Johnston and live in an apartment in the residence hall. The faculty principals oversee the very busy life of this new multidisciplinary residential college. They foster meaningful and sustained relationships among faculty, staff, and students and promote a rich intellectual, cultural, and social context. During summer 2012, they took time to reflect on the Honors Residential College experience, assess their successes and challenges, and plan for the coming year.



"We worked harder than we expected to, but we also accomplished more than we thought we would," Gumbert said. "And because we took on this role, people look at us differently — as people who are invested in their students and who are approachable. Doing this has made me rethink what I do in the classroom. Residential colleges give faculty a reason to cross the Drillfield."

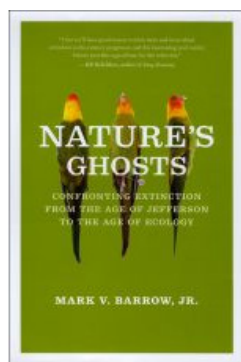
"It was an intense year," Stephens said. "We're not just faculty principals, we are members of this community and it has made our lives richer. Our goal is to open doors and encourage people to walk through them. We want students to get a sense early in their college careers of the opportunities that exist and that they have an environment that supports their endeavors."

Brett Shadle published an article, "Cruelty and Empathy, Animals and Race in Colonial Kenya," in the *Journal of Social History* (Summer 2012) 45(4): 1097-1116, <http://jsh.oxfordjournals.org/content/45/4/1097.extract>.

Roger Ekirch's research has continued to garner international media attention, including interviews and mentions in the the Brazilian magazine *Vox Objetiva*, the Barcelona newspaper *La Vanguardia*, *Radio Vega* in Finland [<http://arenan.yle.fi/radio/1578149>], and the CBC program "The Sunday Edition with Michael Enright" [<http://www.cbc.ca/thesundayedition/shows/2012/06/17/hour-2-sleep---good-night-and-good-luck/>].

Also the award-winning documentary, "The City Dark," in which he briefly appeared, was due to be shown at July 5 at 10 pm on the PBS program *POV*. The trailer is available here: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/citydark/>.

Mark V. Barrow, Jr., has been selected as the winner of the 2011 Susan Elizabeth Abrams Prize, which is awarded biennially for the best book in the history of science published by the University of Chicago Press. The citation from the selection committee noted: "The 2011 Susan Elizabeth Abrams Prize is awarded to Mark V. Barrow, Jr. for *Nature's Ghosts: Confronting Extinction from the Age of Jefferson to the Age of Ecology*. A synthesis of original research and wide reading across several bodies of scholarship, the book traces changing conceptions of extinction from the eighteenth century to the present, concentrating especially on the role played by American naturalists. Barrow writes about extinct species, and the naturalists who fought to save species from extinction, with pathos and panache. Readers come away with a vivid sense of what has been lost, and also of the long struggles to save threatened species and raise awareness of extinction as a real - and avoidable - possibility."



Barrow also received the 2012 Scholar Award in History from the Virginia Social Sciences Association. Each year since 1981 the VSSA has recognized outstanding scholarship and teaching in the social sciences through awards to higher education faculty in the Commonwealth. He

delivered an address, "Chapman's Parakeets: On the Role of Serendipity in Historical Research," as part of the Award Recipients Plenary Session at the 85th Annual Meeting of the VSSA, March 24, 2012, in Norfolk, Virginia.

Matt Heaton has recently published a chapter in an edited anthology: "Thomas Adeoye Lambo and the Decolonization of Psychiatry in Nigeria." *In Science and Empire: Knowledge and Networks of Science Across the British Empire, 1800-1970*, ed. Brett M. Bennett and Joseph M. Hodge, 275-96. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Kathleen Jones, Rob Stephens, Stephen O'Hara and **Mark Barrow** have published an article in the March 2012 issue of the *Journal of American History*. That article, "Romancing the Capstone: National Trends, Local Practice, and Student Motivation in the History Curriculum," explores how History Departments at a variety of colleges and universities across the nation relate the capstone experience to the rest of their undergraduate curriculum. It also discusses the "Book Project" that several of his have been pursuing in our 4000-level topics courses for a number of years now. **Robert P. Stephens, Kathleen Jones,** and **Mark V. Barrow, Jr.**, published a second article on this latter topic, "The Book Project: Engaging History Majors in Undergraduate Research," in *History Teacher* 45, no. 1 (November 2011): 65-80

Several of our faculty earned awards from the College of Liberal Arts and Humans Sciences in the spring of 2012. They include **Kathleen Jones**, who received the college's Excellence in Graduate Student Advising Award; **Rob Stephens**, who received the college's Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award; and **Brett Shadle**, who received a Certificate of Teaching Excellence

Marian Mollin received the 2012 Diggs Teaching Scholars Award. Sponsored by the Diggs Endowed Professorship Fund and the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research, the this was established in 1992 and is presented annually to three Virginia Tech faculty members to recognize exceptional contributions to the teaching program and learning environment.



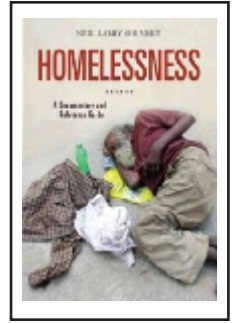
Mollin has been a member of the faculty in the Department of History since 2000. Her teaching awards and honors range from successful curriculum and program development to effective mentoring and advising. She is dedicated to fostering a strong sense of community and belonging in both students and colleagues. She is also instrumental in fostering the introduction of effective technology into the history classroom and has received two XCaliber team awards for her efforts. "Students laud Marian's teaching for the ways in which she pushes them to think outside the box and to learn from each other through in-class discussions and online interaction," said Mark Barrow, professor and department chair.

Mollin has proposed a teaching enhancement project that would develop a peer-mentoring program for undergraduate history majors engaged in independent research projects and senior theses. "Undergraduate student scholars usually pursue their projects in isolation from each other," Mollin said. "They have little sense of belonging to a larger community of student scholars. Most do not even know who else among them is engaged in research."

Mollin's peer mentoring program involves creating small groups of student researchers who meet weekly to set research and writing goals, share ideas and insights about sources, provide constructive feedback on each other's work, and encourage group members to reach their research goals. Mollin said this mentoring process would provide a sense of community and create peer accountability.

One out of 10 finalists in the ninth annual People's Choice Awards, sponsored by the Library of Virginia, are co-authored by members of the History Department and Virginia Tech community. "Virginia at War, 1865" by **James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr.**, Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, and **William C. Davis**, director of programs for the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. "Virginia at War, 1865" is the fifth and final volume in a series of works by Robertson and Davis. It examines the end of the Civil War in the Old Dominion, depicting a state ravaged by violence and destruction. For this work, Robertson and Davis assembled a collection of essays covering topics that include land operations, women and families, wartime economy, music and entertainment, the demobilization of Gen. Robert E. Lee's army, and the war's aftermath. The book is published by the University Press of Kentucky.

Larry Shumsky has just published *Homelessness: A Documentary and Reference Guide* (Greenwood, 2012). According to the publisher, "The book considers homelessness and its distinctive character in three periods of American history: the era of tramps and hoboes in the late 1800s-early 1900s, the era of transients and migrants in the 1930s, and the era of homeless and "street" people in the last 40 years. It clarifies the multiple meanings of the word "homeless" today and demonstrates that homelessness is a symptom of more than one problem, leading to confusion about the issue of homelessness and hampering attempts to reduce its occurrence."



Tom Ewing is part of team of faculty and graduate student researchers from Virginia Tech and the University of Toronto who submitted a winning proposal for the "Digging into Data Challenge," an international funding competition designed to promote innovative humanities and social science research using techniques of large scale data analysis. Their proposal "An Epidemiology of Information: Data Mining the 1918 Influenza Pandemic" was one of 14 projects approved for funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Virginia Tech and the University of Toronto will split \$250,000 in external funding for this two-year project, which will begin immediately.

The seventh annual **Virginia Tech Authors Day** was held on February 23. The event honored the authors' academic contributions to the University and was sponsored by the University Libraries, in partnership with the Provost's Office, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and Virginia Tech's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. The featured speaker was Associate Dean **Tom Ewing**, History, who discussed his book *Separate Schools: Gender, Policy and Practice in Postwar Soviet Education*, for which he was awarded Phi Beta Kappa's 2011 Albert L. Sturm Award for Excellence in Faculty Research. A current list of the faculty whose authored, co-authored, and edited works were recognized this year can be found here: <http://www.lib.vt.edu/find/vtauthors/2012list.html>

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 times of tight budgets. Any contribution can help fund student scholarships, graduate student fellowships, and exciting new program initiatives. Follow the link below for information on how to give and be sure to designate the History Department as the intended recipient of your gift:

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

If you are interested in learning how to endow a fund or make a named gift, please speak with John King, Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, (540) 231-8734 or jhking@vt.edu."

Leslie Sherman Memorial Fund

Leslie Sherman, a double major in history and international studies, was one of the students killed in Norris Hall April 2007. In her honor, the Leslie Sherman Memorial Fund was established and endowed with a portion of the money raised by the Hokie Spirit Fund from thousands of Virginia Tech's friends and supporters around the world. The income from this endowment will provide a permanent remembrance of a wonderful young woman by providing financial support to other undergraduates majoring in Leslie's chosen fields — history or international studies.

If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, contact John King, Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at (540) 231-8734 or jhking@vt.edu

Glenn Bugh received a 2012 Humanities Summer Stipend to continue archival research on cavalry in Hellenistic Athens and Renaissance Venice.

Richard Hirsh was selected as Scholar of the Week by the Office of the Vice President for Research at Virginia Tech.

Dan Thorp was named Teacher of the Week by The Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER). The citation focused on his use of technology to give undergraduates in Blacksburg an international perspective on the history of the United States. Working with a colleague at the University of Kent, in Canterbury,



England, this fall semester Dr. Thorp taught a class on the American Revolution in which students from the University of Kent and Virginia Tech met together through an interactive video classroom. Each week, students read an assortment of primary source documents, pamphlets and speeches presenting both American and English views. Student discussion-leaders then communicated with one another via e-mail, Facebook, and Skype to discuss the readings and decide among themselves which points to emphasize in class and how. Then, when class began, students and faculty engaged in a lively Trans-Atlantic dialogue. Students in both classes, here and at Kent, spoke positively of the experience, describing the class as "exciting" and "transformative." Students remarked enthusiastically on the opportunity to get to know students from overseas and engage regularly with them.

Dr. Thorp's collaboration with the History department at the University of Kent grew out of an ongoing initiative in the College of Liberal

Arts and Sciences to bring together faculty and students from different universities across the world. Dr. Thorp hopes to have the opportunity to repeat his pilot project in the near future.

Dr. Thorp is well-known for his innovative undergraduate teaching. Since joining the faculty at Virginia Tech, he has earned two Certificates of Teaching Excellence and was part of an interdisciplinary team that received the XCaliber Award for Excellence in Technology-assisted Teaching and Learning for their creation of a Digital History Reader. Director of the Curriculum for Liberal Education, he nevertheless still teaches regularly both large and small classes, and his students undertake innovative undergraduate research projects, including work on African-American communities in Montgomery County, which is the topic of his current research project.



Student News



The winners of this year's Virginia Center for Civil War Studies Research Scholarships are **Laura West** and **Stephen O'Hara**. These scholarships are intended to aid the work of graduate students in the History M.A. program whose research promises to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the place of the Civil War in American history and the causes and consequences of that grave conflict.



Laura West received a VCCWS Research Scholarship for her work on African American education in the post-bellum South, with a focus on the ways that race leaders used learning environments to challenge the stereotypes whites attributed to blacks in the Reconstruction Era. Laura also received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Stephen O'Hara received a VCCWS Research Scholarship for his work on the memorialization of American presidents who died during the immediate post-Civil War era, when the previous tendency to glorify the lives and careers of ex-presidents gave way to increasing scrutiny and criticism of their legacies.

The Virginia Center for Civil War Studies was created in 2000 as a privately endowed center to advance historical knowledge of the Civil War era. In addition to its programs in publishing, public education and outreach, the Center is pleased to partner with the History Department to make available annual scholarships that recognize promising graduate student contributions to field of Civil War studies. The awards are made possible by endowments to the Center for Civil War Studies from several generous benefactors, including the J. Ambler Johnston Scholarship, the Homer E. Davis Scholarship, the Frank S. Roop Scholarship, and the Old Dominion Chapter #69 United Daughters of the Confederacy Scholarship.

Damion Blake of Portmore, Jamaica, a doctoral student in Virginia Tech's Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought program in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has been awarded a Latin American Security, Drugs, and Democracy Fellowship for dissertation fieldwork research.

The Class of 2012 was the largest graduating class in History with approximately 150 undergraduates and 7 graduate students. This year's Valedictorian was **Rae Kennedy** and Salutatorian was **Myles Dauterive**. See the photos of our commencement on the History at Virginia Tech Facebook page.



Rae Kennedy and Myles Dauterive

2012 Departmental Student Award Winners

Undergraduate:

Rebecca Middour – James W. and Martha N. Banks Award
Elizabeth Kiefer, Katherine Pandick (honorable mention), and **Ryan Press** (honorable mention) – History Prize
Sodbilig Bayarmagnai – Curtis Award
Jamie Johnson – Phoenix Award

Two History majors received 2011-2012 Study Abroad Scholarships:
Casey Gresham and **Jarrid Dulaney**.

Graduate:

Matt Saionz – Outstanding Thesis Award 2011
Heather Lennon and **Stephen O'Hara** – Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award
Kathleen Jones and **Marian Mollin** - Faculty Excellence Award



Alumni News



Mary Jane Saunders (HIST '78), McLean, Va., is general counsel of the Beer Institute.

Charles L. Grant (HIST '87), was named executive direction of Henricus Historical Park in Chester, VA.

William R. Sarvis (HIST '90), Eugene, Ore., authored a book entitled *The Jefferson National Forest: An Appalachian Environmental History*.

John H. Escario (HIST '91) Germantown, MD., is head of exchange-traded fund portfolio analytics for Vanguard.

Michael M. Taylor (HIST '94), Leesburg, Va., is general counsel for Americom Government Services Inc.

Joshua A. Snyder (HIST '98), Cameron, N.C., was selected as the Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech vs. Wake Forest game.

Arash M. Sadighi (HIST '05), Vienna, Va., received his juris doctorate from the University of Akron School of Law

Amanda R. Daquila (HIST '10), Blacksburg, Va., received a Fulbright U.S. Student Grant to teach English in Germany.



In Memoriam



Dennis Lee Hundley, 22, of Fredericksburg, died Saturday, December 17, 2011 at Mary Washington Hospital.

Dennis was an Eagle Scout with Troop 1422 of Spotsylvania. He was a 2007 graduate of Courtland High School, where he was a member of the tennis and swimming teams and a member of Young Life. He was also a member of Fredericksburg Baptist Church.

Despite a two and a half year struggle with Hodgkin's lymphoma, Dennis pursued his goal of graduating from college. On December 15, he graduated summa cum laude as a Commonwealth Scholar with a degree in History from Virginia Tech at the first college graduation ever hosted by Mary Washington Hospital, surrounded by family, friends, professors and his medical team who honored his academic achievements.

The day prior to the on-campus commencement ceremonies, a delegation of university personnel led by Rachel Holloway, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and Tom Brown, dean of students, traveled to Fredericksburg to represent the Virginia Tech community at the special graduation of Dennis Hundley. The video of the ceremony is very touching and provides even further evidence of the unique and caring community of which we are a part:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ikg_AAk2wpl&feature=youtube

Amazed at the turnout, he requested that each person stop by his room to express his thanks for such a special day. During his senior year in college, always thoughtful, he advocated establishment of a support group for students dealing with serious medical issues. He was in the process of organizing it when his college stay was interrupted by illness. His family intends to continue this effort. In addition, a scholarship will be established at Courtland High School for a future Virginia Tech student.

The family thanks the many friends who provided support and encouragement. Dennis acknowledged the depth of this support as he spoke about it often with his family. He knew he was never alone during his extended stay at Mary Washington Hospital, and as he expressed during his graduation celebration, "I love you all."



Department Scorecard

The Department of History is not only a very productive department, but its faculty and students have also earned an impressive number of awards and scholarships over the last decade. We are extremely proud of everyone's hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence.

Since 2003, our faculty have published 39 books and 107 book chapters and articles or articles in refereed journals. This is an exceptional scholarly output for a department of our size.

Since 2003, members of the department have also won 14 major university awards, including:

- 2 University Exemplary Department Awards
- 1 Alumni Award for Excellence in Research
- 3 Diggs Teaching Scholar Awards
- 2 Alumni Awards for Excellence in Teaching
- 1 Sporn Award for Excellence in Teaching Introductory Subjects
- 1 Alumni Award for Excellence in Outreach
- 2 XCaliber Awards for Technology-Assisted Teaching & Learning
- 1 Advancing Women Award
- 1 Outstanding Dissertation Advisor Award

Since 2003, members of the department have won 17 major awards from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, including:

- 6 Certificates of Teaching Excellence
- 4 Awards for Excellence in Research
- 2 Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring
- 1 Land Grant Scholar Award
- 1 International Initiatives Award
- 1 Carol B. Shannon Award for Excellence in Teaching
- 1 Award for Excellence in Outreach
- 1 Graduate Advising

Since 2003, our students have won:

- 4 William Preston Society Awards for Outstanding MA Thesis
- 4 CLAHS Outstanding Graduate Student Awards
- 1 Outstanding Dissertation Award
- 1 Fulbright Fellowship for graduate study
- 1 ACC Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards
- 1 CLAHS Outstanding Senior Award

Former VT Students: Have you been inspired? Challenged? Have you changed your perspective? Have you stepped outside your comfort zone?

Then maybe it's time to thank a teacher.

Virginia Tech's "Thank a Teacher" program allows students and alumnae to express their appreciation for teaching excellence at Virginia Tech. If a teacher (e.g., professor, instructor, or graduate teaching assistant) has made a positive contribution to your educational experience, consider sending them a *thank you* note. Our online system makes it quick and easy for you, and you can remain anonymous if you choose.

To send your thank-you note, click below:

<http://www.cideronline.org/thankateacher/>

We Want To Hear From You!

Please send updates on your activities to jafranci@vt.edu or to the Department of History 431 Major Williams (0117), Blacksburg, VA 24061.

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