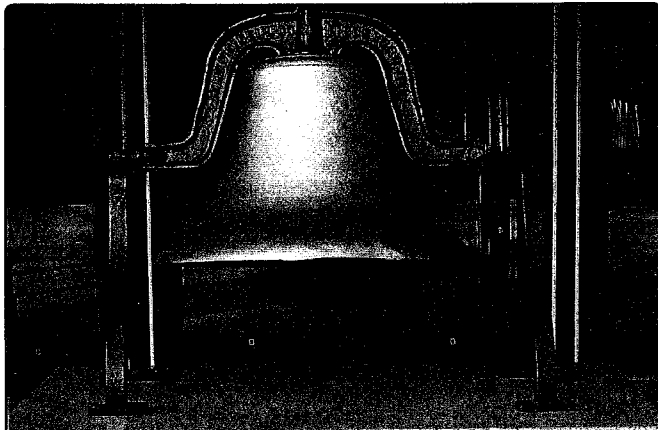


# HISTORY

D E P A R T M E N T

FALL 2007

EDITOR: MICHAEL WADE



FOUNDER'S BELL  
1899 — 1999?

*Generations of Appalachian students believed that rubbing the Founder's Bell would bring them good luck on examinations.*

## Bells & Whistles

As the photograph indicates, this venerable bell rests at the entrance to the Old Library. Its base indicates that, in days gone by and in a different location, students used to rub it for luck on upcoming examinations. The bell seems to have been resurrected in 1999 as part of Appalachian's Centennial celebration. Since that date, there have been recurrent questions about the origins and use of this bell, including speculation that the "rubbing tradition" to which the logo refers was in fact invented at the time of the bell's late 1990s installation in front of what was then Belk Library. Some anonymous person scolded what may be a reference to this issue on the bell itself: "Fake bells don't ring freedom."

So, history alumni of all vintages and locations out there, what can you tell us about this bell? Do you recall it from any other location? Have you any knowledge of its previous function(s)? Do you know someone who may have pertinent information. If so, please write in or e-mail the editor at wademg@appstate.edu. Using your responses and any other information we may be able to secure, we will feature an update on this bell's past in next year's Newsletter. Let us hear from you.

## Letter from the Chair

Last year I looked back over the past nearly six years and recounted the many positive changes that have taken place in the Department of History during that time. Certainly the changes have been numerous and some have literally changed the face of the department. This year, I would like to take the opportunity to take a peek into the future and throw out a few ideas of where History is going.

Some parts of our future seem clear. We will continue to be one of the most productive departments on campus in terms of scholarship. In just the past year a number of faculty members published significant books, including Jim Winders, Ed Behrend-Martinez, Jari Eloranta, Rene Harder Horst, and one by yours truly. Jeffrey Bortz, Karl Campbell, and Mary Valante have books on the way. Neva Specht was the lead investigator for an NEH grant of nearly \$150,000 dealing with the Blue Ridge Parkway as an historical landmark. In addition, we will continue to adhere to the highest standards for undergraduate and graduate teaching. Members of the department continue to be nominated for teaching awards, and Anatoly Isaenko has just received the prestigious Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award. Given the department's commitment to excellence in both teaching and research, it is little wonder that we continue to attract students to history. We now have over 400 majors and the Department of History continues to be responsible for the training of more students for teaching positions in secondary education than any other department on campus. There is little doubt that these trends will continue.

It also seems clear that change will be constant. We are in the process of hiring four new faculty members this year in Modern Middle East, Public History, Modern France, and Europe, 1648-1848. In addition, we received the wonderful news that an endowed professorship named in honor of Dr. Roy Carroll—a former chair of our department—has been funded. The search for an outstanding scholar in the field of British history will begin shortly. With the arrivals, of course, there are always some departures. Jim Winders is completing

*Continued to page 2*

## Letter from the Chair

Continued from page 1

over thirty years of teaching at Appalachian State University this year, and Steven Simon will complete his last year of phased retirement this Spring.

Other parts of the department's future are not as clear. The department will engage in discussions about a possible doctoral program this year. What would this mean for our department? Does the University have the resources to allow us to maintain the high standards we have set for our Masters programs? The new General Education requirements are still murky and uncertain in terms of their impact on the department. Will Appalachian students be able to graduate without taking a course from History faculty? What kinds of courses will be offered in place of the old World Civilization requirement, which now seems destined for retirement? Later this year, the department will begin to engage

in discussions about another part of its future—the question of who will succeed me when I step down after next year is certain to provoke some lively discussion about the next stages of the department's growth.

It would be too simple to say that the future is bright for the Department of History. Certainly, I foresee a continuation of the things that make the department great—excellent teaching, rigorous attention to high-quality research, and service to the university and community. We will continue to make fine hires to replace the outstanding scholars who are leaving us. Even some of the uncertainties about our future seem exciting. Debate about a doctoral program will allow us to examine where we are and where we want to go as a department. Yet, some of the uncertainties are deeply troubling. The very nature of a university education in terms of its goals, its values, and what kind of student it wishes to produce

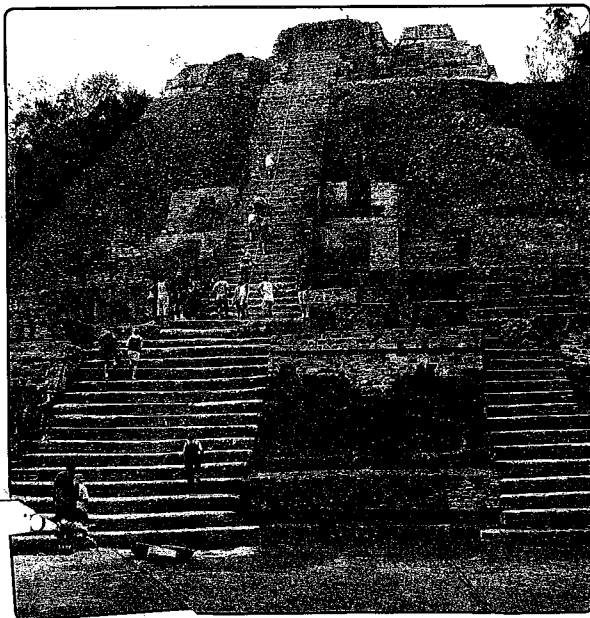


Michael & Lisa Krenn

seems to be in flux. The recent university-wide discussions on General Education seemed to reveal a disturbing disinterest in (or outright dismissal of) History as an important part of the curriculum for any educated person. The increasing talk of the "21<sup>st</sup> century students" and the requirements of the absolutely new, unprecedented "21<sup>st</sup> century economy" is also cause for concern, as all of this seems to suggest that the "21<sup>st</sup> century university" will be little more than a glorified vocational school to train people to make dollars rather than informed,

critical decisions about the future of our nation and our people. A speaker on campus recently informed us that today's college students view their education as just one of "many interests," in addition to jobs, socializing, and just "having fun." The university, he informed us, is now not so much an "information factory" as an "information mall." The Department of History, however, will remain committed to providing students with an education that has more value and lasting meaning than some sort of scholastic "blue light special."

# "To Lamanai on the New River, South"



Lamanai Ruin

LOCATION: The New River, Belize  
Central America  
DESTINATION: Lamanai Mayan Ruin  
500 BCE-1600 CE  
TIME: May 2007  
PERSONNEL: Neva Specht, Ricky and  
Nelson Burns

By Neva Specht

We honked the horn to let the Captain know we were there. We'd gotten up early to make our way from Cayo District in western Belize to the Northern Highway. Luckily, Belize is not a large country and to go from the western border to the coast only takes a couple of hours, if there's no accidents or not too many buses in front of you. Still we were running late, but my husband,

Ricky, who grew up along the New River, knew the Captain and his family. He also knew that the Captain would be willing to delay the trip until we arrived. He was on "Belize time" and so were we. The other tourists waiting for the trip were not Belizean and for all they knew the trip was just running a little late. As we piled out of the truck, my son Nelson ran and grabbed a life jacket and jumped in the boat ready to go. He was a Mayan ruins pro having been to at least 6 different sites in his three earlier trips to Belize; he couldn't wait to climb another pyramid.

The trip was one we had wanted to make, but could never fit it in during

Continued on next page

## “To Lamanai on the New River, South”

*Continued from previous page*

our previous trips to Belize. We had been to many other ruins in the west and south but this would be new, at least to Nelson and me. And sort of new to Ricky, who hadn't been up the River for over 30 years. We were headed on a 1.5-hour trip up the New River to one of the most spectacular Mayan ruins in the Mundo Mayan World. Lamanai, one of the last Mayan strongholds conquered by Europeans, is considered the longest continuously occupied ruin in Central America. The New River in Belize (not to be confused with the New River in the High Country) was named by Europeans who had “discovered it” after having discovered the Belize River (“the old River”) At least it was new to them. The Mayans had traded up and down the river for more than 1000 years but who's counting. We would make our way by speedboat upriver to the north and west, winding our way past Ship Yard, the location of many of the Belizean Mennonite settlements, on to where the river widens into a gigantic freshwater lagoon. We would also see along the way several rare birds, bats, and a couple of crocodiles (or were they croc o logs?) and some really dense jungle.

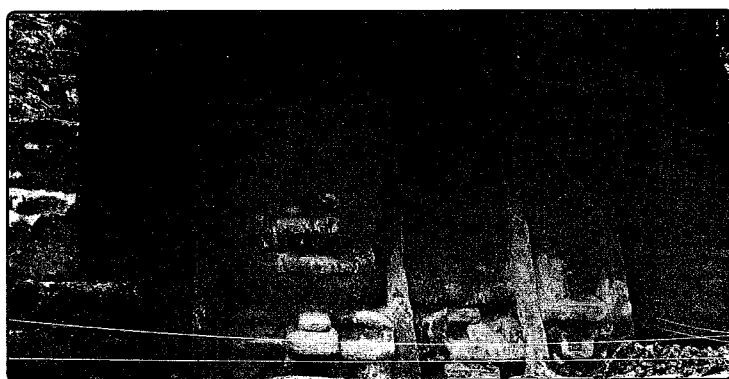
After about hour and a half, the river opened up into a crystal blue lagoon and we caught glimpses of El Castillo [the Castle], the tallest structure at the site and a few smaller structures. The total Lamanai site (Mayan name Lama'an means “submerged crocodile” and is one of the few original names known for a Mayan site) covers 950 acres. Canadian Ar-



**Dr. Neva Specht, husband Ricky, and son Nelson the “Pirate”**

cheologist David Pendergast, who excavated a number of Belizean ruins, worked at Lamanai between 1974 and 1986. During that time 940 structures were mapped and about 85 were sampled or extensively excavated. Of course, we would only see a few of the structures this trip including El Castillo and structure N9-56, which is a smallish Pyramid with two amazing stucco masks decorating the exterior. One of the masks depicts a head wearing a crocodile headpiece.

Ricky remembers traveling up the river as a child with his stepdad by dory and netting fish and turtles. At that time, the site had not been studied or excavated so looked very different than today. Then, remains of a defunct cane-works built by Confederate refugees from the US Civil War (ca. 1860s) occupied part of the site. However, since Pendergast concluded his work in 1986, the government of Belize developed the site with a dock, footpaths and an excellent archaeological museum. Belizean, British and American archeologists have



**Lamanai Ruin Detail**

continued to study the site. The museum houses artifacts from the ruins including fine sculpted flint tools, Mayan ceramics, and several Stelas (large stones, carved in Maya pictographs describing the history of the civilization) and remains from two sixteenth-century Spanish mission churches. On-going research continues with Dr. Scott Simmons of UNC-Wilmington, among others, leading field schools each year.

The highlight of the visit was the chance to climb the El Castillo (The Lag Temple) and see the view from the top, which overlooked the jungle and the New River lagoon. Nelson climbs pyramids with no fear and he and his dad made it to the top within minutes. I am afraid of heights,

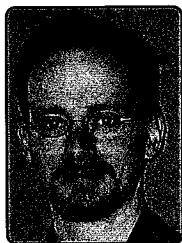
but I couldn't stand to miss the view, so I gritted my teeth and headed up. The pyramid didn't disappoint. It really was amazing seeing the river and jungle and imaging how the city must have been during the height of the Mayan Civilization (400-800 CE). After catching our breath, we headed down. Nelson and Ricky fast, and me one step at a time, with Nelson in the background yelling, “you're almost down, Mom!”

Exhausted from our adventure, we headed to the dock for some Belizean food (stewed chicken, plantains, rice and beans, and bread pudding) and then got back on the boat for our ride back down the New River, looking for submerged crocodiles.

# "To Be Rather Than to Seem": An Appalachian Education, 1899-1925

By Ralph E. Lentz II, M.A.

As Europe's great powers butchered hundreds of thousands of men during the second summer of the Great War, a recent graduate of Appalachian Training School (ATS) wrote a twenty page meditation on nature, love, and marriage. These "*pensées*" were, in the words of Dewey Roark, Sr., "without unity, coherence, or emphasis."<sup>1</sup> Yet his prose reveals a sensitive twenty-two year old with prodigious writing skills. "First we see two lover's [sic] in the distant. [sic]" If grammar and



They are walking abroad in nature, they go not as artists to study her scenes, but as children to rejoice in her beauty. The breath of the air, the blue of the unclouded sky, the shining sun, and the green softness of the unflowered turf beneath their feet, are all that they require to make them feel that they are transported into a region of delight.

spelling were not his strengths, his ability to paint word-pictures was remarkable.

It was still possible in the Ashe County of 1915 for Roark's two hypothetical young lovers to "breath and tread in a pure untroubled world...to bathe their spirits in the innocent[.] . love of nature."<sup>2</sup> Eight years and nine million lives later—with the western world trying to recover from "the war to end all wars"—another recent Appalachian graduate, Ruth Edmisten of

Blowing Rock, penned these lines:

## A Seed.

Plant lilies and lilies  
will bloom;  
Plant roses and roses  
will grow;  
Plant hate and hate  
to life will spring;  
Plant love and love  
to lfe will bring;  
The fruit of the seed  
you sow.<sup>3</sup>

What kind of education could produce the poignant, *humane* worldviews expressed by these two early twentieth century college graduates? The writings of Dewey Roark and Ruth Edmisten raise fascinating questions about education in the mountains of Northwestern North Carolina at the turn of the twentieth century. Both were from the last generation of students to go through the "common-school system." They were among the first shaped by the modern pedagogy of the new high schools and colleges embodied by Appalachian Training School. Recent scholarship has found fault with one-room school-house education, the "peasant pedagogy" of basic survival it supposedly promulgated, and progressive education that produced "subjects, not citizens"—compliant, bourgeoisie lever pullers for the new industrial society emerging in the "new South."<sup>4</sup> Yet the writings of students like Roark and Edmisten suggest a need to re-assess education in Appalachia during the early twentieth century. In an age of increasing school violence, decreasing academic integrity,



Ruth Edmisten

and pedagogical confusion, they perhaps point the way towards *reform*.

Both Roark and Edmisten left behind the entire corpus of the text books they used from primary school through their education at Appalachian Training School. Just a cursory glance through the pages of these books reveals an ambitious pedagogy that was concerned with maintaining a classical, humane education *and* equipping students to live in an increasingly complex world. Take for instance page 17 of Ruth Edmisten's copy of *Reed's Word Lessons* (1909), one of her primary/grade school books. These sentences were given for copying:

"A soft answer turneth away wrath."—(from Proverbs 15:1)

"After tempests come such calms."—(from *Othello*, Act II, scene 1)

"I laugh that I may not weep."—(from Byron's *Don Juan*, canto IV, st. 4)

"It was a scar nobly got."—(from *Alls Well That Ends Well*, Act IV, scene 5)

"Well begun is half done."—(a quote from Aristotle)  
What might elementary

school students be like if we *reintroduced* them to the great classical authors to which our grandparents generation was exposed? As a Freshman at Appalachian Training School in 1921, Edmisten wrote the following admonitions in her *First Book of Composition* (Ginn and Company, 1913):

(PAGE II):

"Cultivate

1. generosity.
2. Kindness.
3. Self-Denial.
4. Industry."

(PAGE III):

"We must strive against--

1. selfishness
2. Ill-temper.
- } Self Control.
3. Irritability
4. Indolence – lazy person.

What would our college students be like today if they were exposed to and encouraged to follow these ethics?

The rapidly changing world of the early 1900s also was reflected in Edmisten's textbooks and education. In her second English class at ATS, Edmisten and her classmates were assigned a five minute debate on whether

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## “To Be Rather Than to Seem”: An Appalachian Education, 1899-1925

Continued from previous page

or not “Participation in politics is not unladylike.” (from *A Second Book of Composition for High Schools*, Ginn and Company, 1919, pg. 130).

This was an especially pertinent debate topic—considering that the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that gave women the right to vote was passed the year before Edmisten entered college. Other contemporary social and political issues also found expression in Edmisten’s textbooks—including western imperialism. Consider these word problems from Edmisten’s copy of *Miline’s Progressive Arithmetics* (American Book Company, 1916), page 75:

[problem # 6]:

*“The United States 12-inch naval gun weighs 53  $\frac{3}{4}$  tons, the German gun of the same bore, 48  $\frac{7}{8}$  tons. How much less does the German gun weigh than the American?”*

[problem # 7]:

*“The equipment of an American soldier in war time weighs 55  $\frac{1}{4}$  pounds. If the British soldier carries 3  $\frac{1}{8}$  pounds less and the German soldier 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  pounds more than the American, what is the weight of each one’s equipment?”*

Both word problems were ominous evidence of the guns of August 1914. By 1918, a totally new world had been wrought by the destruction of the Great War—or at least that was the assessment of Grace A. Turkington, author of *My Country: A Textbook in Civics and Patriotism for Young*

*Americans* (Ginn and Company, 1918). This was a totally new textbook that Edmisten and other prospective teachers would use as they taught the children of the 1920s. As Turkington wrote in the preface (page iii):

“My Country” has been written to meet the needs of the *new era* ushered in by the war. A *new leaf in the affairs of the world was turned in 1914, and no book on government issued before that year can meet changed conditions.* [my emphasis]

Dewey Roark, Sr. had experienced the “new era” first hand as a soldier in Company D of the 119<sup>th</sup> Infantry. After serving in France—and being severely wounded—he had been changed. In a journal entry from 1919, as he looked to his future life in peace-time America, Roark pondered: “Most people can look forward to the interest on War Bonds. We have only been able to invest [a] year of our lives [sic] for the country. *What is to be our return?*”<sup>5</sup> It was a question that millions of “the Lost Generation” would ask over the next decade. When he returned to Ashe County, Roark became a teacher at the Southerland Academy, which his father, Milton Roark, and D. D. Dougherty had helped to found.

Roark and Edmisten’s textbooks and writings demonstrate a rigorous education—or at least the possibility of one. But they also reveal that Roark and Edmisten were typical teen-agers. One of the most fascinating aspects of their textbooks is the marginalia they left behind. A youthful Edmisten or one of her classmates wrote these playful lines in the front

cover of her *Second Book of Composition for High Schools*:

*I am a flapper  
cute and bold,*

*I wear my stockings rolled,  
I smoke, I swear, I chew,  
Are you a flapper too?*

Y. K. W.

Latin was apparently not Edmisten’s only concern as she read *The Foundations of Latin: A Book For Beginners* (1893; 1903), as is evidenced by these lines from the back cover of the book:

*John Perry the beautiful man  
Loves Edna Winkler  
in spite of Ruth.*

*He loves her once, he loves  
her twice he loves her better  
than cats love mice*

Here is a wonderful window into social life of a generation of college students who found themselves living on the cusp of modernity—between a world that could still appreciate the Bible, Cicero, Shakespeare—and “moving picture shows,” “aero planes,” and all the promises of a beneficent technology.

Nearly 80 years after Dewey Roark, Sr. and Ruth Edmisten Lentz graduated from Appalachian Training School, their grandchildren met by chance at a presentation on Appalachian history. There, I first met Mrs. Reva Roark Stewart, Dewey Roark, Sr.’s granddaughter. She generously donated four boxes of her great-grandfather and grandfather’s books and papers to aid in my writing a history of education at Appalachian State



Dewey Roark

University during its first quarter century. The more I explore the education of my grandmother and fellow students like Dewey Roark, Sr., the more I am convinced that their education truly tried to fulfill the *complete* meaning of our state and school’s motto: “*Esse quam videri*”—“*to be rather than to seem.*” It is a wonderful motto, but as written on our seal, incomplete. The full saying comes from Plato’s Republic, book 2, as he discusses “the just man in his nobleness and simplicity, wishing as Aeschylus says, *to be and not to seem good.*” The educators of Roark and Edmisten’s day endeavored to create and promulgate a pedagogy that would create citizens who were not just technically proficient, but who were also *good*. Perhaps we could learn something from them.

**If you have any papers/textbooks from students of Appalachian Training School, and would be willing to share them with me to aid in my project, feel free to e-mail me at: [lentzre@appstate.edu](mailto:lentzre@appstate.edu)**

Ralph E. Lentz II

# Death of a King

By Jonathan Billheimer, Instructor

In July of this year, Afghanistan's last monarch died after a forty-year reign, a thirty-year exile, and an unlikely return to his homeland. After abdicating the throne in 1973, Zahir Shah endured an exile in Italy that left him an observer to the destruction of the country he had tried to bring into the modern world. When I met with him in 2002, shortly before his emotional return to Afghanistan, he spent much of our conversation reminiscing about the land. The salient theme from that evening in Rome was that understanding Afghanistan meant knowing the land. And from that night on, I realized that assessing the life of this monarch, and his words, meant seeing Afghanistan for myself.

His imprint on Afghanistan reaches you before ever setting foot there. On the tarmac at Dubai International, an aged jetliner waited to take the Kabul-bound passengers across the mountains. In contrast to the glitz of Dubai, Ariana Airlines, the national airline of Afghanistan, resembles a country cousin who doesn't quite fit in with the others. The entire fleet consists of just six planes, all donated in the past five years by Western nations. Originally, Ariana was set up in the 1950s by Pan Am Airways. Instrumental in that creation, Zahir Shah pushed transportation as a means of abridging his country's remoteness in the hopes of overcoming its eternal curse – the lack of modernity. His involvement went all the way down to the logo still used by the airline today; that of a stylized bird against a blue background. Although outliving Pan Am, Ariana operates as a

shell of its former self. Only one flight a day leaves for Kabul from Dubai, and only while standing in the check-in line did I discover that the antiquated appearance of the donated planes had earned the airline the nickname of "Scaryana."

Above Kabul and the snow-capped peaks that surround it, the scene suggested Shangri-la. Upon descending, though, Calcutta seemed to be conjured in the streets. The extent of the devastation, despite five years of reconstruction, left me in stunned silence. Square-mile after square-mile of treeless landscape and shanties compose much of the city, with abandoned, bombed-out factory buildings dotting the outskirts. Most of the trees met their demise during the civil war of the 1980s, as people sought a means to heat their homes. Now a thick, lung-penetrating smog envelops the



Arrival in Nangrahar Province in Village of Uzbeen

ambassador to Afghanistan for six years in the 1960s. During that decade, the son visited his father and traveled throughout the far reaches of Afghanistan in a station wagon with his wife. A repository of stories about the golden age of Zahir Shah's reign, Ambassador Neumann possessed a unique knowledge of the former king handed down to him by his father. Of more insight, though, he could balance his understanding of the current state-of-affairs with

one-year tenures. The embassy, a new building only recently completed, is considered terrorist-proof. Nonetheless, the last 300 yards on approach were closed to all but pedestrian traffic after a suicide-bomber struck last year.

One aim of my visit last fall focused on understanding the effectiveness of the new Afghan parliament. With the monarchy now consigned to Afghanistan's history, and the new presidency under Hamid Karzai considered by many an ineffective tool of the West, hopes for Afghan stability and democracy revolve around this new institution. In the last election, a surprising number of women won seats and nearly every ethnic group enjoys some representation. After a few days in Kabul, one MP invited me to his family home, some four hours into the mountains east of Kabul. It is a part of Afghanistan that rarely sees Westerners, let alone Americans. With an armed escort provided by the parliament, however, he felt reasonably assured of my safety. And thus began my journey into the real Afghanistan.

After driving on the highway for about two hours, we left the road and headed straight into the mountains. Crossing rivers, descending into valleys,

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*“Let us sit upon the ground  
and tell sad stories of the  
death of kings.”*

RICHARD II

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streets as mopeds, cars, and mule-drawn wagons choke the traffic into a lawless maze.

The U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Ronald Neumann, had agreed to meet me at the embassy. The ambassador was of particular interest not just because this was his second year as ambassador, but because his father, Robert, had been

a perspective of the past that gave him a kind of realpolitik of South Asia. When I asked the ambassador about now and then, he smiled broadly and said, “Then, I drove around in a station wagon; now, if I go to get lunch, a fifteen-car security detail accompanies me.” Many of the 500 employees never leave the grounds during their



## Death of a King

Continued from previous page

and then emerging from those valleys on an absence of anything resembling a road, our SUV gave us a view of time and civilization receding. The little mud homes ensconced at the base of steep valleys were surrounded by small sections of green where the barren slopes ended dramatically with terraced fields of produce. Along the road, women labored to carry water from the river while covering their faces and simultaneously rotating their bodies in synchronization with our slowly progressing SUV to keep their backs facing us.

At last we arrived at the approach to the family compound—a citadel atop a mountain overlooking the village of Uzbeen in the province of Nangrahar. Children ceased their playing and stared

at the SUV as it wound its way up the promontory, clearly to them an infrequent sight. On top, huge mud and stone walls concealed the interior living quarters. Imposing wooden doors like something from the Middle Ages opened into a courtyard where the extended family greeted us—old men and many children but no women in sight. The tribal elder greeted us with cane in hand and led us through a courtyard along a path lined with artillery shell casings, a landscape enhancement courtesy of the Russian invasion in 1979. Inside the house, we sat and talked for hours about Afghan history, its last monarch, and the tribal elder's five years in Guantanamo Bay. The children served as Jasmine tea, and then dinner, all on the floor. "We thought the British were vicious," said the 89 year-old elder. "Then the Russians came and they were vicious." After



Tribal Elder, Hajid Nusrat, (R) with Jonathan Billheimer (L)



Member of Afghan Parliament, Abdul Wahid (L) with Jonathan Billheimer

a pause he adds, "then the Americans show up, handcuff and leg-chain me. How was I a threat to them?" By this time, darkness enveloped the family's redoubt on the mountain. A small generator had been turned on to power a single florescent light above our discussion. The urbane former king and his distant reign seemed light-years away. Something the elder said

earlier echoed in my thoughts—"In forty years, what did Zaher Shah ever do for me?" When I heard about the king's death in July, it occurred to me that the evening on the mountain presaged it in many ways. A line from *Richard II* came to mind:

*Let us sit upon the ground and tell sad stories of the death of kings."*

## FACULTY NOTES

### ED BEHREND-MARTÍNEZ

is teaching several courses on the history of the marriage, sex, sexuality, and gender, including a new World Civilization class that explores these themes from the Greeks to today. His book on trials for marital annulment in Spain, *Unfit for Marriage: Impotent Spouses on Trial in the Basque Region of Spain, 1650-1750* appeared in March 2007. Ed is hard at work on his second book—that also explores the dark side of matrimony—violence between husbands and wives in Spain 1500-1800. He will present some of his preliminary findings at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Minneapolis in October 2007, and at the Society for Spanish and Por-

tuguese Historical Studies in Fort Worth Texas in April 2008.

### JAMES R. GOFF, JR.

published "Southern Gospel's Preacher Boys: Remembering the Couriers" in *Assemblies of God Heritage* 27 (2007):4-13 and also "Charles Fox Parham (1873-1929) in Michael J. McClymond, ed. *Encyclopedia of Religious Revivals in America* (Westport, CT and London: Greenwood Press, 2007), 316-19. He continued his roles as Historical Consultant for the Southern Gospel Music Association in Sevierville, Tennessee, and as president of the Board of Trustees of the Klaudt Indian Memorial Foundation. In addition to two continuing music schol-

arships to Lee University, the Klaudt Foundation inaugurated and awarded a new scholarship for a ministerial student attending New Orleans Theological Seminary.

Jim also traveled recently to Louisville, Kentucky, the home of the National Quartet Convention to be interviewed by the BBC for an upcoming documentary on the history of southern gospel music. Closer to home, he continues to serve as the department's Graduate Director and as co-host of "On the Right Side," a local talk show aired on Wednesday mornings on local stations WATA and WXIT.

### MICHAEL L. KRENN

presented a paper entitled, "Thar's Propaganda in Them Thar Hills: Appalachian Culture and the Changing Nature of U.S. Public Diplomacy, 1964-1972," at the conference "The United States and Public Diplomacy: Toward an International History," held at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. He also participated in a roundtable on "Ghana's Independence: The USA and the Shifting Contours of Black Freedom," at the 2007 Conference of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAHR). In addition, he was selected as one of the judges for this year's Ragan Old North State Award, given to

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# FACULTY NOTES

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the best work of nonfiction by a North Carolina author. He was also named the co-chair of the Minority Access Committee and selected as a member of the Bernath Article Prize Committee for SHAFR. And MOST important—he got married in June!

## DOROTHEA MARTIN

completed her work as part of the AP World History Development committee but still joined committee members to present a panel at the National Council for Social Studies in Washington, DC on Habits of Mind – constructing and de-constructing arguments. With other Department colleagues, she hosted the Southeast World History Association's annual meeting featuring keynote speaker Dr. Peter Stearns. The summer also included reading for the AP World History exam in Ft. Collins, CO and a presentation at the World History Association annual meeting in Milwaukee, WI on "Migration in World History – How it can Work for a Thematically Focused One Semester Course." A delightful trip to archives looking for materials on Chinese immigrants in Mexico also provided time to visit the archeological ruins of pre-Aztec civilizations in the state of Veracruz. In the Fall of 2007 she has her first ever Off Campus Scholarly Assignment to complete the translation work on Qiu Jin's poems and write papers for conferences in Savannah, Georgia; Lima, Peru; and Hilton Head, South Carolina. She has also agreed to be guest editor for an issue of the *World History Bulletin* that focuses on Asia. All this seems enough to keep her out of trouble for the next academic year!

## SHEILA PHIPPS

has been actively researching her newest project, "*Appreciate All the Little Curses*": A *Cross-Gender Labor Study of the Civil War*. Having been awarded an Andrew Mellon Fellowship with the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, she spent three weeks in Richmond making use of their vast Civil War sources. In addition, she was awarded an ASU Fellowship and made use of part of that by spending two weeks at the U. S. Army Heritage Museum in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and two weeks at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio, both archives having abundant Civil War collections. In addition, Phipps is co-editing--with Jonathan Wells of UNC Charlotte--*Entering the Fray: Gender, Culture, and Politics in the New South, the seventh volume of a collection of papers given at the Southern Association for Women's Historians, to be published by University of Missouri Press.*

## TIM SILVER

essay, "Learning to Live With Nature: Colonial Historians and the Southern Environment," appeared in the August 2007 issue of *The Journal of Southern History*. This special issue commemorates the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of English settlement at Jamestown. Tim continued to give talks about his Mount Mitchell book and appeared at the Carolina Mountains Literary Festival in September, 2007. A host of book reviews, a senior seminar on America's national parks, and ongoing research on the environmental history of the Civil War made for a busy year at ASU. Off campus, Tim again took up golf,

a sport he abandoned in his mid-20s. Rumor has it that he now remembers why he quit the first time. As the father of a nine-year-old, Tim has also memorized all the lyrics to *High School Musical* and *High School Musical 2*, though mastering the dance steps may take a while longer. Family vacations, wife Cathia's work with Parkway School, and trips to Julianna's soccer games and clogging competitions kept the Silvers on the road (yet) again.

## NEVA JEAN SPECHT

has two new administrative positions: Assistant Chair of the History Department and University Liaison to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Needless to say, she's kept busy. In her role as University Liaison, she wrote and received an NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture grant (see story on p.11) and a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council for the Flat Top Symposium held this past September. She also served as the faculty supervisor for the first Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation internship. Amy Renfranz, a senior Chancellor's scholar, worked on a Historic Resource Study on Camp Catawba. The project received good press, including a front-page story in the *Winston-Salem Journal*. Neva also did television interviews for the PBS show *Simple Living* (to air in April 2008) and *Appalachian Perspectives*. Over the summer, she and Amy Hudnall completed an *Instructor's Manual* for WWNorton's World Civilization textbook, *World Together, Worlds Apart*, which will be published in January 2008. The philosophy of the *IM* focuses on "whole-body" learning. Specht also organized a

panel called Transparent Interpretation and gave a presentation on the Real Appalachia at the National Council on Public History in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In June, she attended a week-long conference in Jackson, Mississippi, on Community-Based Research. This fall she is teaching an Honors course on the History of the Blue Ridge Parkway. In her "spare-time" she coached her son Nelson's U-6 soccer team and gardened.

## MICHAEL WADE

was elected Vice President of the Louisiana Historical Association at the March Annual Meeting. At that meeting, he presented "Lost, Stolen and Strayed: Marcus Christian's Civil Rights Campaign." His article, "Johnny Rebel and the Cajun Roots of Right Wing Rock," appeared in *Popular Music and Society's* special issue on Hate Music (London: Routledge, October 2007). A book chapter, "Four Who Would: Constantine v. Southwestern Louisiana Institute (1954) and the Desegregation of Louisiana's State Colleges," is in Peter Wallenstein, ed., *Black Southerners, College Campuses and the Civil Rights Struggle* (University Press of Florida). Another article, "Villainy, Virtue and Louisiana Political Culture: Paul Hebert and the Augean Stables at LSU, 1939-1941," will appear in the Winter 2008 issue of *Louisiana History*.

## PROFESSOR THOMAS MARVIN WILLIAMSEN

has learned to appreciate the thoughtful and well-intentioned consideration of those UNC corporate leaders who engineered

*Continued on next page*



Continued from previous page

the Phased Retirement Program. Luckily, he can no longer remember if the intent of the program was to encourage the aged, infirm, and ir-resolute to exit the FACULTY in order to make room for younger, more sanguine, less jaded, not as used up intellectual laborers. He is often joyful at the prospect of a last chance to teach modern Chinese history and to write an institutional history of international programs at Appalachian from 1976 to 2007. [Editor's Note: one of the real benefits to our history faculty, both personally and professionally, of phased retirement has been the return of Marv to the History Department after an extended absence in International (and other) Programs.]

## JIM WINDERS

has announced his retirement from the faculty, effective July 1, 2008. He wishes to thank the many students he has been privileged to work with during his career at Appalachian. In December 2006 his book *Paris African: Rhythms of the African Diaspora* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan) was published. His review of Dick Howard, *The Specter of Democracy* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2002) was published in *Contemporary French Civilization* XXXI: 2 (Summer/Fall 2007), and his review of Alison Rice, *Time Signatures: Contextualizing Contemporary Francophone Writing from the Maghreb* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2006) was published on *H-France* 7:86 (July 2007). For 2007-2008, Winders accepted the appointment as Convenor of the Triangle French Cultural Studies Seminar, which meets monthly during the academic year at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

## ANTONIO T. BLY

recently hailed from the northern neck of Virginia, was born and raised in Tidewater Virginia. He attended Norfolk State University where he met his wife of five years, Donnamaria Bly, who is also a member of the adjunct faculty in ASU's History Department. He completed his Ph.D. (2006) in American Studies from the College of William and Mary. His dissertation, "Breaking with Tradition," is a revisionist study of slave education in eighteenth-century Virginia. In addition to history, Antonio loves cooking and entertaining and fancies himself something of a gourmet. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing and may take up hunting now that he lives in the mountains. Although not a sports buff himself, he does support his wife's rabid fandom of the Washington Redskins. They have built a new house

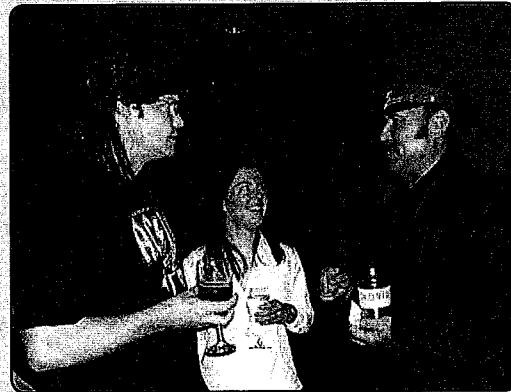


Antonio & Donna Bly

in Ashe County, where they reside with Colin, their 14 year old, and two cats, Hampton Lafayette and Gizmo.

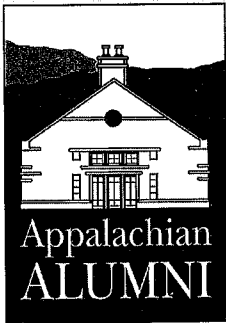
## BRUCE STEWART

comes to the history department from the University of Georgia, where he completed his Ph. D. in May 2007. His dissertation, "Distillers and Prohibitionists: Social Conflict and the Rise of Anti-Alcohol Reform in Appalachian North Carolina, 1790-1908," has been nominated for the 2007 Council of Graduate Schools/University Microfilms International Distinguished Dissertation Award. While revising his dissertation for publication, Stewart is working on an edited book, *King of the Moonshiners: Lewis R. Redmond and the Creation of Violent Appalachia*, which will be published by the University of Tennessee Press in 2008. He has also recently published two articles on various aspects of mountain culture during the antebellum era. "This Country Improves in Cultivation, Wickedness, Mills, and Still": Distilling and Drinking in Antebellum Western North Carolina," appeared in the *North Carolina Historical*



Bruce Stewart (L) and Anatoly Isaenko (R)

*Review* (October 2006). "Select Men of Sober and Industrious Habits: Temperance Reform and Social Conflict in Antebellum Appalachia," was featured in the *Journal of Southern History* (May 2007). Stewart's next project will focus on the Appalachian Young Patriots. Founded by a group of working class mountain whites who had migrated to Chicago's Uptown after World War II, this civil rights organization allied itself with the Black Panther Party in the late 1960s.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Public History Graduate Students

By Charles A. Watkins, Director,  
ASU Public History Program

Alice Thompson and Ryan Finn had their summer internship at

the History Press in Charleston, SC. Undergraduate Sam Duncan interned at the National Museum of American History. Graduate student Jason Gardner completed

an internship with the curator's office at the White House. Finally, Lauren Byrd spent her summer internship at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

From a former colleague. In the late 1990s, George came to us on very short notice to cover a sudden resignation. A University of Illinois Ph. D., he remained for a year and a half, impressing his colleagues with his gregarious good humor and his knowledge of Old Man River. A good Catholic boy of Polish heritage, immediately upon his arrival in Boone, George joined

the First Baptist Church next door to old Whitener Hall. Asked why, he explained that his membership provided him with guaranteed parking and introductions to eligible young ladies.]

**George Pabis** My wife Shelli and I are enjoying our 14 month old son, Aidan. He is a healthy and handsome boy. We are so blessed. Greenwood Press has published my book, *Daily Life*

*Along the Mississippi*. I am sure ASU's library needs a copy! Also, I just signed a book contract with the University Press of Florida to write a multidisciplinary study entitled "The Mississippi River: An Ecological History." The book will focus on the river and its ecosystems as they evolved over time, and the impact of human activities on the abundant life in and along the river. I have been promoted to Associate Professor of History at Georgia



**George, Shelli and Aidan Pabis**  
Perimeter College. I am still on the job market seeking a position at a university---I am hopeful.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The I. G. Greer Distinguished Professorship in History

The I. G. Greer Professorship Fund was created by the Appalachian Class of 1916 in 1971 to honor one of the university's beloved early professors. Isaac Garfield Greer taught history at Appalachian from 1910 to 1932 and was a nationally-recognized authority on mountain folk music; Appalachian's music building was named for him in 1966. The terms of the Professorship stipulate that the History Department's full professors nominate three of their colleagues whose contributions in the areas of teaching, scholarship and service warrant further consideration by a committee consisting of the Department Chair, two full professors, a distinguished alumnus, and the Dean of the College of Arts &

Sciences. The recipient must be a full professor who has achieved distinction in all three of the above areas of university work.

The 2007-2009 recipient of the I. G. Greer Distinguished Professorship is Dr. James R. Goff. Jim teaches courses on the New South, Country Music, and American Religion. A national figure in the field of religious history, he is the author of *Fields White Unto Harvest* (about the formation of American Pentecostalism) and *Close Harmony: A History of Southern Gospel*. He was the historical consultant for the Southern Gospel Music Museum when it was established at Dollywood. He is currently the director of the History Department's Graduate Program. His current



**Michael Krenn (L) and Jim Goff**

scholarship concerns the religious influences on Elvis Presley; Jim's article, *Conflicted By the Spirit:*

*the Religious Life of Elvis Presley* will appear in *Assemblies of God Heritage* in Spring 2008.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## History Department will host a NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop on the Blue Ridge Parkway for K-12 Teachers

By *Neva J. Specht*

The Department of History will offer two, one-week teacher workshops for eighty K-12 teachers during July 2008 focusing on the National Park Service's historic Blue Ridge Parkway located just five miles from the University. The Parkway's history reflects some of the most salient themes in United States history. The workshops will be offered July 5-12 or July 14-19.

Participants in the "Not Just a Scenic Road: The Blue Ridge Parkway and Its History" will explore the complex history of the Parkway including its economic, political, cultural, and social facets. They will also gain experience using a number of primary sources. Employing an interdisciplinary approach to the Parkway's history, workshop members will learn to analyze photographs, government documents, and primary documents such as correspondence. They will practice oral history and material culture analysis. Finally, they will explore how to use music and poetry in the classroom as it relates to the history of the Parkway and the Appalachian region.

Because the 469-mile length of

the Parkway prevents a thorough examination of the whole site, the workshop will use selected locations to examine issues that have been part of the whole Parkway's history. The sites will serve as case studies for some of the larger historic issues of the scenic road and are within easy driving distance from Appalachian State University (ASU). Grandfather Mountain and the Linville Viaduct, located about 30 miles from ASU, will be used to discuss one of the major debates over the Parkway routing. The owner of Grandfather Mountain publicly fought the federal and North Carolina governments over where the Parkway would cross his mountain for over 25 years. In the end, the Linville Viaduct was constructed to minimize environmental damage to the Mountain.

The Moses Cone Memorial Park on the outskirts of Blowing Rock will be another Parkway destination for participants. Originally built by Moses and Bertha Cone at the turn of the twentieth century, this 3,500-acre estate was left to the Park Service in 1955. The Cones made their money in textile manufacturing, particularly in denim. Based in Greensboro, the Cones chose to build a summer home in the Mountains outside of the tourist

town of Blowing Rock. Their summer home, known as Flat Top Manor, was part of a trend for wealthy industrialists and their families to build "country homes."

Workshop members will also visit Julian Price Memorial Park, adjacent to the Cone Estate. Julian Price, president of Jefferson Pilot Standard Life Insurance Company, who had originally purchased the land as a planned recreation destination of his employees. Before his plans could be realized, he died and the land was donated to the NPS and became one of the main recreation areas along the Parkway. The area contains several hiking trails, the largest campground on the Parkway, and a lake where visitors can rent canoes or fish. The park contains an exciting assortment of plants and animals. The Park is a prime destination for Parkway visitors and makes a perfect place to discuss the history of recreation on the Parkway.

Our final destination will be Doughton Park, named for Congressman Robert L. Doughton, who was a strong supporter of the Parkway. This area contains the only gas station on the Parkway, as well as a lodge and restaurant. During our visit to Doughton Park we will discuss the history of "access"

to the Parkway. Our visit to Doughton will also highlight issues of race in the Parkway's history. Remnants of racial segregation are still visible here, with picnic sites labeled "colored only" still visible in the brush. Not far from Doughton Park is Brinegar Cabin. The early 1900s cabin is the former home of local farmer Martin Brinegar. Dr. Lynne Getz, from the History Department, will discuss with the group the various ways the Park Service has interpreted the early history of Appalachia along the Parkway. The Cabin is often the setting for Living History Demonstrations, some of which are not necessarily authentic to the Appalachia region. Getz will discuss the complexity of interpretation along the Parkway using Brinegar cabin as a case study.

More information about the workshops and application materials is available by contacting:

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<http://www.history.appstate.edu/NEH/NEH.html>

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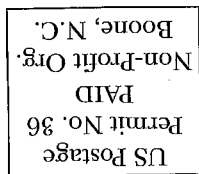
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II. Other news for the Newsletter:

Appalachian State University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students or employees on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disabling condition or sexual orientation. Moreover, Appalachian is open to people of all races and actively seeks to promote racial integration by recruiting and enrolling a larger number of African-American students.

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