

History News



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Appalachian State University's history programs provide a combination of liberal education and practical training that serves the needs of students, employers, and state residents in many ways. History graduates become lawyers and managers, civil servants and clergy, professors and educational administrators. A leading educator of high school history teachers in the state of North Carolina, the Department of History also offers an innovative off-campus master's degree program designed to enhance the skills and opportunities of current teachers. The department's public history programs qualify graduates to work in museums, historic sites, national parks and other public venues. International travel opportunities led by history faculty expand the horizons of students. All of these programs and opportunities are generated by expert faculty members who have attained significant national and international reputations for scholarship.

ALIMA BUCCIANTINI: The path(s) less taken

The Department of History welcomed Dr. Alima Bucciantini as a visiting faculty member this year. She is teaching undergraduate and graduate public history courses, as well as aiding the College of Arts and Sciences' public outreach efforts.

Born and raised in Maine, Alima attended Mt. Holyoke College where she graduated with a degree in critical social thought, focusing on the idea of national identity. An internship at the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and a walking tour through the National Museum of Scotland encouraged her observation that museums are places where national identity is "performed." This insight undergirded her and their dilemmas in the National Museum of Scotland, which dealt with the ways artifacts in museums can be used to craft ever changing narratives of identity. After completing her Ph.D. at University of Edinburgh in 2009, she stayed on in Scotland, working at the National Museum and the University, helping with exhibitions on topics ranging from Mary Queen of Scots to medical education in Edinburgh.

Although at this point she did not think of herself as a "public historian," she discovered that the work she had done with museums was, in fact, a match for this thriving field in the United States. In August 2011, she found herself at Appalachian State University, working as a public historian. Here, she has relished students' enthusiasm for public history. Even when they struggle with the material, Appalachian students remain excited and engaged. They even visit her during office hours – a real change from students in the UK!

Alima hopes that her own educational odyssey will enable her to open students to the idea that there is a "whole other world: beyond the limits of Boone and western North Carolina." She also wants to let history students know that there are career opportunities in North Carolina and elsewhere – in a wider variety of fields beyond the traditional pathways of college and high school teaching. That's hardly surprising advice from Dr. Bucciantini, whose path to Appalachian was anything but traditional!

From the Chair

These are challenging times. As the Department of History faculty introduces the past to new generations of undergraduate and graduate students, the present and future offer both opportunities and threats. Our students and their families struggle with financial problems and a sluggish job market. With state and university budget cuts, our faculty members are repeatedly asked to do more with less. The department operating fund took a significant hit this year, which affects capacity to cover both extras and necessities, such as faculty travel. We struggle to find funding for important needs such as History Matters, our online undergraduate journal, student travel, and hospitality for student and faculty events. Thus, I write to ask you to consider making a contribution to the Department of History this year. Even a small amount will go a very long way.

Lucinda M. McCray
Professor and Chair for the
Department of History

Projects in Need

History Matters

History Matters is an online undergraduate history journal completely staffed by Appalachian history majors. Attracting submissions from universities all over the United States, as well as other places in the English-speaking world (e.g. Canada, the U.K., and Australia), History Matters provides a great professional opportunity for our students and raises awareness of Appalachian as a place where undergraduates receive a serious academic foundation in history. History Matters lacks sustainable funding to pay student stipends and other regular costs.

The H. Lawrence Bond Memorial Scholarship

Dr. H. Lawrence Bond, "Larry" to his friends and colleagues, was a member of the history faculty from 1973 to 2008. During his tenure at Appalachian, Larry touched the lives of colleagues and students through his passion for teaching, learning and the study of ancient languages – particularly Latin and Greek. We now seek a way of perpetuating Larry's legacy through a scholarship that will provide selected students with support for advanced language study in the United States or abroad. To make this goal a reality, we need to raise at least \$25,000.

Postdoctoral Fellowship in British History

Appalachian has long maintained a special strength in British history. Dr. Michael Turner, an internationally known scholar in this area, filled the Roy Carroll Distinguished Professorship three years ago. Bill Rhinehart, a devoted Appalachian donor, has generously supported development of a collection of rare books and a beautiful seminar room in Belk Library and Information Commons. To further work in British history at Appalachian, in 2010-11, the first Postdoctoral Fellow in British History, Dr. Marjon Ames, pursued advanced research with the Rhinehart Collection and taught courses in the Department of History. Due to ongoing budget challenges, it has not been possible to continue the Fellowship this year. Your generosity will help to sustain the Fellowship in years to come.

Donate at www.givenow.appstate.edu/cas and choose to designate your gift to history.

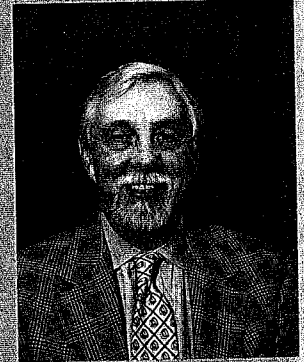
CHARLES ALAN WATKINS: An Appreciation

Dr. Charles "Chuck" Watkins was the founding director of the university's Appalachian Cultural Museum, and he will be remembered for that significant contribution to the Appalachian region. In addition, Chuck was a major contributor to Appalachian's public history program, which achieved formal status in 1989, the same year that the museum opened. This tribute is occasioned by Chuck's departure from Appalachian in Spring 2011.

With a B.A. in American History from Mars Hill College (1973), Chuck went on to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware's prestigious programs in museum studies with a dissertation titled, "The Blurred Image: Documentary Photography and the Depression South." In 1984, he left his position as executive director of the Erie Historical Museum (Pa.) to come to Appalachian to develop a university museum at off-campus University Hall.

The Appalachian Cultural Museum opened in 1989, featuring a permanent exhibit, "Time and Change: Centuries of Living in the Blue Ridge Mountains," and adding temporary exhibits, gardens and a gift shop over the years. Chuck inaugurated a successful seasonal program, "An Appalachian Christmas," and attracted many grants to support the museum. The museum was listed in regional, national and international guidebooks, and praised in newspapers and magazines. Nonetheless, citing space needs, Appalachian closed the museum in April 2006.

While acknowledging his contributions to the museum, history faculty and students remember Chuck most gratefully for his contributions to the public history program. For 26 years as adjunct associate professor of history, Chuck taught Management of Museums and Interpretation in Museums to advanced undergraduates and graduate students. In 2006, he also began teaching Architectural History for Public Historians and Historic Preservation. Many of Chuck's students went on to internships at important museums, including the National Air and Space Museum, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, and the National Museum of the American Indian, the American Museum of Natural History (NYC), and the White House Curator's Office. Some entered top museum studies programs, including those at University of Delaware and George Washington University. In addition, Chuck directed numerous master's theses. It is beyond dispute that he made enormous and unique contributions to the development and success of the public history program. Chuck, we miss you and wish you the best in your new teaching position at Salve Regina University in Rhode Island.



Chuck Watkins

Faculty Notes

Michael C. Behrnt continues work to locate French philosopher Michel Foucault within the French social, economic, and cultural transitions of the 1970s. His "Accidents Happen: Francois Ewald, the Anti-revolutionary Foucault, and the Intellectual Politics of the French Welfare State" appeared in the November 2010 issue of *The Journal of Modern History*. That article won the Chester Penn Higby Prize, awarded for the best article appearing in the journal over a two-year period (2009-2010). In the past year, he presented his work at several prestigious research institutions. He writes regularly about U.S. politics for a number of French publications. And, in preparation for next year's French presidential election, he launched a blog on French politics (written in English), titled "Sister Republic" (a link to which can be found on his department website).

Judkin Browning's book *Shifting Loyalties: the Union Occupation of Eastern North Carolina* (UNC Press, 2011) came out in March 2011. He is currently at work on three projects: a book on the Seven Days' battles, a study of desertion in North Carolina, and research on the long-term effects of battle on families and communities. He gave several invited lectures and papers at conferences during the past year, but also spent much of the year rehabbing and recovering from a ruptured Achilles tendon incurred while pretending he's still a teenage athlete. He would encourage others to avoid such foolishness.

James R. Goff, Jr. travelled to Tupelo and Oxford, Miss., last March to continue work on a religious biography of Elvis Presley. In October Jim emceed and lectured at a public event, "Joyous Sounds: A Demonstration of America's Gospel Music Tradition," held at the Oconee County Public Library in Walhalla, S.C. Jim's participation in the event resulted, in part, from a recommendation from a former graduate student, **Leslie White**, who is curator of the Oconee Heritage Center. On a personal note, Jim and Connie have recently welcomed a second granddaughter to the family.

René Harder Horst co-edited (with Nicola Foote) a collection titled *Military Struggle and Identity Formation in Latin America: Race, Nation, and Community during the Liberal and Period* (University Press of Florida, 2011). The Centro de Estudios Antropológicos, at the Universidad Católica, Asunción, Paraguay, published his monograph, *El Régimen Stronista y la Resistencia Indígena*, translated by Pedro Álvarez, in August 2011. His chapter, "Indigenous Integration and Legal Changes in Paraguay," appeared in a textbook document reader, *Gender and Race, Empire and Nation: A Documentary History on the Making of Latin America*, edited by Erin O' Connor and Leo Garofalo (Prentice Hall, 2009). His invited article, "The Peaceful Revolution: Professional Indians, Intellectuals and the Construction of Popular Dissent in Paraguay, 1970-1989," appeared in a special issue of *LACES, Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*. Finally, he presented a paper at the 2011 American Historical Association and Conference on Latin American History meetings.

The second edition of **Anatoly Isaenko's** book *Polygon of Satan: Ethnic Traumas and Conflicts in the Caucasus*, was published by Kendall/Hunt in 2011. Boekhandel Van Der Velde in the Netherlands published a revised version of the same book. His article, co-authored with Scott Jessee, "The Alan Expedition to Byzantium, 1301-1306" was published in *Darial*, No. 4 (2010), which also published Isaenko's "The Pearl of Ethnic Poetry: An Ossetia Legend about

the Duel of Iry Dada and Mslislan in the Context of the History of Alans and Alano Russian Relations" (No. 2, 2011). Isaenko translated from Russian to English the eminent Caucasian historian Mark M. Blier's *The Ossetian Embassy to St. Petersburg, 1749-1752: Joining of Ossetia to Russia* (Vladikavkaz, Russia: V. Gassiev Publishers, 2012; Ventana Graf, 2011). He serves as co-editor of the Foreign Board of the newly established journal, *Nations* (Vladikavkaz, Russia) and was invited to join the international Team of Experts of the Institute for Research of Genocide Canada.

Michael L. Krenn received a University Research Council grant to work on his new book project, "Foreshadowing Deeper Shadows to Come: Race, Science, and the Coming of the Civil War." His chapter, "Token Diplomacy: the United States, Race, and the Cold War," will appear in Philip Muehlenbeck, ed., *Race, Ethnicity, and the Cold War. A Global Perspective* will be published by Vanderbilt University in early 2012. In March 2011, Michael hosted a conference for 50 K-12 teachers, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, titled "What is American About American Art?" And to fill in those empty hours of free time, he took on the position of faculty coordinator for First Year Seminar.

Myra Pennell worked with new colleagues **Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz** and **Donna Bly** (history education coordinator) to redesign the history education program, now the second largest education program at Appalachian, behind only elementary education. Ours is one of the largest programs in North Carolina for training high school social studies teachers. Over 600 students have graduated from our program since Myra came to Appalachian 15 years ago.

Neva J. Specht is in her third year as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and sixth year as the university's liaison to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Recently, she gave talks for the International OZ Fan Association annual meeting (on Beech Mountain's Land of Oz), the North Carolina Humanities Council, where she serves as a trustee, and the Blue Ridge Parkway Association. She worked with history graduate students **Carrie Streeter** and **Joe Otto** to prepare a historic furnishings plan for the Cone Estate in Blowing Rock for the National Park Service. Neva also designed, curated, and installed two exhibits at the new Blowing Rock Art and History Museum (BRAHM) on the history of the Blowing Rock and on Blowing Rock's grand resort hotels (Green Park Hotel and Mayview Manor). The second edition of the Instructor's Manual she co-authored with **Amy Hudnall** for the W.W. Norton text *World Together, Worlds Apart* has recently been published. Finally, her article, "Being a peaceable man, I have suffered much persecution." The American Revolution and Its Effects on Quaker Religious Identity appeared in *Quaker History* in 2010.

Michael Wade taught a graduate seminar on new doomsday prophets (on the history of science-based, apocalyptic environmental writing) for the second time and is designing an undergraduate version of the course called 21st Century Limited. He contributed a chapter, "Lost, Stolen and Strayed: Marcus Christian's Crusade Against Segregationist History," to Michael Martin, ed., *Louisiana Beyond Black and White: New Interpretations of Twentieth-Century Race and Race Relations* (University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press, 2011). He is contributing "Women of Enterprise" to Shanno Frystak and Mary Farmer-Kaiser, eds, *Louisiana Women: Their Lives and Times* (University of Georgia Press). Mike remains active in the Louisiana Historical Association, making annual presentations and serving on the organization's Board of Directors.

In Memorium

It is with great regret that the Department of History notes the passing of two long-time and valued retired colleagues.

Eugene Drozdowski died on Dec 29, 2011, in Winston-Salem. A Duke Ph.D. he wrote a two-volume dissertation on Abraham Lincoln, which is perhaps still the longest dissertation ever completed there. Several colleagues offered nice memories of Gene, who marched to the beat of his own drummer. Bettie Bond met a former student who said he became a history major because "Droz" was the best lecturer he had ever heard. Dorothea Martin only met Gene once, at her job interview. He greeted her with a booming, "Welcome to Oz, Dorothy!" Jim Winders remembers him as a good colleague who once responded to a criticism of a lengthy explanation he offered at a faculty meeting by raising his index finger heavenward, wiggling his luxuriant eyebrows and intoning that "It is not an easy thing to have an ideal." Mike Wade remembers him as senior faculty member and neighbor who was very kind to a new colleague on a memorable trip to the Duquesne History Forum in Pittsburgh. Echoing Tim Silver, Mike thinks that all who were there recall Gene's legendary retirement party in 1986. Gene was a World War II veteran (Purple Heart) who served in the Pacific from 1943 to 1946. He was 87.

Winston Lee Kinsey passed away Jan. 9, 2012, at his Deep Gap home. An African historian, he was a Texas Tech Ph.D. who taught at Appalachian for 35 years following his 1969 graduation. A devoted teacher, he was notable for the rigor of his courses and his genuine concern for students. Winston was a fine colleague. He was particularly appreciated by the five department chairs who worked with him, because he was that rare type always willing to do vital but underappreciated department work. Winston was a former assistant dean, a Baptist deacon and a Sunday School teacher. He was a farmer who cared for the land and animals. Following his retirement he served as a Watauga County Commissioner for six years, where he was instrumental in the building of the county's much-needed new high school. The Celebration of Life Service conducted for him was notable for the many tributes which mentioned his many accomplishments, but focused on what a good, kind and loving person he was. It was, shall we say, instructive about what is really important in life. Will Rogers once said that he never met a man he didn't like. No one knows anyone who didn't like Winston Kinsey.

Announcements

New cohort of the M.A. in history, secondary education to begin

The Department of History has been offering its M.A. in history, secondary education in off-campus locations that are convenient for our students. The program's director, Dr. Myra Pennell, is now recruiting the program's fifth cohort, which will run in Hickory from Fall 2012 through Summer 2014. The application deadline is April 15, 2012. Please contact Dr. Pennell (pennellm@appstate.edu) or Lisa Freeman (freemanlh@appstate.edu) in the Office of Distance Education for more information.

Students in the M.A. in history, secondary education Hickory cohort (from left: Caitlin Troutman, Anna Brawley and Brenda Wellman)



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