

History News

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, museum professionals and archivists, educational administrators and teachers. A significant number of public school history teachers in the state of North Carolina were educated at Appalachian. The Department of History offers an innovative off-campus master's degree program that helps to improve the quality of education in state high schools at the same time as it offers professional development to classroom teachers. Foreign travel opportunities led by faculty expand the horizons of students. All of these programs and opportunities are generated by the Department of History faculty, who have attracted major grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Newsletter editors:
Michael Wade,
Michael Krenn, and
Lon Strauss



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Roy Carroll and the Evolution of the Appalachian History Department, 1967-2015

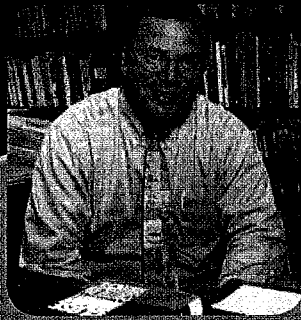
On July 1, 2014, Professor James R. "Jim" Goff, Jr. became the eighth Chair of the History Department in its 49-year history. Jim has been at Appalachian since 1986. He earned a B. A. at Wake Forest, a Master of Divinity degree at Duke and a Ph. D. in History at the University of Arkansas, where his mentor was the noted American religious historian David Edwin Harrell. Jim's dissertation was published in 1988 as *Fields White Unto Harvest: Charles F. Parham and the Missionary Origins of Pentecostalism*. Subsequently, he was historical consultant to the group (including Dolly Parton) planning a southern gospel music museum. The Southern Gospel Museum and Hall of Fame opened at Dollywood in 1999, and its annual induction ceremony has become a major Dollywood event. In 2002, Jim published *Close Harmony: A History of Southern Gospel*.

Goff replaced Dr. Lucinda McCray, who completed her five-year term as chair. A historian of medicine and public health, she came to Appalachian from Illinois State University, where she was Director of the College of Arts and Sciences Research Office and a faculty member in the Department of History. She is the author of

Sufferers and Healers: The Experience of Illness in Seventeenth-Century England (1987), *For Their Own Good: Transforming English Working-Class Health Culture, 1880-1970* (2008), and *Health Culture in the Heartland, 1880-1980: An Oral History* (2009). The beginning of McCray's term coincided with the deepening of the recession which had begun in 2008, and a consequent quickening of legislative reductions in state support for higher education. It is not too much to say that her tenure has been as challenging as that of any previous chair.

This changing of the guard, so to speak, has occurred seven times previously. This most recent transition made it seem only natural to feature an article on the history of the History Department, with a focus on the persons who have, for the most part figuratively speaking, "led" it. Some wit once observed that leading faculty was like trying to herd cats. Closer to home, the person who was perhaps this Department's finest chair noted that the achievements of departments were inherently collaborative, the cumulative work of many individuals.

Learn more on page 3.



From the Chair

As I write this, the snow is still settled on parts of Appalachian's quadrangle outside my office window. The tradition of February snow reminds many of us of campus scenes past, of opportunities for learning mixed with memories of the wonder and unpredictability of nature. Those of you with training in history know the importance of this knowledge, of these memories, of this past. With a small gift designated to history, you can help keep these traditions and opportunities alive for new generations of Mountaineers. When you give, consider one of the several foundation accounts tied to History—perhaps the general Department of History fund, the History Matters Scholarship supporting our online undergraduate research journal, or the J. G. Greer Memorial Distinguished Professorship in History Endowment. These are just three of a number of specific accounts where your gifts to Appalachian would help enrich the academic life of the History Department. Together we can keep the past alive and well.

Most Sincerely,

James R. Goff, Jr.
Professor and Chair

Department of History
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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This year, please consider making a contribution to the Department of History. Even a small amount will go a very long way. Please designate your preference for how your donation should be used. Thanks so much!

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It is in that spirit that this brief sketch of the History Department, through the lens of its chairs, is offered. The History Department was created in 1967. Its first chair was Max Dixon (1967-1969), who managed the transition from the Department of Social Sciences into an independent department near the end of a five-year period during which the size of the department had doubled as Appalachian's enrollment nearly quadrupled. By May 1969, the twenty-four member history department was ASU's second largest department, but only ten faculty held Ph. D.s (only eight of them in history). Most faculty were Americanists. Among the Europeanists, there were no specialists in ancient, medieval or early modern Europe. No one specialized in the history of Africa, Asia or Latin America at a point when secondary education was beginning to take curricular note of these regions.

Dr. Dixon was succeeded by Arkansas native and British historian Roy Carroll (1969-1978) who came to Appalachian from Georgia, where he had taught for ten years at Mercer University and Armstrong State College. Dr. Carroll inherited the tensions between older faculty and young Ph. D.s, a curriculum which had expanded unsystematically, and a curriculum reform proposal which proved unworkable as enrollment leveled off, demand for secondary history teachers declined, and the university eliminated American History as a General College option. A person of considerable administrative talent and personal integrity, Carroll persuaded history faculty to plan for qualitative growth while responding to changes in enrollment and staffing needs. Under his guidance, the department initiated teaching evaluations, hired Europeanists who could teach the ancient, medieval and early modern periods, and achieved a remarkable and critical improvement in library holdings. The newly-established Phi Alpha Theta chapter quickly became the state's most active chapter, earning Honorable Mentions in national Best Chapter contests.

Understanding that Ph. D.s were hardly finished products, Carroll encouraged a program of faculty development focused on teaching and curriculum. He reduced teaching loads, revamped the student advising system, and engendered a substantial increase in faculty scholarship. Notable curricular revisions included a major improvement in teacher training efforts, a World Civilizations sequence (response to state-mandated World Cultures course in high schools), and summer institutes in non-Western history for secondary school teachers. Teacher training innovations included successful year-long, team teaching internships in Forsyth and Watauga county public schools. In 1974, a department committee explored opportunities for alternative, non-academic careers for history majors. This led to a B. S. degree focused on preparation for non-teaching careers in business and government. Its success convinced the department to commit to developing a program in the nascent field of public history. That work fell to a new chair, as Roy's decade of service to the department came to a close. It was a time of remarkable progress during which he presided over the creation of a modern university history department. Roy moved to Chapel Hill in 1979 to become Vice-President for in the University of North Carolina General Administration, where he served with consider-

able distinction for two decades, retiring as Senior Vice President in 1999. He then served for five years on Appalachian's Board of Trustees. In 2008, the Roy Carroll Distinguished Professorship in British History was created at Appalachian to honor his long and distinguished career.

Roy Carroll's successor was American historian George Antone (1979-1994). He continued efforts to diversify teaching methods and instructional programs, encouraged the development of a History Club and promoted interest in a public history program. One of Professor Antone's more notable achievements was the highly successful Newport (R.I.) Summer Program in architectural history, historic preservation, and museum studies in particular. George's term as chair coincided with another significant increase in Appalachian's enrollment and the addition of several more faculty positions, including the first faculty hired specifically as public historians. His tenure also included William Byrd's stint as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, which was important for his initiative in reducing the course loads of faculty with active publishing agendas. George Antone stepped down as chair in the spring of 1995, and later embarked on a second career administering external educational programs for Salve Regina University in Rhode Island. Antone's successor, Gail Christiansen, came to Appalachian from Indiana State University. An active history of science scholar, he served as chair for only the 1994-1995 academic year, choosing to return to Indiana.

The History Department's fifth chairperson (the third in a year) was Recent U.S. historian Michael Wade (1995-2001), hired in 1983 to develop a graduate program in public history (the program began in the fall of 1989). Wade's tenure included a much-needed regularizing of the department's hiring process, the employment of capable new faculty (many of them women), and faculty schedules tailored to maximize time for research and writing. To further scholarship, the number of department committees was reduced from a projected thirteen to three, with others gradually added as need arose. The history education program was revamped to reflect changes in public education. New legislation provided the opportunity to create a much-improved master's program in history education which featured considerably more history content (this program was terminated in 2014 by Academic Affairs). The Department secured funds for a renovated, air-conditioned faculty lounge. With the capable assistance of department secretaries Evelyn Shepherd and Brenda Greene, the Department converted obsolete slide-tape programs on North Carolina history to more modern technology and marketed them, raising thousands of dollars in discretionary funds for travel, new faculty recruitment and department activities.

The Department's first external chair since Roy Carroll, Michael Krenn (2001-2009) inherited these monies just as the first signs of dwindling financial support for higher education began to appear. Coming from the University of Miami, Krenn brought impressive publications on American diplomatic history and admirable personal qualities, including patience, forbearance, and a wry sense of humor. He capably added new faculty as long-time colleagues



began to retire. He organized a faculty research retreat to formulate department-wide research goals and guidelines, reflected in a History Department Research Plan. Another worthy effort was the creation of departmental History Skills Guidelines, which interpreted the history program in terms of a sequence of successively more sophisticated analytical, research and communications abilities (Department Website). A problem-plagued General Education revision eliminated the six-hour World Civilizations requirement, necessitating the creation of new lower-division courses for a complicated new curriculum. Michael is perhaps most proud of History Matters, the Department's fine on-line journal of refereed undergraduate research. The brainchild of founding editors Eric Burnette and Matthew Manes, Michael supported them with workspace, a couple of desks and old computers, and a printer. Since then, it has grown into an internationally-respected journal receiving 60-70 manuscripts submissions each year. Paid nothing at first, the editor and assistant editor now receive stipends for their work.

Lucinda McCray had to contend with economic recession and the revision of the new Gen Ed program, as problems and dissatisfaction with the changes and administrative proliferation mounted. The difficulties were sufficient to challenge anyone's patience and endurance, so it is no small thing to say that she persevered. Lucinda was not, however, troubled by the difficult and sometimes contentious task of apportioning raises for merit, as there was only one 1.2% salary increase during her entire term, but regular cuts in annual budget allocations. She considers her main contributions to have been sustaining and stabilizing the History Education and Public History programs and (with significant faculty help) revising the graduate program. She also facilitated development of formal assessment processes at both undergraduate and graduate levels. She is on sabbatical this academic year.



Former student Matthew Weaver (middle), President of the North Carolina Thumb & Finger Style Guitar Players Association Clay Lunsford (right), and William Ritter (left) visited the department in the fall 2014 semester to play and demonstrate different historical styles for Dr. Goff's "Country Music and American Culture" course. Matthew was recently chosen, for the fourth consecutive year, as the Piano Instrumentalist of the Year in the NC State Folk Festival Competition held in Raleigh.

Military History/Environmental History: The American Civil War

Editors Note: Last April, Browning and Silver gave a presentation on their work at the annual meeting of the Environmental History Association in San Francisco. The prestigious ACLS grant is for \$100,000. In a country where money's voice has been deemed sacrosanct, this means that this is important work. Now in the second semester of that funded year for writing, Browning and Silver are moving toward their goal of drafting four chapters before the grant period ends.

and the Environment

In July 1862, Herman Melville wrote a poem about one of the Civil War's bloodiest battles, fought earlier that month at Malvern Hill, an elevated plateau along Virginia's James River. Forced to attack uphill, across a narrow open field, Confederate soldiers were easy targets for Union guns and infantry positioned on the high ground. By day's end, Robert E. Lee's army had suffered more than 5000 casualties, prompting southern General Daniel H. Hill's now famous remark, "It was not war. It was murder." In victory, if one could call it that, Union forces lost more than 3200 men. However, as Melville contemplated the carnage, he turned his attention not to weapons and tactics, but to the surrounding forests, especially the elms that stood in silent witness to the bloodbath. The "elms of Malvern Hill," he wrote, "Remember everything; But sap the twig will fill: Wag the world how it will, Leaves must be green in spring."

The Civil War is the most studied event in American history. Scholars have produced nearly 55,000 volumes (roughly a book a day since Lee's surrender) devoted to the subject. Most of those books all but ignore one obvious dimension of the conflict. Simply stated, the Civil War was fought outside where interaction between people and nature profoundly affected both soldiers and civilians. Military historian Judkin Browning and environmental historian Timothy Silver are writing a book that recasts the Civil War not only as a military struggle, but also as an environmental phenomenon.

Even when not directly engaged in battle, soldiers and civilians encountered harsh weather, disease, and food shortages. Geography and terrain frequently helped determine the outcome of major campaigns. Armies clashed in fields and woodlands, destroying crops and timber. Animals, too, faced new environmental threats. Glanders, a highly contagious and deadly equine infection, began to decimate horses in both armies as early as 1861. Cattle and swine transported from Texas to feed Confederate troops carried the virus responsible for hog cholera and the protozoan (spread by ticks) that caused cattle or "Texas" fever. Both diseases lingered in the South for decades after the

fighting ended.

Foraging armies, larger than all but a few American cities, spread human and animal waste that polluted water supplies and fostered massive outbreaks of dysentery and typhoid. Thousands of unburied human and animal corpses littered abandoned battlefields, further escalating the risk of disease and posing serious health hazards for those who lived nearby. By investigating such non-traditional topics, Silver and Browning intend to show how the war altered basic relationships between people and nature and, in turn, how nature shaped the course and outcome of the war.

The Civil War also left an enduring environmental legacy. The conflict cleared the way for non-slaveholding small farmers to settle the Great Plains. Industrial forestry and mining, pushed by northern capitalists, became the working models for exploiting the West's resources. The war also changed American ideas about nature. Increasingly, unspoiled western landscapes served as cultural antidotes to eastern forests torn apart by battle. In 1864, while the fighting raged, Abraham Lincoln signed legislation that preserved what would become Yosemite National Park. More directly, setting aside Civil War battlefields as historic sites forever changed those landscapes. Today, the National Park Service manages Manassas, Antietam, and Gettysburg to recreate the war environment.

Agent Orange in Vietnam, burning Iraqi oil wells during the 1991 Gulf War, and contamination of Afghanistan's water supply (to note but a few examples), have made the world increasingly aware of the environmental hazards of armed conflict. Even so, geographic isolation has often spared the United States the direct environmental impact of war. The Civil War was waged on American soil with its ecological consequences laid bare for the nation to see. Today, when armies and weapons can inflict far greater harm across the globe, Browning and Silver believe we would do well to examine our own experience in the nineteenth century.

Their research has already attracted much attention. They recently received one of seven grants awarded nationally by the American Council of Learned Societies for collaborative research. Silver also received ASU's 2013 100 Scholars Award to facilitate travel for research. In 2013, Browning and Silver signed an advance contract with the University of North Carolina Press, which will publish their work.

2013-2014 New Faculty

Editor's Note: Amy and her husband, Jeremy Best (see page 7), will be leaving Appalachian for positions at Iowa State University. They have been excellent colleagues. We will miss them and wish them good fortune in their new roles in Ames.



Amy Rutenburg (L), Kristen Deathridge (R)

Kristen Baldwin Deathridge is assistant professor in public history and supervises the Historic Preservation concentration for the MA program. From Mt. Juliet, TN, Kristen earned an MA in Archaeology at the University of Reading in 2005, where she researched questions of gender and archaeology, public art, and architecture and community formation. She continues her involvement in archaeology. Most recently, during the spring of 2011 she was Excavation Supervisor and Lab Director on the South Abydos Mastabas Project, mentoring students in the methods & practices of archaeology.

Kristen earned a PhD in Public History in 2012 from Middle Tennessee State University. Her dissertation, "From Sacred to Secular: The Adaptive Reuse of America's Religious Buildings," evaluates four case studies from across the country. She asks how each connected to the cultural history of its neighborhood and how that contributed to the long-term preservation and sustainability of these resources. Kristen specializes in 20th century American cultural and intellectual history in addition to preservation. At MTSU and its Center for Historic Preservation, Kristen worked on various exciting projects: historic furnishings reports, historic battlefield plans, architectural and landscape inventories, museum family guides, exhibit preparation, and nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. She is excited to be working on similar projects with the students here at App State, and is enjoying getting more involved with the local community.

Amy Rutenberg is assistant professor of history and social studies education. She specializes in modern American gender history and the history of war and society. Amy discovered women's history as an undergraduate at Tufts University. To realize that women, both ordinary and extraordinary, had influenced America's political and economic histories as well as its culture and society was electrifying. Her coursework and honors thesis on American women's military service during World War II taught her just how heavily ideals of masculinity and femininity have affected American policies, laws, and customs. Studying gender history became a passion.

Amy took her excitement for the history of all people into the social classroom. She earned her Ed.M. from Harvard University in 2000 and taught at Ardsley High School outside of New York City from 2000 to 2005. In 2013, she graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, with her Ph.D. Her dissertation, "Citizen-Civilians: Masculinity, Citizenship, and American Military Manpower Policy, 1945-1975," which she is turning into a book, argues that Selective Service deferment policies of the 1950s and 1960s unintentionally contributed to widespread anti-military activism in the Vietnam Era by omitting military service from cultural expectations of both manhood and citizenship.

Amy is excited to be able to split her time between teaching and researching in her historical field and working with student teachers in the history, social studies major here at ASU. This is a unique position that allows her to bring together both of her passions into one job. She couldn't ask for more.

2014-2015 Visiting Faculty

Visiting Assistant Professor of History **Jeremy Best** earned his Ph. D. in Modern European History from the University of Maryland in 2012. He was a Fulbright Fellow in Berlin in 2009-10. In 2011, he was recipient of a Gordon Prange Dissertation Fellowship, named for one of Maryland's greatest classroom teachers. He is revising his dissertation on Protestant missionary work in the German empire into a book manuscript with an intriguing title—Heavenly Fatherland: German Missionary Culture between Globalization and Nationalism. He already has an article and a book chapter detailing particular facets of his research and has been an active presenter at scholarly conferences. He has developed a loyal student following in his courses (Fall—HIS 1400 World Empires, Europe 1789-Present; Spring—HIS 1400, HIS 3530 Modern Germany, HIS 3542 History of the Jewish People)

Visiting Assistant Professor of History **Lon Strauss** earned his Ph. D. in U. S., Military, and Modern European history at the University of Kansas in 2012. Schooled in the New Military History, he wrote a dissertation on the impact of World War I on American public perceptions, state-sponsored surveillance and the Espionage Act of 1917. He comes to us with an already impressive record of publications and presentations, and a manuscript, *Uncle Sam is Watching: Surveillance of Civilians in the First World War*, under formal review by Cambridge University Press. Interestingly, as an undergraduate, Lon graduated with a triple major in History, Philosophy, and Theatre & Drama. He brings varied curricular perspectives into the classroom and his courses at Appalachian (Fall—HIS 1200 American History, American Military History; Spring—HIS 1130 Themes in Global History, HIS 3229 World War II, HIS 4100 The First World War) have been very well received by students.

New Adjunct Faculty

Allison Fredette earned her Ph. D. in American history at the University of Florida in 2014, specializing in 19th Century American History. Her dissertation was "True to Border Traditions: The Construction of Marriage and Marital Roles in the Mid-Nineteenth-Century Upper South." Part of her research is forthcoming as a chapter in William A. Link and James Broomall, eds., *The Shadow of Slavery: Emancipation, Memory, and the Meaning of Freedom* (Cambridge University Press). She is also author of "The View From the Border: West Virginia Republicans and Women's Rights in the Age of Emancipation," *West Virginia History* (Spring 2009). Allison is teaching introductory courses and is capably handling the always popular Civil War class in Judkin Browning's absence. (Fall—HIS 1110 History & Culture, HIS 1200 American History; Spring—HIS 1200, HIS 3226 U. S. Civil War)

Graduate Student Alumni

Aaron Akey (M. A. 2012) has a full time position at Bluegrass Community and Technical College as an advisor and counselor to first generation college students in Kentucky. He is also an adjunct instructor at Morehead St. University. He has taught the History of Kentucky, Appalachian History, and the introductory U. S. History survey courses. He is planning a return trip to Boone in the near future. He has maintained contact with his good friend



Aaron Akey



Brett & Daughter

Brent Lane (M. A. 2012) took a new job, in Alaska, with the oilfield service company Baker Hughes in September 2013. Baker-Hughes has 60,000 employees in over 80 countries. Brent works a schedule of two weeks on, two weeks off and really enjoys the job, not least because it pays so well. History majors who think that teaching is their only option should take note. He and his wife, Bregitte, have two daughters, Rosemary and Caroline. Brent must be making good use of that time off; he published a very good article in the Spring 2013 issue of *The American Fly Fisher*. "Piscatorial Protestants: Nineteenth-Century Angling and the New Christian Wilderness Ethic" is a well-researched, timely and fascinating article about the role of Gilded Age, Christian, recreational anglers in supporting the early conservation movement and promoting a new respect for American wilderness.

Kevin Oshnock (M. A. 2012) was also a member of the cohort of graduate students which included Aaron Akey and Brent Lane. Kevin worked closely with Associate Professor Judkin Browning, Appalachian's military historian and a Civil War specialist. Oshnock's peer-reviewed article, "The Isolation Factor: Differing Loyalties of Watauga and Buncombe Counties during the Civil War," appeared in the October 2013 issue of *The North Carolina Historical Review*, published by the North Carolina Office of Archives and History. These three young men and the other members of their cohort collectively constitute one of the best classes of graduate students in the history of the Department's graduate program.

Retired Faculty News

Dr. Dorothea Martin-Hoffman, Emerita Professor of History, continues her work with professional organizations, serving this past year on the Executive Board of the NC Assoc. of Historians and rotating off the Program Committee of the South Atlantic States Assoc. for Asian & African Studies (SASASAAS for short) after its fall meeting on "Women, Development & Sustainability in Asia & Africa" held at Warren-Wilson College in late Sept. 2014. She continues to do research on her study of Chinese labor migration to Latin America from the mid-19th into the early 20th centuries. She presented a paper about Chinese in the Mexican borderlands at the AppSpring Conference on Worlds History & Economics in the spring of 2014 and is currently working on Chinese labor migration into the Caribbean region for the 2015 conference.

John Alexander Williams, former Director of the Appalachian Studies Program and another valued emeritus member of the History Department, lives in Washington, D. C. John reports that he has just been elected as a write-in candidate to the Foggy Bottom/West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A. This is one of 30+ community-based bodies in the District of Columbia that are part of the DC government, though the commissioners are unpaid and non-partisan. The commission deals mostly with regulatory and development issues, because of the large numbers of students & young professionals in this area, five of the 8 current commissioners are 30 or under but I will replace one of them. I will represent the Foggy Bottom Historic District & its fringes. John says that he will speak for the geriatric contingent, which is also numerous in the area. Geographically ANC2A includes the White House, Lincoln Memorial, State Department and Federal Reserve, but ANCs have no authority over federal agencies.

Recently John went to Boston for "talking head" interview with the producer of a planned documentary on the West Virginia Mine Wars. Watch for it next year on The American Experience (PBS). Finally, last September the local color columnist for the Washington Post ran a piece on the DC flag design in John's newly renovated shower. As you will see, John is also a devoted Washington Nationals fan.



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