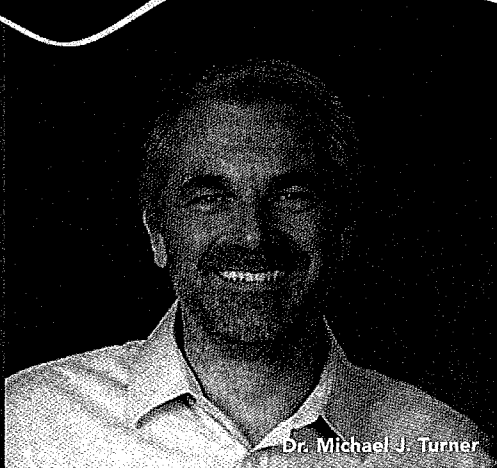


Appalachian State University's History programs provide a combination of liberal education and practical training that serves the needs of students, employers, and state residents in many ways. History graduates become lawyers and managers, museum professionals and archivists, educational administrators 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 and
Michael Krenn



Dr. Michael J. Turner

this issue

- Lecture by Professor of British History p. 1
- Message from the Chair p. 2
- The Return of Ramon Estevez p. 3
- Faculty Notes p. 4
- New Faculty p. 6
- Letter from a former student p. 8

history.appstate.edu

Lecture by Appalachian's Roy Carroll Distinguished Professor of British History

Michael Turner lectures on "The Struggle for Parliamentary Government in England"

Editor's Note: The Rhinehart Rare Book Collection is an extraordinary assemblage of rare books dating from the very early years of print technology. It is the gift of retired educator and Appalachian alumnus William Rhinehart '56, who was present at the event. Roy Carroll was also at the event.

Professor Michael Turner, Appalachian's Roy Carroll Distinguished Professor of British History, delivered a lecture in March exploring some of the ways in which the past (especially the Civil War era in the 17th century) was used in Victorian politics in Britain. The main avenues of inquiry are provided by an item in the Rhinehart Collection of Rare Books: Andrew Bisset's "The History of the Struggle for Parliamentary Government in England (2 vols, London, 1877)." Bisset's book sheds light on wider questions about representative institutions, constitutional monarchy, parliamentary reform, and popular political participation; and connections can be made between the Civil War era, Bisset's work, and social, religious, and political changes in the Victorian age, such as the 1867 Reform Act and factional

rivalries within the Church of England. Victorians had strong opinions about major personalities from the 17th century, in particular Charles I and Oliver Cromwell, and the names and reputations of these figures were employed in significant ways. This lecture placed Bisset's work in context and discussed circumstances in the Victorian age that allowed history to be used as a polemical tool, a construction shaped for convenience, a discursive and political device designed to give one set of interpretations or values or policies an advantage over others.

This lecture series is designed to be an annual event and will provide opportunities to raise the profile of the Department of History and Belk Library's Special Collections. It will contribute to internationalization at Appalachian, reinforce existing strengths in British history and British studies and enhance Appalachian's reputation for scholarship, while providing a social-cultural-community experience for campus and the public.

Learn about Dr. Turner on page 7.

From the Chair

History is all about continuity and change. The great constant is the excitement of starting over. This is one of the factors that originally attracted me to academic life, and still gets my heart beating a bit faster.

I love the opportunity to begin again every four months – the new classes, new students, new research projects, new opportunities to succeed or fail. By the same token, there are comforting continuities to embrace: majors, graduate students, and colleagues whose sustained love of history reincorporates my own; assigned readings that greet me like old friends as I introduce them to new students; and always, of course, those research projects that linger on from last year.

This year, the Department of History has much to celebrate. We have welcomed three new tenure-track colleagues, and are benefiting from the contributions of several new temporary faculty members. Next fall, new faculty members in the fields of History Education and Public History will join the department. We also are looking forward to publication of the 10th issue of the online undergraduate journal, *History Matters*, and to the eighth annual Appalachian Spring Conference in World History and Economics.

We are delighted to have the opportunity to share our good news with you, and to wish you a wonderful 2013!

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

Department of History

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Make a Gift

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!

GIFT AMOUNT:

\$ _____ Department of History Foundation

\$ _____ H. Lawrence Bond Memorial Scholarship

\$ _____ History Matters journal

\$ _____ Appalachian Spring Conference

\$ _____ British History projects

PAYMENT:

- Visa MasterCard American Express
 Check enclosed (Make payable to Appalachian State University Foundation, Inc.)

Name on Credit Card

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Credit Card Billing Address

E-mail Address (optional)

Phone Number (optional)

Mail to: **Appalachian State University, ASU Box 32014, Boone, NC 28608-2014**

Donate at: **www.givenow.appstate.edu/cas**

The Return of Ramon Estevez

By Edward Behrend-Martinez

I research and write about the history of everyday family life 400 years ago in a country 3,000 miles away: Spain from 1500-1800 ACE. Although the topics I study (domestic violence, marriage, gender roles, sexuality) are nearly universal human institutions and experiences, sometimes people have difficulty understanding how such history is important. In fact, acquaintances I've met at dinner parties have said, or implied, that such stuff is eccentric, narrow or trivial. So I'm used to the idea that the "layman" (in other words: my cousins, aunts, and uncles) might not understand my line of work. It's an occupational hazard, I suppose, for the social historian. My passions have always been to discover new "virgin" records in dusty archives and explore the untold lives of people long dead and forgotten.

In the Summer of 2011 I received an email from a London researcher who said she worked for a TV program that I had never heard of, called "Who Do You Think You Are?". She wanted my opinion on a case involving some celebrity's ancestor in 18th-century Spain. I usually delete such odd requests; like most people I get a lot of shady-looking offers and solicitations from people I don't know by email. Luckily, instead of deleting this email I Googled the show and the researcher first. They turned out to be legitimate. The researcher said that a professor at the University of Southampton had given her my name. He knew me only by my book on marriage trials in early modern Spain: "Unfit for Marriage."

She couldn't tell me who the celebrity was – everything was strictly confidential. Eventually she sent me a photocopy of a 250-year-old trial. The genealogists researching the celebrity's family tree had found an 18th-century court case involving two of his ancestors. In 1748 this person's great-great-great-great-grandfather charged his own great-great-great-great-grandmother for getting pregnant out of wedlock and attempting to have an abortion. So far so good. I agreed to help her interpret the trial and answer her questions.

After reading it, we talked, and she proceeded to pepper me with questions about details of the trial: Why would people have prosecuted a young woman for the pregnancy? What was the status of a "Don" in early modern Spain? Who might the child's father have been? etc. (There were several key points that I was able to set them straight on). Then she asked whether I would agree to appear on the program. I said yes, figuring it would be my one and only chance to be a talking head in a history documentary (not that that was ever a great aspiration of mine).

Over several weeks I provided the research team with more thoughts on the case itself. I still had no idea who the celebrity was. I was thinking of any possible actor with Spanish roots: Antonio Banderas, Penelope Cruz, Javier Bardem, Andy Garcia? However, in some of the trial notes sent to me by the director, the celebrity

was given as MS. From there I figured it out. I knew that the original name of the Sheen family was Estevez; MS must mean Martin Sheen. The producers hemmed and hawed about flying me to Spain. But after a long chat with the episode's director, they arranged for my three-day trip to Northwestern Spain to do the shoot.

I had never been to this particular part of Spain before: Galicia, just north of Portugal. It's a wet, green, hilly, remote and particularly religious part of Spain (and that's really saying something). I had one day before the shoot to prepare and explore the city, A Coruña. I spent half of that day in the archive in A Coruña where I was able to find several cases and documents for a chapter I was writing on murder cases. The rest of the day I walked around the city, climbed its ancient Roman lighthouse, ate the regional dish: fried octopus, and tried to memorize some key lines from Martin Sheen's ancestor's trial. Oddly, I had still not met anyone from the TV program yet, though they had contacted me by phone.

The day of the shoot I got to the archive early (it was the same archive I had been mining the day before on my own). The director and I went over which parts of the trial I was going to cover with Martin Sheen. Then she told me how I was supposed to do the "great reveal" of his family tree. The peculiar nature of the show "Who Do You Think You Are?" is that it is reality based TV. Martin had no idea what he was going to find and what I was going to show him. The point was to capture his reactions on video, so we had to film everything in sequence.

Martin walked into the archive and came over to greet me. Talking with him was like talking to any gregarious older man. Although I was nervous to be on camera for the first time, he put me completely at ease, mainly because we had such a busy conversation going between shots. Off camera he was very interested in telling me about his family history, how his father had left Spain in 1930, emigrating briefly to Cuba, then to New York and finally to Ohio. One of the most interesting stories he told me was how he took his stage name, "Martin Sheen." In the 1950s, if one wanted to break into showbiz a Hispanic last name like Estevez was a liability. So while Martin worked his day job at a carwash as Ramon Estevez, for theater work he shopped himself around as "Martin Sheen." But he wasn't getting any call backs from auditions. The problem was that when producers called the carwash and asked for Martin Sheen his boss told them that there was no one there by that name. Finally Martin told his boss about the stage name and he started landing some parts.

The entire shoot took more than two hours. We had to do everything three times for three different shots, the first one being the frontal shot where Martin's authentic reactions were shot. After the shoot I had lunch with Ramon Estevez, one of Martin's four children, along with the rest of the crew and Martin. The experience was not only memorable, but professionally rewarding as well. Maybe this work is not quite so eccentric or trivial as some seem to think? ■



Faculty Notes

Michael C. Behrent continues to work on his book about the French philosopher Michel Foucault, which seeks both to situate Foucault's evolution within the context of the emergence of "neoliberal society" in France and to examine the intellectual projects of a number of Foucault's students. He has recently published several articles: "The Genealogy of Genealogy: Foucault's 1970-1971 Course on The Will to Know" which appeared in *Foucault Studies* (2012) and "Pluralism's Political Conditions: Social Realism and the Revolutionary Tradition in Pierre Leroux, P.-J. Proudhon and Alfred Fouillée," which appeared in a volume edited by Julian Wright and Stuart Jones entitled *Pluralism and the Idea of the Republic in France* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2012). In September 2012, he was invited to a conference on "French Politics in an Age of Uncertainty" hosted by the Maison Française at Oxford University (UK), where he presented a paper entitled: "L'Association pour la Liberté Économique et le Progrès Social, or the French Path to Neoliberalism."

Rennie Brantz continues co-directing the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies, teaching courses on German and Holocaust history, and serving on the Boone Town Council. In the summer of 2012 he completed his 14th consecutive summer study abroad trip with 10 Appalachian students. He also spoke to Boone's World War II Roundtable Symposium on Aug. 10, 2012 on "The War Within a War: The Nazi Holocaust." His chapter "New Historical Accounts of the Holocaust in France and Italy" in *The Holocaust and World War II: In History and In Memory* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing Company) will appear spring 2013.

Judkin Browning's latest book, *The Seven Days' Battles: The War Begins Anew* (Praeger, 2012) was published in July. After finishing that project, Appalachian awarded him a Humanities Scholars Fellowship and a Grant Proposal Development Fellowship, and he received the Archie K. Davis Fellowship from the North Caroliniana Society for his various other research projects on Civil War deserters, and on the long-term effects of battle on families and communities. He also presented a paper entitled, "Deserters, I Thought I Knew You: Exhuming, Examining, and Exploding the Myths of Civil War Deserters" (with collaboration from Dr. Jari Eloranta), at the Society for Military History

Conference in May 2012. Apparently deciding that his plate wasn't full enough, he has agreed to co-author an environmental history of the Civil War with Dr. Tim Silver. They two researchers have been awarded a research grant for their project by the American Council of Learned Societies.

Lynne Getz is the 2012-13 I.G. Greer Distinguished Professor of History. This award allowed her to take a scholarly leave for Fall 2012 to devote time to writing her book on the Wattles-Faunce-Wetherill family. This project took yet another unexpected and serendipitous turn in May when Getz discovered two new collections of family letters in Missouri and Colorado. The first is a newly processed collection of Wattles family papers held at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, a National Park Service historic site near Springfield, Mo. The collection consists of around 150 family letters, including letters written by Theodore W. Wattles while serving with the 5th Kansas Cavalry during the Civil War. From Missouri it was on to Colorado to visit Patti Morse Curtis, a direct descendant of the Wattles. After a few hours of chatting, Mrs. Curtis pulled out a box containing hundreds of family letters dating back to the 1850s. Mrs. Curtis had never even read them, fearing that they were too fragile to be handled. After some negotiation, Curtis allowed Getz to take the letters and to process them as an archival collection. Getz brought the collection back to Boone, cataloged it, placed everything in acid-free folders and wrote an index and description. Then in October she took the collection back to Mrs. Curtis, who was thrilled to be able to read her family's letters. Within this collection are Civil War letters as well as letters written by a member of the family serving in the Philippines during the Spanish American War. The 450 letters from these two collections triple the number of family letters that Getz has to work with in writing about the Wattles-Faunce-Wetherill family. Historians dream of windfalls like this.

James R. Goff Jr. published "Elijah's Never-Failing Cruse of Oil: David Harrell and the Historiography of America's Pentecostals" in B. Dwain Waldrep and Scott C. Billingsley, eds. *Recovering the Margins of American Religious History: The Legacy of David Edwin Harrell, Jr.* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2012), 15-23. Jim also traveled

to Murfreesboro, Tenn., over the winter to spend a few days researching material for his Elvis book at the Center for Popular Music on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University.

René Harder Horst published a review of Gregg Hetherington's book, *Guerrilla Auditors, the Politics of Transparency in Neoliberal Paraguay* (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2011), in *A Contra Corriente: A Journal on Social History and Literature in Latin America*. He presented a paper titled, "Indigenous Women and Armed Conflicts in Latin American History," at the conference "Civilians and Warfare in World History," at Florida Gulf Coast University, Feb. 24, 2012. He received promotion to full professor in spring 2012.

Anatoly Isaenko has been working on two major research projects. The first is an investigation into the impact on world history of the Sythians, Sarmatians, and Alans. The other is continued research into ethnic conflicts in the Caucasus, focusing on the expansion of these local conflicts into regional and global jihad. These two projects have resulted in several major publications in peer-reviewed journals in the United States and Russia, and invitations to present in London, Paris, and Prague. The 92nd Airborne Battalion at Fort Bragg presented Dr. Isaenko with an honorary medallion at his presentation there in August and Buffalo State University recognized his September presentation there with a letter of commendation. His book, *Polygon of Satan*, has gone to a second printing and was included in the Social Studies Library List of Best Reading by goodreads.com. He also published a translation of Mark Bliev's *The Ossetian Embassy to St. Petersburg, 1749-1752: Joining of Ossetia to Russia*. Finally, Drs. Isaenko and Scott Jessee co-authored "'Scythians, Sarmatians, and Alans: The Ups and Downs of the North Iranians," presented by the latter at the Southeast Medieval Association meeting in October.

Michael L. Krenn is faculty coordinator for First Year Seminar, despite maintaining a productive research schedule this past year. His chapter, "Token Diplomacy: The United States, Race, and the Cold War," appears in *Race, Ethnicity, and the Cold War: A Global Perspective*, ed. Philip Muehlenbeck (Vanderbilt University Press, 2012):3-32; and his lead essay, "Race and Foreign Relations," is featured in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Military and Diplomatic History* (Oxford University Press, January 2013). This summer, a chapter entitled "The Color of Obama's World: Race and Diplomacy During the Obama Administration," will be in *Barack Obama and the Myth of a Post-Racial America*, edited by Mark Ledwidge, Kevern Verney, and Inderjeet Parmar (Routledge, August 2013). Finally, "Carl Rowan and the Dilemma of Civil Rights, Propaganda, and the Cold War," is part of a book manuscript entitled, "African Americans in American Foreign Policy: From Frederick Douglass to the Age of Obama," edited by Linda Heywood, Allison Blakely, Charles Stith and

Joshua C. Yesnowitz for the University of Illinois Press. Krenn received a University Research Council for a book tentatively entitled "Foreshadowing Deeper Shadows to Come: Race, Science, and the Coming of the Civil War;" he completed the archival research this past summer. He received a contract for another book, tentatively titled "Mutual Misunderstanding: A History of U.S. Cultural Diplomacy from Benjamin Franklin to Hip-Hop," to be part of a series on U.S. international relations (Bloomsbury Press). He also gave a lecture, "When Fine Art Attacks!: Propaganda, Censorship, and Visions of America in the Cold War," at the "Partners and Adversaries: The Art of Collaboration" symposium at the Sheldon Museum of Art at the University of Nebraska. As a result of that presentation, he was asked to write essays on five artists—Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Ben Shahn, George Ault, Milton Avery, and Kent Rockwell—for the museum's new catalog.

Tim Silver and Judkin Browning received an American Council of Learned Societies Collaborative Research Grant for their new book project: *The Civil War: An Environmental History*. Their research seeks to recast the war, not only as a military conflict, but also an environmental event that disrupted long and well established human relationships with nature. Drawing on Silver's expertise in environmental history and Browning's extensive knowledge of military history, their research focuses on such topics as: subsistence (for soldiers and civilians), disease, terrain, weather, animals, and the ecology of death. They also investigate the war as a turning point in American ideas about nature, as government moved to preserve so called untouched western wilderness as a cultural antidote to eastern fields and forests ravaged by war.

Michael Wade participated in a summer workshop for First Year Seminar (FYS) teachers, participated in developing a rationale for a liberal arts component in FYS, and then taught a seminar called 21st Century Limited this past fall, focusing on the history of environmental thought and its relationship to the looming challenges of this century. He served as chair of the Louisiana Historical Association's Fellows Committee. His "'I Would Rather Be Among the Comanches': The Military Occupation of Southwest Louisiana, 1865," appeared in *Louisiana Legacies*, a college Louisiana history reader edited by Janet Allured and Michael Martin (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013). Wade's "Women of Enterprise: Appoline Patout, Mary Ann Patout, and Ida Patout Burns, 1847-1956" will appear as a chapter in Shannon Frystak and Mary Farmer-Kaiser, eds., *Louisiana Women: Their Lives and Times*, Vol. II (University of Georgia Press, 2013). In March 2013, he is presenting "Ways of Knowing: The Education of Joel Fletcher, 1897-1940" at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association. Later this spring, for the First Year Seminar Program, he will begin compiling a series of readings, exercises, and other resources focused on underscoring the practical relevance of the liberal arts for undergraduate education.

New Faculty

Editor's Note: These are the Department of History's newest Scholar-Teachers. The focus of these sketches is deliberately on the breadth and complexity of their educational attainments, a perspective which takes us well beyond the scope of their academic specialties, in the process underscoring what talented, highly-educated professors bring to a university. They bring larger experiences, also educational, which enrich the academic courses they offer students. These experiences include interesting non-academic, sometimes even non-professional, work. They include travel experiences, which produce insights, and credibility, with students, that simply cannot be replicated outside a traditional classroom setting where there is face-to-face, person-to-person contact and interaction. In really good courses, this interaction often takes on a life of its own, producing for students (and teachers) enduringly memorable teaching moments that are the heart and soul of quality higher education. Such moments are unlikely to be replicated in canned presentations tailored for the web-based instruction now being touted as the key to cutting the cost of college. We hope that you enjoy these brief vignettes of our accomplished new colleagues.



Craig Caldwell is the new assistant professor of ancient history. A native of Bristol, Tenn., Craig is a graduate of Furman University, where he majored in history with a concentration in classical studies, and he received his Ph.D. in history from Princeton University. His graduate training included specializations in late

antiquity and Roman law. Before coming to Appalachian, he taught at Samford University, the University of Georgia, and Furman University.

His professional interests include ancient and medieval numismatics, the military history of the ancient Mediterranean, and European law and legal history. His current book manuscript uses civil wars to explore the decline of the later Roman Empire in the Balkan region.

Craig discovered the ancient world through the study of Latin in high school, and he first visited Israel, Greece, and Italy on a study abroad program in college. He encountered the frontiers of Roman civilization during a summer of German courses in Austria and Germany, which inspired his love of Roman roads and debates about ancient "barbarians."

After returning to Greece to work on an archaeological excavation, he decided to focus his graduate research on southeastern Europe, and he has explored Roman ruins across the Balkans, especially in Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Turkey. He and his wife, Abby, have also traveled with students to mainland Greece and Crete.



Madhumita Saha's area of expertise is the history of Indian agriculture after Partition (1948). She started developing an interest in history at an early age, by reading about the history of British colonialism in India from books her mother used to bring home about the freedom fighters and their struggles to free

the motherland despite all odds. Her interest was further kindled as an undergraduate student in Presidency College, India, the 200-year-old institution that has generated numerous scholars by instilling in them an academic curiosity towards their respective disciplines and making them look far beyond what the curriculum demanded.

Coming to the U.S. on a Fulbright scholarship and being in places like Princeton, University of Pennsylvania and the Chemical Heritage Foundation has given Madhumita the opportunity to interact with some of the finest scholars in her discipline. Teaching at a wide range of institutions, from Calcutta University, Iowa State, New York University and now Appalachian has given her the chance to interact with students from a wide variety of backgrounds. She tries to instill in them the kind of curiosity that some of her teachers did when she was a student.

Apart from work, Madhumita takes an interest in movies, especially those based on World War II. She finds it more interesting when the script blurs the line between fact and fiction and makes the characters believable. "I also enjoy movies that let me virtually travel all over the world, and to date I have watched movies in 30-plus languages. The travel, however, is not all virtual; I've traveled widely within India and the U.S. and also have been to the UK, Bangladesh, Colombia, Mexico and Canada," she said.

Madhumita took an interest in cooking at an early age, watching her maternal grandmother cook a wide range of Bengalee dishes. It is from her grandmother that she learned the lesson that the tests for one's skills become the hardest when the equipment at hand are the simplest, only to re-learn it time and again.



Professor Weiner standing above Yongning Temple in Qinghai Province, a region that Tibetans refer to as Amdo.

Benno Weiner is Appalachian's new Chinese historian, succeeding Professor Emeritus Dorothea Martin, who is now retired in Charlotte. He has a sense of adventure. While an undergraduate history major, the California native with no previous interest in China devoted a summer to an intensive, 10-week Chinese language course at the renowned Monterey Institute for International Studies. While there he met a classmate who was going to live in China. So Benno, already a veteran of European backpacking, went along for a wintry three months before the Chinese economic miracle improved conditions. On a \$1,000 budget, he traveled extensively in rural China, returning home with money left over. He finished his degree at Cal - Santa Barbara with a double major in Asian studies and history, then spent the next year traveling in China, Vietnam, Burma, Cambodia and Thailand before moving to New York City where he was hired as Asia marketing director at a record company, allowing him to again travel extensively in East and Southeast Asia.

In 2002 he received his master's degree from Columbia University's Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. For the next couple of years, he worked for an experiential education company, taking students by rail and bus to China's far-flung western borderlands, including Tibet and Xinjiang Province, while finding time to study Chinese in Beijing and Tibetan in Lhasa. Eventually, Benno decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Chinese history at Columbia. His dissertation research took him to Tibet for most of 2008. He arrived there the month before the Tibetan Rebellion, and experienced the heavy state presence first hand. Nonetheless he completed his work and in 2012 successfully defended his dissertation, "The Chinese Revolution on the Tibetan Frontier: State Building, National Integration and Socialist Transformation."

Benno and his wife, Mary Margaret, have two children: 4-year-old Ava Rose and 8-year-old Macayla Ann.

Jason White's research specialty is early modern Britain and Ireland with a focus on political integration between the three kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland in the 17th century. He also studies the connections between the Thirty Years' War and British society, culture and politics, and religious violence in general.

He grew up in Williamsburg, Va., which gave him an early interest in British history thanks to frequent visits to Jamestown and Colonial Williamsburg. His father, a rabid Anglophile, introduced him to British programming on PBS, especially programs about Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and the English Civil War. He attributes his interest in Scotland to the famous roller coaster at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg called the "Loch Ness Monster" – which led him to read more and more about the Loch Ness Monster and Scotland and general. By age 10, he remembers being convinced that someday he would discover the monster.

White earned his B.A. in history from James Madison University in 1997, an M.Litt. in Scottish History from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland in 1999, and an A.M. and Ph.D. from Brown University in Rhode Island in 2008. At JMU, he especially enjoyed courses on British history given by Professor John Butt, who was an important influence and helped him get into St. Andrews. A semester abroad in London during his junior year at JMU gave him the opportunity to tour Europe, which only solidified his interest in European history and in British history, specifically.

White and his wife, Maureen, met at JMU and have two children: 3-year-old Margaret, or "Maisie" as they call her, and 10-month-old Cameron. In his spare time, he enjoys movies and reading contemporary fiction as well as World War II and American history. He is a big fan of the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens. He also loves heavy metal music and has started what he calls the world's greatest collection of records by the hair bands of the 1980s.

Dr. Michael J. Turner, Roy Carroll Distinguished Professor of British History

Dr. Michael J. Turner was born in Berkshire, England, and read modern history at Oxford (B.A. 1987, doctorate 1991). He was a Fulbright Scholar and Postgraduate Fellow at the University of Rochester, N.Y., before joining the faculty at the University of Sheffield back in England. After spells at the universities of Swansea, Hull, Reading and Sunderland in the UK, he came to Appalachian State University in 2008 as Roy Carroll Distinguished Professor of British History. He has published 10 books and 25 articles and chapters, mainly on 19th-century British reform politics and 20th-century British foreign policy. His next book, "Liberty and Liberticide: The Role of America in Nineteenth-Century British Radicalism," is due for publication in 2013.

Letter from a former student

Editor's Note:

This letter is reprinted with the permission of its author and the recipient. It is a refreshing counterpoint to that genre of student "gems" which sometimes becomes the stuff of nightmarish legend. As Professor Krenn noted, letters such as this remind us of the rewards of teaching.

I graduated from App State in 2011 as a history major. You might not remember me but I took your Vietnam War class in the fall of 2010. I was listening to a podcast this week by Stephen Dubner, the co-author of "Freakonomics" and a graduate of Appalachian State. He visited App recently in order to interview a few of his professors for his radio show, but more specifically, to thank three of them for teaching him memorable lessons (Leon Lewis, Jim Winders and Joe Murphy) and this interview has inspired to me to write this email.

There were only a few classes in college that I really remember, but yours is one of them. Your class challenged me and forced me to think deeply. If a student answered a question without thinking, or without really reading the text, your criticism was always direct and constructive. This honest feedback, a technique quite different from other more lax professors at App State, compelled me to thoroughly read and analyze the assigned novels. I wanted to be the person that added a clever, well thought out idea during class!

You asked thought-provoking questions; I particularly remember the class where we discussed "The Things They Carried." During this class, you asked us to ponder if truth is really important at all in historical writing. To this day, this profound concept has taught me to question to the "truth," everything that I read, and the emotions that it provokes within me.

That being said, more than anything you taught me that education is not an equation whereby if you exert the correct amount of energy you will "succeed" by making a certain grade on a paper or achieving a certain title, but on the contrary, education is a process where original thoughts paired with deep analysis are necessary.

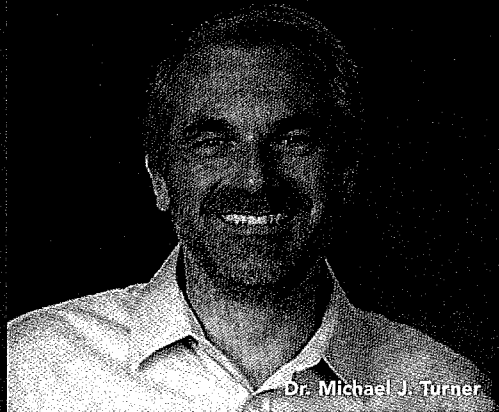
So, thank you for challenging me and pushing me to analyze everything more deeply - I carry this memorable life lesson with me.

Enjoy the holidays,
Anna

8

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 and
Michael Krenn



Dr. Michael J. Turner

this issue

- Lecture by Professor of British History p. 1
- Message from the Chair p. 2
- The Return of Ramon Estevez p. 3
- Faculty Notes p. 4
- New Faculty p. 6
- Letter from a former student p. 8

history.appstate.edu

Lecture by Appalachian's Roy Carroll Distinguished Professor of British History

Michael Turner lectures on "The Struggle for Parliamentary Government in England"

Editor's Note: The Rhinehart Rare Book Collection is an extraordinary assemblage of rare books dating from the very early years of print technology. It is the gift of retired educator and Appalachian alumnus William Rhinehart '56, who was present at the event. Roy Carroll was also at the event.

Professor Michael Turner, Appalachian's Roy Carroll Distinguished Professor of British History, delivered a lecture in March exploring some of the ways in which the past (especially the Civil War era in the 17th century) was used in Victorian politics in Britain. The main avenues of inquiry are provided by an item in the Rhinehart Collection of Rare Books: Andrew Bisset's "The History of the Struggle for Parliamentary Government in England (2 vols, London, 1877)." Bisset's book sheds light on wider questions about representative institutions, constitutional monarchy, parliamentary reform, and popular political participation; and connections can be made between the Civil War era, Bisset's work, and social, religious, and political changes in the Victorian age, such as the 1867 Reform Act and factional

rivalries within the Church of England. Victorians had strong opinions about major personalities from the 17th century, in particular Charles I and Oliver Cromwell, and the names and reputations of these figures were employed in significant ways. This lecture placed Bisset's work in context and discussed circumstances in the Victorian age that allowed history to be used as a polemical tool, a construction shaped for convenience, a discursive and political device designed to give one set of interpretations or values or policies an advantage over others.

This lecture series is designed to be an annual event and will provide opportunities to raise the profile of the Department of History and Belk Library's Special Collections. It will contribute to internationalization at Appalachian, reinforce existing strengths in British history and British studies and enhance Appalachian's reputation for scholarship, while providing a social-cultural-community experience for campus and the public.

Learn about Dr. Turner on page 7.