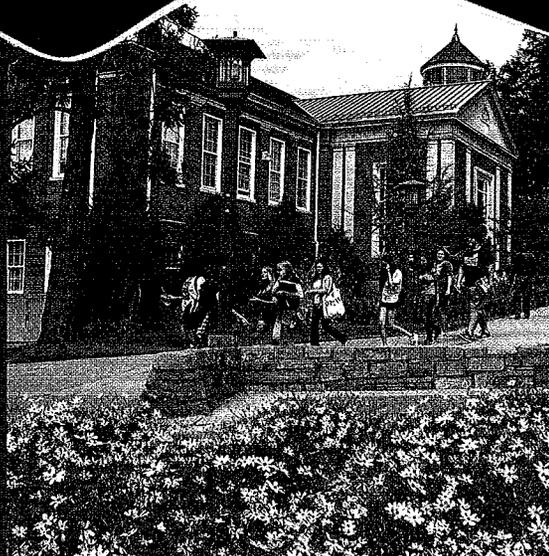


Appalachian State University's History programs provide a combination of liberal education and practical training that serves the needs of students, employers, and state residents in many ways. History graduates become lawyers and managers, museum professionals and archivists, educational administrators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



this issue

- The Department's New Service Learning Course p. 1
- Message from the Chair p. 2
- Professorship Fundraiser p. 3
- Meet our New Faculty p. 5
- Faculty Notes p. 6
- Current and Former Students p. 9
- Interview with Carole Wilson p. 11
- Remembering Steve Simon p. 11

history.appstate.edu

The Department's New Service Learning Course | By: Dr. Jeff Bortz

What is now History 3210: Poverty: Theory and Praxis began as an experiment to combine some rather difficult theory with experiential learning on the problem of poverty in society. Towards that end, students in the course read Volume I of Karl Marx's *Capital* to study his ideas about the distribution of wealth and poverty in society. Appropriate to a history class, they read the primary source, Volume I itself, rather than attacks on or defenses of his controversial theories, so they can decide for themselves whether his ideas are useful and explanatory or not.

At the same time, students engage in service learning and civic engagement by carrying out a program of work at Boone's

homeless shelter, the Hospitality House. They work as volunteers at the house twenty-one hours during the semester, plus gathering together to prepare a meal for the homeless at the shelter. The idea is for them to observe first-hand extreme poverty and its nature and consequences. Poverty is not an abstraction but a very real and overwhelming reality to those who live it. The residents of the house range in age from a few months to their seventies. The students engage in writing about both the theory as well as the service learning experience, along with critical discussion during the weekly seminars.

Some of the student reactions to the course have been:

"Best class ever! But really, the class really helped me understand homelessness and poverty. Now, I volunteer wherever I can whenever I can. The class made me a better citizen!"

Learn more on page 5.



Dr. Bortz and his students



From the Chair...

Becoming chair of the History Department was never a job I particularly fancied or craved. There's nothing wrong with folks ambitiously seeking a good job; oftentimes those people do a fantastic job. But I was simply very content as a faculty member, teaching my classes and working on my research projects. Sometimes, of course, jobs have a way of finding you . . . and that's a little bit of how I feel about this role as chair. Please don't misunderstand. I very much enjoy being chair now that I am. This is a fantastic department, one that I've been a part of for more than three decades and one that I'm very proud to continue to call my home. And especially now that I am chair, I find myself itching to find a way to make this department even better . . . to make it stronger for the students and faculty who will inherit it.

In my job as chair, I ran across a disturbing set of statistics this past year. I think that many of you will find them disturbing as well. Of the more than 3300 living History alumni from Appalachian, only a third (1096) have ever made a financial contribution to their alma mater. It gets worse. Of that 1096, only 222 have given to the College of Arts and Sciences and only 94 have ever specifically given back to the History Department!

I hear from our alumni and I know that they are proud of Appalachian and specifically they are very proud of the History Department. That's what makes this so disturbing but also, in a roundabout way, so hopeful. I believe that I can change this tradition and build a wide base of support for our future. I've taught many of you and met many of you when you traveled back to campus. I know your passion for History and your pride in Appalachian. I'm convinced that the only crisis here is a crisis of communication. A third of our alumni already give; my plea to you today is to remember to give to History! When you give, pledge at least a portion of that gift to one of the History foundation accounts. And, for the two thirds of you who haven't given yet, may I encourage you to take the plunge and make a small annual gift beginning this year? Perhaps you think that your gift isn't large enough. If so, I urge you to discard that heretical thought! What we really desperately need is you! Your involvement and your small gifts collectively will become the lifeblood of something wonderful. I've got a feeling that most of you are like me. You care . . . but you just haven't been asked. Life and other responsibilities take your time and you just haven't yet stepped up to serve and give to a place you want so desperately to see succeed.

I hope that you understand now why fundraising during my brief tenure as chair is something about which I've become so passionate. Serving as chair has given me a way to give back to a department that has given so much to me. And, like with any job, I have only a limited time to make a difference. I hope that all of you with a history in our department share my zeal to do something to help make this a better, more engaging place. Many people make the mistake of assuming that they can't make a financial difference unless they're rich. If that were true, very little would ever actually get done! Any charity can tell you that the little gifts—multiplied by a lot of people who care—are what ultimately get the job done. I've also discovered in my work in community organizations over the years that people do not give because they have a lot to give. Rather, they give because they care. A giving heart will give of what they have to make a difference. As my Dad always told me, "Those are the just the cold, hard facts!"

It is my hope and it is my belief that my efforts in fundraising—given that they are sincerely rooted in a desire to build a stronger, better History Department at Appalachian—will pay dividends long after I'm gone from Appalachian. I know that this will be the case because I know Appalachian and I know that the History family is strong. Join me in this passion and together we can make a difference!

Most sincerely,

James R. Goff, Jr.
Professor and Chair
Department of History

Greer Professors Who Have Given Or Pledged To The Greer Campaign

3

Dr. George Antone
Dr. Rennie Brantz
Dr. Jari Eloranta
Dr. Lynne Getz
Dr. Jim Goff
Dr. Michael Krenn
Dr. Lucinda McCray
Dr. Peter Petschauer
Dr. Tim Silver
Dr. Michael Wade
Dr. David White
Dr. John Williams
Dr. Jim Winders

Alumni/Friends of the History Department Who Have Given Or Pledged to The Greer Campaign

George Finney
Jim and Karen Hastings
Ronnie Kirkland
Brad and Carole Wilson
Jeffrey Young

IG Greer Recipients With Alumni Sponsors

Roy Carroll (1977-1979): Sponsored by Brad and Carole Wilson
George Antone (1981-1983): Sponsored by Brad and Carole Wilson
Peter Petschauer (1987-1989): Sponsored by Brad and Carole Wilson
Rennie Brantz (1991-1993): Sponsored by Brad and Carole Wilson
Tim Silver (1997-1999): Sponsored by Jeffrey Young
James Goff (2007-2009): Sponsored by Jim and Karen Hastings

IG Greer Recipients Still in Need of Alumni Sponsors

Lawrence Bond (1979-1981)
Ruby Lanier (1983-1985)
Richard Haunton (1985-1987)
Raymond Pulley (1989-1991)
David White (1993-1995)
Thomas Keefe (1995-1997)
John Williams (1999-2001)
Michael Wade (2001-2003)
James Winders (2003-2005)
Michael Krenn (2005-2007)
Jeff Bortz (2009-2011)
Lynne Getz (2011-2013)
Lucinda McCray (2013-2015)
Jari Eloranta (2015-2018)

Department of History

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

THE WILSON MATCH

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE I. G. GREER PROFESSORSHIP IN HISTORY

As I shared last year, we are now in the midst of a three-year campaign to enhance the I. G. Greer Distinguished Professorship in History. The goal is to fund the Professorship sufficiently so that it will be an everlasting award to recognize excellence in teaching and enhance faculty research at Appalachian. The oldest distinguished professorship on campus, the I. G. Greer Award dates to the 1960s when the Appalachian Class of 1916 raised money to honor one of the first History professors on campus. When you pledge to save the Greer, you will be joining an Appalachian alumni tradition that literally goes back more than a hundred years!

This year, I have exciting news. Two of our History alumni, Brad and Carole Wilson, have issued a challenge! They will match all first-time donors to the Greer campaign up to \$5000 for all gifts that are received from now through December 31, 2017. You can, in effect, double your gift to the History Department and this important campaign by pledging your gift today! Join those who have already pledged to save the Greer Professorship and keep History at the forefront of Appalachian's academic tradition.

Thanks to Brad and Carole for their support of the History Department and thank you for helping us keep the I. G. Greer Professorship alive and well!

Sincerely,

James R. Goff, Jr.
Chair, Department of History
The College of Arts and Sciences
Appalachian State University

Make a Gift

I.G. Greer Distinguished Professorship in History Endowment - 94211

_____ I pledge to match a Greer Professorship gift of \$1,500.00 over the course of the campaign.

_____ My gift is in honor of Greer Professor _____.

_____ I would like to give the following one-time amount:

Gift Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$ _____ Other (any amount is appreciated)

Visa Mastercard American Express Discover Online: givenow.appstate.edu/history

Check (enclosed) Make payable to Appalachian State University Foundaton Inc.

Name on Credit Card

Phone

Email

Credit Card Number

Exp.

Signature

Credit Card Billing Address

I.G. Greer Distinguished Professorship - 94211

For more information contact Carey Fissel, Director of Development at 828-262-7622 or fisselcm@appstate.edu

The Department's New Service Learning Course | Continued

"Working at the Hospitality House gave the class a flavor that I can't even begin to describe. Not only did I enjoy my work there but I got to see face to face what poverty in my local area was like. This gave me a better grip on poverty in general to see the suffering many experience when unable to support themselves in such an exclusive 'claw to the top' system. Our dinner we did at the end of the course was a beautiful thing that I will modestly keep in my mind forever."

"Dr. Bortz's course on poverty was one of the most illuminating experiences I have had thus far during my experience in college. By utilizing both an academic/historical approach to the development of capitalism and hands-on experience volunteering among the impoverished at the Hospitality House of Boone, I was able to better understand the systematic mechanisms that force people into poverty and the mechanisms that keep people in poverty or homelessness. More importantly I was able to humanize the impoverished of Boone, and in general, in ways that challenged the typical rhetorical depictions of the poor or homeless from either the public or the media. I came to realize that no one who is poor truly wants to be poor and no one who is homeless truly wants to be homeless."

"I felt the theoretical reading coupled with practical help and contact with impoverished people gains a whole understanding of their plight and problems with our system. It could've been some peoples' first interaction with those of a different class than theirs."

Students are invariably kind to their professors, but beyond that, I have been struck by how much they get from the class. As you can tell from the comments, they make a solid effort to wrestle with Marx and his ideas, and come away from that struggle quite a bit more thoughtful about social process, the core of the study of history. And the experience of the Hospitality House seems to affect all of them. The population of the house ranges from the elderly to young single mothers with newborn infants. It is a heterogeneous population with only one thing in common: no money at all and no access to money. The extremely poor are the most vulnerable members of society, and the students thus far have studied and discussed in depth one of America's great social problems. As a professor, I appreciate the work and learning they invest in this class.

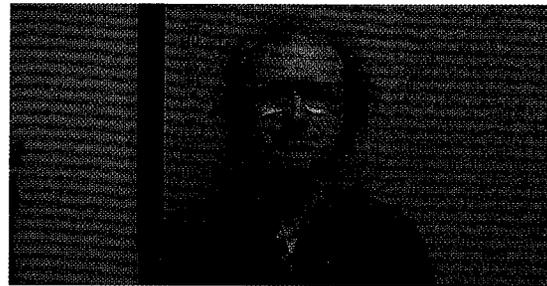
Meet Our New Faculty!



Victoria Jackson holds the Rhinehart Postdoctoral Fellowship in British History (2016-18). "I research the cultural history, religious changes, and material culture of early modern Britain. I spend most of my time in the Rhinehart Rare Book Collection, housed within Special Collections in the Belk Library and Information Commons, researching and writing a book

on dining in early modern Britain. Entitled "Furnished Tables, Social Lives: Everyday Dining in Early Modern England", my book investigates dining as the central ritual of daily life across all social levels in sixteenth and seventeenth-century England. Recently, scholarly studies on the history of food and eating have become extremely popular, but the majority of these works focus exclusively on the monarchy and nobility, where great feasts are characterized by a parade of exotic dishes and dining was a form of gross expenditure. Alternatively, my project analyzes the religious and ritual significance of the shared meal for the majority of people – the wide and varying middle classes that existed below the nobility – interrogating the role objects played in the experience of everyday dining within the home. It reveals that people used their daily meals to build and destroy social relationships with one another, to shape and condition their personal identities, and as a vehicle through which they regularly expressed their spirituality, political allegiances, and economic standing."

"The Rhinehart Rare Book Collection holds hundreds of printed sources that document the rituals of dining, making it the best place for my work. Their key holdings include the seventeenth-century religious treatise, *The Religion of Protestants, A Safe Way to Salvation*, by William Chillingworth, which advises Protestants against dining or drinking with Catholics, as well as Richard Chandler's nineteenth-century life-writing, *The Life of William Waynflete, Bishop of Windsor...in the Reign of Henry VI*, which discusses the bishop's dining habits both at home and at Magdalen College, Oxford, which he founded. Texts such as these are rarely studied, but have much to offer early modern historians."



Dr. Scott Relyea joined the Department in 2016 as our new historian of East Asia. Dr. Relyea earned his PhD from the University of Chicago; an MA in Chinese Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, part of the University of London; an MA in International Affairs from the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University; and a BS in Journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. With a focus on Modern China, he specializes in political, social, and intellectual history. The regions of China's southwest borderlands encompassing Sichuan and Yunnan provinces, as well the Tibetan plateau, provide the geographical focus for much of his interests. Dr. Relyea's research centers on nationalism, state-building, ethnic construction and identity, and the global circulation of ideas embodied in the interaction between empire, state, and nation through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Now completing the manuscript for his book, "Gazing at the Tibetan Plateau: China's Infrontier and the Early Twentieth Century Evolution of Sino-Tibetan Relations," Dr. Relyea explores the critical role played by borderlands and the neighboring 'stable periphery' in the processes of state-building and state

consolidation in China's transition from empire to nation-state in the early twentieth century. The book also situates the origins of ongoing Sino-Tibetan tensions in these efforts to transform and incorporate the Kham borderlands of eastern Tibet. He recently began work on a related research project, "Learning to Be Colonial: 'Effective Occupation' and Early Twentieth Century Chinese Settlement of Eastern Tibet." This project traces the global circulation of ideas about colonization at the turn of the nineteenth century, the influence of newly globalizing norms such as sovereignty, and their intersection with long-standing Chinese imperial frontier policies on novel efforts to encourage Han settlement of eastern Tibet. He is also in the early stages of a third project, "Scattering Sand: High-Speed Rail, Nation-Building, and China's Urban-Rural Divide in Historical Perspective." This research draws on the concept of 'network ghettos' and Sun Yat-sen's ambitious railway plan (1922) to explore the geographical planning and ramifications of China's high-speed rail network in the context of political, economic, and social forces which have exacerbated the urban-rural divide of Modern China throughout the past century.

Dr. Relyea cites a quotation from Xunzi, a third century BCE Confucian philosopher, to convey his approach to teaching: 'Not hearing is not as good as hearing, hearing is not as good as seeing, seeing is not as good as knowing, knowing is not as good as acting; only through action can a thing be truly learned.'

Scott says he strives "to transport my students back to the era we're studying, encouraging them to join me in an investigation of how history unfolds in its time, to actively see history through the eyes of its participants and actors. I enjoy challenging students to look at the world around them in different ways, to approach moments in history from new and sometimes discordant perspectives, to see the complexities in all aspects of life and the past, and the resonance of the past in the present. The past doesn't necessarily teach us lessons for the present, but shows us where human society, and where different component societies, have come from, and what they've endured in the past. Particularly in the case of Chinese and Asian history, this approach allows students to see that societies on the other side of the world aren't as different (or "inscrutable") as they might have thought."

Faculty Notes

Michael Behrent delivered a paper entitled "Neoliberalism: The Highest Stage of Anti-Humanism?" at the conference entitled "Michel Foucault and Neoliberalism," held March 25-26 at the American University in Paris. He also published an essay called "The Persistent Hold of Phenomenology" as part of a review forum hosted by the journal *Politics, Religion, & Ideology* on Knox Peden's book *Spinoza Contra Phenomenology: French Rationalism from Cavailles to Deleuze* (2014). Michael also published the following: an article entitled "Twilight of the Political? On the Ideological Disarray of French Politics" in the journal *Modern & Contemporary France*; an article entitled "Karl Polanyi and the Reality of Society" in the most recent issue of *History and Theory*; and a book review in the current issue of the *Journal of Modern History* of James D. Faubion's edited volume, *Foucault Now: Current Perspectives on Foucault Studies* (2014). Finally, he published a review essay in the *Los Angeles Review of Books* (on a recent essay by Géraldine Smith) called "Bobos in

Paris: The Rise and Fall of a Multicultural Dream," which can be accessed online here: <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/bobos-paris-rise-fall-multicultural-fantasy/>. On November 13, he presented a paper entitled "Reading Kant at *Normale Sup*: The Postwar Origins of Foucault's Philosophical Project" to the Triangle Intellectual History Seminar at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park.

Donna Bly was nominated by several of our students for the Richard N. Henson Outstanding Advisor Award for 2015-16.

Tony Bly's article "'A Likely Negro': Using Runaway Slave Advertisements to Teach Slavery" appeared in Cynthia Lynn Lyerly and Bethany Jay, eds. *Understanding and Teaching American Slavery* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2016), 263-282. He published "Pretty, Sassy, Cool: Slave Resistance, Agency, and Culture in Colonial New England" *New England Quarterly* 89.3 (September 2016): 457-492. Tony was also nominated by several students for the Richard N. Henson Outstanding Advisor Award for 2015-16.

Jeffrey Bortz and Marcos Aguila (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico City) published *México y el Mundo del Trabajo: ensayos sobre trabajadores, líderes y gangsters* (Mexico: Conaculta, 2015). They also published "Command and Control at Work: The Evolution of the Rules of Work on Mexican Railroads, 1883-1923," *Labor History*, vol. 56, num. 5, December 2015. Their article "Railroad Violence during the Mexican Revolution and the Struggle for Workers Control, 1910-1921," has been accepted for publication in *Railroad History* and is forthcoming. *Railroad History* is the oldest railroad history journal in North America. In teaching, his new course, History: Theory and Practice, has now been made a regular catalogue course, HIS/WRC 3210. It is a service-learning course in which the students carry out work at the Hospitality House, Boone's homeless shelter. In service, he helped write the guidelines for online teaching for both the History Department and the College of Arts and Sciences, and now serves on the Provost's Task Force for Online Teaching.

Craig Caldwell was the 2016 winner of the Wayne D. Duncan Appalachian State University Faculty Enrichment and Teaching Fellowship. He delivered a paper entitled "Adding on Precepts for Ships: The Context and Style of Vegetius's Naval Appendix" during the Greek and Roman Military Manuals Conference at the University of Winnipeg in Canada on October 22.

Karl Campbell delivered a paper titled "A New Political History for the Old North State?: Luther Hodges, Historiography, and Contemporary Tar Heel Politics" at the Historical Society of North Carolina. He also presented several lectures, including: "The North Carolina Way: Civil Rights and Wrongs in the Twentieth Century" at the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby; "Reconsidering Civil Rights History in Our State and Nation," at the Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Integration of High Country Schools; "An Introduction to North Carolina History and Culture" to the Holland Fellows (Business Majors from China) at the ASU School of Business; and "Stark Raving Mad: Contemporary Politics in Historical Perspective" at the Forum on the 2016 Presidential Primaries sponsored by the ASU Department of Government and Justice Studies. **Jim Goff** participated alongside Karl in the Presidential Primaries Forum held on April 20 and, painful



though it was, delivered a presentation entitled "'Trumpisms' and Conservative Ideology: A Republican Realignment?" Karl was also a nominee for an ASU Faculty Staff Appreciation Award. In November he served as moderator for the panel "Watergate: A Historical Perspective and Lessons Learned" at the annual meeting of the Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeals, and in October he presented his annual lecture "North Carolina Over Four Centuries" at the orientation session of Leadership North Carolina. In addition he gave two lectures discussing the election in historical perspective at several venues around the state: "Who is a 'Real' American?" on immigration and "Stark Raving Mad" on recent American politics.

Kristen Deathridge was selected to attend the NEH Doing Digital History Summer Institute in Arlington, VA, hosted by George Mason University's Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media. Kristin was awarded an NEH Common Heritage grant, along with Pam Mitchem and Dea Rice in the library, for "Preserving and Sharing the Story of the Lincoln Heights Rosenwald School."

Jari Eloranta published (with Ilkka Nummela) "Unequal Partners: Germany and Finland during the Second World War" in Eugene White and Jonas Scherner (eds), *Paying for Hitler's War: The Consequences of Nazi Hegemony for Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016). He also published a book review of Philip Hoffman's *Why Did Europe Conquer the World* (Princeton University Press, 2015) on EH.Net.

http://eh.net/book_reviews/why-did-europe-conquer-the-world/. In addition, he published (with Maria Cristina Moreira and Lauri Karvonen) "Between Conflicts and Commerce: The Impact of Institutions and Wars on Swedish-Portuguese Trade, 1686-1815," *Journal of European Economic History* 3 (2015):9-50; (with Jaakko Pehkonen and Jari Ojala) "Deskilling and Decline in Skill Premium during the Age of Sail: Swedish and Finnish Seamen, 1751-1913," *Explorations in Economic History* 61 (July 2016):85-94; and (with Jari Ojala, Jaakko Pehkonen, and Lars Christian Bruno) "Equality and Convergence in Nordic Societies in the Long Run: Europe and Other Comparative Mirrors," ANU Centre for European Studies, *Briefing Papers*, 6:2 (July 2016). URL: <http://politicsir.cass.anu.edu.au/sites/politicsir.anu.edu.au/files/documents/Eloranta%20Briefing%20Paper.pdf>. He was also selected to become the President of the Economic and Business History Society for 2018; his term will begin at the conference held in Jyväskylä, Finland, in late May. Jari also organized, together with **Jeremy Land** (and assistance from **Anthony Sadler**), the 11th Appalachian Spring Conference in World History and Economics on April 16-17, 2016. The conference featured Dr. James Robinson (University of Chicago) as the keynote speaker and several visiting scholars and roundtables. Thus the conference included two visiting scholars

from Cuba, one from Great Britain, and several prestigious scholars from the US. The conference was attended by almost 100 registered participants, including many Appalachian faculty and students. Jari also published works in his native Finland, including "Nuorten miesten ammatti? Ikä ja ammattitaito merenkulussa 1700-luvulta 1900-luvun puoliväliin" (=A Young Man's Profession? Age and Skill in Seafaring from the 18th to the Mid-20th Century) In *Työ merellä* (=Work at Sea), Tapio Bergholm (ed.). Navis Fennica 2015-2016. Suomen merihistoriallinen yhdistys & Suomen merimuseo, Helsinki (2016). A volume edited by Jari Eloranta, Eric Golson, Andrei Markevich, and Nikolaus Wolf, *Economic History of Warfare and State Formation*. (Tokyo: Springer, 2016) also appeared, containing Jari's chapter, "Historicizing Divergence: A Comparative Analysis of the Revolutionary Crises in Russia and Finland" (with Pavel Osinsky), 103-116 and "Preface" (with Andrei Markevich and Eric Golson), vii-xiv. In addition, Jari reports that he organized the 76th Economic History Association conference in Boulder, Colorado, on September 15-18, with one of our MA students, **Ryan Ingerick**, assisting. Finally, to cap off a great year, Jari was selected as the Donald W. Sink Family Outstanding Scholar Award winner in the recent College of Arts and Sciences Awards for 2015-2016. The award carries with it a \$1000 research stipend. Jari joins an esteemed list of History faculty who have held this honor, including **Jeff Bortz** (2000), **Jim Winders** (2001), **Tim Silver** (2003), **Michael Wade** (2008), and **Michael Krenn** (2012).

Allison Fredette presented a paper, "The Trimble Case: Love, Anger, and Family Ties in Post-Civil War Wheeling," at the Society of Appalachian Historians annual meeting in Knoxville in May 2016. In June, she also gave a lecture at Lees-McRae College as part of their New Opportunity School for Women, which serves low-income women from the Appalachian region every summer. In addition, Allison published a book review on *Lincoln's Generals' Wives* in the newsletter of the Society of Civil War Historians.

Lynne Getz submitted the revised final copy of her book manuscript to the University Press of Kansas. The current title, still under negotiation with the Marketing Department of the Press, is *Abolitionists, Doctors, Ranchers, and Traders: A Family's Journey Through American History*. Publication is scheduled for September 2017.

James Goff traveled to Dallas, TX, in September 2016 to assist in the making of a documentary film on the Stamps-Baxter Music Company in the Dallas suburb of Oak Cliff. Mr. David Spence, a local businessman with a company called Good Space, has partnered with Dr. Alan Govenar of Documentary Arts, Inc. (<http://www.docarts.com>) in the making of a film on the Stamps

Quartet recordings made in Dallas in 1938. David's interest in promoting the documentary is to highlight and increase knowledge about the history and heritage of the old Stamps-Baxter building, which is now under renovation for office and business retail space. Jim's involvement in the project was reviewing artifacts and consenting to a filmed interview on the significance of the Stamps-Baxter Company from its origins in Jacksonville, Texas, in the mid-1920s until its decline and liquidation in the 1970s. Jim's co-hosted radio talk show "On the Right Side" (WATA-1450) finally came to a close in May 2016 after a successful ten-year run, the victim of management decisions to offer more national talk show feeds.

Anatoly Isaenko published "Georgian-Alanian (Ossetian) Ties in the Medieval Period," (with Scott Jessee) *Medieval Perspectives*, vol. 30 (August 2016): 117-126; "About Building Blocks of Ethnicity on the Example of Ethno-Genesis of Ossetian People," *Peoples of the Caucasus*, No 2 (2016):13-23; and "Faithful Contributors to the Victories of Alanic Knights: Scythian and Sarmato-Alanic Battle Horses and Dogs," Part One, No 2, *Darial* (2016): 192-211. Part Two of the article "Battle Horses and Dogs of Sarmato-Alans" is accepted and scheduled for publication in *The Journal of Eurasia and World* (2017). Toly also presented "Anthropological Aspects of Ethnic Conflicts" at the Joint International Conference of the Canadian Anthropology Association (CASCA) and the Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA) held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, on May 11-15, 2016. While at the conference, he also chaired a panel on Conflicts and Reconstruction in the World. He also published "Migrations of Sarmato-Alanic Ancestors of Ossetians to the British Isles," *Darial*, No 5 (October 2016): 210-239. Toly also reported that, together with **Michael Behrent** and colleagues from GLS and Political Science, he helped host an interesting symposium with a number of our students attending. Toly's contribution to the symposium was "Who Benefits? The View from Russia," Europe after Brexit: A Continent at the Crossroads (Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, 14 September 2016). He was also nominated to the Faculty Speakers Bureau.

Victoria Jackson reports that her article entitled "Speaking Plates: Text, Performance and Banqueting Trenchers in Early Modern Europe" is being published in the February 2017 issue of the journal *Renaissance Studies*. This article recently won the "Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art Publication Award."

Thomas Pegelow Kaplan (Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies/History) was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellowship and worked as a visiting fellow at the Center for Research on Antisemitism (ZfA) at the Technical University of Berlin, Germany, from May until August. He gave invited lectures throughout the country, among others at the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at Leipzig University, the Zentrum fuer Zeithistorische Forschung in Potsdam, and Berlin's famed Humboldt University. Thomas participated in numerous research colloquia and workshops at the ZfA and the new Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg. He conducted research interviews for one of his book projects and archival research for another book project in Hamburg, Berlin, and Copenhagen. He also prepared the Center's Spring 2017 research excursion to Poland and Germany by securing invitations to the University of Silesia, the House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial and Educational

Site and the Volkswagen Corporation. Dr. Pegelow Kaplan started a new partnership between the Center at Appalachian and the Center for Research on Antisemitism that will result in future joined workshops and conferences, among others on the Armenian genocide and its denial. He was, finally, invited to join the Distinguished Lecture Program of the Association for Jewish Studies. Lastly, Thomas headed the Center's annual Rosen Symposium on Women and Gender in the Holocaust at ASU, partnering, for the first time, with Yad Vashem, the World Center for Holocaust Research, Documentation, Education and Commemoration in Israel.

Jeremiah Kitunda was nominated and is now serving on the ASU Admissions Committee.

Michael L. Krenn's essays on the American artists Milton Avery, Mabel Dwight, Louis Lozowick, Raphael Soyer, and Hughie Lee-Smith appeared in *Works on Paper from the Collection of the Sheldon Museum of Art*, eds. Randon K. Rudd and Gregory Nosan (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2016): 60-61, 194-195, 200-201, 204-205, and 208-209. His chapter, "The Low Key Mulatto Coverage: Race, Civil Rights, and American Public Diplomacy, 1965-1976," appeared in *Reasserting America in the 1970s: U.S. Public Diplomacy and the Rebuilding of America's Image Abroad*, eds. Hallvard Notaker, Giles Scott-Smith, and David J. Snyder (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016):95-110. In addition, "Savage Settlers," his review of two new studies of settler colonialism (Walter L. Hixson, *American Settler Colonialism: A History and Alyosha Goldstein, ed., Formations of United States Colonialism*) appeared in *Diplomatic History* 40:3 (June 2016):573-575. Two documentary projects for which he serves as chief advisor received funding this past summer: 1) a documentary on Edward R. Dudley, the first African American U.S. ambassador, was funded by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and 2) a larger project, entitled "Black Diplomacy" (a study of African Americans in the Department of State during the Cold War), received a Media Project Development grant from the NEH. Finally, over the winter "break" he finished up the final revisions on his latest book, a history of U.S. cultural diplomacy that will be published by Bloomsbury Press in late-2017. In the area of teaching, he was nominated for a University of North Carolina Board of Governors Teaching Award. He has also been nominated for ASU's 100 Scholars Award and the Rennie W. Brantz Award for Outstanding Teaching in the First Year Seminar.

Lucinda McCray presented a paper entitled "But, What Should They Wear? Women and Health in the Progressive Era North Woods" at the Social Science History Association's annual conference in Chicago on November 18, 2016. She also commented on a session on "Historical Health in Rural Ohio Coal Mining Towns."

Scott Relyea recently received the excellent news that he has been awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Humanities Scholars Fellowship in the amount of \$1600. Scott's project is entitled "Learning to Be Colonial: 'Effective Occupation' and Early Twentieth Century Chinese Settlement of Eastern Tibet." In addition, on October 16, Scott traveled to Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands, VA, to give a public presentation entitled "China in Tibet: The Draw of Natural Resources, Past and Present."

Rwany Sibaja delivered a paper entitled "Understanding by Digital Design: Digital Storytelling and Other Forms of Multimedia Narrativity in the Sports History Classroom" at the North American Society for Sport History annual convention in Atlanta, GA, in May 2016. Preceding this conference, he was also invited to present at the *Doing Sports History in the Digital Present* conference at Georgia Tech University, where he delivered a talk entitled "Omeka and ¡Animales!: Appropriating a Web-Publishing Platform for Personal Research on Argentine Soccer."

Lon Strauss will be taking a leave of absence from Appalachian to serve as Visiting Professor of History in the Department of Military Strategy, Planning, and Operations at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA. Secretary of War Elihu Root established the U.S. Army War College in 1901 as an institution "not to promote war, but to preserve peace by intelligent and adequate preparation to repel aggression." He directed the school's mission on three strategic issues: "national defense, military science, and responsible command." Students who attend the Army War College are Lt. Colonels and Colonels, as well as civilian leadership from a variety of civil-military organizations and representatives from militaries around the globe. They graduate the college with a Master's of Strategic Studies and will be those who form the pool of candidates for promotion to General.

Emeriti Faculty Notes

Ruth Currie writes with the wonderful news that her book on American foreign policy in the Pacific is now available: Ruth Douglas Currie, *Kwajalein Atoll, the Marshall Islands and American Policy in the Pacific* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishers, 2016). Congratulations, Ruth! Here is the publisher's link:

www.mcfarlandbooks.com/book-2.php?id=978-1-4766-6311-1

Dorothea Martin Hoffman organized and participated in a roundtable discussion at the annual meeting April 1-2 of the NC Association of Historians at NC A&T University on "China's Expansion into the South China Sea: Local and Global Implications." In addition to Dorothea, the panel included Dr. Peng Deng of High Point University and Dr. Lee Wei-chin of Wake Forest University. Dorothea's spring pilgrimage to Boone had her presenting on "Chinese Migration to Panama and Costa Rica: From Indentured Labor to Migrants and Sojourners, 1840s to 1910s" as part of this year's Appalachian Spring Conference on World History and Economics.

Peter Petschauer published a historical novel entitled "A Perfect Portrait" to rave reviews. Find it at peterpetschauer.com. Peter also attended the 39th Annual Psychohistorical Conference at NYU held from June 1-3 and delivered a paper, "Found in Translation," about a Jewish man who wrote 62 highly intense letters to his family in Manhattan and a German communist who wrote letters to his family in Berlin first from prison, then from a concentration camp and finally from the Eastern Front where he served in a punishment regiment. Peter also read five historical poems at the conference. His latest publication is a volume entitled *Wounded Centuries* (Circumstantial Productions and Grolier Poetry Book Shop, 2015).

Charles (Chuck) Watkins wrote in to report that he has joined the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Preservation Consortium. Chuck also recently gave a paper

entitled "Newport: Living City or Tourist City" at a conference in Newport, RI, entitled *Preservation In the U.S.: 50 Years On*. The conference was cosponsored by the Newport Restoration Foundation and Salve Regina University.

Current and Former Students

Caitlyn Buxton, who received her MA in History from Appalachian, has completed her law degree. She is married to Joe Otto, another App grad. The two are living in Iowa, where Joe is finishing his dissertation on Midwestern agriculture and Caitlyn is working in the Otto family law firm.

Brent Lane sent the following update:

Dr. Goff,

It has certainly been a while since we've had contact, so I guess this is as good of a reason as any. For a couple of years, one of the editors of Backcasts: A Global History of Fly Fishing and Conservation, Sam Snyder, has been pressing me to tighten up a chapter of my thesis and create an addition to his scholarly effort to highlight the role that angling and literature have played in cold water conservation. Well, this is the result. I made the second chapter . . . [See the link below]

My family and I were supposed to make a visit to Boone back in May, but in December, I lost my job in the oilfield due to the dwindling oil prices, and as a result my time off has been slashed to pretty much NONE. In January, we found out that we are going to have another baby!!! Anyways, things will pick up, and we hope to make it back to God's Country sooner rather than later. When we do, I will certainly make every effort to pay you a visit. I hope things are going well with you, and hope to see you soon.

<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/B/bo23530137.html>

Emily S. Long, who graduated with honors from the History Department in 2015 and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in modern European history at New York University, participated this month in a conference in Paris, France, entitled "Crossroads in Intellectual History," sponsored by NYU and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales.

Hannah Malcolm, a senior history major, published a post for the blog hosted by the *Journal of the History of Ideas* (founded in 1940) entitled "Threatened by Prejudices: French Revolutionary Textbooks." Her post, which is based on the senior thesis she is currently writing, can be accessed here: <https://jhiblog.org/2016/09/12/threatened-by-prejudices-french-revolutionary-textbooks/>

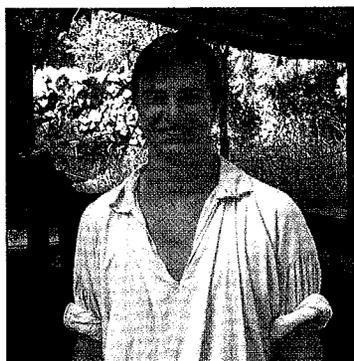
Joe Otto, graduate of the History Department's M.A. program, presented "Wet Prairie Agriculture in the Ohio River Valley" at the Annual Meeting of the Western History Association in St. Paul, Minnesota, in October. Joe is scheduled to defend his dissertation in the fall in the History Ph.D. program at the University of Oklahoma.

Carson Sailor was hired to be the Executive Administrator for the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, which manages both the Hickory Ridge Museum and the Horn in the West Outdoor Drama. He is doing everything from radio

interviews to historical programming to site development. Hickory Ridge will be open from May 1st to November 30th. You can hear Carson on WATA (AM 1450) on Mondays at 8:45 am. He also just had an exhibit open that he guest curated at BRAHM called "History of the Horse Show." It runs through July 24th.

Marty Tschetter (MA, Public History, 2013) writes from his position as the local historian at the Wayne County Public Library in Goldsboro, NC, to announce several fall programs that his office is sponsoring. As part of their "Harvesting Our History" public events, he has NC State's Dr. Gary Moore coming for a program entitled "Agriculture in North Carolina Before, During, and After World War II" and Jeff Backert, the East Region Supervisor for NC Historic Sites, speaking on how the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, changed the lives of Wayne County residents. He also has local resident Pat Denise sharing her personal experiences living in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila from 1941 to 1944 after the Japanese seized control of the islands. Marty is an excellent example of how our Public History program is making a difference in small towns and communities across our state and region.

Matthew Weaver, an Appalachian Studies undergrad who was minoring in History (and who returned to our department in January to finish his undergraduate degree as a History major), was named Pianist of the Year for North Carolina in competition conducted at the State Fair in Raleigh. This makes six years in a row that Matt has collected this distinct honor!



Nick White (BA, 2014; MA, Public History, 2016) lined up a seasonal job at Colonial Williamsburg, working as an apprentice brick maker in the historic trades department. Jim Goff ran into him while on a recent trip to Williamsburg with a local 5th grade class. The brickyard where Nick works actually proved to be quite the favorite for the young students on the trip. Jim asked Nick to write and share some of his recent experiences:

My family currently lives in Raleigh, North Carolina and that is where I attended high school until I graduated in 2010. I completed my undergraduate degree in History at App State and I graduated in the spring of 2014. I actually started out as an Archaeology major, but I ended up switching to History part way through my Freshman year. I always enjoyed learning about the past and obtaining the knowledge of what once was. It might sound strange but what really drew me to History is my love of myths and lore. There is truth in all myths and I always looked at history as the lore of the world in which we all live. By learning all I can about the past, I am becoming part of

something that was and what will eventually come to pass.

I enjoyed every moment of my time as an undergrad at Appalachian and I made a lot of great friends and learned from a lot of great teachers. My favorite subject within history has always been ancient and medieval European history and I owe most of what I know on that subject thanks to Dr. Valante (I took five of her classes over the course of my undergrad career).

After I graduated I was unsure what I wanted to do next, but eventually I applied and was accepted to Appalachian's Public History graduate program. My two years as a graduate student opened my eyes to a whole different aspect of history. I discovered that I wanted to one day work in a museum, one of the most powerful ways to share knowledge of the past with literally anyone. All of my professors in graduate school were great, but I want to give special thanks to Dr. Andrea Burns, whose understanding of and ability to teach the subject of public history, set me on my current path.

I graduated from App State's graduate program in Public History in the spring of 2016 and I am now experiencing my first foray into the museum world. In May 2016 I started working at the Brickyard in Colonial Williamsburg and I will continue until the job ends at the end of the Fall. Here I interpret the history and details of historic 18th century brickmaking to the public. However, I do a lot more than just talk. Every day I not only interpret brickmaking, but I actually do it as well, making bricks the old fashioned way. I've learned a lot so far and working here has given me a glimpse of what the front lines of public history are like. As my time at Colonial Williamsburg comes to an eventual end, I hope to continue to work in the museum field. My goal is to one day get into collections or curatorial work.

I owe where I am and what I do to Appalachian State, its History department, and the incredible teachers that I have had along the way. I plan to continue on my path and use all of the knowledge that I have gained during my time at App as I move forward in my career.

Alexander Wisnoski III (MA, 2009) finished his PhD at Minnesota and then taught for a year at Messiah College in Pennsylvania. He wrote his mentor Rene Horst that he has "just accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Latin American History at the University of North Georgia. I appreciate the time you spent training me on this path, as a mentor and friend!" Way to go, Alex!

Alumni Focus: Carole Wilson Jonathan Billheimer



While most may recognize Carole Wilson as a part of the Wilson Scholars Program, as well as the ASU Board of Trustees, they might not be aware that Carole's roots extend intricately back to the Department of History. As a History major and Appalachian graduate ('75), Carole valued the emphasis Appalachian placed on teaching. Born to a Baptist minister and his wife, Carole's family moved throughout the South before settling in Raleigh just as high school was about to begin. Graduating from Sanderson High School in 1971, she wanted to be a school teacher and knew that Appalachian was known for its teacher program. "I applied and was accepted and had never seen Appalachian until I went to Boone for orientation in the summer of 1971! It was a true leap of faith."

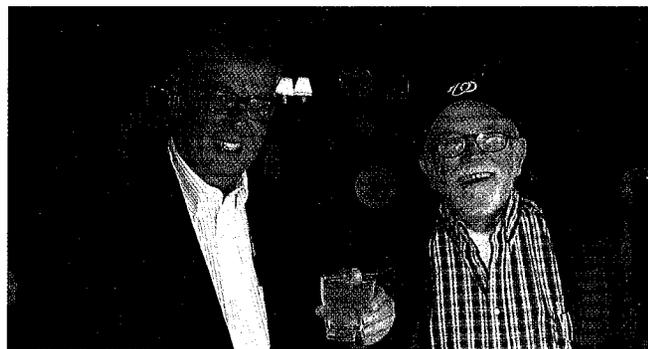
While at Appalachian, Carole was in the pilot program for Secondary Ed majors to do an internship along with student teaching. While that type of program already existed for Elementary Ed majors, it did not begin for Secondary Ed until its inaugural run with Carole and five other History majors in the fall of 1974. "Dr. Charles Blackburn, one of my favorite history professors, developed the program for Secondary Ed majors. We were located at Carver High School in Winston-Salem."

Following graduation, Carole taught Social Studies in Wake County Schools. She then decided to return to ASU in 1978 to pursue a certification in Learning Disabilities. She taught all grades and exceptionalities in Caldwell County Schools, including AG Social Studies. After 14 years in Lenoir, she and her husband Brad moved to Raleigh when he took a job with the Hunt Administration in 1993. Although they've lived in Raleigh ever since, raising two adult children, Anne and Alex, and now enjoy spending time with three grandsons, Carole still maintains close links with Appalachian. "It is where I was shaped as a student, a teacher, and a person. I was fortunate to interact with so many wonderful and caring faculty, who not only stretched my mind but conveyed a true sense of caring about my success. Of course, since I was a History major, many of those faculty were in the History Department. Point being, I built my foundation for my teaching career, my community engagement, my philanthropic efforts, my leadership at ASU, as an undergraduate."

In addition to the ASU Board of Trustees, Carole also serves on the Foundation Board of the NC Museum of Art, as well as the board of SAFEchild, a child abuse prevention organization in Raleigh. The Wilson Scholars Program that she and her husband established at Appalachian supports 20 outstanding students this fall dedicated to service, leadership and "a world far beyond

themselves." And last year, she and Brad created the Challenge Match for History Matters. This was a \$5,000 challenge (which we met) so that account will now begin producing a scholarship for the student editor beginning next year. But Carole remains mindful of faculty as well; she and her husband's support for the I.G. Greer Endowment remains a passion for her. "The I.G. Greer Endowment is a small step in recognizing outstanding scholarship, teaching, and service."

She and her husband regularly say that virtually every good thing that has happened in their lives can be traced to Appalachian. "And, since I was a History major, it follows that the Appalachian wellspring was the Department of History."



Remembering Steve Simon Michael Wade

Professor *Emeritus* Stephen J. Simon departed this life on Friday, January 6, 2017, at the age of 77. He was born July 2, 1939 in Oregon, Ohio to the late Stephen and Mary Rable Simon. He earned a Bachelor's degree in history from Xavier University (Cincinnati) in 1961, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Ancient History from Loyola University (Chicago) in 1973. He served as a professor in the History Department at Appalachian State University from 1970 to 2014. He was also a member of the Boone Board of Adjustments from 1989 to 1995. Steve is survived by his wife, recently retired Appalachian Criminal Justice professor Kathleen M. Simon; his daughter, Patty S. Whitaker and husband Brad of Knightdale, North Carolina; and his son, Joseph J. Simon and wife Amy of Clemson, South Carolina, and two grandchildren, Dean and Mallory Simon.

Steve was already mid-career when I came to Appalachian for my first university position in the summer of 1983. A wonderful friend and mentor told me, "Be a good department man and you will prosper there." Good department persons, he said, were first and foremost committed teachers, who taught not just information, but also values. They made good departments by teaching freshman surveys, pursuing their scholarship, and providing capable service. They *demonstrated* that contributing to something larger than himself or herself was vital to the health of the educational mission. And, Amos Simpson said, they were never as numerous as they should be.

In time, I learned that Steve Simon was an exemplary department person who did his work without complaint or pretentiousness. Steve's longtime colleague, British historian Michael Moore, remembered that, "Steve joined the department in 1970, one year earlier than I. I remember him vividly and excitedly extolling to me, a job candidate facing a long move of family, the grand future he and others saw for our History Department. His ebullience, I came to understand, was ingrained. It stood him well in the test of time and made him a welcome colleague."

Drawing on his Jesuit seminary training, and in his own inimitable style, Steve taught freshmen every year of his career at

Appalachian. He introduced them to ancient Greece and Rome, and the enduring, universally human values of those civilizations. His overarching theme in those courses was the relationship between past and present, the relevance of ancient history for the modern world. Tim Silver, once Steve's teaching assistant, later his colleague, remembered that Steve "had a theatrical, almost Shakespearian style. He grabbed chalk and hammered it on the blackboard (in those days) or used it emphatically to underline his amazingly clear handwriting. He conveyed information with near evangelistic zeal, as if HIS freshmen were lost in the wilderness of American culture and would remain so unless he could rescue them by explaining the importance of Rome's shift from Republic to Empire. No one who was semi-conscious left Dr. Simon's class without good notes, including his T.A."

To my knowledge, Steve Simon was the first person in our Department, perhaps the first at our university, to publish a reasoned defense of liberal arts education. He did it back in 1983, when the fundamentalist, anti-democratic assault on traditional values was still in its infancy. He wrote then that, "There must be more to education than the simple goal of economic prosperity." That more was learning to cherish human values more than things, knowledge over mere information, and wisdom more than statistics. He saw history, and the humanities, as a path to truth and the development of a fully formed self. Reflecting in 2014 on a scholar who said that "Anyone who tells you that the sole purpose of education is the acquisition of negotiable skills is attempting to reduce you to a productive employee at work, a gullible consumer in the market, and a docile subject of the state," Steve observed that he had been delivering that message for four decades.

Steve was the first, and unfunded, director of what later became International Programs at Appalachian. He took students to Italy in an era when such an always-challenging venture offered little in the way of recompense or support. His biggest reward from that effort was meeting his wife Kathy on one of those summer trips to Rome. Steve served with dedication on the university's Faculty Senate. As History Department Graduate Advisor back in old Whitener Hall, Steve boosted sagging enrollments and restored vitality to the program. Later in his career, he assumed the editorship of the *International Social Science Review* and considerably upgraded the quality of its articles and reviews.

Anyone who spends a long time in an academic department knows that they have their ups and downs. In the mid-1990s the History Department faced the prospect of having an external chair supervise its fortunes as a result of having two Chairs resign within a matter of months. Steve Simon was instrumental in organizing a successful effort to allow the department to choose a new leader from its own ranks and the department gradually moved forward to better days.

Professor Emeritus Sheldon Hanft summed Stephen J. Simon up quite well: "Steve was a dedicated colleague who worked hard to improve the quality of teaching and support for students within our department. He was a loving father, a dedicated spouse, a good friend, and a pleasant coworker. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues, friends, former students and family." Tim Silver said that he was one of the few people he had met in academe, or anywhere else, who was never afraid to be himself. What I will remember is that he was a great friend who appreciated the accomplishments of others and rarely found it necessary to remind anyone of his achievements, which, over the course of his life, were considerable.

12

