

History News

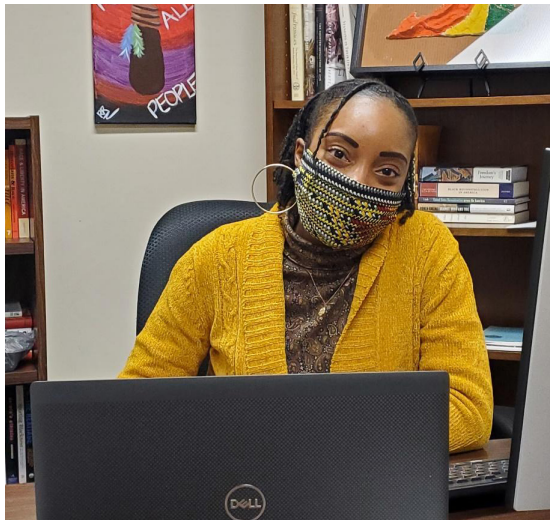
Appalachian State University's History programs provide a combination of liberal education and practical training that serves the needs of students, employers, and state residents in many ways. History graduates become lawyers and managers, museum professionals and archivists, educational administrators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

Newsletter editor:
Michael Krenn



this issue

| | |
|---|------|
| Welcome Dr. Rahim | p.1 |
| From the Chair | p.2 |
| Professorship Fundraiser | p.3 |
| Internships Expand Our Students' Opportunities | p.4 |
| Professor's Book Inspires PBS Documentary | p.5 |
| The I. G. Greer Distinguished Professor in History 2022 | p.6 |
| Faculty Notes | p.7 |
| From Tim Silver | p.9 |
| From Michael Wade | p.12 |



Welcome to the department, Dr. Rahim

The Department of History welcomed its newest face to Anne Belk Hall as Dr. Raja Rahim took up her position as our specialist in U.S. History, African American History, and the African Diaspora in 2021. Professor Rahim received her PhD from the University of Florida, where she gained courtside perspective to another

of her interests: Sports History. With a BA and an MA from North Carolina Central University, Raja not only enjoyed an interest in sports but also the role sports played at historically black colleges and universities. "How does it change our understanding of basketball when we look at black Americans, those born in the United States who went outside of the United States to teach the game?" asks Dr. Rahim as she illustrates her focus on what she calls "the politics of black athletic emancipation." One individual standing out in her research, Robert Vaughn, served in the Korean War without ever picking up a gun. His purpose in Korea carried one directive: instruction in the playing of basketball. Sports and politics converge in the history of Black Internationalism, a developing field that draws out Dr. Rahim's enthusiasm. Another of her subjects, John B. McClendon, traveled to Mexico and China to help set up basketball and coaching clinics, ultimately sowing the seeds for the NBA to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

history.appstate.edu



From the Chair...

January 26, 2022

Gazing out my office window this morning at the snow-covered quadrangle, I'm reminded of how much the past couple of years has challenged and, in some ways, even changed much about how we teach history here at Appalachian. Covid has by default taught us much about the opportunities and the limits of distance education. While many of our ranks have continued to meet face to face with students as much as possible, we're nowhere near what most of us considered normal just two short—okay, rather long—years ago. I can walk down the halls and see classes meeting and discussions taking place but it's just not the same. The once-routine buzz in the hallways and certainly the camaraderie and banter between colleagues is almost non-existent. Most of us wait with anticipation for those things to return—and certainly they will, at least in part. It's also a historian's nature to wonder exactly what might not return. What and how much of our new world will become the world we are left to inherit and pass on to the next generation of historians.

I think I'm most proud of the fact that what has not changed, in fact one might argue that it has been strengthened as it were “by fire,” is the dedication of our faculty. In a time of declining resources with seemingly lower respect from those we need to help us do our job better, faculty have risen to the task, finding new options and experimenting with new ways in an effort to make the past relevant. As conditions improve, some of the old ways will return but they will be forever supplemented by the new things that have worked. But whatever changes, history survives because of the passion of individuals. And we are blessed with a collection of the most dedicated and talented groups of professionals that I know! When you have a chance, let them know you appreciate them too!

I'm also proud of our alumni who, despite so many other concerns, haven't forgotten us. We started the campaign to upgrade the I. G. Greer Distinguished Professorship in History back almost six years ago. As a result of your giving and support, the newest holder of that position—Dr. Jeremiah Kitunda—will become the first fully-funded Greer Professor since the campaign began. For the first time, the position carries with it the support and weight needed to make a significant contribution to the historical profession as a result of having gained the appointment. As you are able, I ask you to continue to support our department's Foundation funds—whether a research-oriented fund like the Greer or any number of our student scholarship opportunities. Your support for History at Appalachian makes a real difference in the lives of students and faculty and will continue to do so for generations to come.

All the best,

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

**YOUR SUPPORT OF THE
I. G. GREER PROFESSORSHIP
MAKES A DIFFERENCE**



Thanks to your generosity, the I. G. Greer Professor Campaign concluded a couple of years ago and we now have enough funding to make a real difference in support for scholarly research in our department. Our 22nd recipient—Dr. Jeremiah Kitunda—was installed into the position this past November and, over the next three years, he will be able to access annual research resources from the Greer that parallel what other distinguished professors on our campus have at their disposal. Your support of the Greer Professorship, the oldest research-based Distinguished Professorship on campus, provides a wonderful opportunity to remember a faculty member who made a difference in your life and make a lasting imprint on our department, our students, and the larger profession. Any of the History Department related endowment funds, including our student scholarship opportunities, are excellent ways for you to give back to future generations. Please consider making a pledge or writing a one-time check to either the Greer Fund or another of our endowment funds. Your gift will make a difference!

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Roy Carroll | 1977-1979 | John Williams | 1999-2001 |
| Lawrence Bond | 1979-1981 | Michael Wade | 2001-2003 |
| George Antone | 1981-1983 | James Winders | 2003-2005 |
| Ruby Lanier | 1983-1985 | Michael Krenn | 2005-2007 |
| Richard Haunton | 1985-1987 | James Goff | 2007-2009 |
| Peter Petschauer | 1987-1989 | Jeff Bortz | 2009-2011 |
| Raymond Pulley | 1989-1991 | Lynne Getz | 2011-2013 |
| Rennie Brantz | 1991-1993 | Lucinda McCray | 2013-2015 |
| David White | 1993-1995 | Jari Eloranta | 2015-2018 |
| Thomas Keefe | 1995-1997 | René Harder Horst | 2018-2021 |
| Tim Silver | 1997-1999 | Jeremiah Kitunda | 2021-2024 |

Sincerely,

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

Donations may be made online at givenow.appstate.edu/history

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

welcome Yao Ming a generation later. “Black Internationalism can go many different ways. How do I get people to understand that, yes, this is United States history, it’s African American history, but it’s also a global history when you’re thinking about basketball as the second major sport in the world?”

The Department of History’s Africana Studies program offers Dr. Rahim yet another avenue to bring her passion for Black Internationalism and African American history to students. One of her classes, “Keeping on the Road to Freedom,” examines African American history post-1865. “My students and I have been honing in on understanding the long Civil Rights Movement, how the push for freedom and equality by African Americans defined civil rights over time. Civil rights was as much about education as it was about economics and employment. But it was also about leveling the playing field in sports.” Raja holds a special energy for connecting with students who want to become teachers and professors. “I love working with students who want to become teachers and professors – it goes beyond what we do in the classroom.” She

also teaches “The Black Experience Through Sports in United States History from Jack Johnson to Colin Kaepernick” as a course that ties the strands of her three fields: African American History, Sports History, and U.S. History. “We talk about Jack Johnson in the midst of Jim Crow being developed to understand issues of segregation and white supremacy. How can they understand Johnson dating white women at a time of lynching? In a traditional African American History class, they may have talked about Booker T. Washington, but this class uses athletes as a lens for understanding these larger concepts.” She notes that it can sometimes be challenging to get the student to decenter from their love of sports to a deeper look into the culture of sports. The complexities of race, gender, and society present a far more interesting picture at an App State football game than the scoreboard. “It’s very interesting, very rewarding.”

Her interest in sports found a perfect outlet as she was thrilled to see the Department of History advertising a position for African American History. As a member of the pep squad during her undergraduate days at North

Carolina Central, Raja enjoyed the opportunity to visit Appalachian and attend a game. Even while at the University of Florida, she always hoped to return to the state of North Carolina. She now returns as a professor, excited and impressed by the growth of the campus. “It’s a great school. To see a job posting in my field with flexibility and a way to be creative within this genre of history, and to be able to introduce it to students really excites me.” One of her oral history projects illustrates her philosophy. “We are tied to the research, to the content of what we are delivering to the students. As much as students are there to learn the material that we give them, it’s important that they learn what their professors actually do when they’re not in the classroom.”

Internships Expand Our Students’ Opportunities

Amy Hudnall

History isn’t just about reading books and writing papers. It has expanded to encompass a wide range of activities, recognizing that historians go on to excel in numerous fields and apply their historical skills in multitudinous ways. One way our Applied and Public History Program and our Multidisciplinary program helps students prepare for life after college is through internships. Just in the last summer, we had students interning at the Watauga County Public Defender’s Office, the Gaston County Museum of Art and History, the Vance Birthplace, the Blowing Rock Historical Society, and even Carolina Vinyl Products. These internships are a huge success and attest to the growing range of historical influence in the work force.

Here are just a few examples of the kinds of work students completed during COVID summer 2021. History Applied and Public student Josie Brown interned over the summer at the Gaston County Museum of Art and History. According to Josie, she helped the museum move their entire collection to a new facility. Given her interest in museum studies Josie “enjoyed being a part of something that not many curators themselves get to do” and she “learned a lot about collections management,” a perfect task for someone interested in museum curating.

Another History Applied and Public student, Collin Jewell (g. 2022), spent her summer at the North

Carolina Historic Site, the Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace, a former 19th-century slave plantation. Here Collin was exposed to the historian’s struggle to fairly represent contested parts of American history. While there, Collin worked at a public level of administration that was new to her. “Most of my past experiences have been with university or private museums, so this was my first time working with a state institution and an historic site. I learned a lot about the preservation of places that I otherwise would not have been exposed to!”

Closer to home, Applied and Public student Morgan Courtney spent her summer interning at the Blowing Rock Historical Society (BRHS) where she worked on a historical marker project. Morgan’s competence gained her some latitude with the project and through that she gained “confidence in myself and experience through hands-on problem-solving and learning.” The internship also garnered her “future work with BRHS, including an exhibit that was installed in fall 2021.”

As historians, we often thought our role was work among books and archives only, writing and teaching. The field of history continues to change—recognizing the power of active learning and hands-on work is just such a change. Our history students are gaining unique, real-world applications through internships, disseminating the value of history across fields and becoming increasingly viable in the work force.



Josie Brown protecting artifacts as they move the collection from one site to another. Summer 2021

Professor's Book Inspires PBS Documentary

Michael Krenn

In 1999 I published my third book, *Black Diplomacy: African Americans and the State Department, 1945-1969*. You can only imagine my surprise when one of the founders of a documentary company, FLOWSTATE Films, Leola Calzolari-Stewart, contacted me 15 years later and explained that she was interested in making a documentary inspired by that book. My first reaction was some very deep surprise that ANYONE was still reading the book. My second reaction, however, was one of equally deep appreciation that someone else wanted to tell the stories of the African American pioneers who battled through racism, discrimination, and bureaucratic obstacles to take their place in the Department of State, the Foreign Service, and USIA. Before starting my research for the book, I had never heard of Edward R. Dudley or Terence Todman, and knew of Carl Rowan only from his career as a journalist. It therefore proved to be an eye-opening honor to interview both Ambassador Dudley and Ambassador Todman, and to dig through the manuscript collection of Carl Rowan's papers, to learn about their struggles and, sometimes, their disappointments, but also to fully understand the tremendous contributions they made not only to the furtherance of civil rights in America and diversity with the Department of State, but to the foreign policy of the United States during a critical period in the nation's history.

I wondered, however, would these stories find a receptive audience via the documentary Leola was proposing? America's foreign policy bureaucracy had a long, and not particularly encouraging, record in terms of diversity and inclusion. Every few years, it seemed, there would be a rumbling about the need to do something, the need to recruit more minorities, the need for more diversity training for the Department of State and, in particular, the Foreign Service. Yet, since the publication of my book nearly a quarter of a century ago, it seemed that so little progress had actually been made.

But then something happened. Leola's film gained support and started to take on a life of its own as she and her team interviewed dozens of

people, pored over manuscript, photograph, and film collections, and began to shape this immense amount of information into a fascinating tale of these three African American diplomats. At about the same time, editorials began to appear in newspapers, magazines, and online from current and former diplomats about diversity and inclusion problems in the Department of State. Government offices and academic think tanks turned out reports about both the progress, and very great work still needed, in terms of increasing the presence and voice of minorities in the Foreign Service. And then in April 2021, the announcement was made that Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley would be appointed as the VERY FIRST Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the Department of State. She was joined by a vocal and determined group of individuals within State who began to push new initiatives, discuss the difficult realities of the diversity problem, and get ready to, as Ambassador Abercrombie-Winstanley put it in a recent podcast, "break some china." And on February 1, 2022, some very important china was broken when the cafeteria in the Department of State was renamed in honor of Ambassador Terence A. Todman. This was a significant and meaningful moment, for when Terence Todman attended the Foreign Service Institute in 1957 he was barred from eating with his white colleagues at the Virginia restaurant across the street. As I sat in the audience for that ceremony and listened to the inspiring words of Ambassador Abercrombie-Winstanley, Terence Todman's son, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, I felt that while the solution of these problems was not going to occur overnight, the tide was ever so slowly beginning to turn.

And that's why it has been one of the biggest honors of my career to have been part of Leola's wonderful and inspiring film, entitled *The American Diplomat*, which premiered on the PBS series American Experience in February 2022. She has managed, with wit, compassion, and perseverance, to not only tell the stories of three amazing individuals but also to illustrate how and why their voices—and the voices of so many Americans who have historically been excluded from discussions of this nation's diplomacy—are essential to our development and growth as a nation but also to the success of the United States on the world stage. I attended a screening of the documentary

at the DACOR Bacon House in Washington, DC on February 17, 2022. In attendance were many current and former U.S. diplomats, including Ambassador Abercrombie-Winstanley. Their responses certainly suggest that the film has struck an important chord.

This documentary can be viewed on PBS at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/american-diplomat/>



From left to right: Former Foreign Service Officer Christopher Richardson, Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, Michael Krenn and his wife Lisa

The I.G. Greer Distinguished Professor in History 2021–2024

René Harder Horst

In Fall of 2021, the Department of History recognized the twenty-second recipient of the I.G. Greer Distinguished Professorship in History, Dr. Jeremiah Kitunda. Every three years, an outstanding full-time faculty member receives this award for exemplary work in the classroom, research, and service. This year's recipient, Dr. Kitunda, has taught environmental and cultural History of Africa at Appalachian State University since 2005. With a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an M.A. from Miami University (Ohio), and a B.A. in History and Sociology from the University of Nairobi, Dr. Kitunda's first books include *The Flower of Life*, *The Flower of Death: A History of Water Hyacinth in Africa Since 1800* as well as *The Wit and Wisdom of Akamba:*

A Collection of East African Proverbs. Our recipient is also notably a self-described "public laugh-er" who runs marathons when time allows.

The I.G. Greer Distinguished Professorship is a prestigious award that has allowed recipients to move ahead in their research to write books, documentary films, and articles, and has linked the department with the Appalachian community. Nearly sixty years ago, graduates in the class of 1916 established the Professorship Fund to honor their beloved "teacher, counselor and friend," professor Dr. Isaac Garfield Greer. Professor "Ike," as friends affectionately knew Dr. Greer, was a native of nearby Zionville who taught history and government at App State from 1910 until 1932. In addition to his teaching, Dr. Greer was an active and very appreciated community member who exemplified public service. Dr. Neva Specht, Vice Provost for Faculty Policies and Development and a Professor of History at App State, explains that Dr. Greer was also a renowned folklorist and bass guitar player who served his community as the first President of the Allied Church League, President of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, President of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, President of the N.C. Folklore Society, and in the North Carolina General Assembly in 1926.

The I.G. Greer award itself is also unique at Appalachian State University. The Class of 1916 created the Foundation to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation. "The I. G. Greer Distinguished Professor of History is the oldest award of its type at Appalachian State University. While other Distinguished Professorships in the college rotate, few trade hands among the current faculty in the department. Within the College of Arts and Sciences," continues Vice Provost Specht, "this award is also distinctive because Dr. Greer's students established it specifically to support faculty research and their scholarly efforts. Other endowments, such as the one that honors historian Dr. Don Saunders, more commonly support scholarships for students rather than professors." Past recipients of the professorship include Drs. Roy Carroll, Lawrence Bond, George Antone, Ruby Lanier, Richard Haunton, Peter Petschauer, Raymond Pulley, Rennie Brantz, David White, Thomas Keefe, Tim Silver, John Williams, Michael Wade, James Winders,

Michael Krenn, James Goff, Jeff Bortz, Lynne Getz, Lucinda McCray, Jari Eloranta, and René Harder Horst, linking diverse faculty fields. As this list shows, explains Vice Provost Specht, few other awards circulate among department faculty as does the IG Greer.

The I.G. Greer Fellowship dates to the 1970s, when there were still no Off-Campus Semester Assignments for professors, nor distinguished professorships. “Unlike other endowed professorships, which are appointed and have a full endowment for support,” explained James Goff, Chairman of the Department of History, “the I.G. Greer granted a semester leave from teaching and a little money, and included teaching and service in addition to research records.” When Dr. Goff received the professorship from 2007-2009, he employed it to research and publish his first article on Elvis. Since at the time faculty still received little money for travel, the award covered some of Dr. Goff’s travel and research expenses.

Since becoming chairperson of the Department of History in 2014, Dr. Goff secured contributions to build the I.G. Greer into a prestigious distinguished professorship able to provide research support over the entire three-year period, without drawing from foundation funds themselves. Since the award rotates between professors and does not affect their regular semesters of teaching, professors, the department and students benefit.

As Dr. Goff reflects, “The Greer to me is unique in that I don’t know of any other positions like this that are floating...and...really special for regular professors, like me and you, not somebody who publishes a book every other year, but to take a three-year period of your career and focus it more on that research, so that you can say ‘hey, I did that for a few years, I had the resources of a distinguished professor.’ I’ve hoped all along that this would be something that would outlive... really all of us... that’s what giving is all about, it is not about you, it is about people down the road.”

This year’s recipient, Dr. Kitunda, plans to employ the I.G. Greer Professorship to research and begin writing his next book, *The Kamba Diaspora in East Africa, from the Pre-Islamic times to the Present*. Languages, clans and genealogies of East African peoples will allow Kitunda to study Kamba migration from their homeland in Kenya to

neighboring Uganda and as far as Paraguay. Dr. Kitunda’s focus creates an interesting connection to the previous I.G. Greer recipient, Dr. Harder Horst, who had planned to study internal Indigenous displacement and environmental changes also in Paraguay, before Covid-19 closed down international travel. In both cases, the I.G. Greer Professorship helped to fund and facilitate faculty research. The Department of History welcomes the new recipient of the I.G. Greer Distinguished Professorship, Dr. Jeremiah Kitunda, and thanks Chairman Dr. Jim Goff for developing the I.G. Greer Distinguished Professorship into an important support for the Department of History faculty at Appalachian State University.

Faculty Notes

Jeff Bortz and **Marcos Aguila** published their articles, “Against the Rules: Collective and Individual Resistance on the Ferrocarriles Unidos de Yucatán, 1910-1935” online in *Labor History*, 19 May 2021 (<https://doi.org/10.1080/0023656X.2021.1917528>).

Andrea Burns participated as a grant reviewer for an NEH grant, The Landmarks of American History and Culture program.

Craig Caldwell gave a presentation entitled “Vegetius on Ships” at the Living Danube Limes Conference sponsored by the University of Novi Sad (Novi Sad, Serbia).

James R. Goff, Jr. was featured on a podcast for Tom Corley’s Meet the Music: A Cappella to Zydeco. <http://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/southern-gospel-dr-james-goff-jr-author-close-harmony/id1545500827?i=1000513981481>.

René Harder Horst published a book chapter, “Indigenous People in Paraguay and Latin America’s Move to Democracy,” in Barbara Ganson, ed., *Native Peoples, Politics, and Society in Contemporary Paraguay: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2021.

Anatoly Isaenko published his book, *Brothers at Each Other’s Throats: Regularity of the Violent Ethnic Conflicts in the Post-Soviet Space* (San Diego, CA: Cognella Academic Publishing, 2021).

Thomas Pegelow Kaplan published “Remaking Eichmann: Memories of Mass Murder and the Transatlantic Student Movements of the 1960s” in Rebecca Wittmann, ed. *The Trial of Adolf Eichmann* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2021).

Jeremiah Kitunda was named the 22nd recipient of the I. G. Greer Distinguished Professor of History. He published his second book, *Kamba Proverbs from Eastern Kenya: Sources, Origins, & History* (James Currey, 2021).

Michael L. Krenn was a participant in “A Roundtable: Cold War Propaganda” with three of his colleagues, published in the journal, *Historiography in Mass Communication* 7:4 (2021): 21-40.

Scott Relyea learned that the proposal for a collaborative research project entitled “Building Nationalism in Inner Asia: The Empowerment of the Tibetan Revolution in the Early Twentieth Century,” received funding from the French National Research Agency.

Tim Silver and **Judkin Browning’s** *An Environmental History of the Civil War* (University of North Carolina Press, 2020) has been selected as a “Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2021.”

Neva Specht has been named the University’s Vice Provost for Faculty Policies and Development.

Chris Stone published a book review of *The American Midwest in Film and Literature: Nostalgia, Violence and Regionalism*, by Adam R. Ochonicky, in the *Middle West Review* 8:1 (Fall 2021): 189-191.

Carrie Streeter consulted on interpretive essays for the Baltimore Museum of Art’s new exhibition, *A Modern Influence: Henri Matisse, Etta Cone, and Baltimore*.

Mary Valante published *Kids Those Days: Children in Medieval Culture* (co-edited with Lahney Preston-Matto, Brill, 2022) as Volume 13 of the *Explorations in Medieval Culture* series, which includes her chapter, “Abandoned, Overworked, Abused: The Dark Side of Childhoods in Early Medieval Ireland.” She also received the 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Southeastern Medievalists Association.

Emeritus Notes

Bettie Bond was honored with the prestigious Lifetime Community Service Award. The award came courtesy of the Boone Sunrise Rotary Club, which also honored her as a Paul Harris Fellow. The Lifetime Achievement Award is only the third such award given out in the history of the Boone organization (dating back to 1986) and Bond becomes the first woman to be so honored.

Boone Mayor **Rennie Brantz**, in recognition of his retirement from public service, has been honored by the renaming of the public property around the Jones House. As of October 19, 2021, this property is now designated as the Rennie Brantz Park.

Dorothea Martin-Hoffman made a presentation at the Southeast World History Association’s annual conference Oct. 22-23: “Reverse Chain Migration—US to Mexico to China, 1929-1935.”

Peter Petschauer presented virtually at the German Psychohistorical Conference (GPPP; in German) on “Authoritarians in Power; Learning from each Other.” The paper will appear in the *Jahrbücher für Psychohistorische Forschung*.

Former and Current Student Notes

Gabe Atkinson, a senior and History Education major, was awarded honorable mention for the Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies Student Research Paper Prize, for his paper “Anti-Semitism At Home: A Look at the Origins of Anti-Semitism in the Armia Krajowa.”

Lydia Biallas, an MA student in History, took home one of the prestigious Graduate Student Travel Awards for her poster entitled “Mental Health First Aid in Museums,” which was featured at the National Council for Public History’s Poster Session held in conjunction with their annual conference in April.

Kate Bloom (MA, Public History, 2018) started a permanent job with the National Park Service at the National Mall in Washington, DC, after several temporary and seasonal positions.

Hadley Sinclair Cluxton (M.A., 2019) is a high school history teacher at Odyssey School in Asheville. She recently recorded two podcasts for her school’s “Best Practices in Education” on decolonizing history, and on using graphic novels in the classroom.

John Crumbliss, who graduated with a BA in History some years ago, has gone on to a very successful career with Cornerstone Government Affairs. You can read about John's accomplishments here: <https://cgagroup.com/people/john-crumbliss/>.

Zoe Hanson (BS, History Education, 2021) has been accepted into the graduate program at UNC-Greensboro.

Kamryn Harris (BS, History Education, May 2021), a first-year teacher at Davie High School in Mocksville, was featured in UNCG's New Teacher Support Program in the "Beginning Teacher Spotlight" cover article. She was interviewed for the online publication *Spartan Spotlight* in order to highlight her work in organizing a History Gallery Walk and Graphic Organizers to help students learn specifically the perspectives of Native Americans, Women and African Americans during the American Revolutionary War.

Chelsey Johnson (MA, Public History and Appalachian Studies, '21) has a job working with preservation consulting firm The Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.'s Knoxville office, where she joins fellow alum Sarah Shartzter (MA, Public History, '20).

Patrick Kellam (B.A., 2009, M.A., 2017) will be entering (with funding) the Ph.D. program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro beginning in the fall of 2022.

Jeremy Land (M.A., 2010) is now working with our former colleague, Jari Eloranta, in Helsinki as a postdoc.

Dalton Lewis (B.S. History Education, '19) and his wife **Callie** (ASU Art Ed major) - both of whom teach in Ashe County Schools - welcomed their first child, Clementine Bea Lewis on September 28, 2021, and shared the following with the Appalachian History family: <http://twitter.com/mrteachinman/status/1442917585851351040>

Jewel Parker (B.A., 2016; M.A., 2018) continues her studies in the Ph.D. program at UNC-Greensboro. She recently received a Phillips Fund for Native American Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society.

Joshua Waddell (M.A., 2021) will be entering (with funding) the Ph.D. program at the University

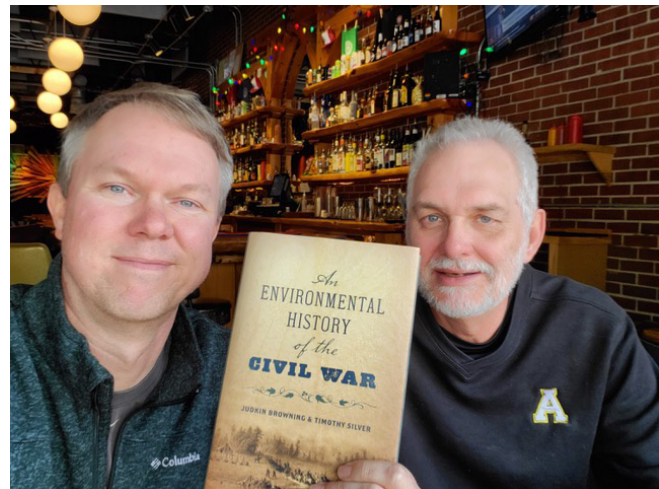
of Georgia in the fall of 2022. In addition, Josh received the fantastic news that his article "Silent but Powerful Preachers: Southern Religious Pamphlet Literature during the Civil War" will be published in the upcoming September 2022 issue of *Civil War History*.

Astrid Gonzalez Whalen (B.S., History Ed., 2010) is now in her second year at Campbell Law School. She credits her history classes at Appalachian for having "sparked my interest in research and writing."

Izabela Willis, one of our B.S. History Education majors, was featured on the University CAS Corps "Giving Thanks and Sharing Gratitude This Season" video that went out just before Thanksgiving. <http://appstate.thankview.com/video/204d619d0afbaf6ce>.

Isabel Wu (MA History, 2016) passed her PhD comps at the University of California, Irvine and is headed off to Chile for her dissertation research. The dissertation is tentatively titled "Nationalism Constructed Against 'Others': Chiapas's Antichinese Movement and State Formation in Postrevolutionary Mexico."

From Tim Silver



After 37 years in the History Department at Appalachian State, I'm retiring. As Al Gore famously intoned, "my friends, in a phrase I once addressed to others, it's time for me to go."

When I got to App State in 1984, most of the students dressed like Madonna and Bruce Springsteen. At age 29, I felt the need to wear ties, vests, suspenders, absolutely anything that I thought

might help separate me from those who sat in my stuffy Whitener Hall classroom. I had an IBM “Selectric” typewriter with “correcting” tape. I typed my exams on ditto stencils for duplication on the great blue-ink “wheel of death” in the AV room. To keep my sanity, I played basketball with faculty and students in Broome-Kirk Gym.

Now, in 2021, at 66, I dress like Bruce Springsteen (haven’t worn a tie to class in decades) and Madonna’s music is “classic rock.” I teach via Zoom, use the ASUlearn app, and give exams online. Whitener Hall is a parking deck (I have a brick from the original structure), Belk Library is an “Information Commons,” Broome-Kirk Gym is a dining hall (I have a piece of the basketball floor), and my right knee is titanium and Teflon.

Many memories of department life still make me laugh out loud: a colleague taking minutes in a faculty meeting asking, “Who moved?”; the department secretary, claw hammer in hand, chasing a vagrant out of the faculty lounge; publicly posting semester grades by social security number (yes, we used to do that) on a big bulletin board that Mike Wade famously labeled “Heartbreak Ridge.” Other occurrences I’ve tried hard to forget: interminable arguments over pedagogy; “crucially important” issues that weren’t; assessment; five-year plans; and after about 1994, at least a hundred meetings that could have been an email.

But mostly I remember my students. Teaching can be a grind. Edward Abbey, a favorite writer, decried the “horror, the tedium, the drudgery.... All those pink faces in the classroom for three [expletive deleted] hours, five [expletive deleted] days a week....and always there’s tomorrow’s [expletive deleted] to prepare, to read, to grade.” And, of course there’s the unintentional humor of ignorance: the eager lad who wrote an entire final exam essay on “the great abolitionist JAMES Brown” (Get on up in Pottawatomie, Kansas) or early in my career, the student who noted that, before the printing press, there was only one “Virgin” of the Bible (Uh, that would be Mary?).

What makes it all worthwhile are those moments when you realize that you made at least a small difference in a student’s life. About 1985 or so, I called out a young man in class for reading Kurt Vonnegut when he was supposed to be listening to me drone on about Plato, or Doric columns, or

something equally fascinating. That student graduated with honors, went to a prestigious law school, made law review, and is now a successful attorney and good friend. Another miscreant, whose chronic tardiness became a standing classroom joke, is now thriving as a high school history teacher. He seeks me out whenever he’s in town. Writers of Honors and Masters theses (my contribution as Director was basically to get out of their way) have gone on to become peers in the field or to rewarding careers in business, law, education, and the arts.

But mostly I will remember the everyday stuff, like telling students studying the Boston Massacre that I think Captain Preston panicked and gave the order to fire—and then watching them argue vehemently from the sources (like real historians!) that I can’t be right. Or an otherwise ordinary day teaching the Compromise of 1850 when a student in the back, who had said maybe two words all semester, raised his hand and drawled, “Sounds like a bad baseball trade.” He then went on to explain that the South gave up California (a high-profile free agent), for cash (money for Texas), future considerations (Fugitive Slave Law/slavery in D.C.), and players to be named later (the New Mexico territory). I was so happy I could have popped champagne and retired on the spot. Instead, with his permission, I stole that analogy and used it for another ten years.

I often joke that being a college professor is the only job I could ever hold down. With memories like these, I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to hold it down here. All the best to my students, colleagues, and friends—past and present. As I wrap up my time at Appalachian, a Bob Dylan quote (as always) springs to mind: “Lotta water under the bridge, lotta other stuff, too. Don’t get up, gentlemen, I’m only passing through.” Peace.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

find a larger room for it. The course on the Rock Revolution never failed to fill up.

I think all teachers recall memorable students. Briefly, here are four: The second week of a US History survey, a freshman, let’s call her “Beth,”

raised her hand, asked if she could share a joke. “Uh-oh, about what? “It’s about an alligator.” Yes, I said. I no longer remember the details. But it was hilarious—racy, well-delivered and outrageously funny. A fine student, Beth taught at a Charlotte high school, earning an M.A. in history as she did.

“Arika” was in a World Civ class in old Whitener Hall. A quiet, very good student who took excellent notes while listening to lectures. Now, that is multi-tasking for serious students. On the back inside of her final exam booklet, she wrote “Thank you for not making this class easy.” Hard to imagine that these days.

“Eric” was an outstanding history major—a very good writer, interested in history—in Public History in particular. We sent him to an exemplary public history graduate program in Louisiana, knowing that he would have better financial support there than in North Carolina. His assistantship came with a generous stipend, a full tuition waiver and summer employment, thus allowing him to focus entirely on furthering his education. Imagine being non-competitive with Louisiana. And most other states. Chris graduated with honors. Married and living in Charlotte, his field is museum work.

Finally, “Megan.” A senior from Maine, she asked great questions, energized the class, and wrote excellent essays. She had presence. I believe that she grew up in a house full of women—her mother and her sisters. After our last class in Recent US History, a few students remained, discussing the gulf between America’s ideals and her actions at home and abroad, and the meaning of patriotism. Saying goodbye, Megan told the group, wistfully, “I really want to love my country.” Megan’s angst was due to the growing divide between Americans who want to live their country’s principles and those who regard acknowledgment of past shortcomings or present problems as unpatriotic. Patriotism should be clear-headed, not unthinking and blind. She’s the kind of patriot we need now more than ever. Her words are the most memorable ones I have ever heard from a student.

These four, and other students interested in improving their minds, make teaching worthwhile. According to Benjamin Cardozo, “Teaching history shows students how the past illuminates the present.” History explains how we got to our present circumstance. Our past tells us about who

we humans are. Some of it is uplifting, much of it is sobering. All of it is real. Not conjecture, not theory. Reality. Studying history equips students with knowledge across many disciplines, develops research skills, and instills a desire to find out the truth of things—skills useful in all kinds of professions. They’ve learned how to learn, and to think critically. Artist and retired historian Vaughan Simpson refers to teaching as “laboring in the vineyards of the Lord.” Not always easy, not always appreciated right away, but inordinately useful work. I was fortunate to have found such work, and I worry about its future.

Public higher education has been under political pressure for more than a decade. Many state legislatures, including North Carolina’s, now promote policies devaluing higher education. Through their appointments to university governing boards, legislators have mandated massive enrollment increases without adequately funding the added expense they represent. They either have not considered, or have discounted, the impact of such increases on the overall quality of incoming classes. To forestall rising failure rates, institutional student retention requirements have been added to university funding formulas, discouraging academic rigor and tacitly promoting grade inflation. Our state no longer supports public education with our tax dollars as it used to, carefully manipulated statistics notwithstanding. Though this was not in my thinking about retiring, it is something we should all be concerned about as the election of 2022 approaches.

I think that Appalachian has the strongest History Department faculty we’ve had in my time here. We have been extraordinarily well led by our current department chair. The faculty’s work ethics, collegiality, dedication to students, and professional achievements in these challenging times are all quite remarkable. They have had perhaps two small raises in the past eleven years, which means that with inflation their incomes have fallen by more than ten percent in that time. They could use your good wishes and active political support.

It has been a great privilege to teach at Appalachian and to work with so many wonderful colleagues and students along the way. Here’s hoping for better days ahead.



From Michael Wade

Writing this farewell, I am struck that four decades have passed in the blink of an eye: There were 8,800

students when Rose Anna and I arrived in 1983 with infant twins. A good university with history an important part of the general education curriculum. Excellent colleagues. A place where teaching was important, and scholarship was expected. A capable, caring, lean administration. A good county school system, with a top-notch high school for our three sons (even better when Rose Anna joined its math department). The twins graduated in 2001. Kevin (born here) finished in 2005. All three went to NC State. Two engineers, one architect, all eventually with advanced degrees. All of us flourished here in the Blue Ridge, and I look back with great satisfaction at my time in the classroom at Appalachian.

I taught a wide range of courses, including World Civ and even a course on Climate Change for the Sustainable Development and Environmental Science departments. Mostly I taught US History Surveys, Recent US History (since 1945) and courses on Rock and Roll's history and the Civil Rights Movement. In its heyday, Recent US drew so many students that we had to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10