

# History News

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

**Newsletter editors:**  
Michael Krenn,  
Michael Wade, and  
Jonathan Billheimer



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## Experiencing the Middle Ages | By: Dr. Mary Valante

### CLASS RULES

1. Nothing toxic or otherwise dangerous
2. Nothing illegal
3. Failure is an option

"Experiencing the Middle Ages" is not your usual history class. It is based on the concepts of experiential learning and experimental investigation; in the class, students and I went beyond reading about the Middle Ages and used our research to reconstruct some aspects of the medieval period in very real ways.

First, we studied diet and food production in early medieval Ireland. After reading many primary sources (monastic rules, tales of feasting, laws about farming, and more), students designed a meal and then we cooked it – in a cauldron no less! We were not able to



Medieval Class Project

bring dead warriors back from the dead, but the cabbage, flat bread, oatcakes and beef stew were fabulous.

After our successful dinner, we began to study clothing and textile production. Secondary sources and archaeological excavations became our guides. We focused on the Viking Age, since Vikings dressed so well they "caused much trouble to the natives of the land; for they were wont... to change their garments often, and set off their persons by many frivolous devices. In this matter they laid siege to the virtue of the married woman" We practiced combing raw wool, spinning yarn, finger loop braiding, and several decorative weaving techniques.

Our final major class project was creating our very own manuscript. At the library, we studied actual medieval manuscript pages and several high-quality facsimiles. We cut quills (and occasionally our fingers), made ink, pricked and ruled vellum, and copied out poems from *Hobbitus Ille*.

Learn more on p. 5



## From the Chair...

March 21, 2018

One of the things I enjoy about being History Department Chair is my window! With those of you from more than a decade ago, I do occasionally get a whiff of nostalgia for Whitener Hall but the views from the main department offices simply don't compare. Three weeks ago, I glanced out at students playing and socializing on the mall; today I look out at howling winds and blowing snow. So much for the first full day of spring!

There is something else that I love to look out my window and envision—the History Department of the future. What will the department be like 10 years down the road? 20 or 30? Will it be stronger with a greater voice and profile? It is my determination and that of my colleagues that the answer clearly be yes. One way to ensure this positive direction is to marshal all of our resources past and present to build for the future. That's what the Greer Campaign Drive is all about—to make sure that History professors in the future have sufficient resources to continue making a difference in our profession. That's what the History Matters Scholarship Drive is about as well—building scholarship funds so that the best History students in the future will continue to provide a publishing opportunity for History students here and elsewhere. I've decided to push these two campaigns since I became chair because they collectively represent our department at its best. We are working historians whose research must remain active if the quality of our program is to continue; likewise, we share that knowledge and our skills as historians with living, breathing fellow Mountaineers—our students. So working together to provide research opportunities for future history faculty and educational opportunities for future Appalachian history students go hand in hand. We share a common heritage and we share a common goal. Let's leave this place better than when we found it; let's find ways to contribute and build both the I.G. Greer Distinguished Professorship **AND** the History Matters Scholarship fund. Together we will make it happen!

Sincerely,

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

## **Greer Professors Who Have Given Or Pledged To The Greer Campaign**

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

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Akram Barghothi	Grady Franklin	Tom Lawson	Judy Nichols	Elizabeth Williams
George Blanchard	Terry Greene	Nathaniel Luger	Alyssa Parrish	Brad & Carole Wilson
Dominick Bresson	Jim & Karen Hastings	Daniel Lyons	Alexander Payne	Zachary Wilson
Dr. Craig Caldwell	Susan Hodge	Richard Mast	Samantha Plocica	David Yelton
Dr. Karl Campbell	Ben Kennedy	Mark Matusiak	Brian Suddreth	David Young
Jeremiah Dancy	Ronnie Kirkland	Robert Mayton	Sarah Weis	Jeffrey Young
George Finney	Charlotte Kirwan	Marsha Montieth	Adam Whitehead	

## **IG Greer Recipients With Alumni Sponsors**

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Roy Carroll (1977-1979): Sponsored by Brad & Carole Wilson  
 George Antone (1981-1983): Sponsored by Brad & Carole Wilson  
 Peter Petschauer (1987-1989): Sponsored by Brad & Carole Wilson  
 Rennie Brantz (1991-1993): Sponsored by Brad & Carole Wilson  
 Thomas Keefe (1995-1997): Sponsored by Tom Lawson  
 Tim Silver (1997-1999): Sponsored by Jeffrey Young  
 James Goff (2007-2009): Sponsored by Jim & Karen Hastings

## **IG Greer Recipients Still in Need of Alumni Sponsors**

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Lawrence Bond (1979-1981)  
 Ruby Lanier (1983-1985)  
 Richard Haunton (1985-1987)  
 Raymond Pulley (1989-1991)  
 David White (1993-1995)  
 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)

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUCCESS ON THE WILSON MATCH**  
**AN I. G. GREER PROFESSORSHIP IN HISTORY CAMPAIGN**  
**UPDATE**



Last year I challenged you to step up and donate to keep the Greer Professorship alive and vibrant and you answered the call. Alumni Brad and Carole Wilson had set a \$5000 match for all first-time donors to the Greer for 2017. Thanks to your help we more than met that goal. A total of \$5600 came in from first-time donors so, together with Brad and Carole's match, that meant over \$10,500 in increased Foundation funding for the Greer, the department's (and the University's) oldest research-based Distinguished Professorship. But it didn't stop there! Others who had already given continued their support of the Greer Campaign. When all was said and done, over \$17,000 of new funding was added to the Greer this past year alone. Added to the funds given and pledged earlier in the campaign, we are now well over \$45,000 raised—approximately halfway to our goal of \$100,000 with a year and a half still to go.

When you give to the Greer, you are joining members of the Appalachian family as far back as the class of 1916! It was that class on the occasion of their 50th graduation anniversary that first envisioned a special gift to honor Professor Isaac Garfield Greer, one of the first History professors on Appalachian's campus. Their gift continues to make a difference by funding the research and teaching agenda of one of the department's full professors. Numerous publications have emerged, as a result bringing acclaim to the department and the university—and that research work has found its way into the classroom, continuing the tradition of a strong research-based faculty with a heart for sharing their knowledge with students. Your gifts join those of our fellow alumni from more than a century ago to keep this tradition alive. If you haven't yet made a pledge, please do so today. It's not too late to be part of something great!

I urge you to continue your support of this important campaign in 2018. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will read of professors from both the present and the past. You will also read tributes to some who have now passed from this life but leave a lasting legacy here in our halls and in our hearts. You can join all those you see listed here with a gift that honors the strong tradition of scholarship and teaching here in Appalachian's history department.

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](http://givenow.appstate.edu/history)

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

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Credit Card Billing Address

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I.G. Greer Distinguished Professorship - 94211

*For more information contact Carey Fissel, Director of Development at 828-262-7622 or [fisselcm@appstate.edu](mailto:fisselcm@appstate.edu)*



## Experiencing the Middle Ages | Continued

Finally, each student designed and carried out their own medieval research experiment as part of this course. We had wool dyers, ink makers, weavers, book binders, illuminators, hnefatafl players, and even a crossbow maker. And some of the students haven't stopped, even though the class has ended. On April 7, 2018, five students from the class participated in Longwood University's Meeting in the Middle conference, where Emily Morgan and Quinn Schelider explained and demonstrated sprang weaving, Hunter Sanchez taught the board game hnefatafl, and Bryanna Coulter and Megan Mansfield provided hands-on instruction in manuscript production.



## From Appalachian to Williamsburg: Bonnie Roane

After graduating with my Master's in Public History from Appalachian State University in December 2015, I moved back home to Virginia and started to work as an Apprentice Cooper at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Coopers make wooden staved containers such as buckets, tubs, and casks of various sizes. These utilitarian items were part of daily life for every household and business in the 18th century, being used for chores or for shipping goods. I have always been interested in museum work and the lives of everyday individuals throughout history, so this job is a perfect combination for me. My time at App gave me many creative outlets to explore those interests as well as new tools to bring back to the museum field.

While I appreciate the dedication and kindness of all of the professors I met at App, I'm especially grateful to Dr. Andrea Burns and Dr. Neva Specht. These two women encouraged creativity, led lively and honest discussions, and empowered us to find ways to make history and museums relevant to a diverse public. Dr. Burns worked tirelessly to make sure we got hands-on experience curating museum exhibits and Dr. Specht gave up her free time to work with me on an independent study collecting oral histories regarding the Blackburn Family Farm, a property owned by the school.

This hands-on learning style is directly related to the type of interpretive work I do today, and I try to bring those lessons into my current job. If I can help people to find new connections between my historic trade and their modern

lives, then my job has been successful. Museum work can be a tough, but rewarding, field and I'm thankful to have a job that I enjoy. For now, I've traded the Blue Ridge Parkway for the Colonial Parkway, but I will always think back fondly on my time at App State and enjoy coming back to visit the scenic beauty of Boone.

Pictured: Bonnie Roane in costume sitting with a half dozen gunpowder kegs that she made last summer



## Dr. Myra Pennell Retires



**Myra Pennell** began her career as a history/social studies educator in 1974 at Lenoir High School after receiving a B.A. in History from Appalachian State. She excelled as a public school educator, teaching World Civilizations and eventually history courses for the ASU Admissions Partnership program with her colleagues Dale Simmons and Rodney Deal. Her ties to Appalachian State persisted, earning an M.A. in History during her 22 years of service to Caldwell County Schools as a teacher, school administrator, and social studies consultant. She eventually received an Ed.D in Curriculum & Instruction, Social Studies Education from UNCG.

In 1996, Myra accepted the position of History Education program director. Under her supervision, the program grew to become one of the largest history education programs in North Carolina – now totaling over 900 alums, many of whom continue to teach in the state, around the country, and overseas. As the program increased its placement of student teachers, she recruited Dale and Rodney in 2006 to help assist with the supervision of our history majors in public schools, which they continue to do to this day. As Dale points out, "Myra took what was always a strong History Education program and made it even stronger. Not only did she model effective social studies teaching for her students, she always maintained a genuine and personal interest in their success." She also designed two new courses specifically aimed at history/social studies education majors: Issues in Teaching United States/World History. These courses were instrumental to teaching our history majors the basic foundation of designing an effective history/social studies curriculum and learning to master the content of both subject areas. In addition, Myra helped establish the off-campus program for the M.A. in History Secondary Education from 2004 until 2014, before moving to phased retirement in 2015. To paraphrase Henry Adams: "a teacher affects eternity; he/she never knows where his/her influence stops." This most definitely applies to Dr. Myra Pennell. She continues to support our history/social studies education program as an academic content consultant and volunteers her time when needed. Myra has not only left a great impression on our graduates, but also with everyone in our department. She successfully advocated for a coordinator and program advisor position to better help serve our majors, helping to hire Donna Bly in 2010, who shared that, "Myra was a dream to work for. I often came to school to find her hard at work before me. Always upbeat and pleasant, she never made me feel unappreciated." Our current director, Rwany Sibaja, is forever thankful for her generosity and support during the transition period, as well as her continuing participation in the program. Thankfully, as a department, we were able to show our appreciation for Myra Pennell at her official retirement celebration last May. Her legacy will endure for many years to come – both at Appalachian State and across many social studies classrooms.

## Reflections from a Former Chair: Dr. Lucinda McCray Retires

I arrived at Appalachian State University in August 2009. I was delighted to have been appointed the History Department's new—and first female—department chair. I was excited about my move from the flat cornfields of central Illinois to the Southern Appalachians. And I was absolutely scared to death. All of these emotions were borne out by experience. However, I have never been sorry that I joined a department that is composed of dedicated, engaged faculty members and students. While there were significant challenges, I think I made useful contributions as department chair—not least of which was to help pave the way for the positive and peaceful directions the department is currently taking. I have benefited from a university atmosphere that nurtures both research and teaching. And I have loved working with ASU students—undergrads and grad students, majors and non-majors—who have reinforced my love for history and stimulated affection for what will almost certainly be my last university affiliation. I arrive at this stage of my life and career with the archetypal Baby Boomer's shock: how did I get this old? Did I once believe that you can't trust anyone over 30? And I reflect on the journey that brought me here with Grateful Dead lyrics as the soundtrack: what a long strange trip it's been.

My professional odyssey began in the mid-1970s, when I applied for admission to the University of Illinois's graduate program in history. It was the only application I made: if U. of I. had turned me down, I planned to buy a new VW Beetle. When I arrived to enroll for classes, the smiling professor (Ralph Fisher) seated behind the punch cards asked me what kind of history I wanted to do. Since he was so nice, I asked what kind of history he taught. "Russian history," he said. Consequentially, I ended up with a Masters degree in Russian History, together with the passion for the history of medicine, which I have carried throughout my career. In the course of my four years in Champaign-Urbana, I both realized that my language skills were inadequate to support serious archival research in what was then the Soviet Union, and read Keith Thomas's *Religion and the Decline of Magic* (1973), which ignited my interest in ordinary people's experience of ill-health. In 1978, I carried this interest with me to Lancaster University (U.K.), where I was awarded the Ph.D. in history in 1985 for the project that became my first book, *Sufferers and Healers: The Experience of Illness in Seventeenth-Century England* (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1987 and 2015).

The same interest undergirded my 1987-89 participation in a major oral history project, directed by Dr. Elizabeth A.M. Roberts, which considered working-class social life in three northern English cities: Barrow-in-Furness, Lancaster, and Preston. In the course of that project, I added to a collection of 250 life history interviews, now archived at the Lancaster University Library. I also learned more about the ways health, birth, injury, illness, and death permeated the domestic and neighborhood cultures of past generations than I would have imagined possible. Those oral history interviews, a century of annual public health reports, and a generous NIH grant (2004-6) made possible my book, *For Their Own Good: The Transformation of English Working-Class Health Culture, 1880-1970* (The Ohio State University Press, 2008 and 2015).

In 1990, after 12 years—and the births of 4 sons—in England, I returned with my family to the United States, and settled in Normal, Illinois. During the 1990s, I worked mainly as a contract researcher and research administrator at Illinois State University. However, I also had the good fortune to

become involved with a public history project sponsored by the McLean County Historical Society. This project, which considered the history of medicine, public health, and suffering in McLean County, Illinois, eventually produced a major museum exhibit and two books, the second of which, *Health Culture in the Heartland, 1880-1980: An Oral History*, was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2009.

In 1998, I was appointed to a tenure-line faculty position at Illinois State University. There, I further developed interest and skills in teaching, which I had first cultivated as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Illinois in the 1970s. I taught at all levels and interacted with students ranging from undergraduate non-majors and history students to former Peace Corps volunteers taking classes in applied research methods. I gained hands-on experience in the multiple and endlessly fulfilling interactions between research and teaching, and loved the dynamics involved in mentoring student interest and performance in history.

So, this brings me back to the start of these comments, and to the question that should animate them: what does it all mean? What have I learned? One important answer is that nothing is wasted. I spent a lot of the 1990s being frustrated that I didn't have a traditional faculty job. However, the combination of adjunct, contract research, and grant facilitation work I did as a (then) trailing spouse developed many skills I found useful later: designing social research projects, grant-writing, and pitching a budget, to mention only a few. I also learned that history matters—and that the doing of history is worth the effort, patience, and time it takes to learn and do it properly. Like most women, I have had several careers. Like all people, I am the product of my own history. I have worked hard and had a lot of good luck. As I walk away from ASU, I will carry nothing but gratitude and good wishes for the people I have known here.







## Faculty Notes

### Dr. Richard Herbert Haunton

(November 8, 1933 - April 18, 2018): News of Dr. Haunton's death arrived just as the Newsletter was going to press. His legacy and presence in our department will endure in the fond memories of his students and colleagues. A full article and remembrance will be included in next year's edition.



**Edward Behrend-Martinez** published "Episcopal Courts in Iberia, Italy, and Latin America" in *Judging Faith, Punishing Sin* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), and his review of *From Body to Community: Venereal Disease and Society in Baroque Spain* by Cristian Berco, appeared in *The Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*. He also presented "Thomas Sanchez, the Catholic Reformation, and Sexuality in Late Sixteenth-Century Spain" to attendees of *Global Reformations Transforming Early Modern Religions, Societies, and Cultures*, held at the University of Toronto's Centre for Reformation and Renaissance in September 2017.

**Michael Behrent** wrote a book review for *The Immanent Frame* (a Social Science Research Council sponsored website on religion and secularism) on Mark Lilla's *The Shipwrecked Mind: On Political Reaction* (available here: <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2016/12/19/the-shipwrecked-mind/>). He also wrote a review for the "blog" version of the *Journal of the History of Ideas* on two recently published collections of Michel Foucault's writings from the 1960s (available here: <https://jhiliblog.org/2016/12/19/foucault-from-beyond-the-grave/>), and edited (and contributed to) a special forum of the journal *Modern Intellectual History* dedicated to the career of Jerrold Seigel, entitled "Fluidity and Form in Modern Life: The Intellectual Vision of Jerrold Seigel." He wrote two of the eight essays: an introduction—"The Shape of a Career"—and "Form: An Apollonian Modernity." The issue is available at: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/modern-intellectual-history/new-forum-on-the-work-of-jerrold-seigel>. He also wrote a book review of Jeffrey Andrew Barash's *Collective Memory and the Historical Past* (2016) for the journal *Politics, Religion, & Ideology*. Finally, Dr. Behrent published an essay entitled, "The Origins of the Anti-Liberal Left: The 1979 Vincennes Conference on Neoliberalism," in *French Politics, Culture & Society* (2017), and a review essay of Marcel Gauchet's four-volume history of democracy in the winter 2018 issue of *Dissent*.

**Donna Bly** has completed the necessary training and is now contributing to the department by serving as a Faculty Transfer Mentor. This is an important responsibility that involves communicating with both prospective as well as incoming and current transfer students.

**Tony Bly's** article, "Slave Education in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Virginia," has been accepted for inclusion in *Encyclopedia Virginia* <http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org/>. He also has a forthcoming book review of Christy Clark-Pujara, *Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island* (New York: New York Press, 2016) in *New England Quarterly*.

**Jeff Bortz** and his student Sarah Radman were awarded a SAFE grant in the amount of \$1100 for summer 2017. The money came in the form of a stipend to support Sarah's work as an assistant for Dr. Bortz on a project entitled "Classifying Primary Sources from the Mexican Revolution." SAFE (Students and Faculty Excellence) funds came to the University as a result of an initial grant from Hughlene and Bill Frank to provide student and faculty academic support.

**Judkin Browning** was promoted to the rank of Professor. He also became the department's Graduate Director in 2017.

**Birsen Bulmus** published a book review of *Science among the Ottomans: The Cultural Creation and Exchange of Knowledge* by Miri Shefer-Mossensohn in *American Historical Review* 122 (March 2017): 607-608. She revised and resubmitted the translation of her book to Küre Yayınları. The title of the book is *Türk Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nda Veba, Karantina Uygulamaları ve Jeopolitik*. Dr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, the former Turkish prime minister, owns the press.

**Andrea Burns** was invited by The Smithsonian Institution to participate in a day-long conference on "The State of Black Museums" at George Mason University in January 2017. She met with other public history professionals to discuss potential articles for a special 2018 issue of *The Public Historian Journal*. She also wrote a piece on the newly opened National African American Museum of History and Culture for the OAH's blog, "Process." The essay may be viewed here: <http://www.processhistory.org/burns-african-american-museum/>. She was invited to speak about her book *From Storefront to Monument* to students and faculty at Cardozo Law School in New York City in February 2017. She had the honor of being on a panel with Dr. Arica Coleman, historian and *Time* magazine contributor, and Judge Robert Wilkins, United States Circuit Judge of the US Court of Appeals (D.C. Circuit). Wilkins served on the Presidential Commission to establish the National African American Museum of History and Culture. She also completed a formal review of the public history program at Temple University, after a site visit in early December. Dr. Burns took part in an invited authors' panel at the Association of African American Museums annual conference in Washington, D.C. this past August. She was incredibly honored to present alongside Ibram X. Kendi, National Book Award winner and author of *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, Clint Smith, author of *Counting*

Descent, and Mabel Wilson, author of *Negro Building: Black Americans in the World of Fairs and Museums*. The panel was moderated by Joshua Johnson, host of NPR's "1a" program. She co-curated with Trent Margrif, First Year Seminar instructor and occasional public history graduate instructor, the first permanent exhibit on the history of Blowing Rock at the Blowing Rock Art and History Museum. It will also have space for rotating themes and collections, and it is hoped that ASU public history students will be able to contribute to the exhibit's ongoing development. For more information, please see <http://blowingrockmuseum.org/see-do/exhibitions/exhibition-celebrations.html>. Finally, she was the featured speaker on an author's panel at the American Association for State and Local History conference in Austin, TX, in September. The panel was sponsored by the National Council on Public History.

**Craig Caldwell** was selected as the Honors Mentor of the Year for 2017 by the Honors College.

**Karl Campbell** had numerous opportunities to bring some historical context to contemporary political events. Both the *Charlotte Observer* and the *New York Times* quoted Karl in stories comparing Senator Burr (R-N.C.) to former Senator Ervin (D-N.C.). The *Financial Times* interviewed him for background to a story on Senator Burr and Tar Heel politics and the local NPR affiliate, WFAE, included him on *Charlotte Talk's* political panel the hour before James Comey testified at the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also presented several public lectures across the state including: "Immigration: Who Is a 'Real' American?," "North Carolina and the New South," "North Carolina: Progress and Reaction, 1900-1929," and "Why Governor Luther Hodges Chose Rotary." The September issue of *Our State* magazine featured Dr. Campbell (page 110): *Dr. Karl Campbell may be the definitive living historian of North Carolina's 20th-century politics. With books on Sam Ervin and Luther Hodges, he's covered a good chunk of our recent political history. In his courses at Appalachian State, Campbell teaches a broader swath of North Carolina's history, its politics, and the social movements that helped transform it.* He also published a chapter, "Tar Heel Politics in the Twentieth Century: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Plutocracy," in *New Voyages to Carolina: Reinterpreting North Carolina History*, eds. Larry E. Tise and Jeffrey J. Crow (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2017), 241-268.

**Kristen Baldwin Deathridge** presented as part of a special mini-symposium at the National Council on Public History Conference. The mini-symposium was called "Radical Roots: Civic Engagement, Public History, and a Tradition of Activism" and it is building towards a publication of the same name that will re-evaluate and expand on the "genealogy" of public history. At the same conference, she co-facilitated a working group (with Lara Kelland, University of Louisville, and Jane Davis, Linda Hall Library) called "Meeting in the Middle: Community Engagement in a Digital World." She was awarded a grant from the National Park Service to update the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Portsmouth Village at Cape Lookout National Seashore. Anne Whisnant (ECU) is the PI, and Lynn Harris (ECU) will also be working with the group. The total grant was for \$68,790. Dr. Deathridge also received word that she was awarded a grant of \$21,394 from East Carolina University for her proposal entitled, "National Register Nomination Update" and involves her work with the National Park Service.

**Jari Eloranta** published a review of *The Gunpowder Age: China, Military Innovation, and the Rise of the West*

in *World History*, on EH.Net: [http://eh.net/book\\_reviews/the-gunpowder-age-china-military-innovation-and-the-rise-of-the-west-in-world-history/](http://eh.net/book_reviews/the-gunpowder-age-china-military-innovation-and-the-rise-of-the-west-in-world-history/); and two articles: "Pro Bono Publico? Demand for Military Spending between the World Wars" *Essays in Economic and Business History*, XXXV (2) (2017); and, with Jari Ojala, Anu Ojala & Heli Valtonen, "Let the best story win – evaluation of the most cited business history articles" *Management & Organizational History*, 1-29; Published online: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17449359.2017.1394200>. He was also interviewed for *Economics Detective*, a news podcast: <http://economicsdetective.com/2017/05/economic-history-war-conflict-jari-eloranta/>.

Dr. Eloranta was appointed President of the Economic and Business History Society, which will host its 2018 meeting in Jyväskylä, Finland, and participated in the Sound Workshop on Economic History at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, in September 2017. He also organized the 77th Economic History Association conference in San Jose, California, in September 2017, with over 250 scholars from around the world presenting their research.

**Lynne Getz** published her latest book, *Abolitionists, Doctors, Ranchers, and Writers: A Family Journey Through American History* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2017): [https://www.amazon.com/Abolitionists-Doctors-Ranchers-Writers-American/dp/0700624902/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1507918819&sr=1-5&keywords=Lynne+Getz](https://www.amazon.com/Abolitionists-Doctors-Ranchers-Writers-American/dp/0700624902/ref=sr_1_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1507918819&sr=1-5&keywords=Lynne+Getz)

**Jim Goff** served as the outside reviewer for the History program at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He reviewed the department's self-study and then spent two days on campus in Chattanooga meeting with faculty, students, and administrators. Goff also read a paper entitled, "Elvis Presley and the Irrepressible Influence of American Evangelicalism," at New Perspectives on Elvis: A One-Day International Conference held at the University of Memphis.

**Anatoly Isaenko** helped to organize and also participated in the presentation and discussion of the Panel Symposium entitled "Trump-Putin: Love Affair Event" in February 2017. He traveled to London to present a paper on "Transformation of Ethnic Conflict into a Part of Regional and Global Jihad" to the Seventh International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society hosted by Imperial College on 17-18 of April 2017. He also participated in a circle discussion where he presented his theoretical model on ethnic conflicts. Other participants hailed from Finland, India, Turkey, and the Netherlands. Dr. Isaenko became a 2017 recipient of the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. The Marquis Who's Who Publications Board noted that he was among the first to receive this award, and his bio and principal publications will be sent to media outlets and uploaded to the major search engines. In addition, he reviewed an article, "Captives of the Empire: Siberian Regionalism and the Siberian Separatists Affair," for the *Journal of the North Carolina Association of Historians* and was included in the staff of permanent reviewers for the editorial board. As a member of the Faculty Speakers Bureau here at Appalachian, he participated in an interview with Karenina Velandia of the BBC on 9 August 2017 for the production of "General Don Juan Belaieff and His Impact on the Nation State Building in Paraguay." He also participated in a symposium entitled "The Russian Revolution: A Hundred Years After" held at ASU; his contribution was, "Why Russia? Longstanding and Immediate Reasons for the Revolution." In addition, Toly is serving as an editorial board member for the *Global Journal of Archaeology and Anthropology*. Finally, he recently published "Battle Horses



and Dogs of Sarmato-Alans," Part Two, *The Journal of Eurasia and World*. No 6 (2017): 10-31.

**Thomas Pegelow Kaplan** (Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies/History) was awarded a highly competitive Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by the International Institute for Holocaust Research of Yad Vashem, the World Center for Holocaust Research, Documentation, Education and Commemoration. He also received a group study research grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Bonn, Germany, that allowed him to take the students of his Holocaust research class (JHP/HIS 3154) to Berlin, Oranienburg, Wolfsburg, Krakow, Sosnowiec and Auschwitz over spring "break" (with Professor Amy Hudnall). The class evolves around archival research at Holocaust centers, research libraries and documentation centers in Europe, including the Center's new partner, the Center for Research on Antisemitism at the TU Berlin. With the additional help of donations from two private foundations, the research trip was almost free of charge for class participants. Pegelow Kaplan also presented on his book project on transnational Jewish petitioning practices during the Shoah at the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation Symposium in Washington, D.C. and was invited to serve on the North Carolina German Studies Seminar and Workshop series for another year. Dr. Kaplan was invited to and gave the 2017/5778 annual John Najmann lecture at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem (as the first German scholar to do so). He also gave a lecture at the Richard Koebner Center for German History at Hebrew University, Israel's leading institution of higher learning. As a fellow of YV's International Institute for Holocaust Research, he also participated in a number of conferences and meetings and carried out archival research across Israel. Prior to his departure in October, he presented a paper on the "Nazism in America? Fascist Discourses and Discourses of Fascism in the United States, 1920-Present" panel at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association in Atlanta. Pegelow Kaplan also gave invited lectures at Howard University (event organized with the United States Holocaust Museum and the German Historical Institute), Davidson College, and the University of Virginia. Furthermore, he published "History and Theory: Writing Central European Histories after the Linguistic Turn" in a new volume on *Modern Germany in Transatlantic Perspective* and had an edited volume on *Petitions Resisting Persecution: Negotiating Self-Determination and Survival of European Jews* (with Wolf Gruner) accepted for publication by Berghahn Books in New York City.

**Jeremiah Kitunda** published his book, *A History of the Water Hyacinth in Africa: The Flower of Life and Death from 1800 to the Present* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018): [https://www.amazon.com/History-Water-Hyacinth-Africa-Present/dp/1498524621/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1511967541&sr=1-1&keywords=Jeremiah+Kitunda](https://www.amazon.com/History-Water-Hyacinth-Africa-Present/dp/1498524621/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1511967541&sr=1-1&keywords=Jeremiah+Kitunda). He continues to work on his next project, "The Wit and Wisdom of the Akamba," and is preparing a prospectus for Indiana University Press.

**Michael L. Krenn's** essay, "From Sidebar to Centrality: The Historiography of Race and U.S. Foreign Relations," appeared in *Passport: The SHAFR Review* 48:1 (April 2017):19-25. He served as a panelist for a symposium on "Abstract Expressionism Behind the Iron Curtain" at the Dedalus Foundation in New York City in October 2017. The panel, containing art critics, scholars, and museum curators, addressed a new art exhibit on abstract expressionist works produced in Iron Curtain nations during the Cold War. The symposium was sponsored by the Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center. During that same trip he also did a filmed interview for a forthcoming documentary, tentatively entitled

"Americans In Venice: Robert Rauschenberg Breaks the Rules." Rauschenberg was the first American to win the gold medal for painting at the Venice Biennale. The documentary, by Amei Wallach, should be coming out in the spring of 2018. He also published his sixth book, *The History of United States Cultural Diplomacy: 1770 to the Present Day* (London: Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2017): [https://www.amazon.com/History-United-States-Cultural-Diplomacy/dp/1472510011/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1511967402&sr=1-5&keywords=Michael+Krenn](https://www.amazon.com/History-United-States-Cultural-Diplomacy/dp/1472510011/ref=sr_1_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1511967402&sr=1-5&keywords=Michael+Krenn). Finally, he participated in the Fall Workshop of the Faculty and Course Development in International Studies program, hosted by the University of West Virginia, Nov. 2017. The workshop brought together approximately 100 university and college faculty from around West Virginia. This year's focus was on "Global Issues: Culture, Migration, and International Organizations." Dr. Krenn was responsible for leading three sessions on the issue of race, racism, and international relations.

**Scott Relyea's** article, "Victorianizing Guangxu: Arresting Flows, Minting Coins, and Exerting Authority in Early Twentieth-Century Kham," was published in the November 2016 (vol. 5, no. 2) print edition of *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review*. In addition, he presented a paper, "Obstructing Flows and Exerting Authority in China's Southwest Borderlands: Rupees, Tea, and Textbooks in Eastern Tibet" at the 5th conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network held in Kathmandu, Nepal (12-14 December). The conference theme was Dynamic Borderlands: Livelihoods, Communities, and Flows. Dr. Relyea also gave a research talk at the Institute of Chinese Studies in New Delhi, India, "'A fence on which we can rely': Asserting Sovereignty in the Early Twentieth-Century Sino-Tibetan Borderland," and presented "'A Fence on Which We Can Rely': Adapting Territorial Sovereignty in Early Twentieth-Century Eastern Tibet" at the 2017 annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Toronto. He received an FRT (Faculty Reassigned Time) grant for fall 2017. Scott used this award to spend additional time on his project entitled "Learning to be Colonial: 'Effective Occupation' and Early Twentieth Century Chinese Settlement of Eastern Tibet." He also presented a paper, "*Gongfa Daoyuan* and the Indigenisation of Territorial Sovereignty in Eastern Tibet" at a closed seminar/workshop at Oxford University entitled *The Effect on Inner- and East Asian Relations of the Advent of Modern International Law and the End of the Qing Empire in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries: Perspectives of Contemporary Sources*. This past summer he served as a visiting scholar at Academia Sinica's Institute of Modern History in Taipei, Taiwan, funded by a URC Grant and a Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies (sponsored by the National Library of Taiwan). In this capacity, in July he gave a talk entitled "Lamas, Empresses, and Tea: Imperial models and Sino-British Encounters in Early Twentieth Century Tibet" at the Center for Chinese Studies at the National Library, and in early August a second talk entitled "*Gongfa Daoyuan* and the Early Twentieth-Century Indigenisation of Territorial Sovereignty in the Sino-Tibetan Borderland" at Academia Sinica's Institute of Modern History. Dr. Relyea was invited to participate in an international conference on Sino-Tibetan Exchanges sponsored by the Center for Tibetan Studies at Sichuan University in China in October. He presented the paper entitled "Where Empires Meet: Vagabond Lamas and Tea Bricks in Eastern Tibet." In addition, Scott presented the paper "'Between Province and State, Empire and Nation: Eastern Tibet in the Early Twentieth Century'" during a day-long pre-conference panel focused on Colonial and Postcolonial Borderlands at the annual Madison South Asia Conference, and presented "'A fence on which we can rely': Asserting sovereignty in early twentieth century southwest

China" at the East Asia: Trans-Regional Histories Workshop at the University of Chicago, also in October. Finally, he published "Indigenizing International Law in Early Twentieth Century China: Territorial Sovereignty in the Sino-Tibetan Borderland," *Late Imperial China*, vol. 38, no. 2 (December 2017):1-60.

**Rwany Sibaja** co-presented (with Lily Balloffet of the History Department, Western Carolina) a workshop session at the 2017 Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS), held in Chapel Hill. The session, entitled "Digital Tools and Latin American Studies," highlighted ways that scholars of Latin America can use digital tools for both research and teaching. He published a review of *Fútbol, Jews, and the Making of Argentina* by Raanan Rein in *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 36, no. 2 (April 1, 2017): 253-54. doi:10.1111/blar.12617, and an article, "Omeka to ¡Animales!: Building a Digital Repository of Research on Argentine Soccer," that appeared in the Summer 2017 edition of the *Journal of Sport History* (Vol.44, no.2):209-224. In addition, he also traveled to Costa Rica for three weeks, where he began work on a second area of research on the development of sport and leisure in Costa Rica between 1870 and 1970. While in Costa Rica, he delivered a paper, "De 'Macaquitos' a la 'Maravilla Negra': asesorando el fútbol argentino en la era de Pelé," at the Universidad de Costa Rica's annual global history conference. In June, he delivered yet another presentation entitled "Sports & the Making of the Americas: Immigration, Athletes, and the Construction of Identities," at the summer teacher workshop series, "The Long History of Immigration," hosted by North Carolina State University. Finally, he traveled with Derek Eggers from the Center for Academic Excellence to a three-day conference, the 2017 International Forum on Active Learning Classrooms, held at the University of Minnesota in early August and also attended the 2017 Teaching & Learning conference at Elon University in mid-August.

**Neva Specht** was named the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences effective May 1, 2017. With Carrie Streeter (MA History, 2012), she organized a workshop on new interpretations of the Cone Estate for members of the Blue Ridge Parkway staff based on their Historic Furnishings report and several of their oral histories. Joining the workshop was another MA History alum (1994), Phil Noblitt, author of *Mansion in the Mountains*, and Ian Firth, Professor Emeritus in the College of Environment and Design at the University of Georgia and author of the Historic Landscape report for the Moses Cone Estate. The NPS will be working on new exhibits and interpretation of the Cone Manor house/estate over the coming years.

**Bruce Stewart's** lecture "The Discovery of Appalachia, 1870-1920" recently appeared on C-SPAN's American History TV: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?416555-2/1870s-moonshine-was-appalachia>

**Michael Turner** published two books. *Radicalism and Reputation: The Political Career of Bronterre O'Brien* was published in April by Michigan State University Press. Here is the link: <http://msupress.org/books/book/?id=50-1D0-3FB0#.WQygDVKZOqA>. *Churchmanship and Education Reform in Victorian Britain: The Case of A.J. Beresford Hope* was published in November with Edwin Mellen Press. Turner also announced the selection of the next Rhinehart Postdoctoral Fellow—Dr. Joshua Rodda of the University of Nottingham, UK—to begin on September 1, 2018, and continue through May 2019; and that Dr. Denis Paz will be the speaker at this year's Annual Appalachian Lecture in British History to be held in Belk Library on Thursday, April 26. The topic for Professor Paz's lecture will be "Anti-

Semitism in British Politics" and this year's event will be co-sponsored by the History Department and the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies.

**Mary Valante** gave an invited talk at Ole Miss, sponsored by Medieval Studies. Her presentation was entitled "Milk, Ale and Needlework in plenty: Women's Work and the Economy of Viking Dublin."

**Jason White** delivered the 5th Annual Appalachian Lecture in British History in Belk Library in April. His presentation was entitled "Between Two Worlds: The English Levant Company and the Ottoman Empire, 1581-1688." He was awarded a CAS Summer Grant in the amount of \$2500 to support his project on the Levant Company.

## Emeriti Faculty Notes

**Peter Petschauer** reports that he had an article accepted for an upcoming issue of *The Journal of Psychohistory*. The article is tentatively titled, "Going Along and Being Trapped; Mitläufer: Germany Then, the U.S. Today." He also has another article slated for appearance in *Clio's Psyche* on published and unpublished German opinions regarding President Trump. Dr. Petschauer reached back into his first field of study and made a presentation about the forgotten role of women during the Enlightenment at the German Psychohistorical Conference in Heidelberg in March. He also had presentations at the International Psychohistorical Conference at New York University in May-June. One of the presentations deals with authoritarian personalities in recent history (think dictators and their imitators in the 20th and 21st centuries) and the other will honor SUNY Professor David Beisel and his fascinating book *Suicidal Embrace* (about the beginnings of WWII).

**Rennie Brantz, Scott Jessee, and Marvin Williamsen** received word that they were each awarded the rank of Professor Emeritus by the Board of Trustees of Appalachian on March 24, 2017.

## Current and Former Students

**George Blanchard** (M.A., 1972) wrote in with information on his career and some reflection on his time at Appalachian:

Dear Dr. Goff,

Thank you for your kind hospitality during my unannounced visit to the Department of History today. Thank you for your indulgence in allowing me to recall and discuss the positive academic experiences I enjoyed at Appalachian where I received an MA in history in 1972. It was a joy to meet with you, and to nostalgically remember my excellent, former professors, Dr. Max Dixon, Dr. Edward Gibson III, and Dr. Ina Van Noppen.

I am happy to say I felt their presence today and also that of Dean Cratis Williams whose great legacy was to create a university to encourage and develop the potential of its students.

I served thirty years as an intelligence officer in the Army both on active duty and in the reserves and retired as a lieutenant colonel. I also retired from the Department of Energy (DOE), Oak Ridge, TN, as Deputy Assistant Manager for Security and Emergency Management. DOE Oak Ridge Operations at various times has managed all the national science laboratories, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, our nation's uranium enrichment facilities, and uranium nuclear

*weapons production and storage. During my work career, I always felt the study of history had prepared me to think critically and to better understand social dynamics. For those reasons, I have been thankful to the Appalachian Department of History.*

*I am gratified and happy to see a strong, vibrant Department of History, and I wish you, the staff, and students the very best.*

George W. Blanchard,  
MA, History, 1972

**Charles Clarke**, a sophomore History Education major, was awarded a summer SAFE Fund grant in the amount of \$200.00 to work on his project entitled "Verses Poetry Slam Team Presentation." The SAFE Fund program came via an initial Appalachian Foundation gift from Hughlene and Bill Frank. The purpose of these awards is to foster undergraduate and graduate student experiences and to support faculty teaching, research, and engagement.

Valle Crucis Principal **Preston Clarke**, the 2017 Watauga County Principal of the Year, is one of our graduates (B.S., Spring 2006). Myra Pennell fondly remembers him from our History Ed program and his student teaching internship at Watauga High School.

Here is the article from the *Watauga Democrat*:  
[http://www.wataugademocrat.com/news/valle-crucis-preston-clarke-named-principal-of-the-year/article\\_6703293e-566c-58ba-8e4c-4c8d93a1461b.html](http://www.wataugademocrat.com/news/valle-crucis-preston-clarke-named-principal-of-the-year/article_6703293e-566c-58ba-8e4c-4c8d93a1461b.html)

**Jessica Cottle**, a May 2017 graduate, will be working at Davidson College as the Justice, Equality, and Community Archivist.

**Bartholomew Delcamp**, alum of the graduate program in public history, is now employed as a full-time museum assistant at the Lake Wales Museum and Cultural Center in Lake Wales, Florida.

**Zachary Hottel** presented on a panel entitled "Seriously Whimsical: Public History Whimsy in Practice" at last year's National Council on Public History Conference.

**Susan Jennings** (MA, 1998) is the Dean of Library Services at Chattanooga State Community College.

**Meagan Johnson** (BS, History—Multidisciplinary, May 2017) wrote in to tell us about two jobs that she is currently juggling: Social Media Coordinator at a local non-profit, Toe River Arts, and Education Coordinator at another local non-profit, Parkway Playhouse. Both organizations operate from Burnsville, NC.

**Joy Jones** enrolled at Appalachian seeking a Bachelor of Arts in History in the fall of 2010 after a long break from school. Graduating Cum Laude in December 2012, Joy went on to enroll in the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, obtaining a Master's in Library and Information Science with a concentration in Archives and Record Management in May of 2015. While in the graduate program, Joy was working as a part time library assistant for Wake County Public Libraries. Upon completion of her degree, she obtained a full time position in WCPL at the Eva Perry Regional Library in Apex as the Recreational Reading Librarian. The following March, she was instrumental in opening the brand new Northeast Regional Library, working there as the Career and Education Librarian. In the summer of 2017, Joy accepted a position

at the West Regional Library branch in Cary as the Adult Services Manager, where she enjoys her role as department head in one of the highest volume public libraries in North Carolina, as well as managing adult programs and services for the large county system. At the October 2017 North Carolina Library Association Biennial Conference, Joy served on a panel delivering a presentation on marketing of library services for adults, generating great interest in the tailored services that Wake County provides, and recently published a guest post for NoveList (EBSCO Host) about a specific service that has received nationwide attention from librarians and library paraprofessionals. Joy finds her profession fulfilling and rewarding in serving the public daily, and continues to keep history close to her heart through pleasure reading, genealogy, and frequent visits to the Olivia Raney Local History Library in Raleigh.

May 2017 graduate **Ashlee Lanier** has accepted a curator position with the Wetzel County Museum in West Virginia.

**Rick Laws**, who took a number of graduate courses with us via non-degree-seeking status from 1998 to 2003 is teaching courses in History, the Humanities, and Religion at the Ashe campus of Wilkes Community College.

**Emily Long**, who is in the Ph.D. Program in modern European history at New York University, spent the summer working on her German through Middlebury College's language program.

Recent graduate **Hannah Malcolm** has begun a fully funded Ph.D. program in European History at Indiana University.

**Ayako Nakano** (BA, History, 2016) recently wrote Dr. Karl Campbell to share news about having accepted a job in California:

*Hi Dr. Campbell!!!*

*I just wanted to share with you that I accepted a job offer in LA! I'll be working as a bilingual paralegal in immigration! If it's a good match, the future plan is for them to pay for my law school in exchange for working for them for a few years!!*

**Jewel Parker**, one of our current MA students, received the exciting news confirming acceptance of her paper for publication in *Graduate History Review*, a peer-reviewed journal published by history graduate students at the University of Victoria. Jewel's paper is entitled "Loretta Lynn's Lyrics: Songwriting for Women and the Working Class." Jewel also sends word of the publication of two book reviews for *Women's History Review*. Below are the book titles and publication links: Cooper, Brittney C. *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2017 (<http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/dhdgDP46Vj7VNk9aX4Mq/full>); Johnson, Joan Marie. *Funding Feminism: Monied Women, Philanthropy, and The Women's Movement, 1870-1967*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017. <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/fKgcimS49u3b4kgweW5M/full>.

**Shannon Parsons** (BA, 1990s) also wrote in with an update:

*Dr. Goff,*

*It was so good to see you and everyone else last Monday. I*



wish I could have had more time to spend with you all and catch up.

My job is busy, busy, busy all the time or at least it seems that way. I am teaching for a company (aka school) called Eckerd Kids that is based out of Clearwater, FL. The Boomer, NC (Wilkes County) campus where I work is a short-term (6 month) all-male residential facility.

We are contracted to the NC Department of Juvenile Justice to help get adjudicated youth back on track with their schoolwork and life in general. It is unlike anything I have ever done.

Currently I am teaching two sections of World History and one section of US History. I have students ranging from 7th to 12th grade level and their academic skills and abilities run the gamut from barely literate to AP/College level.

Here is a link to the company website that will help fill in some of the details on the history and mission of the organization:  
<http://www.eckerd.org/>

I hope to get back to ASU more this summer and see everyone.

Talk to you soon,

Shannon

Recent graduate **Sarah Patrick**, who served as *History Matters* editor as well as Phi Alpha Theta president and also successfully defended her honors thesis on atheism and superstition in the early Roman Empire, followed her eventful senior year with a June wedding! She is now in Athens, Georgia, where she has begun graduate work at the University of Georgia.

Former M.A. student, **Robert Rennie** (MA, May 2011), successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation, "Death in the Air: The Luftstreitkräfte, Aviation Technology, and German Culture in the First World War," at the University of Tennessee.

**Anthony Sadler** (MA, December 2016) won the Outstanding Thesis Award for the best thesis in the Humanities division at Appalachian State University for 2016-17. Anthony's "Appalachian Baptism: The Asheville Flood of 1916" was directed by Timothy Silver and supported by committee members Karl Campbell and Bruce Stewart. Anthony's award-winning thesis means that History has won the Outstanding Thesis Award now for five of the past seven years dating back to Jeremy Land's win in 2010. Other History graduate students winning the honor during that period included Carrie Anne Streeter (2012), Misty Harville (2013), and Christopher Howard (2014-15). Looking back at the complete list of past winners also reveals the following History alums of note: Amy Hudnall (2001), Philip Noblitt (1995), James O'Dell (1991), Donna Ellington (1984), and Timothy Silver (1980). Lest you think the names by now are homage to "ancient history," there is one even older History recipient—Martin Tucker (1975). He also wrote to let everyone know about his new job. He's accepted a position with the Mast General Store as their company training manager and also as the curator for the Mast legacy and history.

**Scott Seagle** (MA, 1991) is a Senior Instructional Developer for the Walker Center for Teaching and Learning at UTC and also teaches as an adjunct in the History department.

**Christopher Smith** (BA, 2013) wrote his former Honors Thesis advisor, Dr. Michael L. Krenn:

Dr. Krenn,

How are you? My law school application process ended up being pretty successful. I was accepted to several good law schools—Georgetown, Michigan, Vanderbilt, Texas— but have decided to go to Duke on a 40% tuition scholarship. After about 3 1/2 years away from home, I'm also happy to be returning to North Carolina. Duke Law even has some courses related to my interest in U.S. foreign policy, such as "Use of Force in International Law" and "Foreign Relations Law."

Thank you for all of your help and assistance in this process! I'm certain that your letter of recommendation played a major role in my acceptance.

Thank you,

Chris Smith

Dr. Krenn stated: "Chris was one of the best students I've ever had and produced the finest Honors Thesis I have ever directed. He spent the last few years overseas, learning Russian and teaching English in Russia."

**Cory Stewart**, one of our former MA students who went on to earn his PhD from University of North Carolina, Greensboro, is currently the department chair in Humanities at Surry Community College.

**Carrie Streeter** (MA, Public History, 2012), currently a PhD candidate at the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded a UC San Diego Chancellors' Research Excellence Scholarship. This award will provide a year of funding to help Carrie complete her dissertation and also collaborate with a professor in the School of Medicine who researches yoga's usefulness for veterans who suffer from chronic back pain or PTSD.

**Rachel Lanier Taylor** (MA, History 2012), a PhD student at the University of Washington, recently interned with the Historic American Buildings Survey and produced a written report on the Power House (Island Three) on Ellis Island. Currently Rachel is involved in yet another internship program with the Society for History in the Federal Government in Washington, DC, where she is working to increase graduate student engagement in federal government history and humanities programs. You can read about Rachel's work here: <https://simpsoncenter.org/news/2018/01/rachel-lanier-taylor-appointed-society-history-federal-government>.

May 2017 MA graduate **Jimmie Vaughn** has accepted a one-year position as the Collections' Assistant at the History of Diving Museum in Islamorada, FL.

**Matthew Weaver**, currently a student in our B.S., History Multidisciplinary track, won the competition for Pianist of the Year for the 7th Year in a row. The competition is held annually at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh. Matt was also awarded as Male Vocalist of the Year in the statewide competition.

**Ramsey Wyles**, a former undergraduate, is currently doing Peace Corps work in Seattle.

## In Memory: Ira Read



Ira B. Read was born on March 30, 1932 in Danville, Illinois, and passed away on November 1, 2017, at the age of 85. Although he claimed to have a habit of not going to class (as well as loaning his car to anyone who was willing to try and drive it), Dr. Read went on to earn his bachelor's degree at Milligan College in Tennessee. In 1965, he graduated from Emory University with a Ph.D. in History. He began his teaching career at the University of the South,

but then returned to Milligan College in 1967. While teaching a variety of history and humanities courses, Dr. Read had a broad range of cultural interests which he enjoyed sharing with his students. Some of them would remember visiting his home to listen to music for a final humanities class, attend a cast party after a show, or just to talk. He was actively involved in many of the stage productions at Milligan. In 1986, he joined the Department of History at Appalachian State University as a Lecturer and retired in 2001. For those students fortunate enough to have him for a teacher, he was remembered as someone with the rare quality that allowed him to bring history to life. And his colleagues at Appalachian State University also wish to share their memories:

Jim Goff (talking about being hired in 1986): A lot has happened since then but one of the first things that happened initially after my hiring was George's assignment of an office space—which, as fate would have it, I shared with Dr. Ira Read. So I spent my first year at Appalachian (as well as quite a few after that) getting to know what a fine and interesting man Ira Read was. For a young person like me just learning the ropes, the assignment alongside Ira was most fortuitous. So, thank you, George, for many things in my life but especially for what was perhaps even your "unknowing wisdom" in assigning me to Ira. We spent many hours discussing the details of teaching and academe. Ira, not far removed from his years at Milligan College in Tennessee, was a wealth of knowledge and always, without fail, a joy to be around. He taught in the department both as an adjunct, and sometimes in a full-time capacity, for a number of years in the late 1980s and on into the 1990s. Many of you continued to see him around Boone or keep up with him through his wife Barbara Yale Read, who taught in the Art Department. Ira also continued to see a number of you at department events and retirement parties. He will be greatly missed.

Mike Moore: Could he ever sport suspenders!! Ira was very well read and a joy to talk with, raspy voice and all. Like many other NTT faculty, Ira made us all look better.

Dorothea Hoffmann (Martin): Ira was a very inventive teacher. He is the only person I know that taught World History BACKWARDS! And because he knew his subject so well, IT WORKED! Fond memories of him.

John Williams: I remember Ira as a colleague, as a guest who modeled for my future emulation how to get through a dinner party when one can't hear half of what is being said, and as a boon travel companion with Barbara and my partner Norma through southern Scotland to Edinburgh during the week following a St. Mary's choir gig in Durham Cathedral.

Tim Silver: Ira's dry (make that arid, maybe even desiccated) wit was always on display. I remember that he once said that it would be time to retire if "you ever start liking the faculty more than the students." I also have great memories of him doing those incredibly looooooong scripture readings in the Easter

liturgy of the Episcopal church. He read in such a way that one could hear those dry bones from Isaiah rattling in the rafters—even at 6:00 a.m.

Bettie Bond: Ira has a special place in my heart - I always referred to him as "Dad" - not only in the department but in the grocery store and other paths that we crossed. He was such a sweet heart - a great hugger - and had such a wonderful laugh. He was a joy and I look back on my moments with him with a smile in my heart. Though I saw less of him as time passed (remember John and I have been retired now for over 21 years!) he was always a joy to encounter, reminding me of good times.

Scott Jessee: He was a crusty but sweet guy. A cat person. My last memory of Ira is him in his bed in the living room going in and out of sleep with a beautiful Persian cat named Pangur Ban watching over him from a shelf just above his head. The cat was obviously very concerned about his friend Ira and was "on duty." Thanks for the opportunity. I liked him a lot.

## In Memory: Eloise Melton



Professor Emeritus Eloise Melton, who taught at Appalachian State Teachers College (1954-1967) and Appalachian State University (1967-1974), passed away on October 16, 2017, at the age of 103.

She was born Eloise Bateman Camp on June 13, 1914, in Portsmouth, Virginia, but spent most of her life in North Carolina. Prior to coming to Boone to take up her position as an assistant professor of History, she attended East Carolina Teachers College (now East Carolina University) and eventually earned a Master's degree in Library Science. Her career as a teacher and librarian began in the North Carolina public school system, and in 1947 she was named the State School Library Adviser in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. In 1950, she married Jack Robert Melton and they moved to Boone where he began his career as an assistant professor in the Department of Education. Four years later Eloise Melton became an assistant professor in the Department of History. Both Jack and Eloise retired in 1974.

Eloise Melton is fondly remembered by her colleagues and former students at Appalachian State:

Don Saunders: I remember Eloise vividly in those faculty meetings after I joined the department, in 1971. She was a strong student advocate in every sense, holding high academic demands but also passionate to see students succeed. And I remember Eloise always referred to "the student" as "she." No casual patriarchal language for her! RIP Eloise.

Tim Silver: In 1973, I was a freshman in Eloise Melton's WESTERN Civilization course. I have good memories of her class. Whenever she wanted to emphasize a point, she would say something like, "take this down and star it."

Peter Petschauer: About the time Dr. Silver attended Ms Melton's WC class, I was coming up for tenure. Ina van Noppen scared me as the authority figure in the department; Eloise reassured me that "things would be OK." They were. Maybe not all of us enjoy such a long life, but think of it, Eloise grew into adulthood after WWI.

David Mielke: I came to ASU to teach foundations of education

in 1972 and Bettie Bond came to the History Department in 1973. I taught with Eloise's husband Jack and he was a mentor to me. Bettie experienced the same thing in the History Department with Eloise.

Dale Simmons: Eloise Melton was my history professor when I was a freshman at Appalachian State Teachers College in 1966. I became her colleague in 1973 when I joined the history faculty. I also knew her husband Dr. Jack Melton (who was also one of my professors in the School of Education). They were very fine people and I enjoyed my friendship with them. I had no idea that Eloise lived to be 103 years of age. She taught many thousands of Appalachian students in her long tenure at the university and was a most positive influence on each of them.

## Remember When









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