

# 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 Wade



## This issue

A Note from the Editor	p.1
Message from the Chair	p.2
Professorship Fundraiser	p.3
Recent Events	p.4
Faculty Notes	p.5
Current and Former Students	p.10
Transitions	p.12
In Memorium	p.14
Digital Watauga	p.15

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

## A Note from the Editor

We hope that you enjoy this latest issue of Appalachian's History Department Newsletter. It is our most ambitious one yet. The Newsletter was a going concern when I first came to Appalachian as a young assistant professor hired to begin a public history program. I have been involved with producing the Newsletter for much of the past twenty years. In that time, it has evolved from a good, black and white chronicle of department news into the glossy, full-color publication you now receive. The quality of reportage developed over time, but credit for the more full-color format goes to former chair Lucinda McCray (2009-2014). Full marks to her for that, and for agreeing that it was important that the Newsletter not become merely an on-line publication. The impressive formatting of this year's issue is the handiwork of Renee Gamble, our multitalented "new" administrative staff member now completing her first year with us. We are very fortunate to have her, and senior staff administrator Donna Davis (pictured with Jari Eloranta in this Newsletter). Their expertise, and patience, make our working lives a lot easier, more pleasant, and more productive.

In thinking about the evolution of the Newsletter over four decades, we have discovered that the Department does not have copies of all of the Newsletters. Accordingly, in the hope that some of our Readers may have saved their copies, we are asking if you would share with the History Department—in the original, as a scanned document, or as a paper copy— issues from the following years: 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2009, 2011. Forward digital copies to [gablerr@appstate.edu](mailto:gablerr@appstate.edu). Mailed issues or copies should be sent to Department of History, 224 Joyce Lawrence Lane, Anne Belk Hall 248, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608.

A closing word. This is my final issue as editor. I have enjoyed doing it, and at the same time am pleased to be leaving it to a capable successor. Thank you to the many readers who have contributed so much to the Newsletter over the years by writing in to tell us about their lives and careers. The very best to you all, Michael Wade.



## From the Chair...

June 11, 2019

Changes. As historians, we know a lot about them. Indeed, without them, I suppose we would have “nothing to do” since history itself—and specifically the analysis of how and why things change and develop—depends on them. Even so, when changes inevitably come to the life of a department like ours, they are nonetheless sometimes difficult to embrace. So it is with the “loss” of several of our colleagues this year, even though in these cases it is due to colleagues moving on to fabulous new opportunities elsewhere! Dr. Jari Eloranta is now Professor of Economic History and head of the department at the University of Helsinki; Dr. Tony Bly is the Peter H. Shattuck Endowed Chair in Colonial American History at Cal State, Sacramento; Donna Bly has retired to readjust to California and life with a professor with a much longer title in front of his name! Changes in the daily life of a department, familiar faces seen now only on occasional visits or when updated photos are sent our way. Each year, with new retirements and new opportunities, we say goodbye to old friends—both with sadness and happiness at the same time. With these changes come new friends and new opportunities: we welcome Dr. Allison Fredette into a tenure-track role as our newest Assistant Professor and we embrace Dr. Christopher Stone as well as Jennifer Morris and Catherine Turner in their new non-tenure track faculty roles in the coming year. With each of these changes, we adjust—thankful for the time shared with friends and colleagues and also excited for the new opportunities on the horizon.

In this same way, I reflect more and more on the wonderful opportunities I’ve had in my life and career to know and work with so many of you over the years—students and colleagues, friends all. The fact that you each remain strong supporters of our program even when the new job opportunities and life changes come your way is gratifying to me. I am amazed and inspired by our alumni, by my former colleagues, and by my current co-laborers here in the department. To all the friends of Appalachian’s History Department, thank you for always being there for us. Your support of our program, our scholarships, and our fundraising campaigns continues to energize me and give me pride to have ended up in this time and in this place. You do indeed make a difference. Amid all the changes, you are the constant. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Sincerely,

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

## I. G. GREER PROFESSORSHIP IN HISTORY CAMPAIGN

# Department of History

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Thanks to your faithfulness and generosity, the I. G. Greer Professor Campaign continues to make progress. We are now finishing our third and final year of the campaign itself and I can report that we've raised in gifts and pledges around \$50,000 to beef up the Greer and make it a prestigious and relevant research award. Our 21st recipient—Dr. Rene Harder Horst—was installed in November 2018 and, over the next three years of his appointment, will utilize income resources from the Greer to complete another significant piece of scholarship for our department. The campaign has had other tangible results: Several history alumni are discussing with me how we might move forward now to finalize our \$100,000 goal and even exceed it so that the Greer Professorship, the oldest research-based Distinguished Professorship on campus, can continue to make a lasting imprint on our department, our students, and the larger profession. If you've not yet made a pledge or written a one-time check, I urge you to do so; your gift will demonstrate to this group of interested alumni that, as I pointed out last year, together we will make this happen! Listed below are the department's 21 Greer recipients and the dates of their individual appointments. Perhaps one of these people made a difference in your life and career. How about writing a check today in their honor and/or memory? 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	Rene Horst	2018-2021
Tim Silver	1997-1999		

Sincerely,

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

Donations can be made using the form below, or online on our website at: [givenow.appstate.edu/history](http://givenow.appstate.edu/history)

### 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 (an amount is appreciated)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmericanExpress ☐ Discover ☐ Online: [givenow.appstate.edu/history](http://givenow.appstate.edu/history)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Credit Card

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



## Founders Day Celebration

The History Department was well represented at Appalachian's Founders Day celebration on September 5. Karl Campbell and Andrea Burns joined Dane Ward, the Dean of the ASU Library, on a panel discussing the history of the Dougherty family at the Founders Day Luncheon (See photo below). Karl and Rennie Brantz (Mayor of Boone and Professor Emeritus of History) both spoke at the dedication of the new Founders Plaza on the ASU campus.



L-R Karl Campbell, Dane Ward, Andrea Burns

## College of Arts and Sciences Awards Luncheon

History was well represented among those honored and recognized in October at the Fall 2018 CAS Awards Luncheon. The following colleagues were nominees for various awards...

*Outstanding Alumni Award: Tim Silver*

*Richard N. Henson Outstanding Advisor Award: Sheila Phipps*

*Outstanding Staff Award: Donna Davis*

*Jimmy Smith Outstanding Service Award: Sheila Phipps*

*W. C. Strickland Outstanding Junior Faculty Award: Scott Relyea*

*Donald Sink Family Outstanding Scholar Award: Michael Turner*

*Non-Tenure Track Teaching Excellence Award: Allison Fredette*

*Academy of Outstanding Teachers Award: Michael Behrent*

Of these impressive nominees, Dr. Allison Fredette was named the winner of this year's Non-Tenure Track Teaching Excellence Award! Way to go, Allison! And congratulations to all of these members of the History Department for their excellent work!



L-R College of Arts & Sciences Dean Neva Specht and Allison Fredette

## Appalachian Spring Conference: World History & Economics

Congrats to Jari Eloranta and Jeremy Land for another great Appalachian Spring Conference in World History & Economics held here on April 13-15, 2018.

The conference theme was "Convergence and Divergence in World History". Dr. Stephen Broadberry of the University of Oxford gave the pre-conference talk on Friday afternoon and the keynote address on Saturday morning. Attendance was strong this year and it was nice to see our former colleagues Amy Rutenberg and Jeremy Best both attending and participating in the conference. Also back on campus and presenting at the conference was our retired colleague Dorothea Martin, who presented a paper entitled "One Belt, One Road . . . Or Chains that Bind?" Also back to participate in the conference was former graduate student Nathan Widener who presented a paper entitled "From Tango to Rock: Transnational Identities in Argentina During the 1950s."

Others in the department who either gave presentations, made comments, or chaired sessions included the following: Judkin Browning, Jari Eloranta, Anatoly Isaenko, Antonio Bly, Scott Relyea, Jeremiah Kitunda, Michael Behrent, Thomas Kaplan, Craig Caldwell, Lucinda McCray, Mary Valante, Evan Wallace, James Goff, and Jonathan Billheimer. In addition to Appalachian (including a number of our colleagues from other departments across campus), the following universities, colleges, and agencies were represented at the conference: Duke University; Sewanee, the University of the South; Virginia Tech University; the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Texas Tech University; Furman University; the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences in Moldova; Kennesaw State University; Lenoir-Rhyne University; Iowa State University; Georgia State University; The Ohio State University; Georgia Gwinnett College; Wake Forest University; the London School of Economics; Walsh College; UNC Greensboro; Universite' de Montreal; the University of Oxford; and the University of Pittsburgh.

Please let Jari and Jeremy know how much you appreciate their hard work in making this conference such a memorable event!



Jari Eloranta & Donna Davis



## Faculty Notes

**Ed Behrend-Martinez's** chapter "Popular Culture, Spanish Law Courts, and the Early Modern State" was recently published in *A Companion to the Spanish Renaissance* edited by Hilare Kallendorf (London: Brill, 2018).

**Michael Behrent** was quoted in the November 9 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, in bold print no less! "*The worst fears were not realized. Margaret Spellings, while conservative, has a serious vision for higher education.*" (A24) Sarah Brown and Eric Kelderman, "Spellings is Stepping Down at UNC. Will Anyone Want Her Job?" Here's the link to the online version where you can read the entire article: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Margaret-Spellings-Is-Stepping/244946>. Michael is also an energetic, engaging teacher and a productive scholar. As if he wasn't busy enough, Michael was elected as the new chair of the Faculty Senate for 2019-2020. We are in good hands.

**Tony Bly** published the lead article, entitled "'On Death's Domain Intent I Fix My Eyes': Text, Context, and Subtext in the Elegies of Phillis Wheatley," in *Early American Literature* 53.2 (2018): 317-341. He also published two book reviews: [1] A review of Jared Hardesty's *Unfreedom: Slavery and Dependence in Eighteenth-Century Boston* in *African American Review* 50.1 (Spring 2018): 61-62 and [2] A comparative review of Marisa J. Fuentes's *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive* and Erica Armstrong Dunbar's *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave in Eighteenth-Century Studies* 51.3 (Spring 2018): 378-381. In March, Tony accepted a new appointment as the Peter H. Shattuck Endowed Chair in Colonial American History at California State University, Sacramento. Well-deserved, Tony. Rene, Ralph, and I will miss our lunches with you.

**Karl Campbell** On a seven city "tour" for Leadership North Carolina in July, Karl presented "Our Democratic Heritage: A Historian's Perspective on Civil Discourse and Civic Responsibility" in venues ranging from museums to restaurants. He was guest speaker at the annual Joseph E. Elmore Lecture at Louisburg College where he presented "Governor Thomas Bickett: War, Reform, and North Carolina's Progressive Reputation." Karl also presented

three public lectures in Avery County as part of the centennial celebration of Crossnore Presbyterian Church, where his wife Kathy is the minister: "Tar Heels in World War One;" "The Way We Lived: Local History and Culture in 1918;" and "North Carolina Politics Then and Now." This past fall, he was a discussant of *New Voyages to Carolina: Reinterpreting North Carolina History* (to which he contributed a chapter) at the Historical Society of North Carolina meeting. The panel discussed the recent book. The *Raleigh News and Observer* ran an editorial on the panel, and quoted Karl. <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/rob-christensen/article220710985.html> He also contributed a chapter, "The First and Second World War Generations of North Carolina Political Leadership," in Shepherd W. McKinley and Steven Sabol, eds., *North Carolina's Experience during the First World War* (Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 2018), 169-187. This March, Karl delivered the keynote address, "Remembering Yesterday: North Carolina from 1919 to 2019," at the North Carolina Network of Grantmakers meeting in Winston Salem.

**Jeffrey Bortz** received word from Provost Darrell Kruger that his work on student homelessness and food insecurity here at ASU would be funded again in the upcoming academic year. In the Fall, Jeff will be interviewing undergraduates in order to select two assistants to work with him on a second survey related to this project. Much of this important work comes out of Jeff's successful General Education course, HIS 3310 Poverty: History and Practice, a service-learning course. Also, Jeff and Marcos Aguila published a newspaper article - "Por qué no se detendrá la migración," *El Universal*, 3 Enero, 2019 - on their continuing work on railroad history. <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/articulo/marcos-t-aguila-y-jeffrey-bortz/nacion/por-que-no-se-detendra-la-migracion>

**Judkin Browning** was selected as a recipient of a GRAM Award for 2019-21 from the Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies. The award provides a graduate research assistant for a period of two years to work with Judkin on a project entitled "Reverberations of Battle: How the Battle of Gettysburg Affected Soldiers, Families, and Communities."

**Andrea Burns** facilitated a panel on "The Public History of the Flint Water Crisis" at the National Council



on Public History's annual conference. The panel featured Pastor Robert McCathern of Flint's Joy Tabernacle Church. McCathern has been instrumental in distributing free bottled water and other services to local residents. Suzanne Fischer, director of the Michigan History Museum; Andrew Highsmith, historian at UC-Irvine; Thomas Henthorn, historian at UM-Flint; and Mary Worrall, curator of the MSU Museum, also spoke about their work in addressing the crisis. More recently, she published a review of Margaret Mulrooney, *Race, Place, and Memory: Deep Currents in Wilmington, North Carolina* (University Press of Florida, 2018) in *American Historical Review* 124, no. 1 (Feb 2019): 271-272.

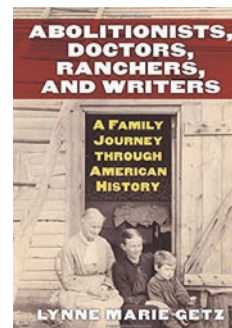
**Craig Caldwell** received word that his application for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor and for permanent tenure were both approved by ASU's Board of Trustees at its March 16, 2018 meeting. He attended a workshop "Feeding on Dreams: Exiles and Exile in Late Antiquity" at Yale University on April 25 where he presented a paper entitled "Encouraging Self-Exile during Civil War: Constantius II and Senatorial Flight to Pannonia." In addition, Craig was selected to be part of the PREPAration for Appalachian Research Experiences (PREPARE) program for 2018-19. His review of Eszter Istvánovits and Valéria Kulcsár, *Sarmatians – History and Archaeology of a Forgotten People* has appeared in *Studies in Late Antiquity* 3.1 (Spring 2019) on pp. 114-16 (<http://sla.ucpress.edu/content/3/1/114>).

**Kristen Deathridge** had a peer-reviewed blog post published on *History@Work*, the blog of the National Council on Public History: "Teaching the Digital Self." This piece discusses an assignment that Kristen has used in both her graduate and undergraduate digital history courses. She published "From Methodist Church to Architectural Firm in Nashville, TN" during the winter break in the Fall 2018 edition of the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (77, no. 3). Incidentally, she passes along the following information: "In a fun note, after most of my research was completed this adaptively reused former Church was purchased by a group that invests in distilleries and it will re-open later this year as the home of Heaven's Door Whiskey, Bob Dylan's brand!" Doubtless in the "spirit" of collegiality and scholarship, Kristen contributed a chapter, "Heritage Spirits in Heritage Places," to Bruce Stewart's *Modern Moonshine: The Revival of White Whiskey in the Twenty-First Century* (West Virginia University Press, 2019). In related news, congratulations to Kristen! Her promotion to Associate Professor beginning with the 2019-20 academic year has been officially approved by the Appalachian Board of Trustees!

**Jari Eloranta** published "Suomi kansainvälisessä taloudessa 1600-2000" ("Finland in the international economy 1600-2000") in *Suomen rakennehistoria. Näkökulmia muutokseen ja jatkuvuuteen (1400-2000)*, Pertti Haapala (ed.). Vastapaino: Tampere (2018), (with Jari Ojala). Jari also hosted the 43rd Economic and Business History Society conference in Jyväskylä, Finland, from May 30 to June 2 as the organization's President. In July, Jari was interviewed by *The New Republic* on military spending, NATO, and President Trump. Read article: <https://newrepublic.com/article/149819/fair-trump-bash-nato-military-spending> He reports five new publications from summer 2018. In his spare time (!), Jari also helped organize the World Congress of Economic History in Boston, and was elected to a second term as Secretary-General of the International Economic History Association. He also organized the Economic History Association Conference in Montreal, Canada.

**Allison Fredette** has been a valued Lecturer in the History Department for several years. She has now accepted the position of Assistant Professor of History here following our recently completed search to fill a position in support of the History Secondary Education program. In addition to providing support for the Secondary Ed sequence, she will add considerable strength to our course offerings in 19th century American history, and to the scholarly reputation of the department.

**Lynne Getz** was notified that her book, *Abolitionists, Doctors, Ranchers, and Writers: A Family Journey through American History*, is the recipient of the Barbara "Penny" Kanner Prize from the Western Association of Women Historians. The biannual prize includes a \$500 award. The Kanner Award is given annually to honor a book, book chapter, article, or electronic media which illustrates the use of a specific set of primary sources (diaries, letters, interviews, etc.). The selection committee wrote the following to Lynne in their award letter:



*The committee for the Penny Kanner Prize of the Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH) is delighted to let you know that you have been awarded the 2018 Prize for your book, Abolitionists, Doctors, Ranchers, and Writers: A Family Journey through American History. Through the lens of extensively documented family chronicles, you told a compelling story in lively, engaging prose, which widened into an exploration of major events and trends in American history.*

In addition, Lynne has also received the Armitage-Jameson Prize for *Abolitionists, Doctors, Ranchers, and Writers* from the Coalition for Western Women's History. This annual award is for the most outstanding monograph or edited volume published in western women's, gender, and sexuality history. The award is given in honor of the path-breaking work in western women's history done by Susan Armitage and Elizabeth Jameson. The Prize comes with an award of \$1,000, which was presented at the annual meeting of the Western History Association in San Antonio this past October.

**René Horst** was featured in an article entitled "Making History Come Alive" in *College Star*. It focuses on his involvement with ASU's Center for Academic Excellence in working to bring interactive teaching techniques to the classroom. Read the article via this link: <https://www.collegestar.org/news/making-history-come-alive>. He also authored the Preface to a new book, *Indigenous Life Projects and Extractivism, Ethnographies from South America* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018). Last Fall, René was



René Horst with Hadley Cluxton and her family

named the 21st recipient of the I. G. Greer Distinguished Professorship in History at a ceremony held in the Belk Library and Information Commons on November 19, 2018. René succeeds outgoing Greer Professor Jari

Eloranta, and will hold the post through the fall of 2021. For the full story about René's appointment and his upcoming plans: <https://cas.appstate.edu/news/dr-rené-harder-horst-named-21st-i-g-greer-distinguished-professor-history>. Most recently, he published a collaborative refereed piece with graduate student Hadley Cluxton, "Problematising the Past: An Overview of Teaching the History of Science in Latin America in the Anglophone Classroom and Its Major Issues" in *The History Teacher*, vol. 52 (2018-2019). <https://thehistoryteacher.org/F19>

**Anatoly Isaenko** published "Symbols of Eurasian Proto-States: Their Genesis" in *Eurasianism and the World*, No 1 (2018):113-129. In addition he participated in the Symposium: Putin: The Final Act, where he presented an analysis of the "Imperial Tradition in Russia." Toly also participated in an August symposium, "An Ocean Apart? US-European Relations under Trump." The History Department was well represented in this Appalachian symposium. In addition to Toly's presentation on Russia, Michael Behrent shared his thoughts on relations with France, and Michael Turner spoke on relations with Great Britain. He chaired the session "Migration in Late Antique Britain" at the Southeastern Medieval Association 57th Annual Conference at Nassau, The Bahamas, November 2018. At this session, he also presented "Migrations of North Iranian Ancestors of Ossetians (The Alans) to the British Isles". He took part in the Appalachian Symposium, Farewell to Europe? The World after Brexit, where he covered Russian perspectives on the matter. As of this writing, Toly has now signed a contract with Cognela Publishing House in San Diego, CA, to publish a book with the tentative title: "Brothers at Throat: History and Perspectives of the Russo-Ukrainian Ethnic Conflict." The tentative publishing date is August 10, 2020.

**Jeremiah Kitunda** and Paul Custer (Lenoir Rhyne University) submitted a co-authored article ("The Wealth of Moses and Ali: Proverbs and the Metalanguage of Trade") to *The Journal of Eastern African Studies*. In November, he got news that his most recent book proposal on African proverbs is under active review by James Currey Publishers, which specializes in books by leading figures in African Studies. On OCSA in Kenya this semester, Jeremiah got word that he has received a SAFE grant from Appalachian's College of Arts and Sciences in the amount of \$1500 for his "Proverbs as Sources and Subject of History: A Case Study in Kamba Proverbs from Eastern Kenya" research project. Likewise, travel associated with Jeremiah's project is now also being funded in the amount of \$1800 by an Appalachian Board of Trustees International Research Travel Grant.

**Thomas Pegelow Kaplan** (JHP/HIS) was awarded a \$20,400 grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany in support of his proposal for the 17th Annual Martin & Doris Rosen Summer Symposium on "Remembering the Holocaust: An Educator's Symposium/Seminar (July 2018). Thomas continues to excel in promoting the work of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies. Thomas published "Information Policies and Linguistic Violence," in Shelley Baranowski, et al.'s *A Companion to Nazi Germany* (Wiley Blackwell, 2018), 163-180. He also secured a book contract with the Germany-based Ferdinand Schöningh Verlag for a co-edited volume (with Mark Hornburg and the USHMM's Jürgen Matthäus)

entitled *Beyond "Ordinary Men": Christopher R. Browning and Holocaust Historiography*. Pegelow Kaplan organized a panel on "Holocaust Studies After the Visual Turn" for the 2018 Lessons and Legacies Conference that featured the work of Israeli and European scholars, including his own. With Nathan Stotzfus, he co-organized a panel at the German Studies Association meeting in Pittsburgh. Finally, he conducted archival research at Swarthmore College's Peace Collection and at the State Historical Society of Missouri for his forthcoming book, *Naming Genocide* (Cambridge University Press). Thomas and his wife welcomed their first child—born last fall. Thomas's words are much more appropriate than mine for such a wonderful announcement: *The little one's name is Albert Jonah Pegelow Kaplan. He was born on the last night of Hanukkah. We named him after Ann's grandfather Albert, a Jewish-American Navy officer who commanded a group of destroyers against the Kriegsmarine in the Mediterranean in 1943-44. As Ann likes to say, he "fought fascists and Nazis." He is also named after an adventurer who emerged safely from the mouth of the whale and whose name in Hebrew means peace dove.*

**Michael L. Krenn** learned in March 2018 that a documentary film project based on his 1999 book *Black Diplomacy: African Americans and the State Department, 1945-1969* had received a \$450,000 NEH Media Projects Production Grant. "Changing State: Black Diplomats, Civil Rights and the Cold War," is being produced by FlowState Films. Michael made two contributions to *Nation Branding in Modern History*, eds. Annika Estner, Marcel Will, Jessica Gienow-Hecht, and Carolin Viktorin (New York: Berghahn Books, 2018). They were "The Art of Branding: Rethinking American Cultural Diplomacy During the Cold War" (pp. 149-172) and the annotated source, "A Memorandum on the Advancing American Art Fiasco of 1947" (pp. 274-280). In Washington, DC, on February 28, he gave a talk, "U.S. Cultural Diplomacy: The African American Perspective," in the Ralph Bunche Library at the Department of State. That evening he was the moderator for a panel on "African American Trailblazers in Diplomacy," also presenting a talk on Edward R. Dudley, America's first African American ambassador. In May, he presented "Hearts, Minds, and Skulls: The International Debate on the Nature of Humanity in the Mid-Nineteenth Century," at the Culture & International History VI Conference: Visions of Humanity, held in Berlin, May 6-8. The conference included scholars from Germany, England, France, Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, Australia, Sweden, and other U.S. universities.

**Sheila Phipps** received word that her application for promotion to Professor was approved by ASU's Board of Trustees at its March 16, 2018 meeting. Not resting on her laurels, a week later she presented a paper, "Circling the Block for a Degree" at her alma mater, the University of Virginia at Wise. Our Department owes a special thanks to Sheila for her fine work as Assistant Department Chair over the past three years, and for her many contributions to Appalachian's students and her profession over the course of two decades with us here in Boone.

**Scott Relyea** March and early April 2018 brought Scott phenomenal news. First his article, "Lamas, Empresses and Tea: Early Twentieth-Century Sino-British Encounters in Eastern Tibet," appeared in the April 2018 edition of *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*. Next, he





Scott Relyea in Sichuan University's Ancient Book Room

got word that he had been awarded the Henry Luce American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, providing him with a \$50,000 grant for study abroad and research in China. Then the big news arrived: Scott was awarded a 2018-2019 Fulbright Fellowship for research abroad in China.

Scott gave two talks during his research stay in India. In July 2018, he offered an overview of his broader research, "Visions of Kham from the Early Twentieth Century," at the Tibet Policy Institute in Dharamshala, home of the Dalai Lama. In August, Scott presented his new research project in the Wednesday Seminar at the Institute of Chinese Studies in Delhi: "International Law, Effective Occupation, and Colonialism on the Tibetan Plateau in the Early Twentieth Century." He also led a student study abroad course to China entitled "Tibet in Modern China." His photo from that trip was selected as an International Education Week Photography Contest category winner and was displayed in Plemmons Student Union for a month. As of this writing, he and his family are of course in China.

In late October and early November 2018, Scott served on a panel at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing that interviewed and selected 26 Chinese Ph.D. students who will receive Fulbright grants to study for one year in the States during the 2019-20 academic year.



Scott Relyea's Award Winning Photograph

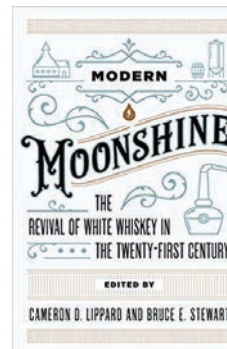


**Joshua Rodda** The History Department has been pleased to welcome Dr. Joshua Rodda as the 2018-19 Rhinehart Postdoctoral Fellow in British History. Josh earned his PhD in History from the University of Nottingham in 2012. His

first monograph appeared two years later: *Public Religious Disputation in England, 1558-1626* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2014). He also has a forthcoming article entitled "Defence, Dialectic and Dialogue: The Role of the Antagonist in the English Church" (in Angela Ranson, Andre Gazal and Sarah Bastow, eds., *Defending the Faith: John Jewel and the Elizabethan Church*, Penn State University Press, 2018) and is currently working on another article tentatively titled "Dialogue and the Church: Beating the Bounds of an Early Stuart Via Media?"

**Rwany Sibaja** and Lily Balloffet (Western Carolina) published "Digital Approaches to Research and Pedagogy in Latin American Studies" in *The Latin Americanist* (vol. 62, no. 1, pp. 99-116), the journal of the Southeastern Council for Latin American Studies. Rwany attended a meeting of History/Social Studies directors at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh, where he discussed how the ASU History Department has developed new courses in history education essential to the future of 9-12 social studies. He shared the design and purpose of two Fall 2018 courses "Teaching Controversy in History" and "Teaching History with New Media," as well as some of the timely topics of our CLIO TALKS seminar series.

**Timothy Silver** continues, with co-author Judkin Browning, to make final revisions on *The Civil War: An Environmental History* (the University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming).



**Bruce Stewart** and Christopher Manganiello's article "Watershed Democracy: Rural Environmentalism and the Battle Against the TVA in Western North Carolina, 1965-1972" was published in *Environmental History* 23 (October 2018): 748-773. Editor's Note: *Environmental History* is the leading journal in its field. This past March, Bruce's co-edited book (with Cameron Lippard of Sociology) *Modern Moonshine: The Revival of White Whiskey in the Twenty-First*

Century just arrived from West Virginia University Press.

**Lon Strauss**, our friend and esteemed former colleague, now Assistant Professor of History at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia, offers the following update: Lon co-authored a book with Appalachian State sociologists Cameron Lippard and Pavil Osinsky, *War: Contemporary Perspectives on Armed Conflicts Around the World*. He is on the editorial board of a new journal, *Peace and War* published at Norwich University. He continues to work with Cambridge University Press on his WW I manuscript. He spoke at the Freedom Museum in Manassas (<http://freedommuseum.org/>) about America in the First World War on 5 June 2019 for the centenary of Belleau Wood. Finally, he accompanied Staff College international officers to the Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force Training Center at Twentynine Palms (California). This photo shows him with four international students from his seminars (left to right, Australia, Strauss, Cameroon, Argentina, and France). He says that, for him, body armor was a new experience!



**Michael Turner** is our Roy Carroll Distinguished Professor of British History. He will be spending the academic year 2019-2020 at the University of Oxford as Visiting Research Fellow. Dr. Turner, who read Modern History at Oxford and gained his BA in 1987 and his doctorate in 1991, says he is very grateful for the fellowship (and for the opportunity to revisit some of his favorite pubs!). He expects to make progress with his next book project, a



study of the connections between Conservative politics, High Churchmanship, and aesthetic values in Victorian Britain.

**Mary Valante** presented “‘They Will Never be Wanting for Satin or Silk or Sendl’: Women’s Work and the Silk Economy of Viking Towns” at April’s Appalachian Spring Conference on History and Economics. In May at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, she presented “Gold and Fine Raiment: Women, Wool, and Weaving in Viking-Age Dublin.” In October, she guest lectured at The Citadel on “The Past was Female: Women’s Work and the Urban Economy of Viking Age Dublin.” Over Fall Break, Mary accompanied the newest Chancellor’s Scholars to Ireland. Also in October, she organized a talk by Tison Pugh from the University of Central Florida on “Queer Medievalisms: A Case Study of Monty Python and the Holy Grail” and a “Be a Medieval Scribe” hands-on workshop. This April, she presented a paper at the IONA (Islands of the North Atlantic) Transformative Networks, Skills, Theories, and Methods for the Future of the Field conference, held this year at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, April 10-13. Her paper was entitled “Women’s Work and Women’s Identities in Viking Age Ireland.”

**Michael Wade** taught a new version of HIS 2525 American Cultural History built around the theme of the cultural impact of industrialization, including its effect on Earth’s environment. He reviewed two article manuscripts for Louisiana History, and developed a conference paper (“Do Black Lives Matter?: Louisiana, 1870-2020”) for the 2020 meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association. He edited this Newsletter and completed five years of service on the First Year Seminar Faculty Coordinating Committee.

**Jason White** learned that his application for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor and for permanent tenure were both approved by ASU’s Board of Trustees at its March 16, 2018 meeting. Jason is one of a very fine cohort of younger scholar-teachers who have joined the History Department in the past decade. This is well-deserved recognition of his contributions to Appalachian’s students and the university.

## Emeriti Faculty Notes

**Professor Emeritus Dorothea Martin** held a celebration of life for her husband, Dan Hoffman on Sunday, December 2, 2018. Dorothea Martin, Scott Jessee and Mary Valante attended, as well as several former graduate students, including Tamia Haygood and Nathan Love. Mary reports the following interesting tidbit she learned at the service: “I never knew, but I wasn’t surprised, that Dan proposed at Wrigley Stadium during a Cubs game, sixth inning. Dorothea chose the first night of Hunukkah, Dan’s favorite holiday, to celebrate him.”

**Professor Emeritus Peter Petschauer** published “Frauenbildung als Motor des kulturellen Fortschritts. Hauswirtschaft und Gelehrsamkeit” (“Education of Women as Motor of Cultural Progress. Household-economics and Learning”), *Der Wandel der Identitätsstrukturen und Beziehungen im Laufe der Geschichte - gesellschaftliche und politische Prozesse verstehen*, eds L. Janus, W. Kurth, H.J Reiß and G. Egloff. He had a significant role in *Raben und Schwalben. Rondini e Corvi. Zeitzeugen Erzählen. Brixen/Bressanone*

1920/1950. *Storie e Vicende Vissute*. eds. Franz Oberkofler and Umberto Principe. Including contemporary photographs, the book documents memories of German and Italian speakers who lived in South Tyrol’s/Alto Adige’s turbulent Brixen/Bressanone region. Peter was an interviewee, wrote the introduction, and edited the German texts. Peter was honored at the May 2018 International Psychohistory meeting at NYU as the year’s Outstanding Psychohistorian in recognition of his contributions to the field. He presented a paper on the reasons that English-speaking countries, except Ireland, have for years had negative trade balances. Peter’s book of poems was published this past fall in time for the Christmas-giving season.

**Myra Pennell** received word that her application for Professor Emeritus status was approved by Appalachian’s Board of Trustees at its March 16, 2018 meeting.

**David White** From Department Chair Jim Goff: All of us “Old-Timers” will remember “Captain Dave,” our friend and colleague David White, who taught courses on India and the Middle East here for many years. David wrote in response to the November 2018 End of the Month Report to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to offer an update on what retirement is like for him and his wife Mary. Here it is in David’s own words:

*Morning Jim,*

*Thanks for sending this. It looks like the faculty are active scholars doing very interesting things. I am also busy here as I chair the board of the Washington College Academy of Lifelong Learning and have just been elected Commodore of the Chester River Yacht & Country Club. I’m also treasurer of the Democratic Club of Kent County and am active in the Rotary Club. So when I’m not sailing on the Chesapeake, I have lots to do ... I travel a lot. This year, I spent a week in Iceland, a month in Zambia and Botswana, celebrated our anniversary in Kau’ai, and spent another month visiting Havana, Cartagena, the Panama Canal, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Mexico.*

*Whew,  
David*

Editor’s Note: Now this is what I call retirement! Before his retirement, David was Provost at Lock Haven State University, and Mary was a top administrator there as well. They live in Chestertown, Maryland, near where the Chester River empties into Chesapeake Bay.

## Current and Former Students

**Jewel Parker** presented “Agents of the Devil? Women, Witchcraft, and Medicine” at a panel on “Holiness and Healing” at the 17th Annual Graduate Research Symposium hosted by the College of William and Mary. For Women’s History Month, she presented “Subdue Our Masters... Without Violence, Colonial Women before the American Revolution, 1693-1760” on March 21, 2018, at Surry Community College. And she presented “Loretta Lynn’s Lyrics: Songwriting for Women and the Working Class” for the History Department’s research seminar series on March 22; which was published in *The Graduate History Review* 7 (Fall 2018): 99-122. Finally, Jewel, now in the PhD program at UNC-Greensboro, was selected as the winner of the ASU Graduate Student Outstanding Thesis Award in Arts and Humanities for 2018-19 (Directed by Lucinda McCray).

**Glenn Delaney** sent the following update to Professor Emeritus Dorothea Martin, who shared it with us: "After 10 years of teaching world history and chairing history departments in independent boarding and day schools in North Carolina and Vermont, I am currently pursuing an EdM in School Leadership at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. After I graduate in May, we will return to North Carolina, where I will become Head of School at The Outdoor Academy in Brevard ([enf.org/outdoor-academy](http://enf.org/outdoor-academy)). OA is a semester school for high school sophomores with an emphasis on rigorous place-based academics, outdoor experiences, and community living. My wife Julia Moore (who I met in Jari Eloranta's European Imperialism class) is an award-winning US History Teacher, and she is currently taking some time off from teaching to be with our seven-month old son, Elem. She's planning to return to the classroom next year." Congratulations to Glenn on his new post, and to Glenn and Julia on young Elem!



Julia, Glenn & Elem

**Adam Moore** (BS-History Ed May 2018), was the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Student Teacher, and subsequently was named Appalachian State University's 2017-18 Outstanding Student Teacher of the Year. The A & S College selection committee noted the following in their award letter:

*"Your reflections on your student teaching experience showed your creativity and thoughtfulness in the classroom, and your reference letters further reflected your exceptional abilities as a teacher."*

Adam will compete this fall in the NC-ACTE Fall Forum with winners from other universities.

Former student **Ramsey Wyles** has now completed her first year of teaching English in Ecuador with the Peace Corps. What a wonderful opportunity this is. It also is a tribute to the professors who encouraged her work and prepared her to undertake this important job. If you can contact Ramsey with an encouraging email or note, please do so.

**Jesse DeStacy** (BS History Education, 2016) teaches history at Woodbridge High School in Prince William County, VA. Writing to his mentor, Rwany Sibaja, he noted that he has *"coached lacrosse, sponsored a student class, and [is] a part of multiple committees in the school. The last three years have really gone by without me noticing. Like any job, there are hard days. However, the challenge to get kids interested and asking questions is a reward that keeps giving....You encouraged me to take on the challenge to teach history/social studies. Thank you for that! I still use resources and materials from your class. Your advice and lectures have helped me grow as a professional and as an educator."*

**Marty Tschetter** (M.A. History 2013) continues to enjoy his work as Local History Librarian for the Wayne County Public Library in Goldsboro, NC. He reports the Fall 2018 receipt of a \$3000 state grant to support a series of fall programs on the Borden Manufacturing Company. Marty also announced the establishment of a continuing \$5000 grant from the local library foundation to support the Duncan Public History Series in memory of Farris A. Duncan, past president and a longtime member of the county's Library Board.

**Jason Hauser**, one of our former MA students, is the latest recipient of the C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize from the Southern Historical Association. In his letter to Tim Silver, expressing his gratitude for the strong research foundation he received at Appalachian, he noted that his award meant that four of the last ten award winners were *"self-described southern environmental historians. Heck of a field you helped found, Tim. I figure that this was a good time to remind you of the impact you've had on my academic life. Thanks so much for introducing me to the field and putting me on this career path."*

Editor's Note: It is fair to say that the Woodward Prize is the pre-eminent award for graduate students in southern history, and one of the top graduate student accolades in the entire historical profession.

**Jessica McCausland** (MA, Public History, 2017) has just begun work in a permanent position with the National Park Service as a park guide for Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky. These positions are highly competitive and we congratulate Jessica on this important appointment in her career.

**Chad Black** (BS History Education, 1994; subsequently MA, PhD in History from the University of New Mexico) is now Associate Professor of History at the University of Tennessee. A Latin Americanist with a focus on colonial Ecuador, Chad published *The Limits of Gender Domination: Women, the Law, and Political Crisis in Quito, 1765-1830* (University of New Mexico Press, 2011). Dr. Black visited the History Department on April 4th and 5th. His visit was co-sponsored by the History Department, APP Unidos (Hispanic-Latino Faculty & Staff Association), and the Office of Multicultural Student Development. During his visit, Chad spoke to students about his work in the history of sports in Latin America, and was the featured speaker ("Orderly Families, Orderly Streets: The Politics of Sex in Colonial Quito") for ASU's Diversity Week Celebration.

**Hadley Cluxton** landed a job teaching high school history at Odyssey Community School in Asheville NC. In addition to this exciting news, Hadley wrote to say that The History Teacher has contacted her to write a book review on a new publication on the history of science.

**Five medieval studies students** accompanied Professor Mary Valante to 2018's Meeting in the Middle Conference on Medieval Studies at Longwood University. Their session, *Performing the Middle Ages*, involved her students replicating Medieval crafts and trades. Emily Morgan and Quinn Schelider demonstrated the traditional craft of sprang weaving (photo below), while Hunter Sanchez showed how to play Hnefatafl, an ancient Nordic-Celtic board games featuring two armies deployed against one another. Bryanna Coulter and Megan Mansfield recreated the Middle Age skill of manuscript production.





## PHI ALPHA THETA

On April 15, 2018, Phi Alpha Theta Advisor Rene Horst accompanied three of our students to the Phi Alpha Theta 2018 Carolinas Regional History Conference held at Queens University in Charlotte, where they were members of panels presenting papers on their research:



- Hampton Kennedy's paper was "Jack's Escape: New England Slavery Firsthand."
- Deziree Baker presented "Modern America without Black Folk."
- Graduate student Hadley Sinclair Cluxton delivered "Problematizing the Past: An Overview of Teaching the History of Science in Latin American in the Anglophone Classroom and Its Major Issues."

Congratulations to Ms Baker, who won a best paper award for her work, which was part of a panel entitled "Print and Ink: Popular Culture in Body and Soul."

Above is a photo of I. G. Greer Professor René Horst with his students Diana Feria Mejia and Enrique Barrera, winners of the First Student Research Competition on a Latin American or Latino/Hispanic Subject, sponsored by Appalachian@s, the new ASU Hispanic/Latinx Faculty/Staff Organization. The ceremony was part of the 21st Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors held on April 4, 2018.

## Anna Tyor: A Local to Global Success Story



During my first month in college, September 2007, Appalachian State beat University of Michigan in one of the biggest upsets in college football history. I had no idea what this win meant until the entire campus erupted in cheers and the football team ended up in my dorm parking lot dancing on top of their buses. This set the stage for an exciting four years filled with exploration in many forms. I studied piano

and history with a number of respected professors, met great minds, worked on campus at the App Fund, waitressed at Canyons in Blowing Rock and enjoyed the beautiful outdoors with friends whenever possible.

After I graduated in 2011, I moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina. I wanted to learn another language, experience city life, and live in a foreign country, as I had not been able to study abroad in college. I took a teaching English course called TEFL that summer. In August, I began teaching at corporate offices in the city center to pay the rent and completely immersed myself in Spanish. During this time, I learned a lot about the effects of unstable governments on their populations and the larger global economic powers that cripple many economies as I watched city-wide protests against endemic corruption. My interest in international affairs began to grow at this time. After a couple years of teaching, translating for nonprofits, and traveling around the region, I moved to Medellin, Colombia to immerse myself in a completely different political and cultural environment. While Argentina seemed to be isolating itself economically from most of the world, Colombia was opening itself up to international trade and foreign investment. While living in Medellin, I continued to teach English to pay the bills and also began doing journalism. I started writing for an online newspaper called Colombia Politics and completed a few article series on the effects of international investment and policy on the Medellin. The acute differences between Colombia and Argentina in international policy inspired me to apply to graduate school to study international relations.

I moved to England in 2014 to begin an MSc in International Relations of the Americas at University College London on the Americas Studentship full scholarship. My studies focused on the intersection of policy development and human rights. The campus is located in the middle of the city so I was able to drop into the British Library to pick up books and read in some of the oldest libraries in the world. I loved living in London and was very grateful for the scholarship that allowed me to study at UCL. The student body at UCL was very different from App; most of my peers were very privileged, and I ended up feeling thankful for the grounded foundation that App State students and professors had created for me.

By the time I graduated in 2015, I decided that it was time to head back to the US to be closer to family and friends from home. I moved to New York and began waitressing and interning while looking for a full-time job in international development. For all those reading who have just graduated - this bit was not easy, be patient and stay focused - after about a year I was able to land a full-time job.

I now work for Women's World Banking, a global nonprofit working to give more low-income women access to the financial tools and resources. I work on the Development team, writing reports and proposals for funding. It's my belief that a lot of the macro global challenges that we face today could be solved if women in low-income countries were invested in on a micro-level.

Sometimes when I'm packed like a sardine on the subway making the rush hour commute from Brooklyn to midtown, if I close my eyes long enough I can bring myself back to college days. It's fall and the leaves have just turned - I'm driving down 321 with some friends, heading to hike off the Blue Ridge Parkway. In that moment, I'd just as soon be in Boone. Anna Tyor annatyor@gmail.com

## Transitions

Two accomplished members of our faculty, and musicians, will not be with us for the beginning of the 2019-20 academic year. Both were active teacher/scholars and excellent additions to the working and social life of the Department. Jari Eloranta, a native Finn and a significant figure in world economic history circles, left at the end of the Fall 2018 Semester for a new post at the University of Helsinki. African-American historian Antonio "Tony" Bly and his wife Donna (also a significant contributor to the work and culture of the Department) will be leaving us at the end of June for Sacramento, California, for Tony's new posting at Sacramento State University. We will miss their presence and value their time with us. Each of them in their own way is irreplaceable.

### Tony Bly

Some of our Department first met Tony when he was on campus as a finalist for another job. He didn't get that one. But he attracted our interest, because we had long been interested in hiring a specialist in African-American history. A William and Mary Ph. D. with a specialty in antebellum African-American intellectual and social history, Tony was an early career person with a promising research agenda and lots of energy. Department Chair Michael Krenn enlisted the support of Dean Anthony Calamai, and the Blys came to Boone in 2007. Only then did we realize that Donna Bly could also contribute to the work of the Department, both in teaching introductory courses and supporting the work of our History Education program.

In addition to the usual expectations of teaching and scholarship, Tony began building links to other segments of the University that connected to the African-American experience and to the broader field of Africana Studies. He developed an interdisciplinary program in Africana Studies, traveled with African historian Jeremiah Kitunda to South Africa to establish linkages there, and accompanied a Study Abroad trip to Cuba to build connections in a country only just beginning to reestablish relations with the United States. His ambitious research agenda developed as well, slowly at first but with increasing momentum over time. Thanks in significant measure to his efforts, the study of African-American life and its broader global links is alive and well up here in the mountains of northwestern North Carolina.

The above scholarship and teaching accomplishments cover the usual measures of contributions to an academic department. But it is no exaggeration at all to say that Tony and Donna Bly were a great gift to the service work of the Department. They helped to establish a faculty seminar series, were always available for Open Houses and Parents Days, assisted with guest speakers and interviewees when they visited the Department, and donated their time and effort to myriad other occasions that are really too numerous to mention. Oh yes, excellent dancers both, they offered evening lessons to any brave souls willing to learn both traditional dances and the "latest" ones. Their imminent departure is a significant loss for us.

Jim Goff perhaps said it for all of us in March when he announced that Tony was taking an endowed chair at California State University, Sacramento: "This is both exciting news for Tony and Donna but also bittersweet news because it means saying goodbye to two special people who have meant so much to our department since their arrival back in 2007. Thank you, Tony and Donna, for helping make us a better department. We wish you tremendous success and happiness in Sacramento."



### Jari Eloranta

From Jim Goff: I corresponded over the past few days with Jari Eloranta. Jari and family are healthy and doing fine. For any of our extended family who may have missed the news, Jari left Appalachian at the end of the fall semester for a new job as Professor of Economic History back home in Finland at the University of Helsinki:

Jim,

We are indeed settling in nicely back in the land of the reindeer - well, there are reindeer only in the very north of the country. I have now started my new job and I am enjoying the new challenges and opportunities in front of me. The prospect of working with PhD students is exciting, as is heading the economic and social history program at the University of Helsinki. I have also created a new conference here, titled Baltic Connections: A conference in social science history. It is a broader concept than the one I had at App. Regardless, I learned valuable lessons in organizing such meetings during my Boone days and I really appreciated all the support from my colleagues. Moreover, I have started to put some of my ideas learned about teaching into practice here, especially as a member of a teaching skills committee, as well as mentoring younger scholars.

Helsinki is a great location for me to reinvigorate my European ties, and expand them even further. In fact, I am writing this from London, where I presented the early results of the research Judkin [Browning] and I have been developing over the years, on Confederate soldiers. The crowd at London School of Economics seemed to appreciate our stuff, even with only half of the Batman-Robin duo present (I will let you decide who is who).

I am hoping some of you will visit here in Finland in the future. Charlene and I just found a house and we will be able to move in in the beginning of April. We will also briefly visit Boone after April 5, and we will come around to chat on April 8 (Judkin and I need to work too that day on our project).

I am including here one picture from around the time our stuff was loaded into the moving trucks in Boone, and it connects to this story: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/news/society-economy/the-shipping-container-an-invention-that-revolutionized-trade-and-turned-the-world-into-a-giant-conveyor-belt>. While journalists often get things wrong (like the fact that I only formally started on January 1), this one is not wrong about the massive changes that have shaped our globe in the last 200 years. Experiencing changes like this in one's own life make big processes like globalization much more real. The container revolution has been a massive change for the world, and a big factor in the rise of the Asian economies. Who knew that economic history is actually important! :)

Anyway, warm greetings from Finland to all of you. And congratulations to Rene [Horst] for becoming a worthy successor to yours truly as the I.G. Greer professor! Warm wishes, Jari



# Does the Past Have a Future?

Michael Wade

13

One of the questions each generation should ask itself is what they are leaving behind. Our generation, especially, would do well to consider what the world will be like for their children and grandchildren. As I near the end of a rewarding career in academe, I am pondering that question, because a good part of my professional life has been devoted to environmental problems, which now constitute a clear and present danger to the future. Thus, the two queries embedded in the title question above.

The first is about the stories we tell ourselves, and what higher education tells our young—about the 21st century present, how it came into being, and what it is going to mean for the rest of this century, and those beyond. No academic discipline is more vital than history in conveying truthful responses to this issue. However, the future of the discipline of history—your major—as a viable part of formal educational experience is in peril. As this newsletter indicates, Appalachian has a fine history faculty of dedicated teachers and scholars. Our students' work and achievements indicates that we have some very fine undergraduates and graduate students who are well prepared for the world of work, in history and other professional endeavors.

The problem is that, in American universities, history's presence in the undergraduate curriculum has been devalued and even denigrated by persons who want to narrow higher learning down to forms of white-collar vocational training. The past, they argue, offers little of use to students who need "21st Century Learning" grounded in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, math). The fact that this is demonstrably untrue seems to matter little to promoters of ever narrower specialization and, inescapably, tunnel vision. This is most often argued by technocrats and ambitious educationists with little to no understanding of the consequences of failing to deal with dangerous civilizational, demographic, and environmental problems. Nowhere is this truer than in America, where we have been sleepwalking through history since 1980. So, the first query is about the future of history's place in our schools and universities. Does the past as a vital field of study have a future? I am certain that it can; the question is whether it will, or not. Many business and professional people say that it is fundamental. An impressive list of highly successful Americans were undergraduate history majors. Furthermore, many of you have used your history educations to forge rewarding careers in business and other professional endeavors.

The second question concerns the future of the project of human civilization. It too is in jeopardy. Civilization, as we generally understand it, began to develop with the Neolithic Revolution, i.e., the domestication of plants and animals and the emergence of settled life, roughly ten to fifteen thousand years ago. The next great civilizational watershed was the Industrial Revolution, beginning around 1750. The emergence of factories using machines powered by nonrenewable fossil fuels led to larger economies, larger cities, growing material abundance, and a new vision of history as the story of human progress over many millennia. Though there are many reasons to question the rosiness of this depiction, to this day it remains the dominant narrative, particularly in the United States.

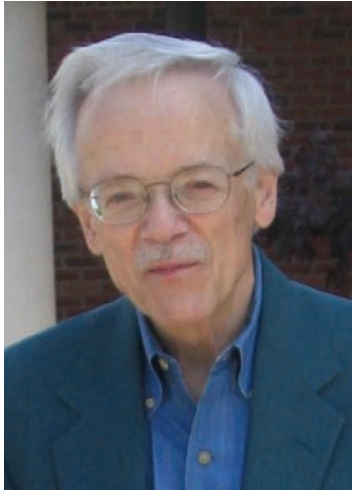
Since World War II, critiques of the widely shared consensus on history as human progress have centered increasingly on the devastating damage industrialization, as practiced, was doing to planet Earth's life support systems. Indeed, most of the damage has been done since 1945. These criticisms have come from the sciences—and from journalists, naturalists, historians, demographers, philosophers, politicians, governments, militaries, insurance companies, even some religious denominations. The volume of such publications has skyrocketed since 2000. Collectively, they warn of the consequences of global warming and climate change: declining crop production, sea level rise, global desertification, the extinction of many of Earth's remaining lifeforms, massive refugee crises, collapse of economic systems, rising levels of violence, an increase in authoritarian governments.

Several points stand out here. One is that most of these

problems cannot be effectively addressed by science and technology. Second, current beliefs, policies, and political approaches can't be of much use either, simply because they are too wedded to business as usual, the kind largely responsible for the crisis. STEM training can explain the chemistry, math, and technics of the crisis, but largely lacks the mindset to respond to the challenges it presents. Third, the public is largely unaware of the severity of the challenges confronting them and their children. A recent poll revealed that over 40% of Americans do not believe climate change will have any significant impact on them in their lifetimes. After all, most politicians avoid talking about climate change, as does the media. Forget leadership or responsible journalism; neither group sees an upside for them in delivering bad news to their clienteles. At the same time, many wealthy people, in their individual and corporate capacities, establish organizations to deny that climate change is real, that (if real) it is not caused by humans but by planetary cycles, and that citizens concerned about the crisis are radicals of one stripe or another. Proposing to preserve life on earth and a future for our children sounds more like conservatism writ large, rather than some threatening, ill-defined other "ism." What will produce truly radical changes will be the strife and disorder resulting from failure to respond to the ecological catastrophe staring us squarely in the face.

The fact that we human beings don't like bad news does not excuse the colossal failure of leadership, public and private, that we currently are experiencing. The planetary crisis facing humanity today is greater than any previous challenge in all of human history. At this point, severe consequences cannot be avoided. Thirty or forty years ago, there was a fair chance that they could have been. But the promising bipartisan initiatives of the 1970s were squandered in the 1980s, and after. Now, we can only hope to mitigate additional damage—for our children and grandchildren—by insisting on an ongoing public dialogue about the planet's future and demanding—at the ballot box—political action at all levels. It will do little good to elect presidents and governors with civic and planetary vision if we don't elect legislators and members of Congress with that vision. We should know, in advance of political primaries and nominating conventions, exactly what policies our political parties, as national organizations, stand for that are relevant to the well-being of the American people. Americans will determine their children's futures in the next few election cycles. It is probable that the Election of 2020 will prove to be the most consequential election in American history, for better or worse.

Finally, to return to the questions suggested by the title, what do history and higher education have to do with the challenge of climate change? Thus far, not nearly enough. History is vital to imparting an understanding of how we arrived at this perilous present. It provides examples of previous civilizations dealing with ecological collapse. That, and not economic theorizing and political ideology, is the real world. Colleges and universities should be making interdisciplinary education about climate change central to their educational missions. Too many institutions view environmental education, alternative energy, and sustainability as marketing and public relations opportunities rather than as an educational responsibility. Leadership in such matters, as in politics, is more likely to come from persons committed to universities as a public good rather than as bastions of bureaucratic bloat, technocracy, and obeisance to reactionary politics. In closing, let me say that I did not enjoy writing this, but I felt an obligation to not ignore what is so threatening to our children and grandchildren. We all want a future for them, and a good one at that.



## In Memory: Professor Richard Haunton (1933-2018)

**From the Editor:** As many of you read in our 2018 Newsletter, it had already gone to press when we received word of Richard Haunton's passing on April 18, 2018. Like Jim Goff, I remember Richard as a friendly, helpful, and thoughtful person who was especially considerate

of the younger people coming into the Department. He was meticulously thorough in all that he did, and I doubt that anyone worked harder on the Department's behalf than Richard. He was a fine historian of slavery, a rigorous teacher of historical methodology, and a valuable contributor to Department service courses in World Civilizations and North Carolina History. Here, now, are some of the tributes to him that came in last year. We all owe our thanks to Don Saunders for passing these, in collected form, on to us.

**From Department Chair Jim Goff:** Dr. Richard Herbert Haunton, born November 8, 1933, was already an institution here in the History Department when I joined in 1986. He was always kind and considerate to me—even though I was barely wet behind the ears. Dick had a keen mind and I and others came to know pretty quickly that, if any particular detail had slipped our memory, all we had to do was ask Dick. In the pre-computer era, he filed away details in a way I came to respect—though never duplicate. Like many of you, I will hold these fond memories of Richard Haunton with me for the rest of my life.

**From Professor Emeritus [and Editor of Albion] Michael Moore:** I knew Richard was in poor health but it is still very sad to learn of his passing. Richard was fully committed to his profession as teacher and scholar and many benefited from his wise institutional memory saved us all many times over the years. That little bay of offices at the end of the hall was quite a lot of fun with Larry, Jeff, and Richard all peeling the oranges of life but with different tools. Richard, in my experience, did not have a mean bone in his body, which made him a superb colleague (and comrade) who was a joy to be with.

**From Professor Timothy Silver [Environmental historian, former student]:** I first met Richard Haunton when I signed up for his Honors Seminar on Abraham Lincoln. I have good memories from that class, including donuts from the old drug store (located where Boone Saloon now stands) that Professor Haunton routinely brought to the seminar. On one occasion, after a cursory glance at one of the readings, I had the temerity to state in class, as only a sophomore can, that "Lincoln was not fond of the spoils system." Professor Haunton pulled on his pipe and glared at me over his reading glasses. Over the next few minutes, I learned two things: 1) the meaning of "historiography" and 2) that the word "cursory" was not in Dick Haunton's vocabulary. Later Dick served on my M.A. thesis committee where he went through my manuscript with an editorial magnet, pulling out every misplaced comma. As painful as that was, I developed great respect (and a healthy frustration) at Dick's dedication to whatever task he

undertook. In all the years that I knew him, that dedication never wavered. When I came back to teach at ASU, Richard (I never quite got used to calling him by his first name) and I became colleagues. He always treated me courteously and as an equal, even when we disagreed over department policy and pedagogy. Whether they know it or not, lots of ASU students are, like me, indebted to Dick Haunton and his relentless insistence that we perform at our best. Godspeed, Richard.

**From Senior Lecturer Ralph Lentz:** "Dr. Haunton"—Richard, taught me as an undergraduate, and I was fortunate enough, I believe, to have briefly been a colleague with him when I began teaching in the Fall of 1999. He was a consummate scholar and gentleman. He was a conscientious teacher and a perennial advocate for students. He was dedicated to the craft of History, and to its guild. I will always fondly remember the smell of his pipe, and his careful review of lecture notes sitting in one of those little yellow plastic chairs (probably from the old elementary school) in a quiet corner of one of Whitener Hall's stairwells. Before every class. I count myself blessed to have studied under a student of Bell Wiley, and to have been a colleague of a man of quiet grace and integrity. My condolences and sincere gratitude for Richard's presence in my life go to the family.

**From Professor Emeritus Don Saunders:** So many have shared their memories of Dick's qualities as colleague and teacher, and I concur with them, but I wanted to add one not mentioned yet, which was his dedication to building the history collection in Belk Library. Few remember now, I imagine, how incredibly tight resources were for acquiring books, and how seemingly unfair departmental allocations for library additions were across the campus—not to mention that in those days many library staff still reflected the mindset of a teacher's college, not that of a full-fledged university. Dick tenaciously haunted the acquisitions area of the old library building (and urged us to do the same), tracking the slips of books being examined before purchase, and always holding before our faculty the need to spend our limited budget on materials of substance and value, for student use and researching faculty alike. He urged us all to read scholarly reviews in journals pertinent to our fields and keep up with significant work that needed ordering. Today the library is tossing books not enough people check out. I can only imagine how painful it would be for Dick to see that.

**From Associate Professor Craig Caldwell:** I never met Dick Haunton, but my wife and I happened to purchase his (and Barbara's) house in Boone. Among historians who study what people leave behind, I can share three comments: 1. The house includes several subtle concessions to people of shorter stature, including lowered light switches and mirrors. 2. Our plumber remembers Dick silently smoking his pipe while he observed whatever repair or replacement job needed doing. 3. My home office was Dick's office, too. It has plenty of wall space for bookshelves and good natural light. And it is at the opposite end of the house from the bedrooms and bathrooms, so it is quiet. By my calculations, the Hauntons built our house and lived in it for almost 40 years. I hope Dick's life and career gave him the satisfaction that his house gives us. Requiescat in pace.

**From Professor Jeff Bortz [Senior Latin Americanist]:** When I came to the Department [1989], George [Antone] made the mistake of putting me in the bay of offices with Richard and Larry, and we became the best of friends as well as colleagues. I learned so much from both of them, including the keen wit that both of them had. I agree with all that my colleagues have said above so can only add



that Richard had the highest sense and standards of integrity of anybody I had ever met. I admired him for that and miss him.

**From Professor Emeritus Marvin Williamsen:** Dick and I arrived at Appalachian about the same time, hired by Roy Carroll, before personnel committees. Dick was good company. Humble, self-deprecating, witting and very well informed. Dick was a reliable friend, a fine colleague who always pulled his share and more. The world is a little less friendly, now that I know he is gone. Heartfelt empathy for Carol and all of his friends.

**From Professor Emeritus Jim Winders:** Dick Haunton was the best of colleagues, exceptionally kind and very supportive of a newcomer like me when I joined the faculty in 1978. Dick was a devoted teacher and scholar and universally acknowledged as our institutional memory. His integrity was unsurpassed, and he defined the word "meticulous" in all that he did. We had a number of very fine students, and I would hear from them frequently of their gratitude for his mentoring. When he received the Greer Professorship, he gave a moving presentation that incorporated his research on slave narratives. We greeted his remarks with a standing ovation. He will be profoundly missed.

## Preserving the Mountain Past: The DIGITAL WATAUGA PROJECT

The Digital Watauga Project (<http://DigitalWatauga.org>) is a cooperative project of the Watauga County Historical Society and the Watauga County Public Library to preserve and make High Country history available to the public as a free computer accessible archive. The County Historical Society (WCHS) embarked in 2014 on a new campaign to digitize Watauga County's surviving photographic and documentary materials, known as the Digital Watauga Project (DWP). Building on a non-renewable, one-year, \$25,000 LSTA E-Z Digitization Grant from the State Library of North Carolina in 2015, the WCHS and the Watauga County Public Library, successfully digitized more than 2,500 items from six different collections.

In their second year (2016-17), they began digitizing a large photographic collection documenting the Shull's Mill community and its sawmill operations; a substantial assortment of farm photos from the Watauga County Agricultural Extension Service, and Palmer Blair's photo archive—several thousand negatives and prints by a Boone photographer who covered the county between 1947 and his death in a 1957 plane crash. Other holdings include the Historic Boone Collection based upon the work of Historic Boone, a group that amassed local history materials and pictures for about a decade beginning in 1994. The Junaluska Heritage Collection documents the history of Boone's African-American community, which dates back to the mid-19th century. And, of course, there is an Appalachian Theatre of the High Country Collection illustrating the history of that 1938 Art Deco architectural gem on King Street and its role in the cultural life of Boone and Appalachian State Teachers College, now almost nearing completion of an ambitious, citizen-driven restoration project. One of those civic-spirited citizens is Bettie Bond (Appalachian History Faculty Emeritus); in retirement, she is proving as valuable to Boone as she did to the History Department. Below is her brief, unedited description of her involvement with the project's development.

*Without giving it too much thought after I retired from the*

*department in 1996 (!) I fell into several projects that would fascinate any old historian! Getting more involved with the Watauga County Historical Society, serving on the board for the rehabilitation of the Appalachian Theatre, continuing as a board member of the Belk Library and the Watauga County Public Library, and the Watauga County Community Foundation, and then becoming a member of the Historic Preservation Commission for the Town of Boone (we saved the down town post office, remember?)*

*So all of this began to make sense when I got a call from a man named Bobby Brendell, who had a post card collection that he wanted to donate to the historical society. Therein lies the tale! Luckily in 2011, Dr. Eric Plaag and his wife Teresa came to town - nothing has been the same since! As all of us are painfully aware, we have no end of projects - ideas are one thing we are rich in! But those ideas need the knowledgeable leadership, access to funding, and many worker bees. You have to have all three, and Eric had the most important of those elements: he has the knowledge - the know-how to bring all this together. Result: Digital Watauga.*

*This has been one of the most exciting projects I have ever had the pleasure of working on - particularly as it played in to other things I was involved with. The partnerships with all the aforementioned boards and commission is a network made in heaven!*

*Please have everyone look us up [Digitalwatauga.org](http://Digitalwatauga.org) It is really amazing - over 5,000 images and growing daily. We have over 20 collections waiting to be organized, and digitized. Working on the mega-data is a whole new ball game. The way the site is organized all are welcome to help us with identifications and information for finding aids. "Two women in front of a house" isn't that helpful!*

In closing, let me just underscore what a remarkable cultural resource this Project is becoming. If you are able to help in any way—photos, manuscripts, maps, money, volunteering—you will be investing wisely. The Editor.

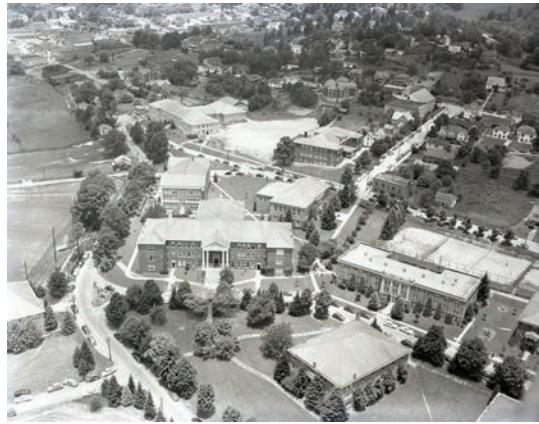


Appalachian Theatre



Reverend Ronda Horton, from the Junaluska Heritage Collection

Photographs  
Courtesy of the  
Digital Watauga  
Collections



Photographs  
Courtesy of the  
Digital Watauga  
Collections

Aerial Views of Boone in the 1950s. Photos by Palmer Blair.

16