Department of History
2009 Newsletter

From the Chair:

Since our last newsletter (Fall 2008), the History Department has experienced exciting changes in both personnel and curriculum. Thanks to collaboration with the Asia Center, we were awarded grants from both the Japan Foundation and the Freeman Foundation, which enabled us to hire Dr. Akiko Takenaka, a specialist in Japanese history and Dr. Denise Ho, an expert on Chinese history. The multi-disciplinary Africana Studies search brought us Dr. Jakobi Williams, a specialist on twentieth century African American history. In the Fall of 2008, we were very lucky to hire Kari Burchfield as our staff assistant for the front office.

Our faculty and our students have continued to demonstrate their stellar quality with a plethora of accomplishments. Ron Eller was promoted to full professor and his Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945 (2008) won not only the W. D. Weatherford Award for best book in Appalachian Studies but also the V. O. Key Award for the best book in Southern Politics. Professor Emeritus George Herring’s huge tome, From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations since 1776 came out to major acclaim. Bob Olson published his ninth book, Blood, Beliefs and Ballots: The Management of Kurdish Nationalism in Turkey, 2007-2009, which was promptly translated into Turkish. Mark Summers not only published his ninth book, A Dangerous Stir: Fear, Paranoia, and the Making of Reconstruction (Civil War America), but also won the 2009 Great Teacher Award from the University of Kentucky Alumni Association. Jeremy Popkin published his ninth edited volume, Philippe Lejeune, _On Diary_, eds. Jeremy D. Popkin and Julie Rak (Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2009). Abigail Firey’s A Contrite Heart: Prosecution and Redemption in the Carolingian Empire. Karen Petrone’s co-edited volume, The New Muscovite Cultural History: A Collection in Honor of Daniel B. Rowland (that came out of our symposium in honor of Dan Rowland held in 2008), and Erik Myrup’s co-edited volume, O Brasil no império marítimo português also saw the light. Kathi Kern moved to Princeton University for the 2009-2010 Academic year as Stanley Kelley, Jr. Visiting Associate Professor for Distinguished Teaching. Lien-Hang Nguyen has been at Yale University since
July 2008, this year serving as Henry Chauney Jr. ’57 Postdoctoral Associate in Grand Strategy. International Security Studies. Denise Ho declined the award of a Fulbright Junior Scholars Grant Postdoctoral Researcher at Hong Kong University, Faculty of Social Science, in order to stay in Lexington and continue work on her manuscript. Jim Aliberti was one of only three UK honorees on Philanthropy Day by the Association of Fund-Raising Professionals. The History Department has been the recipient of Jim’s largesse with the established of the Aliberti Dissertation Fellowship Fund.

We are particularly proud of the cutting edge digital history initiatives of our faculty: Abigail Firey’s Carolingian Canon Law Project and Jane Calvert’s John Dickinson Writings Project. Dr. Firey’s Project won a sizable grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2008, which she utilized this past year. These faculty created the department’s new Digital History Committee (which has crafted our guidelines for digital history with respect to promotion and tenure) as well as being central members of the University’s Collaboratory for Research Computing in the Humanities.

We granted 17 Masters and 7 Ph.D.’s in History during 2009 while another 8 students passed their qualifying exams. Having won the coveted Dissertation-Year Fellowship for 2009-10, Jeff Keith decluttered its favor of a tenure-track position at Warren Wilson College. Joanna Lille received the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America Region II History Scholarship and Christy Bohl was honored as an Arts & Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant in Spring 2009. James Savage earned the Master’s Thesis Award from the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools and Patrick Lewis was awarded the Kentucky Historical Society Graduate Student Research Grant. Stephen Pickering co-authored an article with Professor Donald P. Formisano “The Christian Nation Debate and Witness Competency,” which appeared in the Journal of the Early Republic 29 (2009): 219-248. After many years as a journalist specializing in the horse industry, MaryJean Wall was inducted into the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame.

The addition to the Graduate Program of new thematic fields of concentration is under way. Karen Petrone will be teaching the core seminar for Culture, Ideas, and Society during the Fall Semester 2010 and David Olter will be teaching the core seminar for The Making and Unmaking of Empires in the 2011 Spring Semester. The Graduate Program has also instituted a new one-credit course, History 750 Introduction to the Historical Profession, which will be now required for doctoral students. At the same time, the Americanists have overhauled their program to require a new sequence, History 600 (to 1700) and 641 (since 1865), which is team-taught by both U.S. and Latin American historians. We are also gearing up for the major overhaul of the undergraduate program with the introduction of the new General Education requirements. Phil Harling and Karen Petrone have already begun taping the new History 120 War and Society I and David Hunter is working on his new History of Christianity, both of which join the pilot online courses in the 2010 Summer Sessions as well as form part of the new Gen Ed requirements.

We had two heartfelt losses this past year.

Professor Emeritus Mary Wilma Hargreaves, editor of many volumes of the Henry Clay Papers, passed away at age 94. We are very grateful for the endowment funds she left to the department to aid graduate research. The whole department was devastated at the sudden death of Dave Bowman in December, who had been promoted to associate professor in August 2009. Faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students deeply miss his intellectual guidance and wry humor. The department has decided to name our conference room, 1745 Patterson Office Tower, the “Dave Bowman Seminar Room” in his memory.

I am now in my third year as chair, although I did get a semester’s research leave (Spring 2009) as Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences. Thanks to Jeremy Popkin for doing a great job as acting chair during that period. As always, I am deeply indebted to our superb officers, Director of Graduate Studies, David Hamilton, and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Tracy Campbell. I could never do this job without their support. I am likewise eternally grateful for the expertise and dedication of our amazing staff: Carol O’Reilly, Tina Hagee, and Kari Burchfield.

Saludos,
Francie Chazen-Lopez

Faculty News

New Dean Joins History Department

Mark Lawrence Kornbluh is Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of History at the University of Kentucky. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, he received his Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University and has taught at Oklahoma State University, Rice University and Michigan State University before coming to the University of Kentucky. He was the founding Director of MATRIX: The Center for Humane Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Online at Michigan State University, where he also held a joint appointment in Computer Science.

Dean Kornbluh built MATRIX into one of the largest humanities technology centers in an American university with a staff of 16 full-time faculty members and professionals, over 40 students, and an annual all-funds budget over $3M. Kornbluh also co-founded H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences OnLine and served as its executive director from 1997-2004. He has been the Principle Investigator on a wide range of research and education projects funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and the U.S. Department of Education, including an international NSF-funded collaborative project to explore ways to link digital libraries to enhance learning.

A specialist in Modern American political history, whose historical scholarship focuses on political participation in the United States. Dean Kornbluh is the author of Why America Stopped Voting: The Decline of Participatory Democracy and the Emergence of Modern Electoral Politics, 1880-1918, New York University Press. His interests in democracy have involved him in a wide range of digital projects to bridge the digital divide worldwide. He led the South African National Cultural Heritage Training and Technology project, which was designed to overcome the legacy of Apartheid by strengthening South African civil society and training a new multicultural generation of cultural workers in that country.

Kornbluh has spoken at conferences around the world on a wide range of digital humanities issues, and has served as an advisor and/or evaluator for many funding agencies on digital projects. He served on the National Research Council’s committee that advised the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) on long-term digital preservation (2002-3) and currently serves on a wide variety of advisory and oversight boards.
New Hires

During the Spring semester of 2009, when many departments were canceling searches, a fortunate combination of circumstances enabled UK to bring in seven job candidates for three positions. Aided by grants obtained through the Asia Center, we were able to hire scholars in both Chinese and Japanese history. A multi-department search for an assistant professor in Africana Studies also led to the hiring of a historian. Brief profiles follow; more information is available at: www.as.uky.edu/academics/departments_programs/History.

Denise Ho is a historian of modern China, who completed her Ph. D. from Harvard University in Fall 2009. Her dissertation, “Antiquity in Revolution: Cultural Relics in Twentieth-Century Shanghai,” examined the ambivalent attitudes and practices toward cultural relics by the revolutionary regimes of the Republic (1912-1949) and the People’s Republic (1949-present). Denise declined a Fulbright Fellowship to begin teaching at UK this year, but she hopes to be able to return to China for further research in 2010-11.


Jakobi Williams, a native of Chicago, received his Ph. D. in African-American history at UCLA in 2008. Before coming to UK Jakobi was a Chancellor Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana in 2008-09. He is currently finalizing revision of his dissertation as a book, tentatively entitled “Fred Hampton to Barack Obama: the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, the Origin of the Rainbow Coalition, and Racial Coalition Politics in Chicago.” He and his wife Cassandra also brought a brand new baby girl, Sariya, to Lexington.

Emeritus Faculty

Bruce Eastwood was elected in 2008 as a voting member of the Académie Internationale d’Histoire des Sciences in Paris, of which he had been a corresponding member since 1986. He co-authored an online edition of Martianus Capella, the Oldest Commentary Tradition (The Hague, 2008; http://martianus.huygeninsitut.nl), for which he edited an anonymous commentary from ca. 830 on the astronomical writings of Martianus Capella, author of the standard schoolbooks for the seven liberal arts in the early and high Middle Ages. Bruce also gave an invited talk, “Students and Teachers of Latin Astronomy from Roman Schools to the Carolingian Court and Cloister into the Eleventh Century” at an international conference held at the Deutsches Museum in Munich in November 2009.

George Herring and Dottie Leathers are thriving on the freedom that comes with retirement. Each year, they escape the gloom of Ohio Valley winters by spending time in Florida where they enjoy the warm sunshine and partying with “snowbird” friends made during stays in Ft. Myers. This year, they also visited New York City and New Mexico and took several trips to Virginia and North Carolina. Next year, they hope to venture further from home and more frequently.

Dottie’s leisure is interrupted by lunch and dinner with her many friends (invitations welcomed) and by transporting grandchildren from school. The November 2009 issue of Diplomatic History carried a feature review of From Colony to Superpower, as well as tributes to George’s—and Dottie’s—mentorship by five former graduate students. George was recently elected a fellow of the Society of American Historians in recognition of the "literary and scholarly distinction" of his work.

Dan Smith surprised the department early in 2009 with the announcement that he planned to retire as of 30 June to focus his attention on a variety of projects. He has married our former graduate student Lorri Glover and moved with her to St. Louis. He is working to complete a book manuscript on the "Trail of Tears" to be published by Henry Holt in 2011. His documentary on the history of the state, "Kentucky: An American Story," on which he collaborated with Tracy Campbell, Ron Eller, and Kathi Kern, will premiere in fall 2010.
In Memoriam

Death of Shearer Davis “Dave” Bowman

Faculty and students in the department were deeply saddened by the sudden death in early December of our colleague Dave Bowman at the age of 60. Even though he had been at UK for a relatively brief time, Dave had become an important member of the department and a dear colleague and mentor to many of us. His humor, gentleness, and integrity will be greatly missed. The department plans to commemorate Dave by naming the conference room on the 17th floor after him.

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Dave did his graduate work at the University of California at Berkeley. He began his teaching career at Hampden Sydney College in his native Virginia, where he also served as coach of the soccer team. He moved from there to the University of Texas at Austin, where he received tenure after publication of Masters & Lords: Mid-19th Century U. S. Planters and Prussian Junkers (Oxford University Press, 1993), an innovative comparative study of large landowners in the American south and the German east. He gave up the position at Texas to enable his wife, Lee Willey, to assume the pastorate at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington. After working for several years as a part-time instructor at UK and at Berea College, he became a senior lecturer in the department. In the spring of 2009, the department succeeded in converting his appointment into a tenure-track line so that he could officially advise the many graduate students interested in working with him. Dave’s book, At the Precipice, a study of the approach to the U. S. Civil War, will appear in 2010 with the University of North Carolina Press.

Dave is survived by his wife Lee, son Willis, daughter Kate, a brother, and two sisters.

Death of Mary Wilma Hargreaves

The department was saddened by the passing of Mary Wilma Hargreaves in August 2008 at the age of 94. A graduate of Bucknell University, Mary Wilma completed her Ph. D. in history from Harvard University in 1951. With her husband Walter already a member of the Economics Department at UK, Mary Wilma became a "spousal hire" of a sort as associate editor of the Henry Clay Papers, working with Professor James Hopkins until 1974. She then became co-director and project director for the Clay Papers until 1979. All told, she contributed to six volumes in the project published from 1959 to 1981. Mary Wilma was also the first woman to be a full professor in the history department, retiring in 1984. In addition to the Clay volumes, she was the author of Dry Farming in the Northern Great Plains, 1906-1925 (1957); The Presidency of John Quincy Adams (1985); and Dry Farming in the Northern Great Plains: Years of Adjustment, 1920-1990 (1993).

Through her will Mary Wilma left a legacy to the department, which we are in the process of setting up as an endowment to provide travel grants to graduate students.

Current Faculty

Jim Albietti published two articles related to his ongoing research project: "Froebel Crosses the Alps: Introducing the Kindergarten in Italy," in History of Education Quarterly; and "Neapolitan Children at Risk," in an anthology, Children and Youth at Risk: Perspectives from the History of Education. He spent much of last spring working to co-edit another anthology, Girls’ Secondary Education in the Western World, forthcoming in 2010 with Palgrave. This fall he was both completely surprised and deeply grateful to be one of three individuals honored by UK at the annual Philanthropy Day luncheon of the Bluegrass Chapter of the Association of Fund-Raising Professionals.

Jill Albietti

Jane Calvert spoke for the third straight year at the annual meeting of the Friends of the John Dickinson Museum in Dover, Delaware, and was the guest of honor at the Spring Court of the Society for Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, where she became a Kentucky Colonel. She also delivered lectures to high school teachers at Morehead State and the University of Louisville as part of an NEH-sponsored training program. She received a summer grant from the Society of Historians of the Early Republic and the Library Company of Philadelphia to support her work on the collected writings of John Dickinson, a project also supported by a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society. She has had one article on Dickinson accepted and three more are in the works. She is also a co-editor of The Selected Writings of Thomas Paine (Yale University Press).

Tracy Campbell, in the wake of his book Deliver the Fite (2005), had a busy fall of 2008 leading up to the presidential election. He gave the Chancellor’s Lecture at the University of Virginia-Wise and also spoke before the UK Alumni Club of Louisville. In addition, he was a guest on international radio shows ranging from sub-Saharan Africa to Great Britain. In October 2009, he organized a public seminar with legendary LBJ aide Bobby Baker and LBJ’s social secretary Beech Abell. In July 2009 Tracy literally stumbled upon Sir Paul McCartney singing on the top of the Ed Sullivan Theater marquee in New York City. Early in 2010 he was selected as the UK Alumni Association’s Great Teachers.

Francie Chassan-Lopez delivered her Distinguished Professor Lecture on the Oaxacan business woman and political figure Juana Catarina Romero to a packed auditorium in Young Library on 7 April 2009. This fall, she has returned to her duties as chair of the department after her research leave. She spent three weeks in Oaxaca in May (after the worst of the swine flu scare) and returned to Mexico for three more weeks in July at the invitations of the state government of Veracruz to lecture at a Conference in Honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Liberal Reform Laws. She also attended the 53rd Conference of Americanists in Mexico City on that trip. In early October she was invited to speak at the Latin American Labor History Conference at Duke University on her research on Juana Catarina Romero. She also presented a paper to the Southern Historical Conference in Denver, color, gender, and war in nineteenth century Mexico.

Ron Eller, in addition to the accolades awarded to Uncover Ground, gained promotion to full professor in spring 2009. He was the keynote speaker at the East Kentucky Leadership Conference in April; his address appeared in the Lexington Herald-Leader on 26 May. Ron continues to hold the Department’s Hallam Professorship.

Abigail Firey has published two books with Brill Academic Publishers in the Netherlands, an edited anthology, A New History of Penance (2008), and a monograph, A Contraire Heart: Prosecution and Redemption in the Carolingian Empire (2009). She received a grant from the NEH to fund computer assistance with her current project, an on-line edition of several early-medieval compilations of canon law. In 2010-11 she will be supported in this project by a Digital Innovation Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies.

Carol O'Reilly and Tracy Campbell
Ron Formisano, along with graduate student Stephen Pickering, published "The Christian Nation Debate and Witness Competency," in the Journal of the Early Republic (summer 2009). An essay on the 2008 presidential campaign will appear next year in the Journal of Policy History. He is pleased by the appreciative reviews that For the People: American Populist Movements from the Revolution to the 1850s (2008) continues to receive. In September he gave the Rhode Island Constitution Day lecture in Providence, following previous speakers such as Gordon Wood, Jack Rakove, and Pauline Maier. That month he also hosted London-based psychologist Amy Smetovici, a Phi Beta Kappa lecturer for 2008-09 and his former colleague at Florida, who gave an outstanding lecture and multi-media presentation, "Rhapsody on a Darwinian Theme," which traced reactions to Darwin in popular culture, particularly music, over the past 150 years.

Eileen Farkough continues to work on her book project, "France on Vacation: Tourism and Consumer Cultures in France, 1930s-1970s." Two articles related to that research have recently appeared, "De Hanoï à Saigon par le chemin des écoliers: Le journal de vacances de Claude Beaumart (1943)," in Clio: Histoire, Femmes et Sociétés (2008) and "Club Mediterranee, 1950-2005," in Europe at the Secular: The Economic History of Mass Tourism in the Mediterranean, edited by Luciano Segreto (2008). She has participated in conferences at the University of New Jersey; Quebec; and Boulder, Colorado. In addition to her regular teaching, in Spring 2009 she led the Social Theory seminar on "Consuming Cultures".

Phil Harling, after six years of full-time administrative work (five as Associate Dean followed by 2008-09 as Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences), finds himself a "free man". As he reflects on teaching and research, he is looking forward to partnering with Karen Petrone on the development of a new undergraduate course, "War and Society, 1914-1945". He is also reading intensively about the development of the British state in the twentieth century and about the British Empire in the interwar period, with a view of future publications on both subjects. At the end of the Spring semester in 2009, the College expressed its thanks to Phil for his service as Interim Dean with a festive reception in the LeMark Room of the Main Building.


Joanne Melish participated in three programs related to teaching during 2009. During the summer she co-directed a two-week NEH Residential Teacher Institute at Brown University on "The Role of Slavery in the Development of New England Commerce, Industry," this fall she was a consultant for "Rethinking General Education: Critical Thinking versus Coverage" at the annual conference of the Kentucky Association of Teachers of History and gave a lecture "Before the Underground Railroad" as an OAH Distinguished Lecturer at a "Teaching American History" Institute at Westfield, Massachusetts. More research-oriented presentations included "Gradual Emancipation in Massachusetts" at the Celebration of 40th Anniversary of the American Studies Center at Boston University and "Slavery, Emancipation, and Race in Massachusetts," the Annual Springs Lecture at the Boston Museum of African American History’s African Meeting House in Nantucket.

Erik Myrup has kept very busy this year with writing, teaching, and the responsibilities of parenthood. He continues to work on a book manuscript examining Portugal’s overseas empire, for which he "dragged" his wife and four children to Macau, China, last summer where he conducted research on Portuguese-Chinese relations. He presented a paper as part of an international conference in Macao, as well as in a panel organized by the Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction at the 2009 AHA conference. A volume of articles that he co-edited with Stuart Schwartz, his doctoral advisor, O Brasil no império marítimo português, has gone to press. A man of many voices, Erik continues to volunteer each week in his daughter’s classes at Glendover school, where his personal favorite Overshirters are Mole, Trea, and Badger.

Hang Nguyen is in the second year as Henry Chauncey Jr.’s 57 Postdoctoral Associate in Global Strategy in International Security Studies at Yale. During summer 2009 she was one of fifteen scholars who took part in a month-long International Seminar on Decolonization at the National History Center in Washington, DC where she did archival research and shared results with her colleagues. She was awarded second place in a "Cold War Essay Contest" conducted by the John A. Adams "71 Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis at Virginia Military Institute, which came with a generous stipend and recommendation of publication in the Journal of Military History.

Bob Olson has published his ninth book, Blood, Beliefs, and Ballots: The Management of Kurdish Nationalism in Turkey 1979-2009, well before 2009 came to an end. He has been on phased retirement this year and plans full retirement in June 2010.

Karen Petrone continues to enjoy teaching Russian and Soviet history, to which she has added the duties of being in charge of graduate student recruitment. In April 2009 she attended a stimulating conference entitled "Mapping the Transnational" at Dongguk University in Gyeongju, South Korea. In November a volume that she co-edited with three other scholars, The New Maoist Culture: Historical Analysis: A Collection in Honor of David Bolotsky, appeared with Slavica Publishers. Another edited volume, Gender, Politics, and Mass Dictatorship, is in press with Palgrave. She has recently received a contract for her monograph, The Great War in Russian Memory, which will appear in spring 2011 with Indiana University Press.

Jeremy Popkin recalls a visit to Paris as a small boy, when his father pointed out to him the buildings of the College de France, founded by King Francois I in 1530 to promote the teaching of the humanities. In May 2009, Popkin had the honor of returning to the College de France to lecture as a visiting professor at the College de France, where he delivered a series of lectures on the press during the French Revolution. During his trip, he also presented papers at conferences in London, Bordeaux, and Jerusalem. Earlier in the year, Springer Verlag published a volume of critical essays that he edited in honor of his father, The Legacies of Richard H. Popkin. A new book, tentatively titled, "You Are All Free": The Haitian Revolution and the First Abolition of Slavery, will appear with Cambridge University Press next year.

Gerald Smith continues to work as general co-editor of the Kentucky African American Encyclopedia Project. The Encyclopedia will contain fourteen topical essays and more than twelve hundred entries. Persons interested in making a financial contribution to the Project or in writing entries for the volume are encouraged to visit the Encyclopedia’s website at www.uky.edu/KAAE.

Gretchen Starr-LeBeau continues to work on her comparative study of inquisitorial courts in early modern southern Europe and colonial Mexico. She has been invited to speak on this research at two upcoming conferences, "Perspectives on the Inquisition," at the University of Notre Dame and the Louis University next March, and "Francisco de Borja y su tiempo" in Valencia, Spain, in April. She has also completed an article comparing narrative strategies by defendants in inquisition trials in Venice and Toledo, Spain. For 2010-11, Gretchen has received both an American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship and an ACLS Fellowship.

Mark Summers has published 4 Dangerous Sit (University of North Carolina Press), a study of paranoia and the making of reconstruction policy just after the Civil War. He is working on Culture Big Time, a book on that tiger, about Tim Sullivan and machine politics in New York City at the turn of the twentieth century. He is currently team-teaching Tudor Stuart Britain for a second time with Stuart LeBeau, and will offer Georgian Britain next semester. He is in the process of transcribing the digital library of thousands of images for use by the faculty and teaching assistants in their courses.
Notable Publications by George Herring and Ron Eller

Two books that appeared in the autumn of 2008 have brought significant attention to both their authors and to the Department of History at Kentucky. Professor emeritus George Herring published what he had come to call "America's longest book," From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations since 1776, the only thematic volume in the Oxford History of the United States. On 21 October of that year the UK Libraries sponsored a well-attended reception at the newly remodeled Boone Center on campus to celebrate the book's appearance. George's subsequent book tour began at the Smithsonian, included stops in Atlanta, San Francisco, and Powell's Book Store in Portland, Oregon, and ended at the Politics and Prose Book Store back in Washington, D.C. The book was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in non-fiction and won the 2009 Ferrell Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations for the best book in the field published the previous year.

The day after the reception for George, Ron Eller spoke about his new book Uneven Ground: Appalachia since 1945 (University Press of Kentucky) at Lexington's Joseph-Beth Bookstore, an event that was taped and later shown on C-SPAN. Subsequent publicity surrounding the book included an interview by Diane Sawyer for an episode of "20/20" on ABC. Uneven Ground has won two prizes: the 2008 W. D. Weatherford Award for the best book in Appalachian Studies from the Appalachian Studies Association, and the 2009 V. O. Key Award for the best book in Southern Politics from the Southern Political Science Association.

Further details about both authors and their books are available in Summer 2009 issue of the University of Kentucky's research magazine, Odyssey, at: www.research.uky.edu/odyssey/.

75th Anniversary of the Southern Historical Association

The Southern Historical Association celebrated its 75th anniversary in Louisville in November 2009, and for the department it was a major "old home week". Opening ceremonies were held at the Grand River Ballroom in Louisville, where George Herring and Dottie Leathers. Our newest emeritus professor, Dan Smith, presented part of his documentary film project, "Kentucky: An American Story," to a large audience.

Among former faculty, George Wright, now president of Prairie View A & M, was honored in a tribute session on "African American History in Kentucky". Gerhard Weinberg, emeritus at UNC-Chapel Hill, commented on a session; and John Mayfield (Samford University), chaired one. Bo Morgan, now at the University of Southern Mississippi, attended the meeting, as did Theda Perdue and Mike Green from Chapel Hill. Theda is the current Vice-President of the SHA. In the concurrent meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies in the neighboring hotel, Tom Cogswell (University of California, Riverside) presented a paper that clearly showed he is still having fun mining English politics of the 1620s.

Current faculty on the program included Ron Eller and Tracy Campbell assisting at the presentation of "Kentucky" and Gerald Smith participating in the tribute to George Wright. Francis Chasson-Lopez presented a paper at the Latin American and Caribbean History Section, while Karen Petrone and graduate student Melissa Lickiss took part in a panel on teaching women's history that combined European and American perspectives. Mark Summers chaired a session, and Jim Albisetti commented on one. Graduate student Jordan Dongell presented at one of the concurrent sessions sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta.

Former students on the program included Jodie Mader (Thomas More College) and Erin Sheeler (Millersville University of Pennsylvania) in the European History Section and Rebecca Bates (Berea College) at the NACBS. James Kloster (George Washington College) chaired a session, and James Ramage (Northern Kentucky University) presided at the Phi Alpha Theta luncheon. Other former students spotted in the course of the meeting were Carolyn DuPont (EKU), Craig Friend (North Carolina State), Lorri Glover (St. Louis University), Keith Harper (Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary), Mason Horrell (Kentucky Wesleyan), Tom Kiffmeyer (Morehead State), Bill Marshall (UK libraries), Rowena McClintock (Southern Illinois—Edwardsville), Carol Resford (Penn State), Matt Schoenbachler (Northern Alabama), Jules Sweet (Baylor), Tom Riley (National Parks Service, and Jennifer Watton-Hanley (WKU-Glasgow campus).

2009 Bluegrass Symposium

Spring 2009 saw a first for the Bluegrass Symposium: the scheduled keynote speaker—who shall remain nameless—failed to make her travel connections and never arrived. Mark Summers stepped in at the last minute, however, and presented an entertaining and insightful talk about Andrew Johnson and the fears he aroused in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War.

The remainder of the program put together by co-coordinators Donna Abbott, Jonathan Coleman, and Carly Gesin went much more smoothly. Students from five other universities joined both undergraduate and graduate students from UK in presenting papers on a wide variety of topics. The prize for the best undergraduate essay went to Linsen Li. Jamie Nichols received the Phi Alpha Theta Prize, and Robert Turpin won the award for the outstanding graduate student paper.

Graduate Program

DEGREES AND AWARDS,
JULY 2008 - DECEMBER 2009

Ph. D. Recipients:
Alicestyn Adams
David Hollingsworth
Stephanie Lang
Sandra Slater
Jennifer Walton
Aaron Weinacht

M. A. Recipients:
Kelly Bales
Lori Anne Copeland
Betsy DeGolian
Meredith Durr
Carly Gesin
Amanda Higgins
Samuel McGuire
David Marsich
Lianne Mitchell
Clinton Morris
David Petersen
Joshua Powell
Robin Rice
Rod Starn
Russell Stevenson
Robert Turpin
Jason Wheeler
Alayna Wilburn

Fellowship Recipients:
Charles Roland Fellowship:
Will Stone
Dorothy Leathers Fellowship: Joanna Lile
George Herring Fellowship:
Eric Weinberg
Albisetti Dissertation Research Fellowship: no award in 2009

David Hamilton, DUS
Students Graduating with GPA Honors

Jessica Lynn Amburgey
Kyle Edward Brewer
Ailyn Miracle Bissmeyer
Jonathan Park Collett
Timothy Lee Condo
Emily Christina Csinisi
Rebekah Joy Daniel
Esta Marissa Day
Cynthia Riley Duck
John M. Ghaelian
Wesley Tyler Westbrook
Devon Rae Holmes
Lindsay Adaia Keefe
Linsen Li
Grant Thomas Mills
Duu S. Renn
Michael a. Roth
David Major Wade
Paul Jay Wischer

Current students

Deana Abbott presented "Fear, Lust, Power, and the Early Modern Witch" at the 2009 Ohio Valley History Conference (hereafter OVHC).

Karl Alexander presented "The Role of Conflict and Competition in the Construction of the Humanist Community" at the OVHC.

John Baker presented "The Reasons for Roman Conquest of the Balkans" at the OVHC.

Christy Bolh won an award as an Arts & Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant in spring 2009. After serving for two years as president of the History Graduate Student Association, for 2009-2010 she is HGSAs library representative. She won a Constant J.H. Jacquet Research Award from the Religious Research Association, which she used to conduct research for her dissertation in Georgia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Matthew Combs presented "The Relationship between the Human Will and Divine Grace in SS. Augustine's and John Chrysostom's Exegesis of Romans Chapters 7 and 9" at the OVHC.

John Davis spent much of the 2008-09 academic year in Russia, doing research in Saratov, Moscow, and St. Petersburg on the cholera epidemics of the early 20th century. While there he delivered a paper on that research at Saratov State University. He also published an article in Russian in a collection Aktualnye problemy v istorii Rossisskoi tavitel'nosti (2009).

Jordan Dongell presented "Authority in Tertullian" at the OVHC.


Mark Karantabias presented "The Imperial Bureaucracy in the Reign of Justinian" at the 2009 Byzantine Studies Conference and "Provincial Reforms in the Age of Justinian" at the OVHC.

Jeff Keith was awarded a Dissertation-Year Fellowship for 2009-10, but he turned it down to take a tenure-track job at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina. There he teaches courses on U. S. foreign relations and is developing the Appalachian Studies Program. A paper that began in a seminar with Ron Eller, "Fiddlin' with Race Relations in Rural Kentucky: The Life, Times, and Contested Identity of Fiddlin' Bill Livers," will appear in an anthology Hidden in the Mix: The African-American Country Tradition, edited by Diane Pecknold of the University of Louisville. Another article, "Civilization, Race, and Japan Expedition's Cultural Diplomacy, 1853-1854," has been accepted for publication in Diplomatic History.

Joanna Lile received the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America Region II History Scholarship. She was also awarded the Herring Award for 2008 from the Kentucky Association of Teachers of History for her paper, "The Quest for Health: Christianity and the Body in Southern Baptist Daily Vacation Bible Schools". She presented another paper, "'At Our Very Door': Southern Baptist Attitudes toward Race and the Home, 1919-1929," at the OHVC at EKU in October. This year she is serving as HGSAs president.

Joshua Powell received an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award from the College of Arts & Sciences in spring 2009. He presented "God, Man, and Human Liberty in Gregory of Nyssa and Thomas Jefferson" at the OVHC.

Sally Powell presented "'Playing Fairly and Fiercely': The Early Years of Kentucky Girls' Basketball" at the OVHC.
James Savage, a second-year doctoral student, is awaiting publication of a book derived from his M. A. thesis at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. "Sorrel Crow: Jim Garrison’s Bourbon Street Brawl and the Making of a First Amendment Milestone," will appear with the University of Louisiana Press. It examines the ignoble origins but landmark implications of the Supreme Court’s 1964 decision in Garrison v. Louisiana. The thesis received the 2009 Master’s Thesis Award of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, sponsored by ProQuest/UMI.

Red Starn presented "Augustine: Monastic Institutions and anti-Donatism in the Context of Catholic/Donatist Conflict" at the OVHC.

Natalie Sweet presented two papers in the autumn of 2009, "Degeneration": Elizabethan Explorations of the Concept," at the OVHC Conference; and "A Noble Instrument of Prince and Country": James Fitzmaurice-Kelly, 1, and the Elizabethan Discourse on Degeneration" at a special conference on "Elizabethan Ireland" held at the University of Connecticut.

Mary Jean Wall, a longtime writer on horse racing and the horse industry for the Lexington Herald-Leader, was inducted into the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame. A three-time winner of both the Eclipse Award for coverage of Thoroughbred racing and the John Hervey Award for harness racing, Mary Jean was the subject of a feature article in Fall 2009 issue of the College of Arts and Sciences magazine, Amspeared, accessible online at: www.uak.edu/ alumni/amspeared.

Kevin Walters, a first-year doctoral student published “Balancing Freedom and Unity: John Carlisle Kilgo and the Unification of Methodism in America,” in Methodist History 48, no. 1 (October 2009).

John Wicker presented “Lincoln and Shakespeare: Reading the Bard during the Civil War” at the OVHC.

Alumni News

Richard Bailey (Ph. D. 2006) is in his second year at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. In addition to developing new classes and starting preliminary research on a new project, he is giving up the loose ends on his book, Race and Redemption in the "City on a Hill": S/int, Slaves, and Struggles in Puritan New England. The book will appear with Oxford University Press as a part of their "Religion in America" series. He has also welcomed a Great Dane puppy named Linford into his household.


James Duane Bolin (Ph. D. 1988) is a professor of history at Murray State University. Bolin was named Murray State’s Distinguished Researcher for 2008. He also serves as the Presidential Fellow Research Coordinator at Murray State. His book, Adolph Rupp and the Rise of Big-Time College Basketball in America, has been accepted by the University Press of Kentucky and will appear in spring 2011. Duane lives in Murray with his wife, Evelyn, and daughter, Cammio Jo, who is a high school sophomore. Son Wesley is a freshman at Yale University.


Bob Brigham (Ph. D. 1994) is now the Shirley Ecker Bosley Professor of History and International Relations at Vassar College. In 2007-08, he was a Fulbright lecturer holding the Mary Ball Washington Professorship of American History at University College, Dublin. He published Iraq, Vietnam, and the Limits of American Power in 2008. This year he was selected as one of a hundred “Global Experts on International Relations” by the United Nations Commission on the Alliance of Civilizations.

John Burch (Ph. D. 2005) has earned tenure and promotion to associate professor at Campbellsville University, where he is now Dean of Distance Learning and Library Services.

Philip M. Cochran (Ph.D. 1984) lives in Austin, Texas and currently is employed by the Texas Education Agency (State Department of Education) as senior director for the Division of Regional Services. As such, he reports directly to the Deputy Commissioner for School District Leadership and Educator Quality and oversees the operations of the state’s 20 regional education service centers. Those centers provide administrative, technical, and staff support to the state’s 1200 school districts and charter schools and half-million educators. Other responsibilities include managing the Texas Education Agency's homeland security operations, overseeing the Agency's implementation of the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children, and managing special projects for the Office of the Deputy Commissioner. Following the landfall of Hurricane Ike in September 2008, his division coordinated the effort of the Texas Education Agency to extend disaster, financial, and educational assistance to schools, students, teachers, and administrators in the impacted areas of the Texas coast. In addition, Phil has served for 23 years as an adjunct professor in the Department of History of Austin Community College.

David Dalton (Ph. D. 1991) received the Eugene Charles Wittleck Teaching Excellence Award at Commencement at College of the Ozarks in May 2009. He also wrote an article entitled “He Died on the Field of Glory: Felix Zollcoffer and the Confederate Defeat at Mill Springs” for inclusion in a forthcoming University of Tennessee publication, Confederate Generals in the Western Theater. Currently, he is working on a long overdue book length manuscript examining the sacred and secular struggles of the southern protestant clergy during the accession crisis. David continues to hold the Elizabeth Hoyt Clark Chair of Humanities and is a Professor of History at College of the Ozarks, where he has taught for the last twenty-two years.

Nicky Durham (B. A. 1965) retired from a civil service position at Fort Sam (1980), but returned to work there in April 2008 in the Directorate of Information Management.

George B. Ellenberg (Ph.D. 1994) completed year-long fellowship with the American Council on Education and has recently been named Interim Vice Provost at the University of West Florida. Prior to this appointment, he served in the College of Arts & Sciences as Associate Dean. His new responsibilities include the Planning, Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness. Additionally, after teaching a course in American Military History for the ROTC department on campus for the past several years, George is delighted to be back in his field teaching Old and New South classes for the history department each spring.
William E. “Bill” Ells (Ph. D. 1974) is beginning his eleventh year of retirement from EKU and enjoying most of it. There is time for travel, family, golf, fishing, and observation of this "vale of tears." Bill and wife Charlotte traveled in the spring to the western Mediterranean, to Texas to visit grandchildren, to Florida for the coldest months, and to the Hocking Hills of Ohio in more recent days. Bill continues to write a column for Kentucky Monthly magazine and to work on "A History of Education in Kentucky," covering from 1774 to about 1985. He also speaks to groups about "Kentucky Honor" on occasion. Said Bill: "I hope to live to the ripe old age of 90 or so and be able to shoot my age in golf, or, if that doesn't happen, witness the University of Kentucky football team defeat the hated Volunteers of the University of Tennessee." Most people think he'll never look forward to shooting his age at 90, which will be somewhere around 2030.

Craig Friend (Ph. D. 1995) is currently being considered for promotion to full professor at North Carolina State University, where he is director of public history. In recent years he has published a revised version of his dissertation, Along the Meuse Valley: The Early American Republic in the Trans-Appalachian West (University of Tennessee, 2005), plus two edited collections: Southern Masculinity: Perspectives on Manhood in the South since Reconstruction (University of Georgia, 2009), and, with

Amyn Iqbal, Family Values in the Old South (University of Florida, 2010). His own monograph, Kentucky’s Frontiers, will appear with Indiana University Press next year.


Lorri Glover (Ph. D. 1996) has left the University of Tennessee for St. Louis University, where she holds the John Francis Bannon Chair in History. A paperback edition of The Shipwreck that Saved Jamestown, which she co-authored with Dan Smith, appeared in summer 2009.

Holly Grout (M. A., 2000) completed her Ph. D. at the University of Wisconsin with a dissertation entitled "Beauty Marks: The Practice, Production, and Performance of Femininity in France, 1880-1939." During her research she spent 2003-04 in Paris on a fellowship from the Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris ("Sciences Po"). During her last year at U.W., she was a George Mosse teaching fellow and lectured upper-division courses on European Consumer Society and on Women in Europe. This year she began a tenure-track position at the University of Alabama, teaching honors Western Civilization, European Consumer Society, and Modern France.


Bill Hockensmith (B. A. 1979) completed an M. A. in European history at the University of Virginia in 1981. Since that time he has worked in pharmaceutical sales, currently with Procter & Gamble.

Larry Hood (Ph. D. 1980) continues to teach part-time at UK. He has taught graduate seminars in Kentucky history classes to discuss conditions on the eighteenth-century American frontier; experiences as a Kentucky soldier in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam; and on the Tuskegee airman (and their connections to Kentucky). Larry has just completed a book, "70th and 120th: The World War II Veterans of Kentucky," which presents a detailed account of the life of each veteran in the 70th and 120th Infantry Divisions.

Carrie (Russ) Lewis (M. A. 2002) went on to get a Master of Library Science degree from UK. After a short-term job in our library, where she took charge of cataloguing a large collection of Russian materials left to the university, she has officially been Reference Librarian at Midway College since 2007. In actuality, though, she also supervises the circulation desk and all work-study students, as well as processing both incoming and outgoing Inter-Library Loan requests.

Kyle Longley (Ph. D. 1993) is the Stoll Family Dean’s Distinguished Professor at Arizona State University. His book Grunts: The American Combat Soldier in Vietnam appeared in 2008 and is already in its second printing. Kyle also published a second edition of In the Eagle’s Shadow: The United States and Latin America with Harlan Davidson in spring 2009. He has completed another manuscript, The House of the Purple Haze: The Moreno’s Nine, Small Town America, and the Vietnam War. Lastly, Kyle received the Pearce Prize for outstanding teaching in the Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
Alan Lowe (M. A. 1988) was named in April 2003 as the Director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library. Alan began his career as an archivist in the Ronald Reagan Library in 1992. He transferred to the Office of Presidential Libraries in the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Most recently, he has overseen construction and the beginning operations of the Howard H. Baker, Jr., Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Jodie Mader (Ph. D. 2008) is now an assistant professor at Thomas More College in northern Kentucky. She presented a paper, "Legal War Mongering: The British Anti-War Rhetoric of the South African War, 1899-1902," at the SHA in Louisville.

Hart Megibben (B. A. 1989) is an attorney in Shivelyville, Kentucky, where he was elected as County Attorney in 2006.

Paul Douglas Newman (Ph. D. 1996) continues as Professor of History at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown. In February 2009, he received the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award, in recognition of his work with local high schools and historical societies that had garnered him the 2008 History Channel History Teacher of the Year Award, as well as his work with state and national museums and organizations, public and private, over the course of his career. Paul has co-authored with Jeffrey A. Davis of Bloomsburg University, Pennsylvania History: Essays and Documents (Prentice Hall/Pearson, 2009). He has also been named the Coordinator of the Pitt-Johnstown Institute for Continuing Education for Elementary, Middle, and High School Teachers. When he is not coaching Pee-Wee football, Paul teaches courses in Early American history and continues as the editor of Pennsylvania History: A Journal of the Mid-Atlantic States. He lives with his two sons, Forrest (15) and Leo (10) in Johnstown, and is happy to announce his engagement to Bethany M. Winters of Davidsville, PA. A May 2010 wedding is planned.

Beaver Perdue (B.A. 1969) was sworn in as the first woman governor of North Carolina in January 2009. Before her election last November, she had served two terms in the state House of Representatives, five in the state Senate, and two as the first female lieutenant governor of North Carolina.

Delia Pergamo (Ph. D. 1999) is in her fourth year teaching at the Upper School at Sayre School in Lexington. She previously worked as an adjunct for the department and for the Patterson School of Diplomacy.

Carl Post (Ph. D., 1976) has developed and teaches an online course about the history of health care in the United States for Capella University.

Carol Reardon (Ph. D. 1987) is serving her second term as Director of Graduate Studies at Penn State. In March 2009 she delivered the Steven and Janice Brose Lectures in the Era of the Civil War, a highly respected three-talk series that will be published by University of North Carolina Press. In April 2009 she completed a four-year term as president of the Society for Military History and was awarded the Victor Gondos Memorial Award for service to the Society and to the field of military history.

Nick Saratovskes (M. A. 1991) had the rare experience of being invited to be the sole applicant for a job at the U. S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, which he began in 2008. His third book, Allies against the Rising Sun: The United States, the British Nations, and the Defeat of Imperial Japan, appeared in 2009 with the University Press of Kansas. Two other manuscripts are under consideration: one on the boycott of the 1980 Olympics and the other on the "admittedly odd" topic of Richard Nixon and sports. In 2009 he became the history book review editor for Presidential Studies Quarterly.

Matt Schoenbacher (Ph. D. 1996), after teaching for six years at Kentucky Wesleyan College, has moved to the University of North Alabama, his undergraduate alma mater, where he is associate professor of history. His book, Murder and Madness: The Making of the Kentucky Tragedy (University Press of Kentucky, 2009), examines the murder of state attorney general Solomon B. Sharp in 1825 and analyzes how the murderer, Jereboam O. Beauchamp, and his wife Anna manipulated the dominant Romantic ideals of their day to create a myth that became one of the century’s most enduring tales of honor and revenge.

Michael Schwarz (Ph. D. 2008) began a tenure-track position at Ashland University in Ohio for the fall of 2009.

Sandra Slater (Ph. D. 2009) began a tenure-track position at the College of Charleston this fall. Her article, "For Traders, Vagabonds, and Courtesans des Bois: Race and the Creation of Masculinities in French Canadian Fur Trade Society, 1635-1754," will appear next year in an anthology to be published by the University of Georgia Press, Creating Race in the Early Modern French Atlantic World. She is also working with former faculty member Fay Yarbrough to co-edit a volume, Gender and Sexuality in Native North American Societies, 1400-1890, to appear with University of Oklahoma Press.


Heath Spencer (Ph. D. 1997) received tenure at Kansas Wesleyan University in 2001, but he returned to his native Seattle the next year so that his wife Cindy, a graduate of Ashbury Seminary, could take a new position. Since 2002 he has been an adjunct professor at Seattle Pacific University, and since 2005 he has also been a "core lecturer" at Seattle University. Heath has an article forthcoming in Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte ("Contemporary Church History") that defends the tradition of German "cultural Protestantism" against charges raised in Riehhard Steigmann-Gall’s Holy Reich (Cambridge, 2004).

Suzy Rea Wampler (AIBD 2005) taught for two years at Dunbar High School in Lexington and is now a student affairs officer in the Department of Civil Engineering at UK.


Nancy Wolsch (Ph. D. 1996) is one of two faculty members elected to the presidential search committee at Transylvania University, which has not had a search in twenty-five years. She is also the proud possessor of two new knees, which will enable her to resume her career as a filmmaker.
Francisco Burgoa Library
Santo Domingo Convent
Oaxaca, Oaxaca, México