

# Today & Yesterday

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Newsletter of the Department of History

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## An American in Turkey

By Alan Lessoff

*Editor's note: Professor Alan Lessoff has been living in Ankara, Turkey, with his family, wife Mineke Reinders and daughter Audrey, on a Fulbright Fellowship. He is teaching U.S. history and urban studies at Bilkent University and took the time to share his observations about his temporary home.*

Scholars of urbanization resist the adjective "sprawling" because it carries the connotation of random development, when diffuse modern cities such as Houston or Los Angeles turn out upon inspection to follow a comprehensible pattern. But it is hard to resist "sprawling" when describing Ankara, which has grown from a few tens of thousands to over four million people in the 80 years since it became Turkey's capital. Office complexes, apartment buildings, townhouses, shopping centers, and gas stations are flung seemingly willy-nilly through the hills, which are as arid as New Mexico, to the south of the city, where we are living. New developments bulldoze over the villages that once marked the countryside, leaving a few decrepit ruins caked in mud. Skyscrapers shoot up in odd places, defying the standard argument that gradations in land costs determine building heights more or less predictably.

Given my scholarly interest in Washington, D.C., and in the phenomenon of capital cities, living amidst this urban development has been fascinating, to say the least. Republican nationalist plans in the 1920s and 1930s for a majestic

Ankara have been overwhelmed by growth far beyond expectations. Large segments of Ankara's and Turkey's population have as yet little reason to treat the capital with patriotic awe. Local officials, including Melih Gökçek, the popular, long-time mayor (who on first impression recalls gruff, growth-oriented American figures such as Richard J. Daley), have understandably emphasized housing, transportation, and jobs over history and majesty. Numerous Ottoman-era buildings in the old city are visibly crumbling, while the distinctive wooden Ottoman country houses give way to nondescript apartment buildings. Observers described Civil War-era Washington as a few white marble buildings spread across a run-down, muddy town. Ankara passed that stage decades ago, but symbolic, formal buildings such as the Anitkabir, Atatürk's enormous mausoleum, still seem too big and grand for the city.

Bilkent University, where I am teaching this semester, is a self-conscious manifestation of the Turkish republican ambition of breaking with the past by embracing the West. A large portion of the faculty has been recruited from Western Europe and the United States, classes are in English, and the degree programs balance culture, language, and history with administrative, business, and engineering subjects. The students I have encountered come mostly from cities in the western half of the country: Antalya, Izmir, and Istanbul, as well as Ankara. In style and mannerism, little distinguishes them from students

in Germany or Italy. One impression that immediately struck me, however, is how varied in physical appearance the students and indeed the people of the city are. This is an obvious legacy of the ethnicities that once comprised the Ottoman Empire. As the empire crumbled, millions of displaced people—mainly Muslim populations in majority Christian lands—fled or

were driven towards Anatolia, while Greeks, Armenians, and others fled or were driven from Anatolia. The republicans sought to build a modern nation-state on the idea of a shared Turkish nationality, the questioning of which still makes authorities anxious, especially in the context of the Kurdish movement. Recently, two social scientists went on trial for "inciting hatred and enmity" by questioning the usefulness of Turkish as an ethnic label in a report on minority rights.

Bilkent is one of three universities occupying huge campuses in the southwestern suburbs and one of a half-dozen universities in Ankara, all of them post-1923 foundations. Established in 1986, Bilkent is a private university with a monumental campus and a fine library. Its founder,



Alan Lessoff in Ankara

*Continued on page 6*



# Letter from the chair

Having assumed the chairmanship of the History Department in July, I can offer some reflections at the conclusion of my first academic year at Illinois State. Thanks primarily to my predecessor, John Freed, and a hard-working and able office staff, the transition for me has been remarkably smooth. I have been delighted to find a faculty composed of bright, dedicated professionals who excel as teachers and scholars. The History Department, I have discovered, is highly respected on campus as a strong unit with a long tradition of excellence at the institution. It is also a very young department in a period of transition. Its numbers reduced in recent years by retirements, resignations, and budget cuts, the faculty has had to work overtime to meet all of its teaching and service obligations. The retirements last year of John Freed, David MacDonald, and Susan Westbury, along with the resignation of Subho Basu, left seven vacancies in the regular faculty. Long-time instructor Sharon MacDonald also retired. Fortunately, an improving university budget situation allowed the department to fill three of those vacant slots this year with promising assistant professors (see "Comings and goings" on page 7).

University historians achieved distinction during the 2005–2006 academic year through their scholarship and teaching. Three faculty members won teaching awards. Alan Lessoff continued to edit the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, an important national journal for U.S. historians, and received a Fulbright Award for the spring 2006 semester. Alan and I published books, while several other faculty members worked to complete manuscripts under contract to university presses and published articles in

top-flight journals (see "Faculty updates" on page 5).

The history education program also continued to excel in the training of secondary history and social studies teachers. With more than 500 history education majors, Illinois State's program remains the largest in the state and one of the largest in the nation. Supervising student teachers in metropolitan Chicago as well as in Central Illinois while maintaining an innovative relationship with 10 partnership schools throughout the state, the program is recognized as one of the pacesetters in secondary history teacher education.

These successes for the History Department at a time of transition bode well for the future. This is a time of great change for university history departments generally, and the situation at Illinois State conforms to this general pattern. A spate of retirements at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, caused primarily by the exit of a huge cohort of professors who joined the academy during the great expansion of higher education in the 1960s, has resulted in a considerable turnover of faculty. The completion of this process has been slowed at Illinois State by the necessary belt-tightening occasioned by the state's financial woes. As our remaining tenure lines are filled, however, a sense of stability will return to the faculty. Building upon the solid foundation that already exists in Schroeder Hall, solid efforts at recruitment and retention in the next few years will enable us to remain a first-rate department.

—Roger Biles



Roger Biles

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## Our new home

For those who haven't visited Schroeder Hall in a while, the department will look unrecognizable. This picture shows our new front office, which houses staffers Faith Ten Haken, Sharon Foiles, and Julie Ruby, as well as the chair's office, a workroom, and conference room. In January, the non-tenure-track faculty moved from their offices in the library to join the tenure-line faculty in the new offices in Schroeder. For the first time, the entire department is on the same floor in the same building, bringing about a new sense of cohesiveness. Most of us don't have to walk across the campus in the cold to teach, either, as Schroeder's state-of-the-art classrooms are fully





# Alumni spotlight: Mary Sigler

We normally hope that alumni have not landed behind prison walls, but in the case of Mary Sigler '93, we are quite pleased. Sigler is the warden at Dwight Correctional Center, a maximum-security prison for women with 1,100 inmates and the first stop for any female who commits a felony in the state of Illinois. Being a prison warden might seem like a harrowing profession, but Sigler calmly likens her position to the "mayor of a town," running a "self-sufficient community" of over 100 acres.

Sigler did not intend such a daunting career. Although she began working for the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC) in 1983 as an entry-level computer operator, she returned to school, first at Joliet Junior College before transferring to Illinois State, with the aim of becoming a high school teacher. Like many of our majors, Sigler did not like history in high school because it seemed like a

litany of facts and memorization. She became interested in history only after taking college-level classes that taught interpretation and analysis of the past. A non-traditional student, Sigler maintained various positions at the DOC throughout her schooling, all while being part of the Honors Program. But when it came time to do her student teaching, she could not get leave from her job. Once she completed her degree, she put teaching on hold and remained at the DOC.

In 1992, Sigler became a correctional counselor, developing a drug education program for the male inmates at the maximum-security prison in Joliet. After becoming a certified drug and alcohol counselor through the state certification program, she went on to earn her master's in continuing education and training management in 1999 and an M.B.A. in 2001, both from the University of St. Francis at Joliet.

She became warden in 2004. In addition to managing Dwight, she also oversees a women's minimum-security prison with 150 inmates at Kankakee. Together, she manages over 400 employees and a multimillion-dollar budget.

Despite having not become a teacher, an ambition she still hopes to fulfill someday, Sigler feels that she uses the skills and knowledge from her history major every day. Policy decisions, for instance, have to take into account history—the histories of individuals, institutions, and society. "Decisions can't be made without history," said Sigler.

Just as important, Sigler remarked that as a warden, "I feel like every day I teach. I teach life lessons." For this reason, she said her interactions with offenders are the most fulfilling part of her job. She believes firmly in the idea that prisons offer rehabilitation, that with education and a sense that "they're worth something," offenders can become "productive members of society."

Her work at Dwight received national attention last May when the *Oprah Winfrey Show* sent three ordinary women into the prison to experience life behind its walls. The women assumed the identities of three actual inmates, were taken through the intake process, and lived a full day as inmates. The show documented their experiences and invited the women onto the show to talk about the process.

Sigler herself was interviewed by Oprah on *Oprah After the Show*, broadcast on the Oxygen network. Sigler welcomes these kinds of media events because it's important to her that people see how prisons actually operate to break through the brutal stereotypes most often seen in the popular media. Indeed, the ideal of rehabilitation depends on a notion of prisons as highly functional and beneficial institutions, like small towns, that re-create citizens.

Though she does love her work, Sigler also loves to get beyond the prison walls and travel. She has been to Italy, Hawaii, Alaska, and is planning a trip to France this summer. She also is a big football fan, so it was only fitting that the History Department asked her to be our guest at the 2005 Homecoming



Mary Sigler

## Faculty teaching recognized

The History Department continued its strong tradition of earning university and college teaching accolades with three honorees this year. Assistant Professor Touré Reed won a University Teaching Initiative Award, which recognizes junior faculty for their considerable promise in teaching. Reed, who has been at Illinois State since 2001, teaches courses in U.S. history and African-American history and is the faculty mentor to the Black Student Association. He is also the minority outreach coordinator for UMOJA Student Development Corporation, working with programs that take minority students from Chicago on pre-college trips. In both his teaching and his mentorship, Reed goes out of his way to encourage his students to develop what he calls "an empathetic imagination" about race and class in America.

Associate Professor Ray Clemens won the Outstanding University Teacher Award, which honors exceptional teaching across the University. Clemens teaches courses in Reformation and Renaissance history and medieval history, focusing on topics such as "Witchcraft and Magic" and "Gender and Sexuality." He also runs the departmental Honors Program and is the editor of the student historical journal, *Recounting the Past*. Clemens won a University Teaching Initiative Award in 2002 and a College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award in 2004.

Reed and Clemens were honored along with other faculty at the College of Arts and Sciences Award Ceremony held on March 1.

Finally, for the second year in a row, the Student Education Association (SEA) named Bill Philpott one of 20 distinguished professors at Illinois State. SEA is a student organization of aspiring teachers who choose their honorees as part of their annual Professor Appreciation Week. Philpott came to the University in 2002 and teaches "U.S. History Since 1877" as well as courses in U.S. environmental history. His award was presented to him in his classroom as well as at the SEA's annual ceremony held on March 3.

# News from alumni

According to a recent feature story in the *Pantagraph*, **V.L. "Budd" Fairfield '50, M.A. '52**, was awarded a Community Service Award by the McLean County Bar Association for his 19 years of service as a court bailiff. He began working for the court after retiring from a career in teaching. He taught high school history, government, and economics at Bloomington High School for many years. Fairfield lives in rural Bloomington with his wife Helen, a retired school administrator.

**R. David Edmunds, M.A. '66**, a specialist in Native American history, was selected as the president-elect for the Western Historical Association in 2005. Edmunds, who went on to earn a Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma after completing his master's at Illinois State, is Watson Professor of American History at the University of Texas at Dallas.

**Ron Bluemer '67, M.S. '72**, self-published two books in 2005: *Home Front: World War II in the Illinois Valley* and *Here Comes the Boat: A Pictorial History of Canal Boats and Steamboats in the Illinois Valley*. Bluemer, who is retired from teaching social science and science at Putnam County High School in Granville, Illinois, has been teaching history for the past six years at Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby. He also serves as a freelance reporter for the *LaSalle News Tribune*.

**Dan Monroe, M.S. '89**, is teaching American history at Bradley University in Peoria this academic year. After completing his degree at Illinois State, he earned his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

This past fall, **Michael Biela '91** was named academy superintendent, or principal, of Hyman G. Rickover Naval Academy, one of Chicago's newest public schools.

**Wendy Blanton-Kuhl '97** writes from St. Louis that she received the Missouri American History Teacher of the Year award, sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, for the 2005-2006 school year. She represented the state of Missouri in the national competition held in October 2005.

**John Poling, M.A. '02**, published an article, "Standing Up for Gay Rights," on the history of gay-rights activism in Chicago in the spring 2005 issue of *Chicago History* (Vol. 53, No. 3). The article was based on his master's thesis, "Mattachine Midwest: The History of a Chicago Gay Rights Organization," which won the Cavanagh Award for Best Master's Thesis. Poling is a history instructor at Parkland College in Champaign.

**James Amemasur, M.A. '04**, is a doctoral student in global

## Graduate student wins Waddell Fellows Award

Reporting by Mark Wyman

Lauren Johnson, a student in our master's degree program, has been awarded the Oscar Waddell Fellows Award, given by the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project to honor work that pertains to the experience of African Americans in Central Illinois. She received the award in recognition for her work as a student intern at the McLean County Historical Society organizing the society's extensive collection of papers relating to the history of African Americans in McLean County.

Lauren, who received her B.A. from the University of Minnesota in 2005, began the master's program last fall. She has continued her work at the historical society as a volunteer.

The Bloomington-Normal Black History Project, established in the early 1980s, has developed with the historical society an exhibit on the history of African Americans in McLean County, "Presence, Pride, & Passion," ongoing until the end of May at the McLean County Museum of History in downtown Bloomington.

## Students honored at fall awards ceremony

Our fall awards ceremony was held on November 29. Four outstanding students were honored for their academic excellence. Stirling Crow received the Gleynafa A. Ray Award for exceptional history education majors who intend to become history teachers, and Alex John Boynton received the Lucy Lucile Tasher Senior Scholarship, which recognizes our best history majors. The Mark Wyman Scholarship endowed in honor of Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History Mark Wyman to support nontraditional students in the history major, was given to Nathaniel McCoy. Jeanne Schultz Angel won the Helen M. Cavanagh Award for Best Master's Thesis for "Friends of the Oppressed"—Examining the Motivations and Devices of the Kane County Anti-Slavery Society." Her advisor for the project was Mark Wyman. Also at the ceremony, Lou Perez inducted the newest members of Phi Alpha Theta.

In December, Terri Clemens was honored at the University Fisher The-

sis Award Ceremony, which recognizes the best master's theses written at Illinois State. Her thesis, entitled "Kluxing in Korn Country: The 1920s Ku Klux Klan in Central Illinois," was chosen as the entrant for the social sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences and was runner-up in the



Seated, Jeanne Schultz Angel, left, and Alex Boynton. Standing, Stirling Crow, left, and Nathaniel McCoy.

university competition. Her advisor was also Mark Wyman.

# Faculty updates

Our chair, **Roger Biles**, published his seventh book, *Illinois: A History of the Land and Its People* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2005), a one-volume history of Illinois that is designed as a textbook for college and high school classrooms.

**Alan Lessoff**, who has been on leave this year (see cover story), has kept busy. In 2005, his book, co-edited with Christof Mauch, *Adolf Cluss, Architect: From Germany to America* (Berghahn Books & Historical Society of Washington, D.C.), appeared in both English and German versions, and he also published an essay, "Washington, D.C., under Federal Rule, 1871-1945" in a volume, *Berlin-Washington, 1800-2000: Capital Cities, Cultural Representation, and National Identities*, edited by Andreas Daum and Christof Mauch (Cambridge University Press). Also this past October, Lessoff gave a public lecture on "Van Wyck Brooks, Lewis Mumford, and the Creation of the American Nineteenth Century" at the David Bruce Centre Seminar at the University of Keele, England, and several lectures on "Adolf Cluss and American Urban Planning" in Stuttgart and Heilbronn, Germany.

This past fall, **Lucinda Beier** published her article, "In Living Memory: Using the Elizabeth Roberts Oral History Archive," in *CeNtre WoRdS* (New Series No. 4), and in November presented a paper entitled "Hygiene, Respectability, and Housing in Three 20th-Century Working-Class Lancashire Communities" for a panel she organized for the Social Science History Association annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. Beier is enjoying the second year of her grant from the National Library of Medicine Health Sciences to support her project, "Working-Class English Health Culture 1880-1970."

**Kyle Ciani's** latest article, "Revelations of a Reformer: Helen D. Marston Beardsley and Progressive Social Activism," appeared in the *Journal of San Diego History* (Vol. 50, No. 3-4). In March, she was invited to speak at Michigan State University as part of their "Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives" series. Her talk was entitled "Women's Work in a Trans-border Community: Negotiating Cultural Divides in Progressive-Era San Diego."

**Anthony Crubaugh**, who has been enjoying his sabbatical this spring, published an article, "The 'bon sens villageois': Images of the Peasantry in French Revolutionary Newspapers, 1789-91," in the *Proceedings of the Western Society for*

*French History* (Vol. 30).

**Fred Drake's** article, written with his daughter, Sarah Drake Brown, entitled, "History in Education for Citizenship in a Democracy," appeared in the latest issue of *The International Journal of Social Education* (Vol. 2, No. 2). In November 2005, Drake served as the history education learning specialist, presenting on "Doing the Teaching of History" for a conference, "America's Great Contradiction: Freedom and Slavery," in Philadelphia, sponsored by the History Channel, the National Council for History Education, the School District of Philadelphia, and the National Constitution Center.

In the fall of 2005, **Amy Wood** published an article, "Lynching Photography and the Visual Reproduction of White Supremacy" in a special issue of *American Nineteenth Century History* called "Lynching Reconsidered: New Perspectives in the Study of Mob Violence" (Vol. 6, No. 3). She also received

a post-doctoral research fellowship from the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the 2006-2007 academic year. She will use the year to finish her book on lynching and spectacle in America for the University of North Carolina Press.

**Katherine McCarthy** wrote an entry on Bosnia-Herzegovina for a three-volume encyclopedia, *Eastern Europe: An Introduction to the People, Lands, and Culture*, edited by Richard Frucht (ABC Clío, 2005).

**Katrin Paehler** was accepted into the International Scholarly Workshop on Intelligence and the Holocaust at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum this summer.

**Lou Perez** received a travel grant from the Northeast Asia Conference of the Association for Asian Studies to support his travels to Japan. He was also re-elected as chair of the Midwest Japan Seminar and served as an external reviewer for the history department at Loyola Chicago and for the Japan Education Travel annual student grant program.

Four colleagues received unrestricted university research grants this year. **Lucinda Beier** and **Lou Perez** received Summer Faculty Fellowships, and Perez was also awarded a Faculty Research Grant. **Katrin Paehler** and **Richard Hughes** received Pre-Tenure Faculty Initiative Grants.



## An American in Turkey, from page 1

Ihsan Dogramaci, an acclaimed pediatrician and public health researcher, came, as I understand it, from one of the entrepreneurial families connected to the new regime who took the initiative early in the republican period for building the businesses and institutions of the new Turkey. Dogramaci embodied his ambition for a vigorous, cosmopolitan institution in the new university's name. Bilkent is an acronym for *bilim kenti*, or "city of science and knowledge."

My classes include seminars on the U.S. Gilded Age and Progressive Era and comparative urban history. My ambition to come here, in fact, was sparked by an article by a former Bilkent instructor who noted that modern Turkish history has much in common with United States history

after the Civil War: a disruptive, often messy drive for development, raucous and periodically corrupt and violent politics, a tenuous national identity, and a dream of culture and respectability. One can overdo such comparisons, but students thoroughly understand the appeal of the cowboy/frontier myth to Americans, in part because of the depth of the nomad/warrior theme in Turkish history.

Working in the region that first produced cities challenges me to make my urban history teaching truly international. European and American theorists of urbanization have tended to envision the modern city as developing out of the medieval European town, whose social and political structure has no exact equivalent in this part of the world. Also, unlike in

Western Europe, large cities in Turkey have existed continuously since ancient times. Students in my seminar have thus had occasion in every class to express a healthy skepticism over whether the Western-derived models and analyses I turn to are viable and relevant.

We are used to thinking of teaching abroad as challenging our ways of seeing and teaching our home country. Turkey's struggles, however, reinforce the importance of some themes around which I have long built my U.S. history courses. These include the exhilarating but disruptive nature of urbanization and modernization and the difficulties faced by a representative democracy which is fragmented by region, class, and ethnicity and whose national identity is unclear.

## Freed Scholarship celebrated in inaugural ceremony

On February 21, the John and Susan Freed Scholarship was awarded for the first time in a ceremony at the Bone Student Center. Our former chair and colleague, John Freed, who



Left to right, Susan Freed, Joseph Lorenzini, John Freed, and President Al Bowman at the Freed Scholarship ceremony

retired last year after 36 years at Illinois State, endowed the scholarship with his wife Susan to honor undergraduate students with certified disabilities who have overcome great obstacles to achieve scholastic excellence.

The inaugural scholarship was awarded to college junior Joseph Lorenzini from Antioch, Illinois.

Lorenzini, an English major, was honored for his outstanding academic work despite his struggle with Crohn's disease, a disability he now says he lives without on a daily basis.

At the ceremony, University President Al Bowman honored John Freed as well, noting that as "an exceptional academic leader," it is fitting that Freed "established an endowment that will assist an exceptional student at Illinois State." Donations to the John and Susan Freed Scholarship can be made to the Illinois State University Foundation.

## Illinois State hosts Medieval History Conference

The Midwest Medieval History Conference held its 44th annual meeting on campus last October 14 and 15. History Department faculty John Freed (emeritus) and Ray Clemens were in charge of local arrangements for the meeting, which brought nearly 50 medieval scholars to campus. The keynote speaker, introduced by Ray Clemens, was Anders Winroth, professor of history at Yale University and a recently named MacArthur Foundation Fellow, who spoke on marriage and canon law.

## Foiles honored at Founders Day

Sharon Foiles, graduate secretary, was selected to ring the Old Main Bell at the 2006 Founders Day celebration held on February 16. The ringing of the bell, a symbol of Illinois State's daily life, is a university tradition, and bell ringers are nominated and selected based on their service to the university community. Foiles has been part of the History Department since 1987 and, with her good spirits and steadfast work, helps keep our graduate program running smoothly. She has also served on the Civil Service Council and the Executive Board of Local 3234.

## Mark your calendars!

Renowned historian and author David McCullough will be the featured speaker at the 2007 Sesquicentennial Founders Day celebration in February 2007. McCullough is the author of seven books and holds two Pulitzer Prizes and two National Book Awards. The Illinois State Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on the Illinois State University campus in conjunction with the ceremony.

## Comings and goings

As our new chair noted in his letter (on page 2), we have undergone quite a few changes around here. Of course, we couldn't be more delighted with the arrival of Roger Biles as our new chair. Biles came to us from East Carolina University, where he had been a professor and departmental chair since 1994. Biles specializes in urban and 20th century American history, particularly the history of Illinois. He is the author of seven books, including his latest, *Illinois: A History of the Land and Its People* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2005), as well as numerous articles and edited volumes. A native of Illinois, Biles arrived back in his home state last summer with his wife, Mary Claire, a physical therapist at the Carle Clinic. They have three college-aged children, Brian, Jeanne, and Grant.

Biles had a busy first year as we held three searches to fill vacant tenure-track lines. We are happy to announce that we will have three new colleagues next year. Issam Nas-

sar, who received his D.A. from our department in 1997, will be our new specialist in Middle Eastern history. He is currently an assistant professor at Bradley University and is working on a book manuscript entitled *Imagining Jerusalem: A Study in Religious and Colonial Imagination*. Stewart Winger joins us from Lawrence Technological University in Michigan as our new Civil War-era historian. Winger, who received his Ph.D. in the history of culture from the University of Chicago in 1998, is the author of an award-winning book, *Lincoln, Religion, and Romantic Cultural Politics* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2002), and is working on a project on Lincoln's legal papers. Finally, Andrew Hartman is our new history education specialist. He is finishing his dissertation on education and the Cold War at George Washington University.

The history education program has seen other changes as well. Molly Munsen-Dryer, formerly the supervisor for student teachers in the history

education program, is now the associate director for the Teacher Education Center, part of the Clinical Experiences Department of the College of Education. In her stead, Monica Noraian returned to us from the College of Education to serve as the supervisor for student teachers and as an advisor to history majors. Monica had taught the history teaching methodology course, as well as classes in American and German history, from 1999 to 2004.

Next year, as we welcome our new hires, several colleagues will be on leave. Lou Perez will be on sabbatical in the fall of 2006, while Ray Clemens and Patrice Olsen will take their sabbaticals in spring 2007. Your devoted newsletter editor, Amy Wood, will sadly be on leave for the academic year while she enjoys a post-doctoral fellowship at the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel-Hill.

## History education news

### Liberalism focus of annual conference

The Institute on History and Social Sciences 22nd Annual Conference took place on March 20 with a timely and relevant theme. Entitled "Rise and Fall of American Liberalism in the Post War World," the conference featured our new chair, Roger Biles, speaking on former Democratic U.S. senator from Illinois, Paul Douglas, and also included sessions dealing with liberalism in national and international contexts. The conference drew over 100 participants, including current students, alumni, and teachers from around the state.

Other speakers included History Department faculty. Lou Perez spoke on the U.S. reconstruction of Japan after World War II, while Kyle Ciani, Patrice Olsen, and Tony Adedze led a panel discussion, along with Anne Wortham from the Sociology Department, on various configurations of American liberalism in the U.S. and abroad. Richard

Hughes and teacher Steve Eich, from Glenbrook South High School, spoke on ways to use music in the classroom to teach this historical period.

The conference was sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta and the Department of History. Barnes & Noble Bookstore provided a display table with signed copies of Roger Biles' new book, *Illinois: A History of the Land and Its People* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2005). Fred Drake organized the conference with the help of Hughes and graduate assistant and Phi Alpha Theta member Candace Summers.



Valerie Neal '05 and Julie Hagler '96, M.A. '02, at the history education conference

# Let us know your history!

**Send your news to the newsletter.**

Name (maiden if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation year(s) and degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

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