



Today & Yesterday

Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 34 Summer 2010

History students speak of their experiences at war

Illinois State University was recently named one of the top 15 percent "Military Friendly Schools" by *G.I. Jobs Magazine* for the academic and financial support it gives to student veterans. It is not surprising then that many past and present history majors are veterans, a good number of whom have served in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past 10 years. Here we feature the stories of four such students and alumni, who each sat down with us to discuss their experiences as soldiers and as student veterans:

Brock McIntosh '12 served in Afghanistan as a military policeman for 10 months before attending Illinois State. His unit was responsible for guarding the military base and for helping to rebuild local schools that had been bombed by the Taliban. He also went on patrols looking for insurgents. His experiences overseas made him a bit cynical about the U.S. venture in Afghanistan. "I felt like the aid we were giving Afghanistan was not sufficient," he says. "We tried to help build local schools, but the Taliban would come along and blow them up if they had been built by Americans." He also became frustrated that so little of the aid that was sent to Afghanistan actually went to help the Afghan people, particularly since so much of the military's work was subcontracted to private industries in the U.S. Since returning from war, McIntosh now

feels that the U.S. needs to change its strategy and withdraw from Afghanistan, perhaps leaving only a few Special Forces behind and a strong civilian presence and NGOs to help with institutional and economic development. "I don't think there's a military solution to Afghanistan's problems," he says.

Studying history at Illinois State, McIntosh says, has influenced his view of the war considerably. For instance, he offers that learning about the ideological clashes that drove the Civil War reminded him of Afghan situation. In



Brock McIntosh in Afghanistan.

that country, "there are two cultures that are strongly divided along cultural lines," he notes. Like many, he also sees the parallels between the war in Afghanistan and the Vietnam War. "We can't just continue to fight until we just exhaust ourselves," he says,

pointing out that Taliban leaders study Ho Chi Minh's strategies.

But military history is not his primary academic interest. He is most interested in the study of inequality and different struggles for equality over time. He thinks that Western countries, while not perfect, offer much more equality than other countries do, and that is becoming more apparent with globalization.

His experiences as a soldier also changed his perspective on life more broadly, leading him to appreciate experience and existence. "I tend to say yes to a lot of things," he says. He has less patience for his friends who complain about little things. "It frustrates me because they are so trivial compared to what Afghan citizens are facing."

Tim Lorenzini '10 would probably agree. Lorenzini, who joined the Marine Corps directly out of high school and did two seven-month tours in Iraq, says that serving in the military taught him responsibility at a young age and gave him friendships that he wouldn't otherwise have. "It also made me a morning person," he jokes.

Lorenzini, who plans to graduate from the history education program this December, enlisted, he says, because, "I just wanted to participate in my generation's war," but often found himself bored and frustrated by the daily grind of military life,

Letter from the chair

Last fall Ken Burns' PBS series, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," featured the renowned environmental historian and Illinois State alumnus Al Runte, M.A. '71. A congratulatory message to Runte prompted a long response that ended: "You have a great department—and a terrific school. It is a pleasure to say that and give full credit to my wonderful beginnings under your guidance and care." Then in February while receiving an honorary degree during Founders Day, Thomas Lamont '69, assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Army, recalled how his life was transformed by a history of Western civilization class with Helen Cavanagh. These brief stories simultaneously provoke pride in and respect for the outstanding accomplishments of former students and faculty, remind us of the tradition of high standards we are obligated to uphold, and spur musings about who among our current crop of students will go on to distinguished careers.

Three recent events—our annual awards ceremony at which we distributed \$25,000 in scholarships thanks to the generosity of our benefactors, the ceremony honoring graduates of our history/social science education sequence, and the College of Arts and Sciences commencement—remind us that there will be no shortage of names associated with such musings. Our undergraduate and graduate programs include more than 600 students whose talents as historians and future educators are mani-

festly on display and validate claims about the History Department's strong commitment not only to excellent teaching but also to the training of excellent teachers.

Although teaching remains our central mission and the principle source of our identity, current and emeritus history faculty and alumni continue to publish research at a rapid clip. These publications contribute to the department's growing reputation for quality scholarship, as evidenced by such honors as Touré Reed's receipt of a prestigious Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress, Alan Lessoff's invitation to serve as visiting professor at Bielefeld University in Germany, and the designation of Amy Wood's book as a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. Altogether, in 2009 tenure track faculty published seven books and 10 articles or book chapters while delivering 14 conference papers at venues throughout the world.

The combination of high-quality students, active scholarship, and a university-wide reputation for outstanding instruction gives me confidence that, despite the current economic crisis, the department's future is indeed very bright. I thank alumni and friends for their support, which has been instrumental in the department's success.

Anthony Crubaugh

Comings and goings



Anthony Crubaugh

We are very pleased that **Anthony Crubaugh** will be serving at least a five-year term as our departmental chair. Crubaugh, a specialist in Early Modern Europe and France, joined the department in 2000. For the past year, Crubaugh has served as the interim chair; after a rigorous, nationwide search, Crubaugh was selected for the chair position. He earned his Ph.D. from Columbia Uni-

versity and taught at Connecticut College before coming to Illinois State. He is the author of *Balancing the Scales of Justice: Local Courts and Rural Society in Southwest France, 1750-1800* (Penn State University Press, 2001) and the book review editor of *H-France*. At Illinois State, he has distinguished himself by winning university research and teaching awards and by building a reputation for fair and prudent leadership. Of his new position, Crubaugh says that he will "regret having less time to devote to teaching," but that he is "excited to serve as chair of a depart-

ment with a tremendously dedicated staff, amazing teachers, and talented researchers, especially as a generational shift allows us to chart new directions in the future."

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Editor: Amy Wood
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Alumni spotlight: Michael Matejka

Michael Matejka '74 has spent his adult life trying to improve labor conditions and wages for working Americans. As the legislative affairs director for the Great Plains Laborers District Council, he works to guarantee working people a better quality of life. His position entails political and government outreach, as well as educational work, and he also negotiates relationships with developers and employers to find work for laborers. If that didn't keep him busy enough, he is affiliated with a number of labor and community organizations, including Illinois Coalition for Community Services and the Illinois Labor History Society, and he sits on the boards of numerous organizations, such as the United Way of McLean County and the McLean County Historical Society. He served on the Bloomington City Council for 18 years and is a member of Laborers Local 362, in Bloomington. In addition, he has written two books and numerous articles, and has taught courses in labor studies at the University of Illinois.

With that impressive résumé, it is no surprise that Matejka has led an eventful life. After graduating from Illinois State University, he traveled to Asia for six months, where he witnessed firsthand the impact of the global economy on rural villages and urban slums. He then worked in New York for Agricultural Missions, an ecumenical organization that helps rural people around the globe address issues of poverty and injustice. His work there brought him to places like Southeast Asia, Brazil, and West Africa. The stress of city life eventually led him to settle back in Bloomington, where he has focused on local issues surrounding labor and economic justice. In 2000, he completed a master's degree from the Labor Center at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst through a distance learning program.

Matejka's interest in labor relations began in childhood, as he witnessed his father's experiences as a city transit worker in St. Louis and a member of the transit union. "I had a sense of how important the union was in terms of his life and conditions," Matejka says. "Every month he got a new union button and he gave me his old one." He says his working class identification was bred in him early.

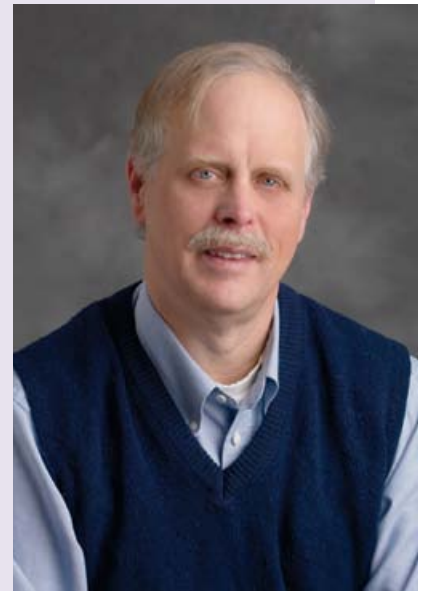
But his time as a history major at Illinois State also influenced him greatly. Here he worked with Mark Wyman, who introduced him to labor history, and was a teaching assistant for George Cunningham, who taught African-American history. The study of history, he says, led him "to want to dig and analyze a situation and understand the

dynamics that enter into something," a skill he deems "very important." He transferred to Illinois State University after attending two smaller universities and was taken with the diversity and new opportunities at Illinois State. In particular, he became involved with the Catholic Newman Center, which provided him with a caring community and exposed him to new ideas. He also began his tenure as a labor activist on the University campus, organizing boycotts and marches in support of Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers Union. His work for the Union, he says, "re-emerged me into that world of trying to improve things for people."

History remains an important component of his work as a labor leader. As vice president of the Illinois History Labor Society, he gives many public talks about the history of workers and labor unions. He has also curated three exhibits and written extensively on various topics related to labor history, including the 2002 book, *The Fiery Struggle: Illinois Fire Fighters Build a Union, 1901-1985*. He especially enjoys being able to do history that is accessible to everyone and to talk to people about their own experiences.

Of all these things, however, Matejka says that his most rewarding accomplishment has been being a parent. Matejka has been married for 27 years to Kari Sandhaas, and they have a daughter, Loretta Santejka. "This may sound silly," he says, "but when you take on the responsibility of bringing another life into the world, that is not a small project." That project has been even more challenging for his family because his daughter struggles with autism. Despite the challenges she has faced, in 2008, she graduated from Illinois State, where she took three years of Japanese.

Most of all, Matejka believes that anything one can do to make the world a better place is going to have an impact. The work he and others like him do are, he says, like "ripples in the pond; something positive leads to many positive effects."



Alumni updates

Edward Finch, D.A. '99 has published his book, *Beneath the Waves: The Life and Navy of Captain Edward L. Beach* (United States Naval Institute, 2010), a biography of one of the U.S. Navy's most well-known and decorated submarine officers, as well as a prolific writer of 10 books. Finch is an independent scholar and the director of the Stephenson County History Museum in Freeport, where he taught high school for 30 years.

David Harbin, M.S. '02, led a teacher workshop on "Technology in the History Classroom" at the 11th Conference on Illinois History in Springfield last fall. The October 1-2 event was sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. Harbin teaches at John Wood Community College in Quincy.

Andrew Koke, M.A. '03, is a doctoral student at Indiana University, writing his dissertation on ministers and religious discipline in the 18th century Atlantic World. For the past three years, he has worked for the *American Historical Review* as an editorial assistant. He has been involved with the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and participated in the Teaching and Learning in History Conference at Oxford University. In addition, he has won several presentation grants and a teaching award from Indiana University's History Department.

Over the past year, **Mike Bromley '06** and **Lauren Johnson, M.A. '06**, have been traveling through Central and East Asia and blogging about their travels. They will soon be taking part in the Mongol Rally, which will take them from London to Mongolia to raise money for charities in Mongolia. You can visit them at abandonthecube.com.

Shaun Conway '08 teaches social studies at Lake Park High School in Roselle. He teaches classes in World History and in Global Cultures. These classes are only recently part of the curriculum, so he has been able to participate in their construction. He has also proposed a Public Service Practicum that will be implemented next year. The course will provide students the opportunity to engage in experiential learning in public services and internships, and then spend time inside the classroom examining the

issues, such as poverty or war, related to these projects. "The sky is the limit," writes Conway, "and the best part is that it is student led." In addition, he is pursuing a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University.

Pamela Marshall '08 is beginning her second year of teaching at Eisenhower High School in Decatur. She teaches classes in World Geography, World History, U.S. History, and Sociology.

Lauren Seghi '08 is in her second year as a sixth grade special education aide at Highcrest Middle School in Wilmette. In 2009, she published the article "Differing Voices: Stories of the Holocaust from Various Perspectives" for *The Councilor*, the journal for the Illinois Council for the Social Studies. Last spring, she published a book review of E.D. Hirsch Jr.'s *The Making of Americans* for the same journal.

Jeffery Fox '09 and **Jamie Grasser '08, M.A. '10**, became engaged to be married. They met in John Freed's course, History of the Middle Ages, in 2006. Grasser was a corecipient of the Helen M. Cavanagh Award for Best Master's Degree Student last spring.

Tom Ponce '09 is teaching in Gallup, New Mexico, as part of the Teach For America program. He teaches eighth grade English classes near the Navajo Nation and other Indian Reservations. The experience, he says, has "been pretty interesting" as he has participated in a community tribal dance, has helped to clean up highways in and near the Navajo Nation, and helped the Nation prepare for the Intertribal Indian Ceremonial. He plans to be in Gallup for at least another year as part of his commitment to the Teach For America program.

Chris Helms, M.A. '09, is working as the archives and new technology manager at the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago, the Midwest's leading Greek culture museum. He coordinates membership and donations to the museum and manages the archives there. He writes that "it's an exciting time at the museum as we are in the process of building a new multimillion dollar building and moving to the new space."

Please send us your news! Clip the form on the back cover and send it in, or visit www.History.ilstu.edu/alumni.

Alum Jacob Gourley wins a Golden Apple Award

Jacob Gourley '98 has won a prestigious Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. Gourley teaches Government and U.S. History at Thornton Fractional South High School in Calumet City. The Golden Apple Awards are given out each year to honor outstanding Chicago-area teachers. The Golden Apple Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality and innovation in classrooms across Illinois, first administered this award 25 years ago. This year, 10 high school teachers were chosen from a pool of 562 nominees through a rigorous selection process that included classroom observations and interviews with colleagues, supervisors, and students.

According to the Golden Apple press release, Gourley feels that it

is his responsibility as a teacher to impart a passion for learning to his students. He wants students to realize that history is a constant unfolding of events and something that they themselves are a part of. He hopes that the skills students learn in his classroom will serve them long after they have left school. He believes that he is arming his students with a sense of purpose and a sense of ownership over their own democracy.

As a recipient of the award, Gourley will receive a tuition-free, six-month sabbatical to study at Northwestern University and a monetary award. He will also become a Fellow of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, which will allow him ongoing professional development and the opportunity to engage in education reform and the mentoring of future



Jake Gourley on a trip to the Amazon in 2008

teachers. He will receive his award at a black-tie event on October 15, which will be broadcast on WTTW/Channel 11.

Two students receive Bone Scholarships

Two of our majors have been named Robert G. Bone Scholars, the highest honor that the University can award undergraduates. **David Cermak '10** received the scholarship for 2009–2010, while **Katie Wright '11** will be a Bone Scholar for 2010–2011. The scholarship, which is given to only a handful of students each year, honors exceptional students for their scholarly achievements and their engagement in the University community and beyond.

David Cermak is a double theatre and history major, disciplines that he says, “are much more similar than you would think.” He considers them to be “complementary” disciplines because “text analysis is at the core of both.” As a theatre major, Cermak focused on design and production, building the scenery for plays; as a history major, Cermak wrote his senior honors thesis on how Bloomington-Normal

responded to the secession crisis that led to the Civil War. In addition to his studies, he is very involved with theatre productions at Illinois State and volunteers at the Challenger Learning Center in Normal, which provides interactive educational experiences for children in order to inspire and increase their interest in science and technology. In the fall, he will begin graduate work in theatre at Purdue University in Indiana. Eventually, he would like to pursue a Ph.D. in history so he can teach history at the collegiate level.

Katie Wright is a student in our History-Social Sciences Education Program. Her interest in history came from her parents, both teachers, who took her and her sisters on family vacations to battlefields and museums. Traveling led to her interest in history, because, she says, she “liked learning

about different places and learning the story behind them.” She has been to 12 different countries, including Scotland, where she studied last summer as part of the Global Learning Studies program. In addition to being named a Bone Scholar, she is also a Presidential Scholar, the highest honor for incoming students, and is president of the Presidential Scholars' Club. As part of her service as a Presidential Scholar, she has volunteered at the McLean County Museum of History, working in their education department. She also has served as a peer minister and small group leader for Merge, the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry. Although she is training to be a secondary school history teacher, she eventually would like to be a public historian, so that, as she says, she can “educate people about history, but not necessarily in the classroom.”

Kaitlin Haas '09, age 22, passed away on June 18, 2009, peacefully at home with family by her side. Haas had been a history major at Illinois State before she began to struggle with a brain tumor, which forced her to withdraw from classes. As she was facing closure with her life, she expressed regret that she never had the opportunity to complete her degree. Her desire to graduate was met when a representative from the University registrar's office presented her with a diploma in University Studies in a small graduation ceremony in her home, attended by close friends and family. Haas, from New Lenox, attended high school at Lincoln Way Central High School, where she was on the swim team and the water polo team. She also played New Lenox Park District softball for 12 years and danced for nine years. Haas was preceded in death by her father James Haas and grandparents James and Lucille Haas. She is survived by her mother, Elizabeth "Bette" Haas (nee Pinczes), her sister, Jamie Haas, and her grandparents Julius and Mary Pinczes. Memorial donations can be made to the American Brain Tumor Association.

Verle. L. "Budd" Fairfield '50, M.S. '52, who obtained both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the department, died June 6, 2009. His 1952 master's thesis was titled, "Growth and Development of Burr Oaks, Illinois"; his advisor was Professor Lucy Lucille Tasher. A 1944 graduate of Sibley High School, he served in the U.S. Army in Europe in the last months of World War II, then returned and entered the University. In his high school social science teaching at Kewanee High School from 1950 to 1962 and his Bloomington High School teaching from 1962 to 1985, Fairfield became known for his zeal in presenting history. He was known as a teacher of "living history." Chosen in 1964 to develop the Advanced Placement History Program at BHS, he was active in History Department programs over the years. After retirement in 1985 Fairfield worked for 21 years as a courtroom bailiff for McLean County. He was a leader in the effort to have a statue of Abraham Lincoln placed in the Bloomington Law and Justice Building. He is survived by a daughter, son-in-law, and four grandchildren.

Alumnus endows new student scholarship

We are excited to announce the new Darrel Sutter Scholarship, which will support deserving social science education students who demonstrate academic achievement and financial need. It is given from the generosity of **Darrel Sutter '60**, who graduated from our department with a degree in social science education. He taught at Roanoke-Benson High School and then Lincoln College

until 2005. He wanted to give back to his profession and help students who need to work while attending school, believing that "there is no more worthy cause than the education of the youth of the country." Chair Anthony Crubaugh says the department is "thrilled" by Sutter's generous endowment "not only because it recognizes the significance of history/social sciences education to our program

but also because as the department's first need-based award it will help a deserving student deal with the serious financial pressures of attending college." He adds, "the scholarship speaks volumes about Sutter's lifelong commitment to the profession of teaching." **Emma Wilson '09** received the first award for fall 2009, and **Ryan Capriotti '10** received it last spring.

Former faculty member, Jo Ann Rayfield, is honored in retirement

The Illinois State University Archives are now called the Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives of Illinois State University. The Board of Trustees approved this renaming in honor of Rayfield's substantial service and significant contribution to the University. After earning her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, Rayfield taught in the History Department for 32 years, where she also served as the professional practice coordinator. In 1993, she became the University archivist, a

position from which she retired this year. In total, Rayfield was part of the Illinois State community for 44 years.

Her work as archivist in preserving the history of Illinois State has raised the profile of the University across the state and nation. Former chair and distinguished professor-emeritus John Freed says that through her work as an archivist Rayfield "made herself indispensable to anyone who needed to obtain information about the University." He adds, "It

is hard to imagine how she can ever be replaced."

In addition to her service at Illinois State, Rayfield served as a supervisor for the Illinois Regional Archives Depository from 1984 until this year. She is also a member of the Illinois State Historical Society, for which she served on its Board of Directors, and a member of the Board of Visitors for the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Montevallo.

despite the danger that surrounded him. Looking back, he says, he should have been “a little bit more concerned,” as around him, vehicles were hit by mines and bases were sometimes mortared. Lorenzini worked as a heavy equipment operator and on a security team for a bomb disposal squad.

Now that he is at Illinois State, Lorenzini says he enjoys learning about the war and appreciates being able to evaluate his place in history. In particular, he likes studying 20th century political history because it helps him understand how we got into this war and its effects. The study of history has also offered him a different perspective on the cost of war and the mistakes that have been made. Like McIntosh, he has grown more disillusioned about the U.S. mission abroad. “We are trying to build a state in Iraq, but how democratic is it if the [Iraqi citizens] are forced to do it?” he asks. He adds, “It’s hard to be proud of something you’ve done if you don’t think it did anything.”

Matthew Brick ’10, a double history and political science major, remains more optimistic about the effects of the Iraq War, although he says, overall, his feelings are mixed. “I lived with a group of 300 Iraqis when I was over there and their view on everything was very positive,” he reports. “They were very happy the Americans were there.” Taking a course on the modern Middle East at Illinois State did provide him with some context through which to understand the war, though he says it did not change his view much about whether the U.S. should have begun the war with Iraq. “It was what it was,” he says. “A lot of good has come out of it. A lot of bad has come out of it.” Brick does find it “ironic” to sit in class and “have a professor try to tell me about Iraq.”

Brick spent more than eight years in the Marine Corps and was deployed to Japan and Korea, in addition to the

seven months in 2004 that he spent in Iraq. He saw quite a bit of combat during his tour, including the Battle of Fal-lujah, one of the bloodiest battles since Vietnam. He has suffered back injuries and traumatic brain injuries from explosions and mourns the loss of fellow soldiers. “It’s hard to lose friends,” he says, and he worries about his friends who are still there. On the whole, however, Brick believes that the war “definitely impacted [him] for the better,” giving him guidance and discipline. “It helps you mature fast,” he says.

Brad Marcy ’09 joined the Illinois National Guard in 1998 because he was not sure what he wanted to do after high school and his father had fought in Vietnam. He was deployed to Iraq in 2003 as part of the first invasion and was there a total of 15 months, working as a military policeman. The most fascinating part of his experience was when his unit discovered mass graves of Kurds just outside Baghdad. His unit was directed to clean out an old prison so that it could be used for a military prison. “When we got there, there was an element of the Iraqi guard which was still fighting,” he reports. “After the fight was over and we were cleaning up, some dogs were digging and we realized that they were digging up body parts.” That prison was later revealed to be Abu Ghraib. As a student at Illinois State, Marcy revisited this experience in taking Professor Katrin Paehler’s senior seminar on genocide and writing his thesis paper on the genocide of Kurds in Iraq.

Marcy says that studying history has made him more political, though, he adds, “a part of you wants to hold onto the justification of why you were there. You did good things while you were there, you can’t help but feel like you did some good.” On the other hand, he notes, “you can’t help wondering if it’s worth all we are losing.” He thinks we wasted a lot of money on the war,

which is part of the reason we are in the financial crisis we are in. “I have a very ‘America first’ opinion now,” he says.

Marcy had some difficulty transitioning from soldier to student, failing out of Illinois State on his first try because he says he was “not prepared and tried to rush things.” One problem was that as a recently returned vet, he had trouble



Matthew Brick, far left, in Iraq.

focusing. “Your mind is still trained for survival,” he says. “You can tell yourself all you want not to worry about what’s in [someone’s] backpack, but you still want to check it for bombs.” After some help from the Veteran’s Administration and two years at Heartland Community College, he re-entered the University and became a history education major. He graduated successfully last year and is teaching at Bloomington High School. Having served, he says, will make him “a better history teacher” since he has “traveled the world.” He adds, “it’s hard to fathom who or where I would be if I had not served.”

His fellow veterans would undoubtedly agree.

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See www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support/ways

Faculty accomplishments

Katrin Paehler and **Amy Wood** were given tenure and promoted to associate professor this year.

Last year, **Paehler** published “Creating an Alternative Foreign Office: A Reassessment of Office VI of the Reich Main Security Office” in the *Journal of Intelligence History* (Winter 2008/2009). In December, she gave a public lecture on the history of book burning for the opening of the traveling exhibit “Fighting the Fires of Hatred: America and the Nazi Book Burnings” at the Vespasian Warner Public Library in Clinton.

Wood was a guest editor for a special issue of the journal *Mississippi Quarterly*, focused on the representation and memory of lynching in America. She was also the lead author of the introduction for the issue, which was published in May 2009. In addition, her book, *Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009) was named a Choice Outstanding Book by the American Library Association and a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award in History. As a finalist for the latter award, Wood was honored at a ceremony in Los Angeles in April.

Touré Reed received a Kluge Fellowship from the Library of Congress, which allowed him to spend last summer conducting research at the Library.

Alan Lessoff was offered a position as a visiting professor at the Graduate School of History and Sociology at the University of Bielefeld in Germany. He will spend the 2010–2011 academic year at Bielefeld teaching seminars in comparative urban issues and in American historiography.

Andrew Hartman published “Christopher Lasch: Critic of Liberalism, Historian of Its Discontents” in the journal, *Rethinking History* (vol. 13, no. 4). He also presented research on the culture wars in the U.S. at several conferences and invited talks, including the Organization of American History meeting in Washington, D.C. and the History of Education Society meetings in Philadelphia.

Georgia Tsouvala presented a paper on “Women in Early Imperial Gymnasia” at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians (AAH) at the

University of Utah in Salt Lake City in mid-April. She spent the month of June at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece, pursuing her research on women and athletics. She received an International Faculty Travel Grant from Illinois State to support her studies there. In fall 2010, she will be the Sterling and Elizabeth Dow Fellow at the Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies at The Ohio State University.

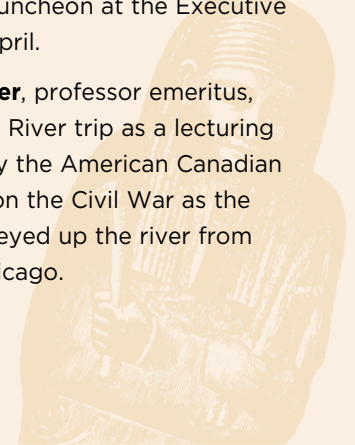
Last September, **Christine Varga-Harris** presented “‘House and Home’ and the Quest for Normalcy” at the Midwest Russian History Workshop at the University of Notre Dame.

In March, **Issam Nassar** co-organized at a conference at St. John’s College, Oxford University, on vernacular photography of the Middle East. He also presented a paper on photography in Palestine there. In April, he spoke at the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Berlin, Germany, about Jerusalem during the Ottoman and British periods. Last October, he spoke at the Institute du Monde Arabe in Paris about the historiography of Jerusalem, and in November, he was at the Middle East Studies Association meeting in Boston presenting a paper on Jerusalem during the Great War.

Richard Hughes presented a paper titled, “History and the Culture Wars in Postwar America: The Rise and Fall of *American History Month*” at the History of Education Society Annual Conference in Philadelphia held last October.

John Freed, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, was awarded the Certificate of Excellence from the Illinois Historical Society for his book, *Educating Illinois, the sesquicentennial history of Illinois State University*. He was honored at a luncheon at the Executive Mansion in Springfield in April.

Last summer, **Mark Plummer**, professor emeritus, made his fourth Mississippi River trip as a lecturing historian. He was invited by the American Canadian Caribbean Line to lecture on the Civil War as the small-ship cruise line journeyed up the river from New Orleans, ending in Chicago.



Fred Walk visits the Arctic Circle

Last summer, Academic Advisor and Director of Student Teaching, **Fred Walk**, had the experience of a lifetime when he visited the Arctic Circle as part of a trip sponsored by the National Geographic Society. The two-week trip began in Oslo, Norway. The group then headed north to Longyearbyen, one



Fred Walk in the Arctic with walruses.

of the northernmost towns, located in the Svalbard Archipelago of Norway. From there, they took a ship and sailed approximately 600 miles from the North Pole, before the ice pack became too thick and they had to turn back.

There, Walk was able to see glaciers, wildlife, and an incredible midnight sun that added up to what he says was a “real eye-opening experience.”

Walk, who had done consulting work for the National Geographic Society in the past, was selected for the trip so that he could help develop curricular material for K–12 teachers, who might themselves travel to the Arctic in the future. The society sponsored this trip and others like it so that teachers can learn about global geography and history and bring their experiences back to their classrooms. The purpose, Walk says, is “to help cultivate natural curiosity and broaden global perspectives.”

The trip certainly did these things for him. What struck him most was the extraordinary wildlife: polar bears, walruses, arctic foxes, caribous, seals, and more. Kayaks allowed the travelers to observe glaciers and the wildlife up close. At the same time, Walk was taken by how desolate the region was; the ground vegetation is only about an inch or so high, with few flowers and no

trees. The experience also allowed him to meet and converse with scientists and naturalists, including the legendary polar explorer, Borge Ousland, the only person to ever travel to the North Pole alone without resupplying.

Most of all, Walk learned just how fragile our planet is. “To see how the glaciers have receded, it is affecting the wildlife; it is influencing the seals; the pack ice is receding,” says Walk. “We just have to be more in tune with how we impact the planet.” At the same time, he found it “fascinating to see how humans have adapted to the environment. It is tough but people do.” He was heartened by the scientific research stations in the region and that scientists are trying to get a handle on the implications of what is happening to the environment. “These are the kinds of things we need to bring to the classroom to enhance awareness,” he adds.

Walk deems the trip a “once in a lifetime experience,” though he would like to go again in the future, especially to see how things change over time.

John Freed inducted into CAS Hall of Fame

Last spring, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, **John Freed**, was inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. This prestigious recognition was based on Freed’s outstanding scholarly record and reputation, as well as his many dedicated years as a faculty member and administrator. Freed, who retired five years ago, came to Illinois State in 1969, after earning his bachelor’s degree from Cornell University and his doctorate from Princeton University. He served as the chair of the History Department almost continuously from 1994 through 2005 and as the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 2001–2002.

Even in retirement, he continues to teach courses in medieval history for the department. Freed is the author of three books and a number of articles that were ground breaking in introducing U.S. scholars to German medieval history. Most recently, Freed authored *Educating Illinois, the sesquicentennial history of Illinois State University*, an exhaustively researched and award-winning chronicle of Illinois State University’s foundation and development. At Illinois State, Freed has earned several honors, including an Outstanding University Researcher Award and being named the Arts and Sciences Lecturer in 1985, and Distinguished Professor in 1991.

Four years ago, he and his wife, Susan Freed, established the John and Susan Freed Scholarship, awarded each year to a student in his or her junior year who has overcome disabilities to succeed scholastically. He sits on the CAS Emeritus Faculty Advisory Board.



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events happening in the department and in our partner schools, or share your news and photos with current students and alumni.

Three faculty published books this year

Last year, Assistant Professor and Director of the History-Social Sciences Education Program **Monica Cousins Noraian** published her first book, *Women's Rights, Racial Integration, and Education from 1850-1920: The Case of Sarah Raymond, the First Female Superintendent* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).

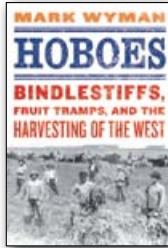


The book is a biography of Raymond, the nation's first female school superintendant, that situates its subject within the social history of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. Raymond graduated from Illinois State Normal University in 1866 and became a teacher, then principal, and finally a superintendant in Bloomington. For Noraian, the most interesting part of writing the biography was trying to piece together someone's life when very little is publicly known about her. "I wanted to tell a story which had not been told and highlight such an amazing woman for future generations," she says.

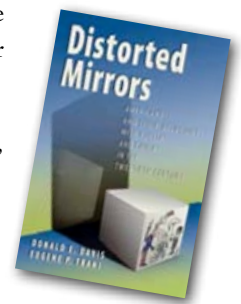
Mark Wyman, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, has published his sixth book, *Hoboes: Bindlestiffs, Fruit Tramps, and the Harvesting of the West* (Hill and

Wang, 2010), which chronicles the experience of agricultural workers in the late 19th century western United States. As the railroad stretched across the West in the 1870s, it opened up a vast expanse of territory with enormous agricultural potential, making way for Kansas wheat, Colorado sugar beets, and Washington apples. With this new agriculture came an unavoidable need for harvest workers—transients who would show up to harvest the crop and then leave when the work was finished. With exhaustive research, Wyman captures the lives of these workers, variously called bindlestiffs, fruit tramps, hoboes, and bums; and shows how they were vital to the development of the American West and its economy. In May, the book was named a Best Book of the Month on Amazon.com.

Professor Emeritus **Donald Davis** has published *Distorted Mirrors: Americans and Their Relations with Russia and China in the Twentieth Century* (University of Missouri Press, 2009), with coauthor, Eugene Trani, president of Virginia



Commonwealth University. The book traces American prejudices toward Russia and China during the 20th century, specifically the American dislike of Russia and love of China. Davis and Trani show how U.S. perceptions of Russia and China originated and evolved, and how they have often helped sustain foreign policies. They drew on memoirs, archives, and interviews to show how influential individuals, such as George Kennen, John Dewey, Pearl Buck, and Henry Kissinger, shaped these perceptions and policies. They also look at how Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush tried to replace these misconceptions in the 1980s, and in their conclusion, they assess the state of attitudes and policies in the present. Davis says that "perceptions over the course of the 20th century are crucial for their bearing on the 21st century, particularly if unrestrained in the future." *Distorted Mirrors* has been translated into Russian, Spanish, and Chinese; and Davis and Trani were recently in China to celebrate the book's publication there.



History faculty members honored at Illinois State

Several of our former and current professors received accolades over the past year for their service or work at the University. Distinguished Professor Emeritus **Mark Wyman** received a Philanthropist of the Year Award in a ceremony presided over by President Bowman at the Alumni Center in November 2009. Wyman, along with his wife Eva, was honored as the Emeritus Philanthropist of the Year for his many years of generosity, leadership, and volunteerism at Illinois State. Wyman taught at the University

from 1971 to 2004. In 2000, a former student, Stephanie Booth, established the Mark Wyman Scholarship Fund in his honor to support nontraditional students of history at Illinois State.

Linda Clemmons, associate professor, was named an Outstanding College Teacher in the College of Arts and Sciences. This award, given to three teachers in the college each year, honors those faculty members who show exceptional and innovative classroom teaching and student mentorship. Clemmons teaches courses in

antebellum U.S. history and the history of Native Americans.

The Administrative/Professional and Civil Service Councils at Illinois State University honored **Ron Gifford** with the 2010 Esprit de Corps Award for his dedicated and extraordinary work on behalf of the University and the department. Gifford is the assistant chair and an undergraduate advisor in the department, in addition to teaching courses in 19th century U.S. history. Both Gifford and Clemmons were honored at the CAS

Continued on next page

History education news: Conference on teaching the Holocaust a big success

In January, the history education program organized a conference on “Teaching the Holocaust and Global Genocide,” held at the McLean County Museum of History. One hundred seventy-five teachers and preservice teachers from around Illinois, including many current and former students, registered for the day-long event. The conference included 15 different sessions on topics largely focused on how to incorporate lessons on the Holocaust and mass violence into the classroom, though there were other sessions on tips for new and student teachers. A number of our alumni and faculty gave presentations in these sessions. **Lauren Seghi '08**, for instance, led a session on teaching the Holocaust, incorporating the oral history of her grandfather, a Polish Catholic survivor, into her lesson. Professors **Katrin Paehler** and **Richard Soderlund** each led a session about issues

involved in teaching the Holocaust. The conference was supported by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and funded by the Regional Office of Education.



Professor Soderlund speaks at the Teaching the Holocaust Conference

Israeli scholar and human rights activist gives Bone lecture

We were honored to bring **Ilan Pappé**, chair of the Department of History at the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom and codirector of the Exeter Center for Ethno-Political Studies, to present the 2009 Bone Lecture. Pappé is both a professional historian and a human rights activist, who has written extensively on the 1948 expulsion of Palestinians from Palestine. He is regarded as one of Israel's ‘new histori-

ans’ who challenge the official Zionist version of events. He has also written on the Modern Middle East, multiculturalism, and historiography.

At Illinois State, Pappé presented a lecture titled, “Palestine: The Historical Lessons for Our Time,” in which he placed the history of Israel and the Palestinian territories within a context of European colonialism. More than 300 people attended the event, which took

place in Schroeder Hall last November. In addition, he spoke to students in Professor Issam Nassar’s class on the history of the Middle East.

The Robert G. Bone Distinguished Lecturer Series was established by the late Illinois State President Robert G. Bone and is shared by the Departments of History, Politics and Government, and Sociology and Anthropology.

Faculty members honored, *from opposite page*

awards ceremony in March.

Finally, **Amy Wood** received the Excellence Award for Outstanding Scholarship (for pretenured faculty) from the College of Arts and Sciences.

This award is given to the college faculty member with the most extraordinary scholarly record for the preceding year, based on the quantity and peer-reviewed quality of their scholarship. Wood had

a number of publications in 2009, most significantly her book, *Lynching and Spectacle*, which has received national recognition (*see Faculty Accomplishments*).

Comings and goings, *from page 2*

The department also conducted a national search for a new specialist in U.S. Colonial and Revolutionary era history. We are happy to announce the appointment of John Reda for that position. Reda comes to us from Chicago,

where he earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois—Chicago. We will feature Reda in next year’s edition.



For more information, visit IllinoisStateHomecoming.com

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