

## Collaboration projects win department grants

A \$956,000 grant titled "Learning and Teaching American History" has put the History Department into the forefront of improving history teaching through innovative projects for students and teachers.

The grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, joins a smaller grant from the National Council for Education and the Disciplines to bring new prominence to the department's Professional Development School Network for Learning and Teaching American History, a cohort of Central Illinois and Chicago-area high schools that collaborates with Illinois State University and the McLean County Historical Society.

Michael Gardner, principal of Lincoln-Way East High School, will

administer the grant. Professors **Lawrence McBride** and **Frederick Drake** will direct both projects.

The smaller National Council for History grant—of \$25,000—is for two-week summer institutes in 2002 and 2003 on the theme "Doing History." These will concentrate on bringing teachers together to reconceptualize the introductory courses in American History. The Newberry Library in Chicago is the other U.S. institution to receive one of the National Council for History grants.

In announcing the Department of Education grant, McBride noted: "The grant would not have been formulated the way it was if our colleague, Frederick Drake, had not worked tirelessly over the past five years building up the

network of high schools that works to prepare the department's students for their teaching experience."

The project will focus on teachers as scholars; teachers as reflective practitioners of history; and teachers as mentors. Planned events will bring together History Department faculty, recent graduates in history education, and the statewide group of high school teachers involved in the Professional Development School Network. The first colloquia will begin this semester.

All recent graduates of the teacher education program who are interested in either program should contact McBride via E-mail at [lmcbride@ilstu.edu](mailto:lmcbride@ilstu.edu).

### MacDonald is curator

An exhibit titled *To Sustain the Union: Central Illinois in the Civil War* opened November 10 with a program that included a talk by **Sharon MacDonald**, guest curator.

The exhibit is presented at the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington and will run through August 2004.

MacDonald's talk was on "Grant, the Pattern of Battle, and Civil War Tactics." She teaches military history, Civil War history, and history of the Vietnam War.

## Times cites Honors Program

The department's Honors Program, headed by **Ray Clemens**, was at the focus of a *New York Times* education article last August 5.

The article examined honors programs at universities around the nation, raising questions of the advantages for students and disadvantages for non-honors students. Photos were included of Clemens and **L. Moody Simms** meeting with their classes.

Clemens's students' investigations of an 1877 witchcraft case in nearby Watseka were described in detail. The students' work had earlier received widespread press attention.

The article by Sam Hooper Samuels noted that "Honors students

at Illinois State, for example, have separate housing, their own advisors, and sometimes a private lab bench for research; they are eligible for a variety of special scholarships; at registration, Honors students and varsity athletes pick their classes ahead of the rest of the University, scooping up the popular courses before they fill."

Criticisms of such programs, the *Times* article noted, include that they siphon off the best students, best teachers, and other campus resources, "leaving most students with an impoverished education."

# New faculty strengthen department

Two new historians, **Kyle Ciani** and **Touré Reed**, have joined the department, adding strengths in women's history and African-American history.

Work in the field of child abuse helped convince Kyle Ciani that "people did not understand the historical foundations of abuse within families and society."



Kyle Ciani

The result was that she began graduate work in history, earning her Ph.D. at Michigan State in 1998.

Born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, Ciani obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of San Diego in 1981. After working for several years in San Diego—eventually becoming associate director of the city's Child Abuse Prevention Foundation—she decided to go on for graduate work in history. She received her master's degree in 1991 at the University of San Diego.

An early aim was to teach in alternative schools. "I came into contact with many of these kids in my work with abused children," she recalled. Work at the doctoral level strengthened her commitment to policy development. In graduate school she worked as a research associate for the Michigan Child Care Clearing House, a university-state project helping parents obtain employer-sponsored day care. Her dissertation compared Detroit and San Diego on meeting children's needs.

She taught at the University of San Diego from 1996 until last spring. At Illinois State she is teaching women's history courses and the post-1945 U.S. history survey. Next year she will add family history. Ciani and her husband, Doug Cutter, live in Normal with their daughter, Margarete.

An examination of the Urban League's self-help ideology lies at the

core of research by Touré Reed, who joined the History Department in August.

Reed, who teaches African-American history, comes to Illinois State from Columbia University, where he was a George E. Haynes Fellow from fall 1993 to spring 1998 and a Merit Fellow from fall 1999 to spring 2000. He was also a teaching assistant. He will defend his dissertation this spring.



Touré Reed

Reed grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and New Haven, Connecticut. He received a B.A. in American studies from Hampshire College.

Reed says his love of history developed mainly because he grew up in a household where history and politics were regular topics of discussion.

The title of his dissertation is "Helping Negroes to Help Themselves: Middle Class Reform and the Politics of Racial Order." Its focus is on the Urban League in New York and Chicago, 1910-1950, and class ideology within the concept of black self-help.

## 1983 D.A. alumna writes on Ohio women

**Stephane Elise Booth**, who received both master's and doctoral degrees from the department, has just published *Buckeye Women: The History of Ohio's Daughters* as part of Ohio University Press's Ohio Bicentennial Series.

A historian at Kent State University's Salem campus, she was designated a Woman of Professional Excellence last year by the Ohio institution. She is assistant dean and an assistant professor, and has served as president of the faculty union.

Booth has previously published in both labor history and women's history. Her D.A. was awarded by Illinois State in 1983.

## Today & Yesterday

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## Holsinger lectures on "Mountain South"

Acting Chairperson **Paul Holsinger** spoke on "Tales from the Dark Corner: Kinfolks and Strangers in the Mountain South" for the fall 2001 Arts and Sciences Lecture on November 15.

The event marked the second time in successive semesters that a historian gave the honorary lecture. Last spring **A. Lee Beier** was Arts and Sciences Lecturer.

Holsinger, a member of the department since 1969, teaches "American Constitutional History," "History of Canada," and "World War II." For many years he has also



taught History 432, "Research Problems in Local History." It was from work done in conjunction with this class that his Arts and Sciences Lecture evolved.

The main focus of Holsinger's talk was on backwoods Glassy Mountain Township, South Carolina, and how that culture has confronted modern cultural and economic realities.

# Scholarships awarded in spring



Spring award winners were, *front row from left*, Rebecca Loofbourr, Wilborn Scholarship; Tina Brakebill, Cavanagh master's award; and Megan Wegrzyn, Wilborn Scholarship; and, *back row from left*, Theodore Kerrn, Cavanagh D.A. award; Rob Beckman, Cavanagh master's award; and Jeremy Meiners, Sessions Honors Scholarship. (Photo by Louis Perez)

Scholarships and awards totaling \$16,500 were presented April 3 at the annual History Department Spring Awards Program.

Theodore Kerrn won the \$5,000 Helen M. Cavanagh Award for best Doctor of Arts student, while the Cavanagh Award for best master's student—also worth \$5,000 apiece—went to Rob Beckman and Tina Brakebill.

Rebecca Loofbourr and Megan Wegrzyn won the James Todd Wilborn Scholarship for Sophomores, each receiving \$500. The \$500 Kyle and Jean Sessions Honors Scholarship was won by Jeremy Meiners.

Kerrn, who lives in Normal, holds degrees in criminal justice and has worked since 1990 for the Illinois State Police. Beckman, who teaches at Dun-

lap High School, came into prominence recently when he and his thesis mentor, **Sharon MacDonald**, successfully won a posthumous Medal of Honor for an African-American who had fought in the Civil War. Brakebill, from Bloomington, has worked on such projects as organizing the McLean County Chamber of Commerce records, while also researching German-Americans during World War I.

Loofbourr, from Rockford, aims toward a career with television's History Channel. Wegrzyn, from Des Plaines, plans a teaching career, influenced in part by a high school teacher who "showed the class that history could be fun."

Meiners, on the dean's list since 1998 with a 4.0 grade point average, has earned memberships in such honors organizations as Phi Eta Sigma, Golden Key, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. A resident of Anchor, he has been a teaching assistant in after-school and summer programs at several local grade schools.

The April 3 ceremony in the Bone Student Center also recognized master's student Tom Hochstetler, the department's nominee for the Graduate School's Charter Excellence Award; the spring master's graduates; and new Phi Alpha Theta initiates.

# Theses, seniors garner honors

Six seniors walked off with \$3,000 Lucy Lucile Tasher Senior Scholarships at the annual fall awards program November 1, with four other students receiving \$500 Helen M. Cavanagh Awards for best master's thesis/dissertation. (A photo will appear in the spring 2002 newsletter.)

Tasher awards went to Scott Aronson, Chisty Eyre, Michelle Fennessy, Jeremy Meiners, Jeanette Miller, and Morgan Whitcomb.

The Cavanagh award for best doctoral dissertation went to Joyce A. Witt for "A Humanities Approach to the Study of the Holocaust" and to Barry Gidcomb for "History and the Natchez Trace Parkway."

Master's thesis awards went to W. Robert Beckman for "Abraham Lincoln as a Military Strategist" and to Thomas Hochstetler for "The Long Path to Recognition: The United States and the Soviet Union, 1929-1933."

## Freed named interim dean

**John Freed**, department chairperson since 1994, has been named acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences following the resignation of Paul Schollaert. Schollaert accepted an appointment as provost of Eastern Michigan University last summer. Freed will serve for one year while a nationwide search is conducted for a new dean.

Succeeding Freed as History Department chairperson for the 2001-02 school year is **Paul Holsinger**.

## Six win research grant awards

Six department faculty members last spring received university research grant awards:

New Faculty Initiative Grants—Anthony Crubaugh and Patrice Elizabeth Olsen; Pre-Tenure Faculty Initiative Grant—Ray Clemens, Silvana Siddali, and Susan Westbury; and Faculty Research Award—Alan Lessoff.

## Reception to fete Simms, Chesebrough

Retiring historians **L. Moody Simms** and **David Chesebrough** will be honored April 12, 2002, at a reception/open house in the Bone Student Center Circus Room.

Details for the event are being worked out. It is expected that the event will run from 3 to 6 p.m.

Former students, friends, and colleagues are invited. For details, call the department at (309) 452-2888.

# Faculty activities in profusion

In January **Lucinda Beier** was a panelist at the American Historical Association annual meeting in Boston, where she discussed “Embodied Narratives in Anglo-American Medicine: Practitioners, Patients, and Corpses, 1740-1880.”

To help commemorate the 125th anniversary of Trinity Church in Boston in November, **David Chesebrough** spoke on Phillips Brooks, pastor at the time the church was constructed. His presentation was part of the church’s three-day series of lectures, a pilgrimage, and receptions.

**Linda Clemmons** has returned from her yearlong appointment as Spencer Fellow at the Newberry Library D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History, during which time she completed research for her manuscript and delivered “Dakotas, Politics, and Missionaries.” Clemmons also presented “‘Her Daughter was Cante Yica’: Dakota Borders and Protestant Missionaries, 1835-1862,” at the October 2000 Society for Ethnohistory conference.

Acting director of Women’s Studies for 2001-02 is **Sandra Harmon**, replacing **Valentine Moghadam**, who is on sabbatical.

While participating in an NEH seminar at the Newberry Library, **Anthony Crubaugh** gave a public talk on “The French Revolution and Changing Identity, 1789-1799” at the Alliance Française de Chicago. In November he delivered a paper titled “Legal Change and Democracy in the French Revolution” at the American Society of Legal Historians conference in Chicago.

The Vladimir-Canterbury Sister City Association sponsored a public talk by **Donald Davis**, “An Interview with Mikhail Gorbachev,” delivered at Heartland Community College on November 6.

**Alan Lessoff** was on the roundtable “Oral History, Institutional Review Boards, and Human Subjects Research” at the Oral History Association meeting in St. Louis on October 19. In November Lessoff presented a paper before the National Conference on American Planning History in Philadelphia titled “Harland

Bartholomew and Corpus Christi: The Faltering Pursuit of Comprehensive Planning in South Texas.”

Two articles by **David MacDonald** were published recently: “Macedonian Civic Bronze Overstrikes and Circulation Areas,” *Numismatik Khronika: Annual Publication of the Hellenic Numismatic Society*, volume 19 (2000): 115-121; and, with Oliver D. Hoover, “Syrian Imitations of New Style Athenian Tetradrachms Struck Over Myrina,” *Berytus: Archaeological Studies of the American University of Beirut*, volume 44 (1999-2000): 109-117.

Housing development following the Mexican Revolution was the subject of two papers presented by **Patrice Olsen** in November. Olsen delivered “Carlos Contreras and the Revolutionary Master Plan of Mexico City” before the Ninth National Conference on Planning History in Philadelphia, and the next week traveled to the Instituto de Investigaciones in Mexico City to give “Un Hogar Para La Revolucion” for an international colloquium on perspectives of the Mexican Revolution.

At the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs held in Lincoln, Nebraska, **Louis Perez** chaired the panel “Whose Ox is Gored: The Japanese Textbook Controversy” and delivered the paper “A View from Afar: Post Colonial Opinions.” In October he presented “Collaborative Reform in General Education” at the Students in Transition National Conference in Oak Brook.

**Silvana R. Siddali’s** article “The Sport of Folly and the Prize of Treason: Confederate Property Seizures and The Northern Home Front during the Secession Crisis” can be read in *Civil War History* 47, number 4 (2001): 310-333. In October Siddali delivered “The Fruits of Invasion: The Union Home Front, Hard War and the South during the Civil War” at the British American 19th Century History Conference held in Cambridge, England.

“Emigrants Returning—The Evolution of a Tradition” was presented last July by **Mark Wyman** at a conference on “Emigrant Homecomings: The Return Movement of Emigrants, c. 1700-c. 2000” at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

## Conference cites Irish

By **Clifton H. Jones**

On Saturday, October 27, the History Department cosponsored the conference “Erin’s Daughters: Irish Servant Girls in Illinois.” Featuring Maureen Murphy of Hofstra University as keynote speaker, the daylong conference explored contributions to American history of young Irish women who worked as servants in the homes of the wealthy and emerging middle class in such communities as Bloomington and Normal.

Morning sessions were held in the McLean County Museum of History, with some 100 persons attending. Other speakers included the department’s **Mark Wyman** and **Cynthia Baer, M.S. ’95**, and April Schultz of Illinois Wesleyan University.

Afternoon sessions included interpretive theatre at the David Davis Mansion.

The conference, funded by the Illinois Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, was the first public effort of the joint effort by the department with the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, the Wesleyan Department of History, the David Davis Mansion, and the McLean County Museum of History. Representatives from these institutions began meeting two years ago to explore how they might cooperate to further community interest in history.

## Valentine speaks on acrobats

Cherie Valentine, staff member, spoke last spring to the Byrd Family Tent No. 164, Circus Fans Association of America, in Jacksonville. Drawing on family history, she discussed “On the Road with the Famous Flying Valentines.”

# Those active alumni...

**Gillian O'Shea '01** has entered the master's program in history at University College of Dublin, Ireland.

**Luis Magaña '01** has been admitted to the University of Illinois Law School, starting in fall 2001.

Two 1999 graduates—**Robert Platt** and **Joseph Polanski**—are working in Naperville schools. Platt is teaching at Naperville North High School, and Polanski teaches at Neuqua Valley High School.

**Mary Louise Nash '01** has been accepted into the graduate program in history at Pittsburgh's Carnegie-Mellon University.

In her fifth year in Chicago Public Schools, **Jennifer (Restagno) Baniewicz '93** teaches Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.

More time for research and writing is on the horizon for **Richard H. Worthen '64, M.A. '71**, of Alton. With some 30 years of teaching and environmental work, and 20 years on the Madison County Board, he recently retired as storm-water coordinator for Madison County and the Metro East Regional Storm Water Committee. He somehow finds time for teaching at the local community college and for music activities at Main Street United Methodist Church. He and his wife, **Sherrill Anderson Worthen '67**, have two children. Worthen writes that he is "actively using the training in constitutional history from Dr. Cavanagh's class to question, analyze, and criticize the corporate assault upon sovereignty and control of world trade."

Serving as principal at Mattoon High School since 1992, **Kirk Salmela, D.A. '89**, also occasionally teaches at Lakeland Community College in Mattoon. He and his wife, Debbie, have four children.

Two of the department's graduates continue work for the state's history endeavors. **Evelyn Taylor '76, M.S. '88**, is director of publications for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and **Mary Michals '75** is audiovisual curator in the Illinois State Historical Library.

**Anita Revelle '95, M.S. '97**, has been appointed to the board of directors for the State of Illinois Lifelong

Learning and Service in the Later Years. She is director of Illinois State's Senior Professionals program.

Thirty-four years of teaching at Putnam County High School in Granville ended last spring with the retirement of **Ron Bluemer '67, M.S. '72**. Chairperson of social studies there, he taught history and science; he is now teaching part-time at Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby. Two years ago Bluemer published a book on the USS *Phoenix*, and his next book, *Black Diamond Mines*, a history of coal mines in Northern Illinois from the 1880s to the 1920s, will be released soon.

**Steve Volkening '73, M.S. '74**, has just completed 20 years as associate dean of health arts at the University of St. Francis in Joliet. He directs an online program of off-campus baccalaureate completion for health care professionals that reaches more than 80 cities nationwide and worldwide.

## Sixth Drive-in Conference held

Fifty high school teachers attended the sixth annual Drive-in Conference for Teachers sponsored by the History Department and the Illinois Council for the Social Studies.

Theme for the November 7 event at Bone Student Center was "Storytelling, Mythmaking, and Teaching History and Social Studies."

**Lawrence McBride** spoke on "An Emigrant's Story: Family Letters, Music, and Migration." Other speakers on the afternoon and evening program were Gwen Hilary of Chicago and Illinois State faculty members Tom Crumpler (Department of Curriculum and Instruction) and Nancy Tolson (Department of English).

## Tavakoli, Perez, Chesebrough publish

Three historians saw books published in recent weeks: **Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi's** *Refashioning Iran: Orientalism, Occidentalism, and Historiography*; **Louis Perez's** *Everyday Life in Early Modern Japan*; and **David Chesebrough's** *Charles G. Finney: Revivalistic Rhetoric*.

Tavakoli-Targhi's book offers a corrective to Orientalism studies that focus solely on European scholarly productions without exploring the significance of native scholars and vernacular scholarship to the making of Oriental studies. The book, published by Palgrave of Britain (a global academic imprint of St. Martin's), examines a variety of 18th and 19th century Indo-Persian texts made "homeless" by subsequent nationalist histories and shows how these relate to Indo-Iranian modernity. He argues for a radical rewriting of Iranian history with profound implications for Islamic debates on gender.

Perez's study is his fourth and puts its focus on 18th century Japan

through a historical-material culture approach. It is part of the Greenwood Press series of Daily Life histories. Perez examines plebeian life rather than elite life, which has usually been at the focus of such studies. He looks at tools and instruments and even "night soil," which had a part in Shinto philosophy with a spirit of regeneration.

Chesebrough's seventh book is another in Greenwood's Great American Orators series. He earlier wrote on other orators for the series: Phillips Brooks, Theodore Parker, and Frederick Douglass. But he states that the Finney study will be his last and dedicates the latest volume to "all those who have taught me, whether in the formal transmission of knowledge, or by informal admonition and example: family, friends, school teachers, college professors, pastors, and authors (so many of them); those deceased and those still with us."

# HELP!

We need your **news**. Please report career activities, awards and other honors, marriage, birth of children, relocation, etc.:

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

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

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Send to: Illinois State University, Department of History, *Today & Yesterday*, Campus Box 4420, Normal, IL 61790-4420.

## Plummer writes, talks

Professor Emeritus **Mark Plummer** continues his busy retirement, turning out publications and speaking at Civil War-related events.

His *Lincoln's Rail-Splitter: Governor Richard J. Oglesby*, published last spring by the University of Illinois Press, marked the culmination of several years of research into the former governor and Lincoln aide. His article "The Last Hours of Lincoln: The Haynie Diary" appeared in the *Journal of Illinois History* last spring.

Plummer, who retired in 1994, spoke last April at two gatherings: on "Adjutant General Haynie And Lincoln's Last 24 Hours" at the 45th annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield; and on "If There is Dying to Be Done," General Oglesby at the Battle of Corinth," before the McHenry County Civil War Round Table Spring Seminar.

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