

# Today & Yesterday

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Newsletter of the Department of History

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## Four colleagues begin retirements

This spring, four faculty members have retired after long and memorable careers. They are **John Freed**, our departmental chair, **Susan Westbury**, **Sharon MacDonald**, and **David MacDonald**. Combined, they have taught a total of 126 years at Illinois State.

**Distinguished Professor John Freed** came to the University in 1969, after earning his B.A. from Cornell University and his doctorate in medieval history from Princeton University. He has served at the helm of our department since 1994, overseeing a tremendous development in

our students and faculty. He also served as interim dean of Arts and Sciences in 2001–02. Despite these administrative duties, he has had an impressive career as a teacher and a scholar of medieval history.

Indeed, his scholarship has been groundbreaking in introduc-

ing historians working in the United States to German medieval history. His books include *The Friars and German Society in the Thirteenth Century* (1977), which was a social history of the arrival of the Franciscan and Dominican orders in Germany in the 13th century; *The Counts of Falkenstein: Noble Self-Consciousness in the Twelfth Century* (1984); and *Noble Bondsmen* (1995), which explored the peculiar situation of German noble-

men who were legally serfs. He also has published a number of articles, including a significant historiographical essay on the German nobility in *The American Historical Review*, and has delivered numerous presentations at multiple venues, including the University of Wales. Within 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. Most recently, he has been asked to write the University's official sesquicentennial history.

Freed is currently working on the family archive of Count Sigiboto, which is the oldest family archive in Europe. He will continue this project in his retirement, as well as continue to teach courses in medieval history for the department. He is also looking forward to reading the *New York Sunday Times* at his leisure.

His wife Susan continues to teach computer science at Illinois Wesleyan. Their daughter Jenny recently graduated magna cum laude from Carleton College and will be beginning the master's program in library science at the University of Illinois in the fall.

The Freed's have generously endowed a scholarship, named the John and Susan Freed Scholarship, for a certified disabled second-semester junior in the College of Arts and Sciences who has excelled academically. Donations in Freed's honor can be made to the Illinois State University Foundation.

**Assistant Professor Susan Westbury** began teaching early American history at Illinois State in 1981, though she actually began her education with the intention of becoming a high school teacher. Raised in Melbourne, Australia, she attended the University of Melbourne, underwent teacher training at the University of Alberta, in Canada, and earned her master's in teaching at the University of Chicago. She says she then became "sidetracked" by the doctoral program at the University of Illinois, where she wrote a dissertation on the slave trade in colonial Virginia.

Since her arrival at the University, Westbury has taught courses on the Early Republic, the American Revolution, and colonial America. She has held the position of assistant professor since 1996.

In addition to being a well-respected teacher and colleague, she has written numerous articles on topics such as the colonial slave trade, Bacon's Rebellion, and the Constitutional Convention, including a 1985 article in the *William & Mary Quarterly* on the origins of slavery in Virginia. In 2001, her article entitled "Why Did New York Delegates, Robert Yates and John Lansing, Jr.



Susan Westbury



John Freed

Continued on page 6



# Letter from the chair

As I approach my retirement on June 30, I inevitably reflect upon the last 36 years and how I and Illinois State have changed. I fully expected to leave within a year or two. After all, I was the fourth medievalist in eight years and my immediate predecessor had stayed for only a year. I was terribly young—behind my back my colleagues called me “the kid” or “the boy wonder”—and I had never taught a day in my life. The senior member of the department, Professor Tasher, had started her career at Illinois State Normal University nine years before I was born. Today, I have colleagues whose parents are younger than I am.

As for the University, Milner Library and the Bone Student Center did not exist; we parked on the lots of the houses that stood on the site and the land turned into mud in the spring. A Quonset hut, which served as a post office, stood where DeGarmo now sits. Schroeder was already a totally dysfunctional building. It is now in the process of being transformed from an eyesore into a neo-Georgian structure (see photo below).

I taught in the long-since demolished elementary school that stood on School Street in front of Manchester-Hewitt. Bats and pigeons flew about. I was one of a large cohort of young faculty who were hired in the 1960s as Illinois State was transformed from a normal school with 4,000 students in 1960 to a comprehensive state university with 16,000 students in 1970. We referred to the school as the “K-Mart of higher education” and we were ashamed of our heritage. Today, I am the very last faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences hired in the 1960s. It has been many years since anyone used such derisive language to describe the

University, and the preparation of teachers is perceived as central to our departmental and collegiate mission and identity.

Although I have always had some truly wonderful students, the caliber of students has risen notably in recent years. The department, thanks to the work of Fred Drake and the late Larry McBride, has assumed a national reputation in the area of history education. I have always been blessed with excellent colleagues, some of whom have become my lifelong friends, but the new faculty we have hired in the last decade epitomize the ideal of the scholar-teacher. They are extraordinary teachers and several of them have already garnered teaching awards. They are also productive scholars who are doing cutting-edge work in such disparate areas as medieval manuscripts, the built environment in Latin America, environmental policies and tourism, the cultural context of lynching, Nazi intelligence agencies, the incorporation of the French peasantry into the nation, the rise of the New Right in the 1970s and 1980s, and postage stamps as cultural signifiers.

I am proud to have been a member of the History Department for 36 years. My only regret is that I am leaving rather than joining it. My successor, Roger Biles, is a distinguished American historian and an experienced administrator who will provide the department with new leadership. To paraphrase St. Paul: “I have fought the good fight and run the course.” I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity.

—John Freed



Our new home in the recently renovated Schroeder Hall

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Campus Box 4420  
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## New chair is hired

Roger Biles has accepted the position of department chair, effective July 16. Biles is currently a visiting professor at Northern Illinois University, and has been a department chair and an interim associate dean at Oklahoma State University and the chair at East Carolina University, where he has taught since 1994. He is a noted expert on urban and Illinois history. His many publications include *Big City Boss in Depression and War: Mayor Edward J. Kelly of Chicago* (1984); *Memphis in the Great Depression* (1986); *Richard J. Daley: Politics, Race and the Governing of Chicago* (1995); and *Crusading*

*Liberal: Paul H. Douglas of Illinois* (2002). A native of Illinois, Professor Biles received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago. We are looking forward to his arrival, and stay tuned for a longer profile in our next issue.



Roger Biles

# Alumni spotlight: Johnthomas Williamson

Our alumni often use their education in unusual and exciting ways. One such alum is **Johnthomas Williamson '00, M.S. '02**, who has parlayed his degrees in history into a job researching old mining trails for the state of Alaska. The state of Alaska is in a protracted legal battle with the federal government over ownership of certain mining trails created at the turn of the last century. As a public historian for the Alaskan State Office of History and Archeology, Williamson's job is to provide evidence for the state that miners constructed and maintained several trails in northern Alaska.

Williamson says it's fitting that he is a historian of gold mining, since, he says, "I am looking for information, but I don't know exactly where, when, or if I will find it." Like the miners whose trails he studies, he spends his days "digging for sources, in hopes of finding a thin thread of valuable information that, if followed correctly, will lead to something worthwhile."

An Alaskan native, Williamson grew up in Soldotna, which, since his childhood, has become a popular fishing spot for sport fishermen hoping to catch king salmon. He came to Illinois to be with his now-wife, Tammy, who graduated from Illinois State with an M.S. in Clinical Counseling, moving back to Alaska after they both graduated. They live in Anchorage and have a seven-month-old daughter, Annamarie Irene.

Williamson's first job after graduating was with the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, where he researched land status and learned the history of land management in the state, a history that bears immediately on his current work.

Indeed, his job proceeds directly from the Mining Law of 1866, which stipulates that "The right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted," meaning that anyone who created a trail on unreserved federal land was also creating a legal right-of-way. During the gold rushes of the late 19th century, prospectors, miners, and freighters cut thousands of trails, crisscrossing the state, in order to access and transport the gold. Today, these trails cross federal, state, Native, and private lands, and the right of way created under the Mining Law of 1866 is heavily contested among the state and federal governments, special interest groups, private citizens, and Native corporations.

In particular, Williamson is studying two trails about 450 miles north of Anchorage used to access gold diggings in the Chandalar District, which was at the time the most remote gold mining district in Alaska. Because the federal government refuses to recognize the state's right-of-way in owning these trails, Williamson's job is to research their history in order "to create a solid picture of the construction, maintenance, and use of these trails originally cut in the late 19th century" to be used in the state's legal contest.

To reconstruct the history of these trails, Williamson relies upon a host of varied sources, including mining records; federal, state, and local government maps; reports and records; missionary journals; newspaper clippings; recorded oral histories and local memoirs; and trading post ledgers. He also interviews miners, geologists, geophysicists, cartographers, bush pilots, and local residents.

Williamson says that at Illinois State he learned "how to ask a good question, then how to answer it," meaning that he learned "to think critically, locate useful information, and apply the information in order to solve the problem." In his current position, he is also learning the value of thinking creatively and examining peripheral sources of information. For instance, he is now tracking down aerial photographs of a rocket fallout range used by the University of Alaska's spacegrant program, because they may reveal the route and past conditions of parts of a trail that fall within the range. In other words, he is digging for that nugget of information to fill out the story he is reconstructing, a story that will have vital political and legal impact.

## Comings and goings

In addition to our four colleagues who are retiring this year, we also bid farewell to Subho Basu, who has taken a position at Syracuse University. Basu, a historian of South Asian history, came to Illinois State in 2002 from England, where he taught at Cambridge University and the University of London. His book, *Does Class Matter?: Colonial Capital and Workers' Resistance in Bengal 1890–1937*, was published last year by Oxford University Press. At Illinois State, he taught courses in the history of South and Southeast Asia, peace history, and the graduate seminar on the philosophy of history. His good humor and his wide-ranging intellect will be missed.

We are joined, however, by Faith Ten Haken, our new receptionist and secretary. Faith has worked at Illinois State since 1991, coming to us most recently from the English Language Institute, where she was the sole civil service staff member. Faith's duties also include administrative work for the history education program.

Ron Gifford, who has been teaching American history part-time in the department while serving as the social science education advisor, has been hired as the full-time academic advisor for the department. Dan Stump, who received his D.A. in American cultural history from Illinois State in 2000 and has been teaching U.S. history courses for the department since then, has been hired as part-time academic advisor. Stump will continue to teach courses in American history and western civilization in his new position.

**Correction:** In our last issue, we mistakenly noted **Kirk Salmela's, D.A. '89**, new residence. He has in fact moved to Windsor, Colorado, to serve as a high school principal. We regret the error.

**Dan Leifel '66, M.S., '71**, recently retired as an attorney for the Illinois Agricultural Association, a position he held for the last 27 years. He continues to live in Bloomington with his wife, Paula, a teacher at the Irving School, and is currently chairman of the Bloomington Cultural Commission.

**David Butler '77** of Bloomington was chosen as an associate judge for the 11th Judicial Circuit. He has spent the last 24 years in private practice and as a part-time public defender.

**Terri Ryburn-Lamonte '85, M.A. '88, D.A. '99**, has retired this summer after more than 25 years as Illinois State, where she has worked in a number of positions, including history and social sciences academic advisor, coordinator of Parent Services, and most recently, the assistant to the director of the School of Kinesiology and Recreation. In her retirement, she plans to travel, write, and continue her new career as a stand-up comic. She has performed her comedy at the Funny Bone

Comedy Clubs in Bloomington and Springfield, and at the Hollywood Improv in Los Angeles.

**Barry Gidcomb, D.A. '00**, was recently promoted to full professor at Columbia State Community College in Columbia, Tennessee. He also received both the Distinguished Faculty Award and the President's Medal for 2004, which was the first time that both awards were won by the same person in the same year.

Four alumni were inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Class of 2005 Hall of Fame: **James Fisher '56, M.S.E. '57**, president emeritus of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and Towson University and professor of leadership and philanthropic studies, The Union Institute; **James Koch '64**, Board of Visitors Professor and president emeritus, Old Dominion University; **Kenneth "Buzz" Shaw '61**, chancellor emeritus, Syracuse University; and **Louis Smith, M.A. '67**, recently retired as chief of the Europe and General Division Historical Office, Department of State.

## History major receives Bone scholarship

We are pleased to announce that senior history major Matthew Husky has been named a Robert G. Bone Scholar for 2005–2006. The Bone scholarship, the highest honor that the University can award undergraduates, honors exceptional students for their scholarly achievements and their engagement in the University community and beyond. Husky, a native of Sherman, Illinois, won a departmental Lucy Lucille Tasher Scholarship, given to outstanding senior history majors, last fall. He has also received a summer mentorship from the Honors Program to work on his Honors thesis, entitled "What Then on Earth Was I?": Victorian Female Identity and Separate Spheres in the Turn of the Screw," which is about Henry James and the depiction of women in late Victorian literature. He is working with Professors Richard Soderlund and Alan Lessoff on this project.

## McBride Scholarship fully endowed

The family, friends, and colleagues of Professor Lawrence McBride have fully endowed the scholarship award begun in his honor. It will be given each semester, if funding permits, to the best student teacher in the history education program. The history education faculty will select the recipient in consultation with the supervising and cooperating teachers and the mentors at the professional development schools. The scholarship honors the late Professor McBride, a noted history educator and Irish historian, who taught at Illinois State from 1986 until his death in 2004.

## Clemens receives tenure

Congratulations to Ray Clemens, who was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor this year. Clemens, who specializes in late medieval and early modern European cultural history, teaches courses in Renaissance and Reformation history. Last year, he won the College of Arts and Sciences' Outstanding Teaching Award in the Social Sciences. He is currently working on two book projects, *Introduction to Manuscript Studies*, and *Negotiating Sanctity: The Cult of the Magdalen in Late Medieval Europe*.

## Ruby wins Distinguished Service Award

Julie Ruby, our longtime lead secretary and office manager, was honored recently with a University Distinguished Service Award for Civil Service, the highest staff award given by the University, for her outstanding contributions to the department, the college, and the University. Ruby came to Illinois State and the History Department in 1987, and since then has served with five chairpersons, making each transition a smooth one with her knowledge and professional-

ism. Outgoing chair John Freed says that Ruby “has managed the department office with incredible ability for nearly two decades and has provided me with invaluable advice.”

In addition, Ruby was instrumental in organizing the clerical employees’ union, even though she herself could not be a member. She also helped found the Women’s Mentoring Network to provide support for non-traditional female students. She herself was once such a student; Ruby began tak-

ing courses at Illinois State in 1987, graduating with a B.S. in English in 2002.

According to Freed, “her commitment to the department, as well as all the people in this large institution, is legendary.” Ruby was surprised with this award at the University Civil Service and Administrative Professionals Awards Ceremony on April 20.



## Faculty updates

**David MacDonald's** latest book, *An Introduction to the History and Coinage of the Kingdom of the Bosphorus* (Lancaster, PA, and London), was published this spring in *Classical Numismatic Studies, No. 5* (see profile on page 6).

An article by **Kyle Ciani**, “Hidden Laborers: Female Day Workers in Detroit, 1870–1920,” appeared in the January 2005 issue of the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (Vol. 4, No. 1).

**Fred Drake**, who has been on sabbatical this past semester, had a busy spring. He presented, along with his daughter Sarah Drake Brown, a paper entitled “Finding a Balance between Celebration and Shame: Black Education in the Context of Progressive Experiments in Springfield, Missouri” at the Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, in March. The same month in St. Louis, Drake lent his expertise as a history education learning specialist for a team organized by the National Council for History Education to speak on the theme “Liberties Legacies” as part of a Teaching American History Grant. In April, he presented a paper entitled “From the Freedmen’s Bureau to Brown—Black Education in a Border State” at the American Educational Research Association’s annual meeting in Montreal. Also in April, he gave a speech, “Historical Thinking and Civic Education,” at the International Civic Education Conference, presented by the Civitas Baltic States Project in Tallinn, Estonia, of all places. More recently, he spoke on “Engagement in Teaching History” at the fifth-annual R. Freeman Butts Institute on Civic Learning in Teacher Education held in Indianapolis in May.

**Alan Lessoff** has received a Fulbright Grant to teach at Bilkent University, an English-language university near Ankara, Turkey, next spring. He will be teaching courses in U.S. history and urban studies. Lessoff also received a Franklin Grant from the American Philosophical Society for a project entitled “Van Wyck Brooks, Lewis Mumford, and the Creation of the American Nineteenth Century.” In March, he gave a talk on this topic to the “Expanding the Circle” seminar at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Lou Perez** was awarded \$14,000 from the Japan Foundation to be used to administer the Midwest Japan Seminar. Perez, who received this grant last year as well, is chair and organizer of the Midwest Japan Seminar, which convenes five times each year. The grant is administered through the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Illinois. He also served this year as the external evaluator for the department of history at the University of Michigan-Flint.

Six colleagues received unrestricted university research grants this year: **Patrice Olsen**, Faculty Research Grant in the Social Sciences; **Ross Kennedy**, Summer Faculty Fellowship; **Bill Philpott** and **Amy Wood**, Pre-Tenure Faculty Initiative Grants; and **Richard Hughes** and **Katrin Paehler**, New Faculty Initiative Grants.

**Linda Clemmons** gave birth to her second son, Samuel Ethan Jackson, on December 10, 2005. His older brother, Charlie, age two, is not amused.

**Fred Walk** has retired from Normal Community High School after 33 years of teaching. He will continue to teach courses for history majors at Illinois State.

**Suzanne Broderick** presented a paper entitled “Reel War: World War II Veterans Critique World War II Films” at the Film and History League Conference held in Dallas, Texas, in November 2004.

**Mark Plummer**, professor emeritus, was the keynote speaker at the Abraham Lincoln Association Banquet, held in Springfield, to celebrate the 196th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth on February 12. Plummer, whose most recent book, *Lincoln’s Rail-Splitter: Governor Richard J. Oglesby* (2001), is a biography of Lincoln’s friend and political advisor, Richard Oglesby, spoke on Oglesby’s peculiar role in the aftermath of Lincoln’s death.

**Earl Reitan**, professor emeritus, recently published his memoirs, *Time Is—Time Was—Time Nevermore Shall Be: An Historian’s Journey from Lake Wobegone to Academia*. A good portion of the book depicts his experiences as a historian and teacher at Illinois State.

## Retirements, from page 1

Abandon the Constitutional Convention?" was published in *New York History*. It won the Kerr Prize, given by the New York Historical Association, for the best article published in the journal.

Westbury has shown her creative side in co-writing a play about the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. Written with former colleagues Sandra Harmon and Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, the play is based on primary accounts from the convention. It has been produced and performed by Illinois State University's Theatre Department, as well as other college groups around the country. Westbury has published several articles on this experience, as well as other teaching-related issues.

She is currently working on a project on George Mason and anti-slavery in the Revolutionary period, a project she will continue during her retirement. She and her husband, Ian Westbury, live in Urbana, where Ian teaches in the College of Education at the University of Illinois. They have three grown sons, Brian, David, and Andrew, and one grandson, Dominick. Westbury has asked that donations be made to the Women's Mentoring Network. Donations in her honor can be sent to the History Department.

**Instructional Assistant Professor Sharon MacDonald** has taught a wide array of courses since she first arrived at Illinois State in 1973, and her research interests are equally as diverse. After graduating from Fresno



Sharon MacDonald

State in California, where she met husband and fellow retiree David MacDonald, MacDonald entered the University of Minnesota to study medieval English history, where she wrote a dissertation on parliament and monetary policy in the late medieval period.

Her work now, however, is focused on the American Civil War, an interest born out of her southern roots growing up in North Carolina.

MacDonald began her career at the University teaching the history of western civilization, though she soon began teaching survey courses in American history, military history, and, more recently, the American Civil War. She is well-known for her impassioned mentorship of students, directing numerous theses and independent studies, and organizing student field trips to Civil War battlefields. She has been the advisor for History Club and the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society and has served on the society's National Advisory Board. For these efforts, as well as her excellence in the classroom, she won an Outstanding University Teaching Award in 2001.

MacDonald's community service has also been invaluable. She was one of the leaders of the successful unionization effort for non-tenure-track faculty, and for the past two years, she has been the president of the NTT Faculty Association.

She is currently working on a long-term project on Andrew Jackson Smith, an escaped slave who enlisted from Clinton, Illinois, and fought with the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. MacDonald became interested in this project after meeting Smith's grandson, Andrew Bowman, at a Civil War Round Table in Indianapolis in 1997. Bowman, MacDonald, and former student and Dunlap High School teacher William Beckman, M.A. '01, worked together, along with U.S. Congressman Thomas Ewing and Senator Dick Durbin, to secure Smith a long overdue Medal of Honor, which he received posthumously in January 2001. MacDonald and Beckman are writing a book on Smith's life. She is also writing a book on Civil War tactics. She plans to spend her retirement working on both projects.

Joining her in retirement will be her husband, **Professor David MacDonald**, an international expert in coinage from the Greek and Roman Empires. He began studying ancient

civilizations while an undergraduate at California State University in Fresno, and later studied in Heidelberg, Germany, as a Fulbright Fellow, where he began working on archeological excavations. He earned his doctorate in ancient history from the University of Minnesota, arriving at Illinois State in 1971.

By his last count, he has taught HIS 101: Western Civilization, 70 times. He also has taught survey courses about ancient Greece, ancient Rome, and the ancient Near East.

While he had always been interested in ancient history, MacDonald first became interested in coins during an archaeological dig in Turkey. He says that studying these small, but important, objects can tell us much about the economy and movement of money in the ancient world, and they are crucial for enabling archaeologists to date other excavated objects and buildings. Indeed, studying coins has allowed MacDonald to straddle his two scholarly passions, archeology and history.

MacDonald is the author of numerous articles and book chapters on this topic, written in three languages. He has also written several books, which include *Greek and Roman Coins from Aphrodisias* (1976), and most recently, *An Introduction to the History and Coinage of the Kingdom of the Bosphorus* (2005). This latest monograph is a survey of the Commerian Bosphorus, a client kingdom to the Roman Empire in the Northern Black Sea, from 500 B.C. to 500 A.D. Very little is known about this small kingdom, except for its coinage, which traveled throughout the ancient world.

MacDonald plans to spend his retirement working on his next book on Greek coins that have been "overstruck" by other inscriptions, as well as a number of other articles. We are currently looking for another colleague to tell a joke of the day for us all here.



David MacDonald

## Spring awards ceremony held

Eight students were honored at our spring awards ceremony, held April 28 in the Bone Student Center. Jennifer Janik and Shannon Ring received the Gleyrafa A. Ray Award for outstanding history education majors who intend to become history teachers. Sara Alberico and Graham Kwiatkowski were the co-winners of the James Todd Wilburn Scholarship, which is awarded annually to sophomore history majors who have shown great promise at the beginning of their edu-

cation. The scholarship was endowed by the family of Todd Wilburn, an Illinois State student who died in an automobile accident in 1986.

The Kyle and Jean Sessions Honors Scholarship, awarded to outstanding juniors in the history Honors Program, went to Matthew Goerss and Whitney Wilda. Finally, Kelly Griffin and Mary Hollywood shared the Helen M. Cavanagh Award for the Best Master's Degree Student.



Seated, from left, Kelly Griffin, Whitney Wilda, and Shannon Ring; standing, from left, Mary Hollywood, Jennifer Janik, Sara Alberico, Graham Kwiatkowski, and Matthew Goerss.

## History education news

### Teaching American history conference a huge success

Last February, Frederick Drake, along with Richard Hughes and Molly Munson-Dryer, organized and directed the first-annual Teaching American History Grant Dissemination Conference, held at The Chateau Hotel in Bloomington. The two-day event drew in over 600 participants from around the state. The conference began on Friday evening, February 25, with a public lecture and book-signing by Gordon S. Wood, the Alva O. Way University Professor and professor of history at Brown University, on his new book *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin*. 350 guests attended the lecture.

Wood is the author of more than 50 publications, including *The Creation of the American Republic, 1776–1789* (1969), which won the Bancroft Prize and the John H. Dunning Prize, and *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* (1993), which won the Pulitzer Prize in History.

On Saturday, February 26, the conference continued with 28 sessions throughout the day on various topics related to pedagogy and American history. Three hundred teachers from around the state attended the Saturday conference. Illinois State professors Lucinda Beier, Linda Clemmons, Anthony Crubaugh, Ross Kennedy, Greg Koos, and Mark Wyman presented during these sessions, along with high school teachers who are part of the Teaching American History Grant. In addition, Gordon S. Wood gave a luncheon speech on “The Origins of American Constitutionalism.”

The conference exhibited several unique features that made it exceptional, an experience, Fred Drake says, he “will never forget.” The conference involved eight separate Illinois Teaching American History Grants, which was the first time that Teaching American History Grants were ever coordinated within a state. Many teachers who were not directly involved with these grants, however, participated in the conference, making it a wider gathering. In addition, as noted, the conference sessions included both teachers from our partnership schools for our own Teaching American History Grant and Illinois State history professors, a rare joint effort between public school history teachers and university professors. This collaboration received special notice from several national leaders in history education, including the National Council for History Education.

According to Drake, the conference “stimulated many Illinois teachers to know more about history and to inspire their students to think meaningfully about the past.” He hopes there will be a second Teaching American History Grant Dissemination Conference in Chicago next year and a third in Central Illinois the year after.



Gordon S. Wood signs books at the TAH Conference.

# Let us know your history!

**Send your news to the newsletter.**

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

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

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

City, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Your news \_\_\_\_\_

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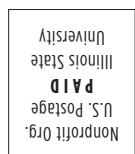
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