



# Today & Yesterday

Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 37 Summer 2013

## History alums take interesting, sometimes unexpected career paths

by Linda Spencer

With such a tight job market, many history professors and advisors often hear students ask, "What can I do with a history major?" The career paths of eight alums who graduated with degrees in history or history education provide some insight into the answer to that question. These eight men and women illustrate History Department Chair Anthony Crubaugh's contention that "history students receive a classic liberal arts education that can serve as a steppingstone for nearly any career, whether in education, law, government, journalism, or business. Through the History Department, students learn valuable skills—adaptability, broad knowledge, analytical and research abilities, and excellent written and oral communication—that employers find attractive." Each of these individuals has applied these skills to different career and educational paths.

Corey Cox '09 earned his degree in history and philosophy. He chose history as his major because of his "pas-



Corey Cox

sion for the subject and the way that it shaped my thinking as a person." His degree and passion for politics and social justice have led him to pursue varied opportunities. He was accepted into the Peace Corps but instead chose to teach English in China for six months. Next, he moved to Seattle and worked for a nonprofit agency that lobbied Congress on behalf of international

poverty reduction legislation. He then served as an intern for Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin.

Cox went on to earn his master's degree in May from The John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), where he studied international economics and American foreign policy with a concentration in economic policy. While at SAIS he did an internship with the Department of the Treasury, working in legislative affairs.

Cox said his Illinois State University experience taught him to think critically and gave him excellent oral and written communication skills that applied directly to his master's degree course work and interest in politics and legislation. "We have an entire generation of policymakers who are not able to convey a message, to distill policy down to comprehensible levels," Cox said.

Tim Frank, M.S. '94, is the chairman of the American arm of the Chinese company Sany Heavy Industry, a \$12 billion company specializing in heavy equipment. His responsibilities include research and development, production, and sales and service in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Latin America.

Frank directly relates several skills he learned in the history master's program to his current position. In his master's courses, he learned to be both a detective and a storyteller. In his work with international clients and corporations, he calls himself a detective, because he needs to learn about other

cultures and how to do business there. He also is a storyteller who paints pictures of the future to potential clients.

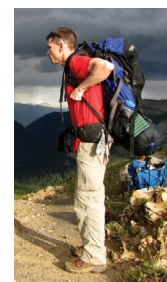


Tim Frank

When Frank travels to other regions of the world, he learns about modern cultures by seeing the country through what he learned in history.

Frank advises students to do what they love. "If you love history, go with it," he said. "You will use the skills you learn in history. Maybe you will be a history professor, but maybe you will be an astronaut. Don't feel like you are wasting your time; it will be useful."

Dan Greer '06 works for a large financial services firm in Plano, Texas. He primarily helps families make investments to reach their financial goals. He also is involved in marketing and being part of a team. Greer



Dan Greer

described what he does as "History 101—research, context, communication." He takes real-time information and puts it into a broader context and articulates it to his clients in language that makes sense to them.

Although Greer graduated with a degree in history and a minor in economics "without a clue" what he would do with these, he now sees links between his chosen career and history.

## Comings and goings

The History Department welcomed Kathryn Jasper, an expert in medieval history, in fall 2012. Jasper received her bachelor's and master's degrees in



Kathryn Jasper

history from the University of Arizona and her Ph.D. in history from the University of California-Berkeley. Jasper is broadly trained in ancient and medieval history with a particular interest in social, religious, and political movements of the 11th and 12th centuries.

Jasper spent 2008–2010 living in Italy, supported by a Fulbright grant, where she conducted archival and archaeological research. She is revising her manuscript on the 11th-century monastic congregation of Fonte Avelana, located in the Italian Marches. It is titled *Mapping a Monastic Network: Peter Damian and Fonte Avellana in the Eleventh Century*.

Since arriving as an assistant professor at Illinois State, she has offered Western Civilization to 1500 and the Middle Ages, 1100-1500. Next fall, she will teach Roman Writers, 1,000 Years of Rome; and The Middle Ages, 395–1100. She also is working to revive the Latin language program.

Jasper said she has enjoyed opportunities to work with other Illinois State faculty members. These collaborations will result in an interdisciplinary course on Rome this coming fall and a study abroad program in Italy slated for summer 2014. She said she is fortunate to work with many talented students at Illinois State. “I’ve found the history majors enthusiastic and curious about the Middle Ages, and I hope that many of them will pursue

other courses with me, perhaps in Italy,” she said.

Professor Ray Clemens has accepted the position of curator of early books and manuscripts at Yale University’s Beinecke Library. With impressive language skills, extensive work in Latin paleography and codicology and archival sciences, and vast experience as acting director of the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies, Clemens brings unique training and knowledge to this prestigious position. His highly praised book *Introduction to Manuscript Studies* and education background in history and religion at Oberlin College (B.A.), the University of Chicago (M.A.), and Columbia University (Ph.D.) gave him stellar credentials for the Yale job.

Clemens won several teaching awards at Illinois State, including the Teaching Initiative Award, College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award, and the University Outstanding Teacher Award. Having made numerous important contributions to the University and the department since his arrival in 1999, Clemens will be sorely missed as a teacher, scholar, and colleague.

Clifton Jones retired in August 2012. Jones earned a bachelor’s degree in history at Claremont McKenna College, a master’s degree in U.S. history at the University of Oregon, and a master’s degree in librarianship and archives at the University of Denver. Jones arrived at Illinois State in 1997 as dean of University Libraries. He also taught in the History Department, including Doing History, History of Illinois, Rural Life and Society, American Diversity, Archives and Manuscripts, and the graduate seminar on Topics in Local and Public History. Jones also performed valuable service for the department by, among other

things, running the internship program, sitting on the Department Faculty Status Committee, and overseeing important revisions to the graduate program during his long stint as graduate coordinator.

In retirement Jones will continue his lifelong migration eastward, as he and his wife, Vicky, plan to move to New Hampshire to be close to their children who are scattered around New England.

David Carroll, M.A. ’67, retired May 31, 2012. Carroll did his undergraduate work at Bradley University, received a master’s degree from Illinois State, and was all but dissertation at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, having earned “highest distinction” on his doctoral preliminaries. He had vast teaching experience before returning to Illinois State in 1989 as a lecturer. He continued to excel in the classroom, and students recognized him as a rigorous, engaging, and caring professor. Carroll also was a wonderful mentor to numerous graduate assistants, a number of whom have been groomed to teach History 111, including Kate Pole, M.A. ’08, and Jenny Freed, M.A. ’08. Carroll also was nominated for the Outstanding University Teacher Award, Category II.

We will miss Carroll as a colleague and a talented instructor but congratulate him on his retirement and a teaching career of which he can be proud.

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# Letter from the chair, Anthony Crubaugh

At the spring 2012 College of Arts and Sciences' (CAS) awards ceremony, five history faculty and staff were among the 17 people honored from CAS's 16 departments and schools. Our noticeable over-representation prompted one colleague from another department to exclaim: "Wow! History rocked!" Since that event, another five colleagues have garnered major university accolades while others received National Endowment for the Humanities and Fulbright fellowships; the department has hosted high-visibility functions ranging from Capitol Forum to the Oliver Stone/Peter Kuznick event attended by nearly 3,000 people; faculty members have published five books; the department has welcomed Katie Jasper as its new medievalist; and three colleagues have earned tenure and promotion to associate professor.

The aforementioned points highlight that the History Department had a very strong year. Still, any claim that the department continues to "rock" must rest both on the quality of our classroom teaching and on the achievements of the students. A recent confidential survey of graduating seniors justifies an assertion that the department maintains its admirable tradition of outstanding teaching. Indeed, 85 responses to the question "How satisfied are you with the quality of instruction in the program?" averaged 4.43 on a scale of 1 (dissatis-

fied) to 5 (very satisfied). As for student achievements, following is a sampling from a long list: Nolan Wilson and Abby Barnes participated in the teach abroad program in Brighton, U.K.; Simon Rodriguez received a Fulbright scholarship to study in Mexico; Kera Storrs won a CAS scholarship to intern at the Sewall-Belmont House in Washington, D.C.; Vanda Rajcan, Dominic Garzonio '09, M.A. '11, Seth Wheeler '09, M.A. '12, and Ethan Fridmanski were admitted into Ph.D. programs; Brock Bodine '12 will begin graduate studies in The Johns Hopkins University's program in international affairs; and Valerie Gabaldo '12 and James Allocco presented research at national conferences, while four other students presented work at Illinois State's Undergraduate Research Symposium.

The department is guardedly optimistic concerning one critical postgraduate "achievement," namely the landing of teaching jobs. Encouraging signs exist that students who remain in Illinois are experiencing a more active job market and that geographically flexible graduates are finding work in other states. This year's cohort of education graduates—the first under our 3.0 GPA requirement—was widely acknowledged to be among the best in memory, and when our graduates find the positions they so richly deserve they will be worthy standard-bearers of the University's and History Department's tradition of teaching excellence.

Thank you all for your support!

## Sutter establishes new scholarship



Department Chair Anthony Crubaugh with Darrel Sutter signing the endowment

History Department alum Darrel A. Sutter '60, M.S. '68, has established another scholarship endowment which will provide awards of \$50 and \$100 to students who write the most outstanding papers in History 200. The endowment also will provide a textbook scholarship annually to a student majoring in social sciences education.

This is the second endowment in the History Department that Sutter has established. "We are very grateful for Mr. Sutter's repeated assistance," Chair Anthony Crubaugh said. "His generosity makes a difference in our department."

Sutter graduated from Illinois

State (Normal) University with a B.S. in social sciences education and later completed a master's degree in social sciences education. He began teaching social sciences and business classes at Roanoke-Benson High School in 1960 and continued teaching there until his retirement in 1995.

He has not slowed down since his retirement, serving as chair of the Senior Professionals Mentoring Committee and volunteering in the Alumni office to serve as an ambassador for Illinois State. His life is best described as one of passion for students, education, and Illinois State University.

## Alumni spotlight—Mike Bullington

by Linda Spencer

Mike Bullington, '84, M.S. '89, is the archivist for McDonald's Corp. His job is to document the history of the brand and to support current and future business owners. Bullington came to Illinois State to become a history teacher, but an internship and an independent study at the McLean County Museum of History ignited his passion for archival work. He still remembers working with Greg Koos, executive director of the museum, on a World War II war bonds collection and Illinois Central



Railroad employee records. Koos praised Bullington's enthusiasm for learning and his deep understanding that history can be preserved through archival practices and fine research skills.

Bullington's master's thesis was "A History of Stout's Grove and Danvers, Illinois 1825–1886," written under the direction of Distinguished Professor Mark Wyman, and professors Paul

Holsinger and JoAnn Rayfield. "He was a pleasure to work with—he wrote well, met deadlines and accepted my critique," Wyman said. These skills translated well when he worked on the "massive McDonald's archives—a bit larger than researching and writing about Danvers, but using many of the same skills. The History Department can be proud of Mike Bullington."

After graduating with his master's degree in history, Bullington worked as archivist for Kraft Foods and Rush Medical Center before he accepted the job with McDonald's eight years ago.

As the corporate archivist at McDonald's headquarters in Oak Brook, Bullington oversees a temperature-controlled archive room filled with a vast array of McDonald's memorabilia, including every toy ever put in a Happy Meal, original packaging, and images of the first red and white restaurants. He thinks that the most interesting items are the original logbooks from opening day at Ray Croc's first store in Des Plaines. These logs include Croc's notes on the weather for the day (cold and rainy) and the total sales (\$366.12). When that store opened in 1955 you could get a burger, fries, and a shake for 50 cents.

Bullington explained that one of the things he likes about his job is that there is no typical day. One day,

he helped the marketing team with a request for retro packaging replicas for a movie being shot that was set in 2000. Another day, he helped an owner/operator prepare for a 50-year celebration by locating articles about when the store opened. He also loaned the store original uniforms for the crew to wear. To honor these requests, he does research and often goes into the collection to find answers.

He also gets to travel in his job. Every two years the corporation hosts a worldwide convention in Orlando, Florida, and he sets up a display booth and shares memorabilia with convention participants. Two years ago he was part of a delegation that traveled to China for 15 days where he helped licensees in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singapore appraise records and create their own archives.

Bullington is married and the father of four. His youngest child is adopted from China. The day of the adoption he suggested that their first meal as a family should be at a Chinese restaurant. His wife, however, said "No, we need to go to McDonald's." Certainly, Bullington did not envision this interesting career when he arrived at Illinois State to become a teacher. Based on his own experience, Bullington advises students not to "be afraid to try new things, to change course."

## "The Untold Story of the United States" comes to Illinois State

On January 31, 2013, the History Department sponsored "The Untold History of the United States," a lecture presented by acclaimed director Oliver Stone and historian Peter Kuznick at Braden Auditorium. More than 3,000 people from Illinois State and the community attended the event.

The event promoted the pair's eponymous 10-part Showtime documentary and book covering events from World War II to the present.

Stone and Kuznick hope that the documentary and book lead people to challenge traditional historical narratives of the time period and start to think about how things could have turned out differently. They also oppose the notion of American exceptionalism and instead highlight examples of imperialism, including the dropping of the atomic bomb.

Stone is best known for his work as an award-winning director of

historically-based movies. Kuznick is a professor of history at American University and director of the Nuclear Studies Institute. The two men met when Kuznick invited Stone to sit in on his class examining Stone's films. After the class, the two men went to dinner, where, after a wide-ranging discussion of history, they decided to collaborate on an ambitious historical documentary that challenged the "traditional narrative of American history."



Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick with history students

Several Illinois State history students were chosen to ask Stone and Kuznick questions. The main presentation included a viewing of part three of their Showtime documentary on

World War II and the dropping of the atomic bomb, followed by a question-and-answer period moderated by Monica Noraian, associate professor of history and director of the undergradu-

ate history program. “As a society, a campus and student body, we should be having conversations about history and challenging ourselves with its interpretation,” Noraian said.

The event achieved Noraian’s goal of getting people to think about historical interpretation and causation. Stone and Kuznick talked extensively about “what ifs” in history. What if President Harry Truman had not been selected vice president? What if the atomic bomb had not been dropped? These type of questions were designed to shake people out of their traditional way of thinking and to get them to strive for a better future by learning from past mistakes. Even if attendees did not agree with Stone’s and Kuznick’s interpretations, conversations continued long after the event ended.

## Sharon Foiles celebrates 25 years with History Department



Sharon Foiles

undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members over the years. She has received the Distinguished Service Award and was involved in the unionization of the Civil Service. Through her union activism, Foiles helped to improve the salary and working conditions of her coworkers at Illinois State.

Sharon Foiles recently celebrated 25 years with the History Department. She has

worked with

Foiles cannot believe how many changes have occurred during her tenure. “It’s almost an entirely new department from when I started working here,” she said. “It’s hard to believe that I’ve been here longer than almost everyone in the department. Recently I realized that I’ve reached the point where I have actually spent more of my life working in the History Department than not.” She also acknowledged the changes in technology during her years of service at Illinois State. “When I started in the History Department 25 years ago we were doing much more typing for faculty and we used a mimeograph machine to make copies,” she said. “My job has changed completely

over the years, but that is one of the things I like so much about working here.”

The one constant in her job has been her relationship with the faculty and students. “The best memory of all is the spectacular people that I’ve worked with over the years,” Foiles said. “I have always felt so fortunate to work in the History Department. I think we have always had the best department on campus, which is why I’ve stayed in the same office for so many years. It rarely ever gets boring because the work and the students are forever changing.” She is looking forward to creating more memories at the University.

*My greatest achievement in the department was hiring Sharon. She was a wonderful colleague from the start. She served the department with dedication and loyalty through the years; she was kind, hardworking, dependable, and a pleasure to be around. Somewhere along the way she became family to me.*

—Julie Ruby, retired office manager

*Sharon does her work so well that we tend to take the job she does for granted. When she decides to retire, we will finally realize how much we owe to her expertise, dedication to the department, and cheery disposition.*

—John Freed, Distinguished Professor emeritus, former department chair

## Faculty awards

Four History Department faculty members earned awards this past year. Issam Nassar, D.A. '97, was awarded the Outstanding College Researcher Award. The award recognizes individuals who have conducted research at an outstanding level among their peers. Monica Noraian, Ph.D.'07, won the Outstanding University Teacher Award. Every year, the University recognizes its most outstanding teachers through this award. Lou Perez was named the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer for spring



Issam Nassar



Monica Noraian



Lou Perez



Touré Reed

2014. The Arts and Sciences Lecture Series was established in 1968 to honor CAS faculty members who have made outstanding scholarly contributions to the University and to their disciplines. Finally, Touré Reed received the David Strand Diversity Achievement Award.

Reed is the 20th recipient of the award, which was established and endowed by President Emeritus David Strand to honor a faculty or staff member whose efforts result in heightened sensitivity to diversity on campus.

## Books published

History department faculty members collectively published five books this year. These books included Ross Kennedy's *A Companion to Woodrow Wilson* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012); Alan Lessoff and Thomas Welskopp's *Fractured*

*Modernity: America Confronts Modern Times, 1890s to 1940s* (München: Oldenbourg Verlag, 2012); Lou Perez's *Japan at War: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2013); Lou Perez and Mikiso Hane's *Modern Japan: A Historical Survey* fifth

edition (Westview Press, 2012); and William Reger and Tonio Andrate's *The Limits of Empire: European Imperial Formation in the Early Modern World* (Ashgate, 2012).

## Stewart Winger—NEH Fellowship



Stewart Winger received a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship. Winger will use the

fellowship to work on a portion of his larger book project titled *Civism': Lincoln, Civic Duty, and the Origins of the Business Corporation in Illinois Law, 1835–1877*.

In this section of his work, Winger argues that the special project of the state of Illinois in this period was to create conditions that would make possible the expansion of the market economy, effectively replacing subsistence and barter agriculture. In the antebellum period, this market expansion emerged as the special project both of popularly elected Republican officials and of the judiciary. As both a politician and lawyer, Abraham Lincoln alternately played leading and ancillary roles in this project. Lincoln's political and legal battles over banking, canals, railroads, and even the laws for

women and children demonstrate in microcosm the legal preconditions for a modern market economy. From this angle, the market economy appears, not as a "free market," but as a regulatory scheme of state power, which is how the former Whig Lincoln understood it.

The NEH fellowship has allowed Winger to conduct research at the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Illinois State Archives in Springfield, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. He also plans a research trip to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

After graduation, he landed a job with a small for-profit college as a career counselor. While he did not like the job, he discovered he was good at sales. His later found a job that fit his skill set.

Greer attended Illinois State on the GI Bill after a tour with the Army. "I grew into who I am at ISU," he said. For the first time in his life he got rewarded for being himself and called the University "a safe environment where I could study what I was interested in and discovered that sometimes in life when you are doing the things you love, there are rewards."

Chris Helms, M.S. '09, is the collections manager and registrar at the National Hellenic Museum in Chicago, a public museum in Greektown. The museum has four rotating exhibits open to the public and hopes to connect generations through the study of Greek history, culture, and art.



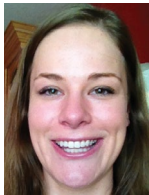
Chris Helms

Helms handles the conservation of objects and works with donors. Often donors invite him to look at their whole collection and share their life stories that go with the artifacts. As registrar he deals with the technical side of museum administration, including photographing items, managing a database, and supervising interns.

Helms credited his undergraduate degree in history and his master's work at Illinois State with preparing him for his current position. Helms studied ancient Greece and Rome in Illinois State's master's program. He also served as an intern at the First Division Museum at Cantigny, which added to his growing interest in public history. After completing his master's degree, Helms took a position on the Clarendon Hills Historical Society board of directors and volunteered at the National Hellenic Museum. His volunteer efforts led to a job offer as librarian at the museum and eventually to his

current position. His advice to students is don't settle and start early looking for the job they love.

Natalie Olinger '07 works at a community bank in the western suburbs

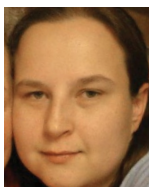


Natalie Olinger

of Chicago. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in history-social sciences education. She student taught at Marlow Middle School in Huntley, however, she found that teaching jobs were scarce. Fortunately she quickly found a job at a local bank and moved into the field of business banking.

Despite her change in careers, Olinger credited her history classes for giving her strong writing, analytical reading, and research skills, which helped her to quickly learn her new job and advance in the banking field. She keeps her love of history alive by supporting her local historical society. She also is an ambassador for her community of Glen Ellyn. She urged students to "find something you have true passion for and hold on to that because there is no greater happiness than doing something you love."

Vanda Rajcan '06, M.A. '10, M.A. '11, works as a researcher at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. While at Illinois State, Rajcan applied for and received a three-month internship at the museum. The directors of her internship were so impressed with her work that she was offered a full-time job in October 2010.



Vanda Rajcan

Her work at the Holocaust Museum will contribute research on Slovakia to a seven-volume encyclopedia—to be published by Indiana University Press in 2015—that tracks more 42,000 camps and ghettos of the Holocaust. When she started her

research, historians only knew of four holocaust sites in Slovakia. She has discovered about 100 more.

Rajcan will leave this job in July to start working on her Ph.D. at Northwestern University.

Rajcan said her course work at Illinois State—as well as her second master's degree in politics and government and her language skills—contributed to her success as a researcher at the Holocaust museum and her admittance into Northwestern's competitive history program. She encouraged today's students to gain a broad historical context, to learn languages, and to take courses outside of their comfort zone.

Marla Tetzlaff '11, majored in history and minored in information systems. She currently works as a software application engineer at Charles Schwab in Denver. Tetzlaff credits her success in her current position to her unique combination of fields at ISU. "The different skill sets I acquired in



Marla Tetzlaff

my major and minor helped me become a well-rounded student," she said. She specifically benefitted from her strong reading and writing skills, as well as her programming and IT background.

Tetzlaff noted that even without a formal education about financial institutions, her transition at Charles Schwab was smooth because of her ability to quickly pick up new concepts. Tetzlaff explains that she "had so much to learn from technical standards to Schwab's business functions. I was required to read material, study Schwab's protocols, and ask necessary questions; it has been challenging and rewarding." Based on her own experience, Tetzlaff recommended pairing a unique major and minor, which opens up many options for future careers and interests.

Continued on Page 9

# Faculty accomplishments

**Agbenyega Adedze** published “Visualizing the Game: The Iconography of Football on African Postage Stamps,” *Soccer & Society* (March 2012), 294-308.

**Roger Biles** published “A Mormon in Babylon: George Romney as Secretary of HUD, 1969-1973,” *Michigan Historical Review* 38 (Fall 2012), 63-89.

**Kyle Ciani** published “More Acronyms, More Activists: The Diverse Voices Found Among Oral History,” review essay for *Women and Social Movements in the United States* (Alexander Street Press, 2012).

**Linda Clemmons** will publish *The Conflicted ABCFM Mission to the Dakotas, 1835-1862*, with Minnesota Historical Society Press.

**Anthony Crubaugh** presented “Peasants Into Swiss Men: National Histories in La Feuille Villageoise During the French Revolution,” Midwest American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Madison, Wisconsin.

**Andrew Hartman** published “Americans and Others: Historical Identity Formation in the United States,” (Chapter 43) *Routledge Handbook of Cosmopolitan Studies*, Gerard Delanty, ed. (New York: Routledge, 2012), 527-537.

**Richard Hughes** presented “The March on Washington without Martin Luther King, Jr.: Teaching the Long Civil Rights Movement,” Annual Conference of the National Council for History Education, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Katie Jasper** published “The Economics of Reform,” *History Compass* 10/6 (2012), 440-454.

**Ross Kennedy** published “World War I: The Challenge of Maintaining Neutrality,” in Thomas Zeiler and Robert McMahon, eds., *The Guide to U.S. Foreign Policy: A Diplomatic History*, CQ Press, Sage Publications, 2012.

**Alan Lessoff** presented an invited lecture “Was There a Gilded Age? Was There a Progressive Era?” as part of the “Remembering America” series at the McConnell Center, University of Louisville, January 2012.

**Issam Nassar** co-organized a symposium on Arab Photography at New York University-Abu Dhabi and served as the head of the research committee of the Riwaya Museum of the History of Bethlehem.

**Monica Noraian** organized the annual statewide history-social sciences education symposium, “Building a Sense of Collaboration in the History-Social Sciences Classroom,” Bloomington, 2013.

**Patrice Olsen** presented “Intolerance Armed: Distorted Populism, Peronismo, and the AAA”, Latin American Studies Association XXX International Congress, San Francisco.

**Katrin Paehler** was an invited participant in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar for Faculty, “Teaching the Gendered Experience of the Holocaust,” Washington, D.C., June 2012.

**Lou Perez** in addition to publishing two books in 2012, he taught “Is Japan More Violent than Other World Cultures?” at the Academy of Seniors, March 19, 21, 26, and 28, 2012, Normal.

**John Reda** published “From Subjects to Citizens: Two Pierres and the French Influence on the Transformation of the Illinois Country,” *French and Indians in the Heart of North America, 1630-1815*, Guillaume Teasdale and Robert Englebert eds. (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press).

**Touré Reed** published “Oscar Handlin and the Problem of Ethnic Pluralism and African American Civil Rights,” *Journal of American Ethnic History* (Spring 2013), 37-45.

**Richard Soderlund** developed a proposal for a summer 2014 study abroad program in London, U.K.

**Sudipa Topdar** presented “Duties of a ‘Good Citizen’: Colonial School Textbook Policies in Late Nineteenth-Century India,” Annual Association of Asian Studies, Toronto, Canada.

**Georgia Tsouvala** presented “Plutarch’s Use and Abuse of Alexander’s Marriages,” 10th International Conference on History: Ancient Macedonian History-A Diachronic Analysis, Athens, Greece.

**Christine Varga-Harris** published “Moving Toward Utopia: Soviet Housing in the Atomic Age,” in *Divided Dream-worlds? The Cultural Cold War in East and West*, Peter Romijn, Giles Scott-Smith and Joes Segal, eds. (Amsterdam, Netherlands: Amsterdam University Press, 2012), 133-153.

**Stewart Winger** presented “Testing our Standards—Testing our Teaching: Our General Education Vs. the A.P. Exams,” Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology’s Teaching and Learning Symposium, Normal.

**Amy Wood** published “Killing the Elephant: Murderous Beasts and the Thrill of Retribution, 1885-1930,” *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (July 2012), 405-44.



Whitney Wilda '06, M.S. '11, recently finished her sixth year teaching freshmen World Cultures and World History Honors at Hinsdale Central High School. She also served as the World Cultures curriculum team leader this year.

Wilda said she got her first job because of the faculty in the Illinois State History Department. During a class she learned about a temporary job at Thornton Fractional South High School. She was hired before she had officially graduated. She later landed the job at Hinsdale, beating out more than 1,000 applicants.

Wilda earned her master's in history from Illinois State while working full time. She worked 60–70 hours a



Whitney Wilda

week for 3.5 years to achieve this, taking distance-learning classes at Lincoln-Way High School and driving to campus for two semesters.

Wilda encouraged students who are aspiring to be teachers to get as many endorsements as possible even in fields unrelated to history, like special education and English as a second language; to network; and to volunteer in order to stand out. "If your heart is in teaching and no other job will make you happy, you have to be able to move; even consider teaching in another country for a while," she said. "There are places hiring teachers."

Wilda loves teaching and her job, and said she is where she is today because of Illinois State.

While these eight individuals have found their career paths, the Department of History is working to help undergraduate and master's students find rewarding careers. For example, the Department of History is partnering with Normal West High School and the McLean County Museum of History to hold a job fair this fall where 30 organizations will be represented. History Department alumni are encouraged to contact Assistant Professor Monica Noraian at (309) 438-3001 or [mcnora2@ilstu.edu](mailto:mcnora2@ilstu.edu) if they would like to participate in the job fair.

## Professor still gets his kicks on Route 66

by Linda Spencer

Fred Walk, M.S. '78, a History Department advisor and high school and college instructor, has been actively involved with preserving Route 66 as a historic site.

Route 66 was decommissioned in 1977 when Interstate 55 opened, and as a result, the 2,448-mile route was neglected. For years on his drive from Towanda to Normal Community High School, Walk was confronted with ugly barricades marking the closed Route 66 around Towanda. As one would expect of a history teacher, he often thought that something should be done to preserve this landmark. In 1998, he put his thoughts into action and raised funds to construct a commemorative sign.

What originally began as a sign has blossomed into a much larger project. His passion for preserving the route has grown to include students at the elementary, high school, and college levels. During 2000–2001, Walk was co-teaching a course on the Great Depression. During his students' study of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, Walk organized a field



Fred Walk's passion for the Route 66 project is contagious. The community has recognized his commitment to the route by installing a sign along the roadway thanking him as the driving force of the project.

trip to Route 66 so that his students could experience the actual road written about in the book. The students returned committed to preserving the route and helped expand Walk's vision for the historical site into a yearlong schoolwide project involving, among others, English classes, art classes, foreign language classes, and the technology department. Students researched and worked at the site and produced commemorative plaques. Chrissy Graeff and Kim Rutledge, two students who participated in the project, said

maintaining a piece of Route 66 was a very rewarding experience.

Walk continues to involve his college students in the project. In his History 290 course, Walk takes his students to get a firsthand look at the Route 66 Linear Parkway where they spend a day working on beautification projects and learn how to integrate civic involvement into their future classrooms. "This is what we do as teachers: get students involved in their communities, help develop in them a sense of activism," Walk said. Several

Continued on Page 10

# Student Awards

## HELEN M. CAVANAGH AWARDS

Best Master's Degree Students  
Edward Marto  
Kera Storrs

Best American Thesis  
Doris Weil

Best Global Thesis  
Brian Woodruff

## LUCY LUCILE TASHER SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Rachel Aberle  
Felicia Farden  
Bryanna Smith

## GLEYNABA A. RAY AWARD

Erin Addante  
Alexander Bishop  
Sidney Comstock  
Ashley Curtin  
Valerie Gabaldo

## MARK WYMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Kramer  
Chelsea Pokrzywinski

## JAMES TODD WILBORN SCHOLARSHIP

Nicole Luoma

## DARREL A. SUTTER SCHOLARSHIP

Matthew Donta  
Alyx Kennedy

## KYLE C. SESSIONS HONORS SCHOLARSHIP

Michelle Suhi

## WILLIAM AND JEANNE HOWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Sean Radcliff

## HARMON RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Diana Enriquez  
Nicholas Sorrentino

## LAWRENCE W. MCBRIDE AWARD

Jaiclyn Brown

## HOWARD ROMANEK HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Yadgir

## Professor still gets his kicks on Rout 66, from Page 9

of his former high school students who graduated from Illinois State are now teaching history at local high schools and they continue to follow Walk's example by sharing the history of Route 66 with their students.

As a result of Walk's work, Route 66 is no longer a forgotten stretch of road. More than 1,000 people from all 50 states and many countries—China, Germany, Australia—have signed the guest book available on the parkway, often leaving their email addresses or personal notes. Sometimes when he is working on the parkway, Walk will

strike up a conversation with international visitors, welcoming them to his community and this unique landmark. In addition to educating the public and maintaining the site, Walk has raised \$30,000 for the project. State Farm Insurance Companies and the National Geography Society have been major donors.

If you would like more information about historic Route 66, to request a flyer, or to make a donation, contact Fred Walk at [route66towanda.com](http://route66towanda.com) or RR #1, Box 276, #10 Bent Tree Lane, Towanda, IL 61776.

## Spotlight on students

### Washington, D.C., internship program

Illinois State University recently established a student internship program in Washington, D.C. The purpose of this program is to enhance the educational experience of selected students by providing them with the opportunity to work in Washington, D.C., for an entire semester or summer. Kevin Schrop '10, M.S. '12, represented the History Department and the College of Arts and Sciences in 2012. He worked at the Naval History and Heritage Command. Kera Storrs '11, a graduate student in history, is participating in the program this summer. She is working at the Sewall-Belmont House as a collections intern. Her duties will include organizing and cataloging photographs, archival materials, and artifacts, and entering and updating records in their cataloging and archival system.

### Fulbright study abroad program winner

Simon Rodriguez was accepted into the prestigious Fulbright study abroad seminar in Mexico. He traveled to Cuernavaca, which is 50 miles south of Mexico City. The program is specifically designed for education majors

or people who want to work with Spanish-speaking children. Rodriguez was one of seven Illinois State students and seven area teachers on the trip. In addition to working with the children and staying in local homes, the students took intense daily language classes.

### Study Abroad Essay winner

History major Joseph Hlavaty won the 2012 Study Abroad Essay Contest. His essay detailed his experiences in Italy, where he spent each month in a different city. He focused on his time in the little village of Tuscania, where he formed an amazing connection with several local Italian students. He also wrote about his personal growth as he overcame a lifelong obstacle.



## Spring Symposium

The History Department once again hosted the Spring Symposium in partnership with the McLean County Museum of History and the Regional Office of Education (ROE). The museum provided the facilities for the event and the ROE provided support and Continuing Professional Development Units. According to Candace Summers '06, director of education at the museum, one of the reasons the museum continues to be involved with this event is to bring awareness to local educators about the variety of educational resources available at the McLean County Museum of History. "This symposium really speaks to how important history is to our community and how teachers want to continue to find new and exciting ways to incorporate history into the classroom," she said.

This year the symposium focused on leadership. More than 200 teachers spent the day attending sessions on teacher, professional, historical, museum, and community leadership. Many of these sessions were taught by History Department faculty members, including Richard Hughes, Katie Jasper, Monica Noraian, Sara Piotrowski, Sudipa Topdar, Georgia Tsouvala, and Joyce Witt.

The conference had something for teachers at all levels. Comments were very positive about the conference. For example, Cameron Zinder attended the conference for the second time; first as an Illinois State student and this year as a teacher in Urbana. She said professional development sessions gave her a sense of what to expect in the classroom, while the sessions this year gave her ideas for use in her classroom. Lucinda D. Miller, M.S. '09, a teacher at Metcalf School, also stressed the importance of the conference. "I have enjoyed attending this conference the past several years and was thrilled to be able to share some of what we are doing at Metcalf," Miller said. "The feedback and discussion that we received from other teachers was fabulous and will undoubtedly enhance our program."

## Capitol Forum



and more student participation. The purpose of the Capitol Forum is to raise international aware-

ness and promote educated civic exchange among high school students. In partnership with the Illinois Humanities Council and the McCormick Foundation, the Department of History hosted 10 high school teams from across the state. Prior to arriving at the University, the teams researched, analyzed, and deliberated five specific case studies on human rights issues. During the event, the teams engaged in extended dialogue with each other and with experts and policymakers on issues including hunger, slavery, and homelessness. By the end of the day, the students had crafted an outreach project to be implemented following the forum.

After a resounding inaugural success last year, the Capitol Forum returned to Illinois State with more schools

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## Students teach in England

This spring saw the successful completion of the first semester of the new student-teaching abroad partnership between Illinois State's College of Education and Brighton University. A desire to offer more international opportunities for our history-social sciences education students led Professors Fred Walk and Monica Noraian to explore and develop the



Nolan Wilson and Abby Barnes

idea of joining the well-established early childhood and elementary student teaching program in the College of Education.

Abby Barnes and Nolan Wilson were the first two history education majors to take advantage of this new program. They received training about the English school system. Unlike the student teaching program in the United States, the English system involves more shadowing than teaching. During their time in England, Barnes and Wilson lived with local families and participated in planned excursions with the entire group from Illinois State. They blogged about their experiences on the History Department's website, [History.IllinoisState.edu](http://History.IllinoisState.edu).



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