



Today & Yesterday

Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 33 Summer 2009

Seven faculty members published books this year

We celebrated an avalanche of book publications in the department this year. Eight books appeared on a range of topics, written by seven historians in the department.

Patrice Olsen, who teaches Latin American history, has written an interdisciplinary and innovative history of the built environment in Mexico City as it related to national consolidation after the Mexican Revolution. *Artifacts of Revolution: Architecture, Society, and Politics in Mexico City, 1920–1940* (Rowman and Littlefield Press) argues that we

can understand important facets of the Mexican Revolution by analyzing the architecture designed and built in Mexico City between 1920 and 1940. Each individual building or development provides evidence of the process by which the revolution evolved into successive governments. Olsen's work makes an important contribution both to the study of Mexican political history and to Latin-American urban, social, and cultural history.

Our specialist in U.S. diplomatic history, **Ross Kennedy**, published

The Will to Believe: Woodrow Wilson, World War I, and America's Strategy for Peace and Security (Kent State University Press), which offers a detailed analysis of how U.S. political leaders conceptualized and pursued national security from 1914 to 1920. In many ways, Kennedy argues, Woodrow Wilson and the era of World War I cast a deeper shadow over contemporary foreign policy debates than more recent events, such as the Cold War. Wilson and his contemporaries engaged in a wide-ranging discourse about the

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Alum reflects upon trip to the Amazon

In June 2008, Associate Professor **Patrice Olsen** took seven students and alumni to the Amazon jungle in Peru, where they explored the linkages between human rights and environmental rights. The trip was part of the Maria Elena Moyano Human Rights Seminar, held each summer in Lima at the Universidad del Pacifico and directed by Carlos Parodi from the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State. As assistant director of the program, Olsen organized the trip after having traveled herself to the Amazon the previous summer. The trip was sponsored by our department, the College of Arts

and Sciences, the Office of International Studies, and the Department of Politics and Government.

Jenny Freed, M.A. '08, provides some of her reflections on the trip:

The Amazon is unlike any other place on Earth... We stayed at the Heliconia Lodge, a series of huts on stilts next to the river. We were surrounded by exquisite flowers and plants and could look down at the various creatures as they dashed around on the ground... We were fortunate to have a guide who had grown up in the Amazon. He was self-taught and shared scientific information about the flora and fauna, as well as local



Jacob Gourley '98 holds a sloth in the Amazon.

myths, remedies, and so forth. He also understood our desire to meet and interact with the people living in the jungle. We visited a sugar plantation

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Letter from the chair

It has been my distinct pleasure and honor to have been the interim chair of the Department of History during the 2008–2009 academic year. I owe a debt of gratitude to the entire faculty and staff of the department for contributing to a successful year. Everyone was generous with their assistance, patient with my learning curve, and enthusiastic with their contributions to share in the leadership and governance during this year of transition. Indeed several important initiatives were launched this year.

Although the chair search was not successful in hiring a chair this year, the search committee did an outstanding job of recruiting a top-rate pool and the entire faculty and staff graciously hosted the visit of four outstanding candidates. The chair search will continue into next year, but the department will be in fine hands with the very wise stewardship of Associate Professor Anthony Crubaugh.

In addition to conducting the chair search, the department was busy with four tenure and promotion cases. The entire department was quite proud to support the process for promotion to associate professor of Richard Hughes, Issam Nassar, William Philpott, and Stewart Winger. One of the highest honors for me as interim chair was to hold company with such outstanding scholars and teachers.

During the past year, a number of books have been published by members of the Department of History faculty. Members of the department have

made important contributions to the professional literature and each publication has highlighted the wonderful talent we have at Illinois State University. In addition to scholarship, the Department of History also prides itself for outstanding teachers. This past year, William Philpott was recognized as an Outstanding College Teacher by the College of Arts and Sciences and Ron Gifford was the recipient of the prestigious Stan and Sandy Rives Award for outstanding teaching for undergraduate students as recognized by the University across all colleges.

Another important accomplishment for the faculty during this busy year has been evidenced in several important modifications to the graduate program. Proposals to enhance the graduate program were thoroughly researched and discussed by the faculty and proposed changes will continue to work through the university approval process to ultimately result in a program that will better prepare graduates.

It has truly been a highlight of my academic career to be a part of the Department of History for the past year and I leave with many fond memories, warm relationships, and good feelings about the outstanding contributions this department makes to the University. You have my deepest wishes for continued success.

Diane Zosky

Comings and goings



Monica Noraian

We have a new director of the History-Social Sciences Education Program, **Monica Noraian**, who served as interim director in 2007–2008. Noraian has been at Illinois State for the past ten years, working as an instructor, an academic advisor,

and as both a coordinator and supervisor of student teachers. In that time, she completed her Ph.D. in the College of Education.

Noraian also has experience in the high school classroom, having taught history at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, and at West Chicago High School in West Chicago. She received her B.A. from The American University in Washington, D.C., where she majored in history and German/West European area

studies. She then did post-graduate work at the University of Hamburg in Germany and then at Harvard University, where she received an

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Editor: Amy Wood

Alumni spotlight: David Sam '81

David Sam may be our most degreed alumnus. In addition to his B.A. from Illinois State, he holds an M.A., an M.B.A., a J.D., and a Ph.D. He is currently the president of Elgin Community College in Elgin, a position he has held since 2007.

Sam is originally from Ghana and first came to the U.S. as a high school exchange student in Eureka. The experience led him to want to return to Illinois for his college education. He initially majored in Political Science and Economics, but soon realized that to understand these fields, he needed to understand history. "Everything is rooted in history," he says. He ultimately graduated with three majors, including history, in which he earned departmental honors.

At Illinois State, he worked with Professor George Cunningham on his Honor's Thesis, writing on the first president of Ghana. He believes that Illinois State provided him with "a very good foundation" for his future endeavors. "By the time, I left ISU, I felt I could do anything," Sam says.

With an interest in diplomatic history, he entered the Fletcher School at Tufts University, where he earned his M.A. in Law and Diplomacy and his Ph.D. in International Relations. He wrote his dissertation on the development of financial institutions in Africa, focusing on a case study of the agricultural development bank and national investment bank of Ghana. Because his work focused on the intersections between international relations and finance, he became interested in pursuing his M.B.A., which he did at Northwestern University, after moving to Chicago while still working on his dissertation. There he specialized in finance and marketing, areas of study that he felt would be useful to him in potential careers in either diplomacy or in academic administration.

He chose ultimately to enter into academic administration. After a brief stint working for the accounting firm, Arthur Anderson, he became the associate director of Business and International Education at Harold Washington College in Chicago. He worked his way up through various teaching and administrative positions at community colleges in Illinois, Michigan,

Pennsylvania, and Ohio, before being appointed as the president of North Harris College in Houston, in 2000. Along the way, he completed his law degree at the University of Akron, in part out of personal interest in the law, but also because he found that many issues in administration bear upon legal issues. He remained in Houston for seven years before returning to the Chicago area to head Elgin Community College two years ago.

At Elgin, Sam oversees a diverse student body of 10,300 students and over 1,000 employees. Although the college has many occupational programs in fields ranging from nursing to graphic design, many of its students go on to four year schools, including Illinois State. As an immigrant, he believes strongly in what he calls "the transformational power of education," and tries to instill that belief in his students to help them achieve their educational goals.

As his career shows, Sam has had a life-long interest in learning and looking at things from varied academic perspectives. Most recently, he has become interested in issues surrounding energy, particularly since Ghana has discovered oil, and he wants to understand the implications of that discovery for his homeland's economic and political future. Last summer, he spent three weeks at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at the University of Dundee in Scotland learning about issues surrounding energy.

Sam is married with two children—a son in high school and a daughter who is entering her junior year at Rice University in Houston. He still visits Ghana regularly, as his father and his siblings still reside there.



Alumni updates

Ron Bleumer '67, M.S. '72, is continuing to teach history at Illinois Valley Community College. He will soon release his ninth book on the history of the Illinois Valley, titled *Buddy, Can You Spare a Dime?*, which describes the impact of Depression-era social conditions and the New Deal on the region.

Steve Volkening '73, M.S. '74, is currently the executive director of the College of Professional Studies at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. He also recently presented a paper at the 20th Annual Oxford University Roundtable last August. The paper was titled, "Lessons from Native America: Towards a New Environmental Ethic."

Michael G. Matejka '74 recently received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Adult Award from the Bloomington and Normal Human Relations Commission for his extensive community service. Matejka is the legislative affairs director for the Great Plains Laborers District Council, which covers northern Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Matejka served 18 years on the Bloomington City Council and is a founding member of the Central Illinois Organizing Project and the Central Illinois Foodbank.

Richard Joyce, M.A. '80, recently retired after 34 years of teaching at Wilmington High School. He taught both American History and Consumer Economics there. He is currently the vice chairman of the Grundy County Board, on which he has served since 1984.

Kirk R. Salmela, D.A. '89, is now the principal at Collegiate High School in Brighton, Colorado, a suburb of Denver. He resides in Fort Collins, Colorado, with his wife, Debra Davidson '81, and family.

Rick Pearce '89, M.A. '92, is now the vice president for Learning and Student Development at Illinois Valley Community College, where he oversees both Academic Affairs and Student Services. He took this position after having served as an associate director with the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Alex J. Boynton '06, M.A. '09, will be starting a Ph.D. program in the history department at the University of Kansas in the fall. He plans to focus on U.S. environ-

mental history. He was the cowinner this year of the department's Helen A. Cavanagh Award for Best Master's Student.

Matt Goerss '07 is teaching advanced and standard U.S. history and psychology at Urbana High School in Urbana, Illinois. He is currently developing a new Advanced Placement Comparative Government course for this year, and this summer, he traveled to Boston for professional development in teaching U.S. history.

Jason Kaplan, M.A. '07 is currently an archives technician at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas. His primary duties include handling reference requests for documents and information; overseeing the research room when researchers are conducting research at the Library; and performing preservation, arrangement, and description of documents.

David Varel '07, M.A. '08 will be entering the doctoral program in the history department at the University of Colorado-Boulder in the fall, where he will be focusing on U.S. cultural and intellectual history. He is the recipient of UC-Boulder's Thompson fellowship in American History. He was also the cowinner this year of our department's Helen A. Cavanagh Award for Best Master's Student.

Gordon McKavanagh '08 is teaching Social Sciences at Beardstown High School in Beardstown, where he teaches courses in U.S. history and psychology. He is currently developing the school's first Advanced Placement U.S. history course. He has also enrolled at Western Illinois University in Macomb, to complete a Master's degree in political science.

Ryan Lee '08 has been working for a food bank in Seattle, as a member of AmeriCorps. He organized community events, raised funds, helped manage the organization, and planted a community garden to provide fresh organic produce for homeless individuals. He is also working to complete a project on Creative Glass History begun as an undergraduate honors thesis. This past summer, Ryan returned to the Pilchuck Glass School in Washington State as a seasonal staff member to pursue glassmaking interests.

Please visit the departmental alumni news website to send us your updates: www.History.ilstu.edu/alumni

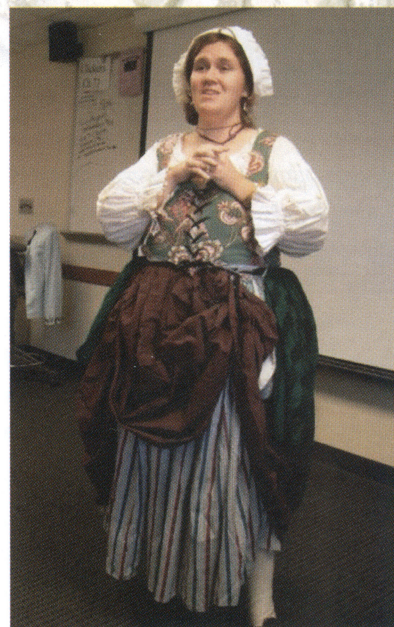
Students present historical clothing in the classroom

By Kyle Ciani

Creating memorable and authentic experiences for students can be a challenge in history courses, especially in those subjects that pertain to life centuries ago. Last fall, students in **Kyle Ciani's** course on Women's History to 1865 became familiar with everyday life through the talents of two of our majors, **Laura Simonton '09** and **Kimberly Jackson '09**. Both are historical reenactors who volunteered to present their historical selves to the class. They each design and make their clothing, which includes the art

of weaving, knitting, and tailoring. Simonton, her husband, and their three small children regularly embrace a French colonial persona, while Jackson and her fiancé adopt Civil War era culture. Ciani explained, "I use a lot of images in my course to convey the rhythm of daily life but to see it in person makes a big difference. When Laura and Kimberly came forward and offered to demonstrate their talents to the class I knew we had something special in our class."

Both women explained the intricacies of the commoners' clothing, moving from chemises to cloaks. Jackson used a dress form to demonstrate the multiple layers that allowed women to function with respectability in public settings. Surprised that commoners wore corsets and hoops, students peppered Jackson with questions about her experiences wearing the multiple layers. Jackson explained the hoop actually provided good air circulation during the heat of summer while her corset offered excellent back support for the heavy chores required of 19th-century women. Colonial women living in frontier areas, like those



Laura Simonton '09 in French colonial dress.

depicted by Simonton, did not wear such cumbersome attire. Simonton explained the significance of color among French immigrants who populated Illinois in the 17th- and 18th-centuries, and also gave students an understanding of children's clothing. Students learned that most people owned only two sets of clothing (one for cold and one for warm weather).

Recognizing the benefits for all the students, Ciani hopes to include more of these kinds of historical clothing presentations in future incarnations of the course.

History education news

Last year, the program received a grant from Illinois State's College of Education's "Urban- teacher pipeline" program, which seeks to bring diversity to the curriculum and the classroom. This grant has allowed the program to take its graduating seniors to Chicago for a two day trip at the end of each semester for the past two years. Students engage in cultural experiences in neighborhoods around Chicago, including a visit to the Chicago History Museum and the National Museum of Mexican Art. They also visit area schools to get a taste of what teaching in an urban school would be like.

Two majors this year were accepted into the highly competitive Teach for America program, which places college graduates into high need schools for a two year commitment. **Chase James '09** will be teaching in New Orleans, while **Tom Ponce '09** will be teaching in New Mexico. **Brandon Moore '08** was accepted into the program last year and is currently teaching in Chicago.

Alum reflects, from page 1

and saw the mill at work. Some of us spoke with a couple in their seventies about life in the jungle, learning about their lives, their children, how they cooked, and their beliefs.

We also visited two schools, and the children and communities welcomed us warmly both times. They were eager to sing for us, play games, and learn about our lives. It was clear at times that our humiliation was a necessary part of the process, but even that was fun. We were forced to

remember songs from our own childhoods and were thoroughly trounced playing soccer with the children. At the second school, the children made necklaces and bracelets for us out of seeds and presented them to us. I will always have a warm feeling when thinking about our friends in the Amazon, and I hope they will remember their American friends with fondness.

Assistant chair of the department, **Ron Gifford**, won the Stan and Sandy Rives Excellence in Undergraduate Education Award this year. This award recognizes outstanding teaching or any significant contribution to the undergraduate experience. It was established in honor of Professor Stan Rives, who served as dean of undergraduate education, for his long-time commitment to high-quality undergraduate education.

Roger Biles was the guest editor for the Summer 2008 issue of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, which focused on the history of Illinois State University. The issue included an article by **Stewart Winger**, titled, "High Priests of Nature: The Origins of Illinois State Normal 'University' in the Antebellum Lyceum," and another by **John Freed**, emeritus, titled, "The Founding of Illinois State University: Normal School or State University?" For that article, the Illinois State Historical Society awarded Freed the 2009 Harry E. Pratt Award. The award is presented annually to the author of the best article published the previous year in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*.

Alan Lessoff had two pieces published in the *Journal of Urban History* this year; "Corpus Christi, 1965-2005: A Secondary City's Search for a New Direction" appeared in November, 2008, and a review essay, "The American Patrician City and Its Legacy" appeared in January, 2009. Versions of speeches he had given in Ankara, Turkey last year appeared in two Turkish publications. In addition, Lessoff gave two papers in Germany this spring. He presented "Urban Political Bossism in the United States, 1870-1920: The Spread of an Idea and the Defense of a Practice," with James J. Connolly at the Internationale Fachtagung, "Legitimation—Integration—Korruption," at TU Darmstadt in March, and, in April, he presented "American Progressivism: Transnational, Modernization, and Americanist Perspectives," at a colloquium on American Modernism, at the Historisches Kollege in Munich.

Christine Varga-Harris was invited to present a paper at a conference in Utrecht, The Netherlands last September. Her paper was titled, "Moving To(Ward) Utopia: Soviet Housing in the Age of Sputnik." She presented another paper, titled "Resurrecting the Revolution: The 'Being-Built' World of One-Family

Dwelling during the Khrushchev Era," at the Annual Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Philadelphia, in November.

Andrew Hartman has been active in launching the U.S. Intellectual History group, a consortium of scholars working in the field. The group maintains a blog, at <http://us-intellectual-history.blogspot.com>, and they organized their first conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, last October. Hartman presented a paper there, titled, "Christopher Lasch and the Usefulness of Intellectual History." They are planning their second conference to be held in New York City, cohosted by the CUNY Graduate Center for the Humanities, on November 12-13, 2009.

Last September, **Georgia Tsouvala** defended her dissertation "The Social and Historical Context of Plutarch's *Erotiko*" at the Graduate School of the City University of New York. She also published an article, titled, "Integrating Marriage and Homonoia," in *The Unity of Plutarch's Works*, edited by A. Nikolaidis (W. De Gruyter/Millennium Studies, 2008).

Katrin Paehler published an essay titled, "The Wrong Grad, the Wrong Victims: (West) German Historiography on the Siege of Leningrad," in *Recalling the Past - (Re)constructing the Past: Collective and Individual Memory of World War II in Russia and Germany* edited by Withold Bonner and Arja Rosenholm (Aleksanteri Series 2:2008). She also gave three separate paper presentations last October. She presented, "Creating an Alternative Foreign Office: A Reassessment of Office VI of the Reich Security Main Office" at the Annual Meeting of the International Intelligence Historians' Association in Hamburg, Germany; "Auditioning for Post-War: Walter Schellenberg, the Allies, and Attempts to Fashion a Usable Past" at Lessons & Legacies 2008 at Northwestern University; and "The Gestapo-Handbook for the Invasion of Great Britain: A Reassessment" at the German Studies Association meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Lou Perez published a revision of his textbook, *The History of Japan* (Greenwood Press, 2009), which is aimed at the secondary school level.

Faculty updates (continued)

Ross Kennedy presented a paper, "Power and Ethics: Theodore Roosevelt, World War I, and the Idea of a League of Nations," at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Conference, at The Ohio State University in June 2008. This past spring, he was an invited commentator at the H-Diplo Conference on New Scholarship in American Foreign Relations, at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Lee Beier coedited *Cast Out: Vagrancy and Homelessness in Global and Historical Perspective* (The Ohio University Press, 2008), with Paul Ocobock, a graduate student in history at Princeton University.

The book includes articles from thirteen different scholars on the histories of vagrancy laws, welfare and development programs, and the social and political treatment of homelessness from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. The essays cross the globe from England and the United States to Colonial India, Tsarist Russia, Communist China, and Papua New Guinea, and span eight centuries in time. Beier also contributed two articles to the book, titled "A New Serfdom: Labor Laws, Vagrancy Statutes, and Labor Discipline in England, 1350-1800" and "'Takin' It to the Streets': Henry Mayhew and the Language of the Underclass in Mid-Nineteenth-Century London."

In memoriam

By John Freed

Lawrence (Larry) David Walker, a member of our faculty from 1969 until his retirement in 1989, died in Salt Lake City on January 27 at the age of 77. He had taught previously at the University of Southern California.

Larry, the Department's modern German historian, was an expert on Nazi Germany. In his *Hitler Youth and Catholic Youth 1933-36: A Study in Totalitarian Conquest* (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1970), Larry examined the futile struggle of the Catholic youth movement under an increasingly repressive regime to preserve the rights it had been guaranteed in 1933 by Hitler's concordat with the papacy. He utilized Gestapo records to ascertain which German and Austrian priests were most likely to oppose the Nazis. Contrary to expectations, it was not the "young firebrands" but senior parish priests who did. As his memorial card put it, he was a "historian who told the untold

story of unknown people who lived under tyranny and risked everything to stand against it."

Larry was also interested in family history, psychohistory, and historiography. In addition to his book, he published numerous articles and essays on these topics. Larry taught courses in all these areas. Frederick Drake who took Philosophy of History and Historiography (H496) from Larry remembers "how he brought a special excitement to class sessions when the topic was his comparison of resistance to Nazi authorities and the opportunities to employ statistical methods of historical research."

Although he suffered during the last years of his life from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis that severely limited his mobility, Larry remained until the end an avid reader and conducted an extensive e-mail correspondence about his reading and current events with numerous friends.

Larry was born during the Great Depression in Las Animas, Colorado, and grew up in Pueblo in an Irish family of modest means. At sixteen, he won the Southern Colorado Golden Gloves Welterweight Championship, Class B. It was a useful skill in a rough steel mill town. He attended Catholic schools and received in 1950 an associate's degree from Pueblo Junior College in Colorado. A teacher at the junior college persuaded Larry to continue his education, and he graduated with Great Distinction in 1953 from Stanford University, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He received a master's from Stanford in 1957 and a Ph.D. from Berkeley in 1965.

Larry is survived by his wife of 54 years, B. Lee Walker, professor emerita of nursing at the University of Utah, two sons, Lawrence and Gregory, and five grandchildren.

Two faculty members retire

The department bid farewell this year to two longstanding faculty members, Lee Beier and Lucinda Beier.

Lee Beier retired after 42 years in the profession and almost 20 years at Illinois State. He was hired in 1990 to chair the history department, a position he served in for three years before joining the faculty as a full professor. Previously, he had taught at the University of Lancaster in England for 23 years.

A Wisconsin native, Beier received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and his Ph.D. from Princeton University. A specialist in early modern British social history, with a focus on vagrancy, poverty, and social theory, he is the author of *Masterless Men: The Vagrancy Problem in England, 1560–1640* (London: Methuen, 1985), and the coeditor of three books, including, most recently, *Cast Out: Vagrancy and Homelessness in Global and Historical Perspective* (Ohio University Press, 2008). He has also published over 25 articles and book chapters and is currently writing a book on early modern English social theory. In 2000–2001, Beier was named an Arts and Sciences Lecturer in the College of Arts and Sciences.

In his long tenure in the department, Beier has taught a range of courses in early modern and modern European and British history, as well as in historical methods and research. As chair of the curriculum committee in the mid-1990s, he put a major stamp on our program when we reformed the major, creating the required methods course and senior research seminar. Similarly, as chair of the graduate committee from 2000–2002, he played a significant role in the revision of our graduate program.

Upon retirement, Beier will be moving to Boone, North Carolina, where his wife, Lucinda Beier, has accepted a position of as chair of the History Department at Appalachian State University. Beier plans to continue his scholarship while also trout fishing, and playing a lot of golf and tennis.

Lucinda Beier has retired from Illinois State, but she is not retiring from the profession. As noted above, she is moving on to become the chair of the History Department at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. She has had a varied career here at Illinois State. She ran an outreach research organization on campus for several years before taking over as the director of the Research Office for the College of Arts and Sciences in 1998. That year, she also joined the faculties of both the history and politics and government departments. She became a full-time member of the history department in



Lucinda Beier, Interim Chair Diane Zosky, and Lee Beier.

2004 and was promoted to full professor last year.

Beier received her B.A. from Indiana University, her M.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, and her Ph.D. from Lancaster University in England. A historian of health culture, she uses a range of evidence, including oral history, to explore experiences of health, ill-health, disease prevention and treatment in England and in the United States. She is the author of four monographs, including, most recently, *Health Culture in the Heartland, 1880–1980: An Oral History* (University of Illinois Press, 2009) and *For Their Own Good: Transforming English Working-Class Health Culture, 1880–1970* (The Ohio State University Press, 2008). The latter book was the culmination of 20 years of an oral history project with Beier’s mentor, Elizabeth Roberts, in Lancashire, England. For this project, Beier received a generous grant from the National Institutes of Health in 2004–2006. She is also the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters. She is currently working on a new project on the relationship between health culture and recreational use of the Wisconsin North Woods, although now that she is moving to North Carolina, she is interested in expanding the project to a study of health culture and recreation in the Appalachian Mountains.

In this history department, Beier has taught courses in the history of medicine and in oral history methods, as well as general courses in western civilization and the history of 19th-century Europe. Although Beier is excited about her new position at Appalachian State, she remains “grateful for the opportunities and support [Illinois State] has given” her.

Summer reading program for incoming majors introduced

The department added a new summer reading component to its annual welcome weekend for incoming students, otherwise known as the university program, "Passages." In the past, we had used this orientation as means to introduce to new history majors to the programmatic requirements of the major. Instead, last summer, students read a common book over the summer and then in August met with faculty in groups of six to eight to discuss it for an hour. We used Passages, in this way, to promote the idea that reading is central to the study of history and to introduce students to the intellectual rigor expected in the major. It also allowed students to meet some of the faculty in a small group setting.

Ron Gifford, assistant chair and an advisor in the department, organized the event and chose *The Things*

They Carried by Tim O'Brien as the common book. Ten department faculty members volunteered their time to conduct the group discussions. As Gifford stated "This was so much more meaningful to get to know the major and our faculty than re-stating the same dry information shared during Preview." *The Things They Carried* is a novel set during the Vietnam War, but, although it is fiction, it addresses issues of truth, storytelling, and interpretation that are central to the work that historians do. Gifford also selected the book because O'Brien was a visiting author at Milner Library last fall and because it ties into a current exhibit on the Vietnam War at the McLean County Historical Museum.

This event also built off the "History Reads" initiative, begun last year, to encourage our students to embrace

reading. As part of this initiative, we have created "Read History" posters that hang in our hallway, featuring department faculty holding their favorite books. The History Education program also instituted a summer reading assignment for seniors taking History Teaching Methods courses.

The feedback from students and faculty alike was overwhelmingly positive for the Passages program, and we continued it this year. The common reading this August is *Freakonomics* by Stephen Dubner and Steven Levitt. We plan on expanding the program in the future by including majors from other departments or adding a writing expectation.

Former faculty member joins college Hall of Fame

By Mark Wyman

Arlan Helgeson, a longtime History Department member who was Illinois State's first graduate dean and later became acting dean of the faculty (now called Provost), has been inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. Helgeson, now 87, retired from the University in 1982. He returned to Normal several years ago after spending most of his retirement years in Prescott, Arizona.

Helgeson joined the faculty in 1951 after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. He taught a variety of subjects in American history before retiring in 1982, including American frontier, economic history, and Indian history.

One reason for Helgeson's Hall of Fame induction was his leadership in the 1950s struggle to change the University's emphasis away from solely teacher training, into a broader

role in preparing students for other careers. As president of the campus AAUP Helgeson worked to shift faculty opinion toward the new role, and his leadership in this was a key part of the decision to place him in the College's Hall of Fame.

Seven faculty, from page 1

fundamental character of American national security in the modern world. There was no consensus among them on such basic issues as

the nature of the international system, the impact of security policies on domestic freedom, the value of alliances and multinational organiza-

tions, and the relationship between democracy and peace. *The Will to Believe* is the first book that examines this debate in full.

In his new book, *Not Alms but Opportunity: The Urban League and the Politics of Racial Uplift, 1910–1950* (University of North Carolina Press), **Touré Reed** explores the ideology and policies of the national, New York, and Chicago Urban Leagues during the first half of the 20th-century. Reed, who teaches African-American history, argues that racial uplift in the Urban League reflected many of the class biases pervading social reform movements at the time, resulting in an emphasis on behavioral, rather than structural, remedies to the disadvantages faced by Afro-Americans. The book traces the Urban League's ideology to the famed Chicago School of Sociology, which offered Leaguers powerful scientific tools with which to foil the thrust of eugenics. Yet, these tools led the League to embrace behavioral models of uplift that reflected a deep circumspection about poor Afro-Americans and fostered a preoccupation with the needs of middle-class blacks. His analysis thus complicates the mainstream account of how particular class concerns and ideological influences shaped the League's vision of group advancement.

Amy Wood, a specialist in U.S. cultural history and southern history, has published *Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in America, 1890–1940* (University of North Carolina Press), which studies what it meant for white Americans to perform and witness lynchings as sadistic spectacles at the turn of the last century. Lynching, Wood argues, overlapped with a wide range of cultural practices and performances, including public executions, religious rituals, photography, and cinema. The connections between lynching and these practices encouraged the horrific violence committed and gave it social

acceptability. The book examines the critical role lynching spectacles played in establishing and affirming white supremacy at the turn of the century, particularly in towns and cities experiencing great social instability and change. But it also shows how the national dissemination of lynching images fueled the momentum of the anti-lynching movement and ultimately led to the decline of lynching. Wood thus examines lynching spectacles alongside both traditional and modern practices and within both local and national contexts, reconfiguring our understanding of lynching's relationship to modern life.

Lucinda Beier has published two books this year. *Health Culture in the Heartland, 1880–1980: An Oral History* (University of Illinois Press) is a richly detailed account of health, illness, and medical care in McLean County, Illinois, from the perspectives of county residents, nurses, doctors, and public health professionals. Drawing on a wealth of oral history interviews, hospital records, and other primary documents, Beier provides insight into home management of ill-health, birth, and death; nurses' training and practices; the experiences of African-American healers and patients; public health provision; and other topics. By observing the history of medicine and public health through the eyes of practitioners and laypeople over an extended period in a Midwestern county, the book acts as an important counterweight to metropolitan-oriented, physician-centered studies. Beier just won a Certificate of Superior Achievement from the Illinois State Historical Society for this book.

In her second publication this year, Beier examines the interactions between working-class health culture and official provision of health services and medical care in three Eng-

lish communities over the course of a century. That book, titled, *For Their Own Good: The Transformation of English Working-Class Health Culture, 1880–1970* (The Ohio State University Press: 2008) is based on 239 oral history interviews of laypeople and annual public health reports. It considers gender, class, political, economic, and cultural aspects of the mid-20th-century shift in responsibility for illness, birth, and death from the informal domestic and neighborhood sphere to the purview of professional, institutionally based authorities. As noted in this issue, Beier is leaving Illinois State for Appalachian State University.

With two fellow historians, **Alan Lessoff**, a specialist of the U.S. Gilded Age and Progressive Era, has written *The Historical Dictionary of the Progressive Era*, the most comprehensive and coherent reference work on the Progressive Era to date. He completed this project with Catherine Cocks, the codirector and executive editor of SAR Press, a division of the School for Advanced Research, and Peter Holloran, an associate professor of history at Worcester State College. The book is a lively overview of the era that will be useful for students and specialists alike. It incorporates recent trends in all fields of history, including gender, sexuality, ethnicity, regional history, cultural and intellectual history, and foreign affairs. Moreover, the book reflects the broad connections that historians are now drawing between the Progressive Era and the preceding and subsequent eras, and it highlights the international context of domestic reform, taking into account the relationship between American-style progressivism and governmental and social reform in other industrializing countries.

Founder's Day this year marked

the publication of *Educating Illinois*, the sesquicentennial history of Illinois State University, written by Distinguished Professor Emeritus, **John Freed**. The book, which traces the history of Illinois State from its founding to its 150th anniversary, was written at the request first of President Victor Boschini and then President

Al Bowman. Freed traces how Illinois State became the most important teachers' college in the United States; to this day more currently employed teachers have graduated from this institution than any other. But he also rewrites the history of the University's foundation by showing how its founders intended Illinois State to be much

more than just a teaching training institution. Moreover, Freed highlights the ways in which both gender and racial issues shaped the history of the University. Copies of the book can be procured from Toni Tucker at Milner Library and through the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in the Bone Student Center.

Comings and goings, from page 2

Ed.M. in the Graduate School of Education.

Noraian's first book, *Women's Rights, Racial Integration, and Education from 1850 to 1920: The Case of Sarah Raymond, the First Female Superintendent* is to be published with Palgrave press this fall. Based off of her dissertation, the book uses Sarah Raymond, who served as the superintendent for the Bloomington schools from 1874–1892 and was the first female superintendent in the nation, as a lens through which to examine the roles of women in educational leadership at the turn of the last century. Noraian has also published and presented extensively on the teaching of history.

She is an award-winning teacher, having received an Outstanding University Teacher Award at Illinois State in 2002–2003. As an assistant professor in the department, Noraian has mainly been teaching courses in *Methods of Teaching History*, but she hopes to teach content courses in German history and women's history in the future.

In addition to her work at Illinois State, Noraian is active in the Bloomington–Normal Community. Among other things, she serves on the foundation board of the Normal Children's Discovery Museum. The YWCA recently honored her as a

Woman of Distinction for Education.

The department has also welcomed a new office manager, **Linda Spencer**. Before coming to work at Illinois State, Spencer worked for Unit 5 in the Normal Public Schools, and before that, she had a 20-year career with the McLean County Red Cross. She served as executive director there for twelve years. In 2006, she received her associate's degree from Heartland College and her B.A. from Illinois State, with a major in public relations. Spencer is thrilled to be working at Illinois State and says she "loves being in an academic environment."

Leaving the department are **Lucinda Beier** and **Lee Beier** (see article on page 7), and **William Philpott**. Philpott has accepted a position at the University of Denver, where he will be teaching American environmental history, 20th-century U.S. history, and the history of the American West. He has been the department's U.S. environmental historian since 2002, and he has won a number of teaching awards since being here, including the Outstanding College Teacher Award from the College of Arts and Sciences for 2008–2009. In moving to Denver, Philpott is returning home, as he was raised there, and his research on tourism and the environment in the post-World War II era is focused in Colorado.



Linda Spencer

We also bid farewell, of course, to our interim chair, **Diane Zosky**, who is returning to her home in the Department of Social Work. We are all grateful for her grace and professionalism in leading the department this past year and wish she could stay. We welcome **Anthony Crubaugh**, who will serve as interim chair for a year while we conduct a nationwide search. Crubaugh, a specialist in the history of Early Modern Europe and France, has been a member of the department since 2000.