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History

University of Tennessee History Department Newsletter June 2001

Celebrate Freedom! is a Major Success

In November 2000, as part of *Celebrate Freedom!: Pigeon Forge Salutes America's Veterans*, the Department's Center for the Study of War and Society presented a series of symposia examining the Second World War. Stephen E. Ambrose launched the events with his keynote address. Other public programs featured some of the nation's leading scholars of American military history, including D' Ann Campbell, Lewis Carlson, John Whiteclay Chambers II, Edward M. Coffman, Conrad Crane, Linda Grant DePauw, Robert C. Doyle, Samuel Hynes, Judy Barrett Litoff, and Brenda Moore. Veterans participated in a series of roundtables that included a day-long salute to women in the armed forces during the Second World War.

The Center also sponsored the Veteran and American Society Conference at the Knoxville Hilton Hotel. University of Tennessee alumnus Thomas Childers (B.A., M.A.) delivered the keynote address. Dr. Childers is a professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania. David Gerber of the State University of New York at Buffalo offered the luncheon address. Twenty-five national scholars examined the experiences of the returning U.S. veterans from the American Revolution to the Vietnam Era.

This year *Celebrate Freedom!* takes place from August 11 to August 25, 2001 with a series of events in Pigeon Forge that focus on the Korean War. The keynote address will be delivered on Saturday, August 18, by Walter "Wally" Schirra, Korean War veteran and former astronaut of the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo missions. For more information, please visit the website of the University of Tennessee's Center for the Study of War and Society at <web.utk.edu/~csws/>.

Bast and Liulevicius Get Provost's Honors

Two members of the Department of History were recognized at the Provost's Honors Banquet on April 11, 2001. The banquet is a campus-wide event to recognize outstanding achievements of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University. **Dr. Robert Bast** received the UT National Alumni Association's Outstanding Teaching Award. This is one of the most valued honors that a faculty member can receive. It recognizes excellence in the classroom.

Robert Bast

The University also recognizes young faculty who have demonstrated exemplary scholarship by presenting awards for professional promise in research and creative achievement. This year, the University honored **Dr. Vejas Liulevicius** for his book, *War Land on the Eastern Front* (Cambridge, 2000), which explores German occupation of Lithuania during the First World War.

Vejas Liulevicius

The Department congratulates Dr. Bast and Dr. Liulevicius on their achievements.

The 2000-01 Year : A Time of Challenges

W. Bruce Wheeler, Acting Department Head

John Muldowny's retirement gala this spring was quite a party! Nearly one hundred colleagues, friends, and former students gathered to reminisce at the new Riverside Tavern on the Tennessee River. Indeed, it was good to see Larry Silverman, Ralph Haskins, Milton Klein, John Morrow, and a host of others who, for a moment or two, heard the oft-told, amusing, and sometimes outrageous stories about the proverbial "good old days."

It occurred to me, however, that the History Department's best days are still ahead, in the hopeful but unknowable future. The median years at the University of the present History Department faculty is *under eight years* and, as you read of their activities elsewhere in this newsletter, I am sure you will agree with me that our department's future is bright indeed. As I, like John Muldowny, look forward to the end of my own career as a full-time faculty member, I shout my encouragement to my colleagues who are inspired teachers and increasingly prominent scholars.

Dr. Bruce Wheeler

Evidence of our bright future is all around us. This year Wayne Farris received a much-deserved Lindsay Young Professorship, joining Yen-ping Hao, who also holds a Young Professorship. At the recent Provost's Awards Banquet, Robert Bast was named as one of the National Alumni Association's Outstanding Teachers and Vejas Liulevicius received an Award for Professional Promise for his internationally-recognized research. Lorri Glover's book *All Our Relations* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000) was published this past fall and already has earned her recognition as a nationally promising early Americanist. And these are only a few of the accomplishments and honors of my colleagues (please consult the "Faculty Updates" section of this newsletter for more).

No less important have been the contributions of many colleagues to the conducting of departmental business. John Bohstedt continues to serve as Associate Department Head, spending countless hours scheduling classes, classrooms, teaching assistants, adjunct professors, etc. Tom Burman has succeeded Paul Bergeron as Director of Graduate Studies and has carried on the tradition established by Paul of hard work in recruiting and overseeing our graduate students.

Palmira Brummett continues her excellent work as the Director of Undergraduate Studies; Kurt Piehler has enlivened our academic year as chair of the Lecture Committee; Lorri Glover has helped our chapter of Phi Alpha Theta be one of the most active in memory (hosting brown-bag discussions of research, a regional conference of Phi Alpha Theta, etc.); Wayne Farris continues to chair the Undergraduate Awards Committee; Jeff Norrell chairs the Publicity Committee (which includes creating this newsletter); Paul Pinckney represents us superbly on the Undergraduate Council; Todd Diacon serves on the University's Athletics Committee; and many colleagues serve on interdisciplinary program committees; Kathleen Brosnan coordinated the department's new website. Without this important work, which never receives enough thanks and recognition, we would be lost somewhere between our nostalgia for our past and our hopes for our future.

In last year's newsletter, Department Head J.B. Finger called last year one of "transition." If I had to come up with one word to describe this academic year, to me it would be a year of "challenges." I am proud of how we have responded to these challenges: we have remained focused on the important duties of teaching, research, and service; we have kept our civility; we have worked very, very hard. As I chuckle at some of the stories from John Muldowny's retirement party, at the same time I am proud of my colleagues and optimistic about our collective future.

Board of Visitors holds inaugural meeting

On April 20-21, the History Department's new Board of Visitors held its first meeting. Created by a unanimous departmental resolution at its January 1999 retreat, the purposes of the Board are to bring new and valuable perspectives to our activities, help us to identify our strengths, and make suggestions on how we can enhance our stature and visibility in the profession, on the campus, and in the community. At the inaugural meeting, a number of superb ideas and recommendations were put forward and discussed. We are convinced already that our new Board of Visitors will be a great asset to the department.

Members of the Board of Visitors were nominated by faculty members, the dean's office, and other members of the University community. Many of the Board members are alumni of the Department. We list all UT degrees below. The Board is composed of the following members:

Dr. Charles F. Bryan, Jr. (Ph.D. History) is the Director of the Virginia Historical Society.

Dr. James A. Burran (Ph.D. History) is President of Dalton State College in Dalton, Georgia.

Dr. Lynda Crist (Ph.D. History) is the Editor of the Jefferson Davis Papers at Rice University.

Mr. Charles Davis (B.A. Political Science; M.A. History) is Director of the Disney Sports Complex in Orlando, and television commentator for Jefferson Pilot.

Mr. Steven Davis is Upper School Head for the Webb School in Knoxville.

Dr. Jayne C. DeFiore (Ph.D. History) is an instructor at the UT Center for Extended Learning.

Ms. Jeannie Dulaney (B.S. Communications) is the Executive Director of Leadership Knoxville, Inc.

Mr. William Haltom, Jr., Esq. (B.A. History; J.D.) is a Partner of Thomason, Hendrix, Harvey, & Johnson, a law firm in Memphis, TN.

Mr. Kevin Keller (M.S. Planning) is Senior Film Buyer and IMAX Film Buyer for Regal Cinemas.

Dr. Douglas Leahy (B.A. History; M.D.) is Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Internal Medicine Associates in Knoxville.

Mr. Charles McRae (B.A. History) was the 7th selection of the 1991 NFL draft, where he went on to have a 6-year career. He is currently working in the Internet and computer industry.

Mr. Mark Mamantov (B.A. College Scholars) is a Partner at Bass, Berry, & Sims, a Knoxville law firm.

Dr. Tucker Montgomery(B.S. History; M.D., J.D.) is an attorney at Montgomery & Pierce, PLC in Knoxville. Dr. Montgomery is also a family practice physician and is on the emergency associate staff of UT Medical Center.

Mr. Ed Owens, Jr., Esq. (B.A., M.A. History; J.D.) is an attorney at Lewis, King, Krieg, Waldrop & Catron, P.C. in Knoxville.

Ms. Pamela Reeves, Esq. (B.A. History; J.D.) is an attorney and Partner with Watson, Hollow & Reeves, PLC in Knoxville.

Ms. Sherry Cook Sabo (B.A. History) works with an attorney in Hendersonville, NC and volunteers as a seasonal ranger at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site.

Ms. Diana Carter Samples (B.S. Accounting) is President of John P. Carter, Co., Inc. in Knoxville.

Mr. David White (B.S., M.A. History) is a self-employed investor in Knoxville. He was one of the original founders of the 13-30/Esquire Corporation.

Historical Saints and Sinners Lecture Series

For more than ten years, members of the UT History Department have offered a spring lecture series at the John T. O'Connor Senior Center. This year participants at the center chose the theme of "Historical Saints and Sinners." Dr. Robert Bast lectured on Martin Luther as the heroic founder of Protestantism, agent of Antichrist to Catholics, and father of modern Anti-Semitism. Dr. Janis Appier discussed Aimee Semple McPherson, the controversial American evangelist brought down by allegations of sexual improprieties. Dr. Tom Burman identified unusual medieval saints who came from either Arab or Jewish stock.

Dr. Todd Diacon spoke on Fidel Castro as a living "saint" of the Cuban Revolution and a tyrant and dictator to Western democracies. Dr. Kathleen Brosnan explored the changing legacy of George Armstrong Custer in popular American culture. Dr. J.D. Fowler offered his insights on Nathan Bedford Forrest, hero of the Confederacy and founder of what became the KKK. Dr. Fowler received his Ph.D. in history from UT last year and has served as a lecturer for the department in U.S., Tennessee and Southern History.

Dr. Glover Wins Service Award

Lorri Glover, assistant professor of history, has been awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Public Service Award for 2001. A specialist in colonial America and family history, Dr. Glover has given extraordinary service to the department and the University of Tennessee in her numerous presentations to schools and community groups.

During the past year she has given talks to civic clubs, school groups, senior centers, and teacher in-service programs—this in addition to carrying out her full teaching load and a successful research agenda. Dr. Glover has just completed her fourth year in the department.

Department Launches New Website

The Department of History invites you to visit its new website at <***web.utk.edu/~history***>. This exciting location provides comprehensive information on the faculty, the graduate program, the undergraduate program, and the department's lectures and workshops. By periodically checking announcements on the main page, you can keep abreast of upcoming department events and recent achievements by faculty members and graduate students.

Another unique feature of our website is the section on "Online Resources." Faculty members have identified a number of their favorite websites, useful archives, and important historical organizations. You can link directly to these from our website.

The University of Tennessee is also one of the few departments across the nation to use its website to highlight the achievements of its current graduate students and its alumni. Profiles can be found under the "Graduate Program" link.

We are currently constructing a link which will allow our alumni and friends to update us on developments in their careers directly through the website. The link will be found on the main page and on the alumni profiles page. Finally, anyone wishing to support the Department will find information regarding various gifts on the website. As always, we appreciate the support of our alumni and friends.

If you have any questions regarding the website or would like to submit suggestions for it, please contact Professor Kathleen Brosnan at <kbrosnan@utk.edu> , Professor Jeff Sahadeo at <jsahadeo@utk.edu> or Kim Harrison at <kharriso@utk.edu>.

For next year's newsletter, all alumni will be able to update your personal information directly on the website. Remember to check the site, starting in April 2002, for the form that will ask for pertinent information.

Knoxville Native White Joins History Department

George White joined the history department in fall 2000 after defending his dissertation at Temple University. Raised in Knoxville, George received his B.A. in history and political science at Southern Methodist University and his J.D. from Harvard.

He holds a joint appointment with the department and the African and African-American Studies Program, with which he has been affiliated since 1995.

George practiced law in Los Angeles before returning to history, which he calls his "first love." After witnessing the 1992 riot there, he knew that he wanted to focus on modern African-American history. While a graduate student at Temple, George decided to "create a bridge" between this interest and diplomatic history. He is currently working on a manuscript, *Holding the Line: Race, Racism and American Foreign Policy*.

George is excited to join the history faculty. "Having grown up here, I knew of former members of the department, so it means a lot to be a member now," he says. He describes his return to Knoxville as "an interesting journey" filled with "mixed emotions."

While things have changed dramatically physically, White notes that "many things haven't changed, such as hyper-segregation and the lack of black economic infrastructure and political power.

George addressed these issues and the concerns of the United Campus Workers when he chose a black labor theme for Black History Month this past February at UT. George's experiences with students also have been positive. He describes their excitement when they "begin to learn history from a different perspective" and when he links historical change to legal developments. George teaches the U.S. survey, African-American History, and U.S. Diplomatic History.

Russian Historian Sahadeo Comes to UT from Illinois

Jeff Sahadeo became the history department's latest addition when he joined us in the fall of 2000 to teach Russian history. Dr. Sahadeo grew up in Vancouver and attended Simon Fraser there before completing the Ph.D. at the University of Illinois. His dissertation was entitled "Creating a Russian Colonial Community: City, Nation, Empire in Tashkent 1865-1923." He is fluent in both Russian and Uzbek.

At Tennessee, Jeff has taught Western Civilization, Modern Russia, and an undergraduate seminar on the Russian empires.

"I find the UT students enthusiastic," Jeff says. "They are interested in learning new things, and they can compete with students anywhere. I have been pleased with how interested they are in Russia and in issues of race, empire, and cultural change."

Jeff and his family have enjoyed living in Knoxville. His wife, Petra Alince, is from Montreal and is a professional librarian. Their daughter Caroline is two years old.

"We have found Knoxville to be a beautiful setting and an easy place to live," Jeff says. During the summer of 2001, Jeff is going to Moscow to finish work on the book manuscript that will be based on his dissertation.

Grant Awarded to Improve Teaching of World History

The history department has been awarded a three-year grant of $100,000 by the University to improve the teaching of the beginning courses in World History. The department has decided to move to larger world history classes staffed by experienced faculty rather than adjunct faculty or graduate students. Although all professors have experience in teaching a survey of their own field—American or European or Asian—few have been trained to cover the entire globe over the vast expanses of time encompassed in the world history survey.

Under the leadership of Professors John Bohstedt and Palmira Brummett, a significant portion of the faculty will work collaboratively to get the necessary expertise to teach the world history survey course. Another goal is to devise a set of more engaging class materials to use with the course. About 10 department members will participate.

The Faculty Update

This past year, **Janis Appier** wrote "Armed and Dangerous? Policewomen and Guns, 1910-1980," that will appear as a chapter in a book to be published next year on the Second Amendment. She also wrote an article on urban crime during the Great Depression and taught a graduate readings course in U.S. women's history.

Steven V. Ash regrets that the Cumberland Avenue Strip continues to decline: too many sports bars and trendy coffee shops, too few really interesting establishments. However, his spirits are buoyed by the pleasures of teaching his courses on the Civil War and Tennessee history. His work-in-progress on the experience of the Southern people in 1865 is nearing completion. As postmodernism collapses, he is in search of a new paradigm.

With the publication of the final volume in 2000, the Andrew Johnson Papers Project concluded its 44 years of work. Volume 16 covers Johnson's post-presidential career. **Paul Bergeron,** the editor, has returned to the History Department on a full-time basis. This year Paul lectured on "High Crimes and Misdemeanors: The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson" to the Georgia Historical Society, and on "Andrew Johnson and Abraham Lincoln: A Remarkable Alliance" in the Lloyd Ostendorf Lecture at Lincoln Memorial University.

Working with Palmira Brummett, **John Bohstedt** won a $100,000 grant from the UT President's Initiative, to support a team of History faculty in creating a new, more viable World History course. Bohstedt spoke on the Irish Famine at the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning. In May he is teaching "Riots" at his *alma mater*, Cornell College of Iowa.

Kathleen Brosnan published an article on the I&M Canal and presented papers at the Missouri Valley History Conference and the Tennessee Conference of Historians. Her book, *Uniting Mountain and Plain: Urbanization, Law and Environmental Change in the Denver Region*, is due in 2002 from the University of New Mexico Press and is based on her dissertation, which was honored with the Phi Alpha Theta dissertation prize in U.S. western history.

Thomas Burman gave an invited lecture at Tulane University on "Reading the Qur'~n in Latin Christendom, 1140-1540," and will give a paper in July, 2001 at a conference called "Between Empires: Orientalism before 1600," at Trinity College, Cambridge. He will also be doing research in Italy and England in July. The festschrift of which he is co-editor (*Religion, Text, and Society in Medieval Spain and Northern Europe: Essays in Honor of J.N. Hillgarth*) is due out by the end of 2001.

J.P. Dessel directed the excavation at Tell 'Ein Zippori in Israel with the help of nine UT students who participated in the excavation field school. Since then, J.P. has taught courses on Jewish History, World Civilization, and the history of Mesopotamina. He published an article on the organization of the Chalcolithic ceramic industry in Israel, co-authored an article on the history of Early Bronze Age ceramic analysis in the Levant, and presented papers on his work in Israel at Emory University, Pennsylvania State University, and Florida International University.

Todd Diacon completed his book on the Brazilian Army unit that built the first telegraph line across the Amazon Basin. Tentative title: "A Lonely Wire: The Amazonian Telegraph Campaigns of C>ndido Mariano da Silva Rondon." He also published book reviews in the *American Historical Review* and in the *Luso-Brazilian Review*. Todd gave numerous print, radio, and television interviews concerning the Eilian Gonzalez affair. He currently serves as President of the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association.

During the academic year 2000-01, **Wayne Farris** visited on the Faculty of Economics at Keio University. He presented a paper at a Pre-Meiji (1900)

Historiographical Conference in Maui. Wayne evaluated American graduate students concentrating in Japanese studies for the Japan-US Educational Commission (Fulbright grants), and on behalf of the Association of Asian Studies, presented lectures at Washington University, Illinois State, Illinois Wesleyan, and DePauw.

Lorri Glover is glad that her first book, *All Our Relations: Blood Ties and Emotional Bonds Among the Early South Carolina Gentry* (Johns Hopkins, 2000), came out in November. This summer she will be conducting research on masculinity in the early national South. She still loves teaching the American Revolution but does not know whether to be embarrassed or proud that the mock Constitutional Convention voted against ratification last year. Despite her best efforts, Lorri's golf game remains steady at 110.

Yen-ping Hao has published an article and written an "Introduction" to the Korean edition (Seoul, Korea, 2001) of his book on modern China's commercial revolution. At the International Conference on Sinology in Taipei, he presented a paper, served as a discussant, and chaired a panel. He rendered public service for the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, the American Museum of Science and Energy, the Knoxville Police Department, the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Education, the Organization of Chinese Americans, and the McClung Museum.

Vejas Liulevicius's book, *War Land on the Eastern Front: Culture, National Identity and German Occupation in World War I* , will appear in German translation as *Kriegsland im Osten*. This year he presented a paper on apocalyptic images of the Eastern Front in World War I at the Congress of the Historical Sciences at the University of Oslo, Norway. He also participated in conferences at the University of Greifswald, Georgetown University, the German Studies Association, Columbia University, and the German Military Historical Research Institute.

During the past year **Robert J. Norrell** published seven major entries in *Encyclopedia Britannica* and two in *Africana*, and an article in *Virginia Quarterly Review*. Jeff served on two university committees and nine departmental committees (chairing four). He made presentations at two Phi Alpha Theta events and at the departmental teacher workshop. He served as external reviewer for history departments at three universities and the *Journal of Southern Hist*ory.

Kurt Piehler received a grant to conduct research on the U.S. veteran experience from the American Revolution to the Persian Gulf War. In November 2000, he organized a scholarly conference that brought to Knoxville some of the nation's leading scholars examining the postwar lives of servicemen and women. As director of the Center for the Study of War and Society, he helped organize **Celebrate Freedom!: Pigeon Forge Salutes America's Veterans** and the Military History Book Fair that featured such prominent historians as Stephen E. Ambrose.

Paul Pinckney presented a paper at the Southern Conference on British Studies meeting in Louisville in November 2000 on "Army and Gentry in Cromwellian Hertfordshire." Much of the research for this study was done in England in 1998. Also in November he was nominated for a National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award. He continues to serve on the Undergraduate Council.

Bruce Wheeler (with Susan Becker) spent a good part of the year working on the 5th edition of *Discovering the American Past*, to be published in the fall of 2001. At the same time (with Merry Wiesner, Franklin Doeringer, and Ken Curtis), he completed work on the 2nd edition of *Discovering the Global Past*, also for Houghton Mifflin. Wheeler continues on the editorial board of the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* and on the advisory board of McClung Museum.

Alumni News

Kathleen M. Allen (BA 1969, MS 1972) received an Ed.D. from the University of South Carolina at Columbia in May of 1999, and was appointed Director of Guidance for the Spartanburg School District in July 2000.

Lois J. Brewer Barnes (BS 1971) retired from the Kentucky public education system in July 2000, and is now working as a consultant with the Southern Regional Education Board in Atlanta.

Anthony Benesch (MA) transferred from the Office of UN Political Affairs in the State Department to the U.S. Consulate General, Rio De Janeiro, in December of 2000.

Michael E. Birdwell (PhD 1996) recently received a tenure track appointment at Tennessee Technological University in August 2001. He has appeared on the History Channel's program "Sarge", and worked as a consultant on the channel's "Dear Home: World War I Letters".

Douglas R. Blair (MA 1977) was recently named Deputy Director of the Directorate of Protective Services for the U.S. Army.

Charles F. Bryan, Jr. (PhD 1978) co-edited Eye of the Storm: A Civil War Odyssey (Free Press), and has signed with Simon & Schuster to publish a coffee table book of 300 Civil War watercolor sketches.

Kendall W. Carter (BA 1998) graduated from Tulane Law School, and is moving to Washington D.C. to pursue a career in public policy.

Mark S. Farris (BA 1991) graduated in spring 2001 with a Ph.D. in Human Resource Development from the University of Tennessee.

MareLynn Fitch (BA 1990) recently completed her MBA from Murray State University in Kentucky, and is pursuing a career in marketing.

Ben Gates (MA 1989, PhD 1997) is a visiting lecturer in the History Department at Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne for 2001-2002.

Gill Geldreich (BA 1997) graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in May 2000, and is clerking with Judge Holly Kirby Lillard, 2001-2002.

Cindy P. Hess (BA 1990, DMD 1999) graduated *magna cum laude* in 1999 from Boston University's Goldman School of Dental Medicine.

Wilson C. Higgs (BA 1993, DDS 1998) joined the Pediatric Dental Practice of Don Bethea in October of 2000.

Adam R. Hornbuckle (BA 1980, MA 1983) authored three articles for the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* that will be published in March 2001.

Mark B. Howard (MA 1998) was named academic dean in spring 2000 for the University of Albuquerque.

John C. McManus (PhD 1996) will have his book *American Courage, American Carnage: The 7th Infantry Regiment and the Story of America's Combat Experience* published by St. Martin's Press in 2002.

D. Jackson Maxwell (BA 1984, BS 1990) received the 2000 TASL Innovative Library Media Award, and the Crystal Apple Teacher Award.

Jason A. Meyers (MA 1998) recently published part of his thesis in article form for *The Historian*, entitled "No Idle Past: The Use of History in the Indian Removal Debates".

Charles G. Moffat (MA 1969, PhD 1974) was chosen Distinguished Professor for 1999-2000 at Carson-Newman College.

Dan S. Pierce (PhD 1995) had his book *The Great Smokies: From Natural Habitat to National Park* published by UT Press in June 2000, and *Southern Cultures* published his article "The Most Southern Sport on Earth" (a history of NASCAR) in summer 2001.

Charles M. Pope (BS 1965, MA 1969) received Cumberland University's Teacher of the Year in 2000.

Jeff F. Powers (BA 1987)was recently promoted to the position of Technical Communications Manager for Ford Motor Company.

Edythe A. Quinn (PhD 1994) just received tenure with the rank of Associate Professor at Hartwick College in New York.

John A. Shedd (PhD 1990) recently had his manuscript "Thwarted Victors: Civil and Criminal Prosecutions Against Parliament's Officials during the English Civil War and Commonwealth" accepted for publication by *The Journal of British Studies*.

Marc L. Stein (BA 1998) spent six weeks in the summer of 2000 trekking through Vietnam and Cambodia, and will continue to teach in Japan until 2002.

Billy Strasser (MA 1999) recently obtained a permanent position with the National Park Service at Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska.

Gail S. Terry (BA 1978) received the 2000-2001 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for College Teachers.

Phillip D. Troutman (BA 1991) was recently chosen for a three-year teaching position at Duke University.

Carroll Van West (MA 1978) recently published *The New Deal Landscape of Tennessee* (UT Press, 2001).

Catharine Brooke Wooten (BA 1998) represented the University of Texas School of Law on the National Mock Trial Team, where the team placed as regional quarter finalists. She also was on the Mock Trial Team at the Texas Invitational that placed as finalists.

History Department Memories

Kendall Carter (BA 1998) remembers "Dr. Brummett's eye-opening teaching style…it's good to have her upholding UT's high standard of academic quality"

Gill Geldreich (BA 1997) has fond memories of long talks with Dr. Pinckney, and Dr. Wheeler's football gestures during U.S. History class

Birney Imes (BA 1973) remembers Dr. Chmielewski announcing in mid-lecture "you're all probably wondering what good any of this is going to do you when you're back in Pulaski selling used cars"

Thomas Jenkins (BA 1999) cites a class trip with Dr. Finger to the Casino in Cherokee, NC, as an "interesting and never again experienced trip"

Kathryn Jones (BA 2000) recalls Dr. Liulevicius's enthusiasm, and Dr. Bast's sense of humor

James Minton (BA 1996, MS 1998) recollects Dr. Wheeler (in general), and specifically his gas station attendant shirt he wore to class during the summer

Randell Riddle (BA 1990, MS 1994) remembers fondly Dr. Johnson making tea in his cup as he started class each morning

Aimee Ruzicka (BA 1971) reminisces about Dr. Marius being jailed for protests the day of her history final

Tom Ryder (BA 1989) remembers Dr. Pinckney, and how he always made himself available to his students, and how everyone joked about him being their advisor (even when they weren't assigned to him)

Phillip Troutman (BA 1989) recalls Dr. Wheeler in the dunking booth in 1990

Wilson Higgs (BA 1993) has fond memories of Dr. Pinckney's spring parties

Catherine Wooten (BA 1998) has vivid memories of Beth Haiken's shrine to Elvis

Muldowney Retires

[Editor's Note: John Muldowney retired from the University this spring after ore than 40 years of service. Rather than merely report on this, we asked John to give his own reflections on how the department had evolved in the four decades he has been here.]

During the years that I was working on my doctorate at Yale University, I never thought that I might end up teaching outside of the Northeast where I had always lived. However, the job market was tight in 1959 and when Wesley Hoffman, the department head, offered me a position, I immediately accepted. So when in early January 1960, I came to the University of Tennessee as an instructor in the history department, never in my wildest imagination did I dream I would still be there in 2001. Talk about a man who came to dinner!

As you can imagine, both the university and the department were quite different than they are today. There were only some 10,000 students, a department faculty of about ten members and a campus confined to the Hill, to Cumberland Avenue where Hoskins Library, the Colleges of Law and Human Ecology, then known as Home Economics, were housed; and to Volunteer Boulevard (then 16th Street) where the Colleges of Business and Education stood. The Student Center was only about one quarter of its present size, with the book store located in a tiny basement room and sold only books for classes. The only eating areas were a cafeteria where Smokey's now is, and a small faculty facility by the side entrance to the first floor. In short, the University was much like a small state college rather than a flagship university.

Faculty taught twelve hours for each of the three quarters, usually three survey courses of 50+ students and one upper-division course. Only the most senior staff taught graduate seminars, but graduate students were permitted to take 300 level courses for graduate credit if they were assigned extra work. There was almost no choice given to what classes one taught or at what hours. The department head made all such decisions and usually did so without consultation with faculty. The department heads in turn were often under the control of deans who were beholden to higher administrative offices. Wesley was, for his time, a good department head who tried to support his faculty as best he could; his experience teaching at a small college during the 1930's made him overly cautious and frugal with department funds. But with that attitude he was only following a pattern set by the administration to return as much money as possible at the end of each academic year. Just picture that today.

Despite the somewhat restricted working conditions, both faculty and students were stimulating to be around. The faculty had received advanced degrees from institutions all over the United States, and many of the students seemed very eager to learn about history.

Another major factor which made adjustment to the university easier was several fortuitous changes within the upper echelons of the university's administration. The appointment by the new president, Andrew Holt, of Herman Spivey to the be the chief academic officer of the university was a major turning point in the department's and university's development. Spivey moved to expand the university course offering, to add new faculty, and to increase significantly the size of the student

body. In addition, the availability of both state and federal funds led to a growth of the research capacity of the university as well as a vast expansion of the campus' physical plant and facilities westward. Most immediate for the department was its move to McClung Tower and the expansion of its faculty. Beginning in the late 1960s and throughout the decade of the 1970s, the department almost tripled in size, adding faculty in Asian, African-American, Near Eastern, and Women's history as well as strengthening all areas of European and American history.

History was also one of the first departments on campus to hire women and minorities for tenure-track positions. The teaching load was reduced to nine hours per quarter, both undergraduate and graduate enrollments almost tripled, and large survey lecture classes with graduate students as discussion section leaders became the norm. Thus, in less than two decades the department had evolved into one of the strongest teaching-research-service units on campus. Many of those changes occurred when LeRoy Graf was department head, and while he was helped by strong university leadership and an absence of financial woes, he himself was also responsible for much of the department's growth and stability during those years. It was his patient, almost paternalistic leadership which kept the department from developing the factionalism and divisions that pervaded so many history departments during those turbulent times. Both he and the university were also blessed by the fact that the campus, while the scene of some unrest and anti-war protest, never experienced the upheavals that occurred on other campuses.

LeRoy retired as department head in 1980 and for the next decade I served as Associate Head to both Sarah Blanshei and John Morrow. During those years my responsibilities centered on the scheduling of courses, assignment of teaching and grading assistants, summer school, and any other administrative tasks that the heads saw fit for me to handle. Change in department leadership had in no way diminished its reputation for excellence in teaching, research and service. But unfortunately, budget problems began to occur with increasing and alarming frequency, and both the number of faculty positions and of students began to decline, a trend which continued into the 1990s.

In 1990, after two years as acting department head, I moved into full-time academic administration as director of the university's summer school, evening school, and special programs unit. As a result, my contact with the department diminished so that I played little or no role in its activities during both Russell Buhite's and John Finger's tenures as department heads.

Also, by this time many faculty members who were my contemporaries either had retired or were contemplating it. They were replaced by younger faculty with whom I associated in a limited way. But all of the most recent appointments have gone to excellent candidates, and new fields in African, Jewish, and Environmental History were added to the curriculum. As in the past, the department continues to have a strong faculty. Alas, I fear they will need to be strong, for I do worry about the state of the arts and humanities in an environment that increasingly seems to be driven by science, technology, and business models, that many academic administrators have little or no classroom experiences or sympathies, and that new techniques and gimmicks will be offered as substitutes for the traditional classroom experience. I am aware that many of my colleagues share these fears and will resist any efforts to compromise either their own or the department's integrity.

Finally, to close on a more upbeat note, I do want to express my appreciation to all faculty, staff, and students who may be reading this and whom I've been fortunate to know throughout my years at the university. You all have played such influential roles in my life and I do hope that I have had at least a small influence on your lives as well. Perhaps our paths will cross again in the future.

John Muldowny
June 2001

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The University of Tennessee
Department of History
915 Volunteer Blvd.
6th Floor, Dunford Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-4065

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