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Spring 2002

# History at SUNY Brockport Spring 2002

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*Expect the extraordinary!*

# SUNY BROCKPORT

History at

Volume 13, Number 2

Spring 2002

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

By Owen S. Ireland

Thanks for your responses to my question in the last newsletter. I heard from both recent (1999) and more distant (1971) graduates. You are truly amazing. Makes us proud.

You have settled down all over America: California, Florida, New England and lots of places in between. Some of you have advanced degrees (law, history, communication, and public administration, for example). Some of you teach in high school or college. Some tried teaching and then moved on. Others, the clear majority, began their careers outside the field of education.

Here is a *partial* list to suggest the range:

- Jayhawk Helicopter Search and Rescue with US Coast Guard
- Auctioneer
- Attorney
- Radio/TV broadcast sales
- Quality control manager
- Bank officer
- Superintendent of schools

- Global procurement for a Fortune 500 corporation
- National business sales manager for a Fortune 500 corporation
- Sports broadcaster
- President of a construction supply company
- Candidate for state legislature
- Owner of an ad agency

How's that for variety? And all history majors.

This time I have another question for you. Or, rather, a series of related questions. How did you get your first job and what could we have done to make that transition from college to career easier? For example, should we have pressed you harder to make better plans during your senior year? Should we have required you to take some "marketable skills" courses outside the Department of History? Should we have put you in touch with other alumni in your region or field? Should we have required you to do an internship? How about study abroad, foreign-language training, computer skills, or even how to dress for business success?

Lots of particular questions, but all adding up to one: How can we do an even better job in helping our current students find satisfying and meaningful careers after they leave us? Write or e-mail. Both work well. And if, earlier, you intended to write about your career but forgot, think about it now. Love to hear from you. And check the "Alumni News" column for excerpts from responses received this time.



## HISTORY FORUM TO WASHINGTON

History Forum members attended the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians for the second consecutive year, traveling to Washington, DC, by bus in April to hear papers and panel discussions presented by some of the nation's leading historians. Representing SUNY Brockport were MA students **Eric Sterling** and **Christine DiVeronica** and undergraduates **Nicole Campanali**, **Michael Moulton**, and **James Wallington**. It is rare for undergraduate students to attend the convention, and the

Forum's participation reflects the vitality of the history majors club. The students also garnered some unexpected publicity for Brockport when an OAH photographer snapped this picture—and placed it on the front page of the May 2002 issue of the OAH *Newsletter*, delivered to thousands of historians across America. (cont. on page 4)

# “HISTORY AND THE HEART”

By Robert Strayer

Note: *This May the Department of History said a fond farewell to **Robert Strayer** who retired after 32 years at SUNY Brockport and after receiving the first-ever SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. For highlights of Strayer's long and productive career at the College, please see the story on p. 3 . What follows is Strayer's address to history graduates at the department's Commencement celebration, a paean to the discipline that he loves and whose students he has served so well.*

Most of us love what we do. Speaking personally, I often find myself sitting in my small office surrounded by history books with a pile of student papers on the desk and a research project on the computer, and I am stunned by the richness of my life. I am allowed--even paid--to read the record of the human past, to engage my students in discussion about its tragedies and its triumphs, and on occasion to write a little about pieces of that remarkable story. I have spent my entire adult life roaming the world with history...and I am grateful beyond measure. I am sure that my colleagues have some similar feelings about their work. And so, when we witness your success and when we offer you our congratulations, we are expressing our pleasure--and our hope--that you too have found something to love, something to excite your passion, something to engage your mind, something to compel your devotion.

This discipline that we share is an absolutely marvelous field of study and we undertake it for many reasons. For some it is a guide to public policy as we seek lessons from the past to inform our political decisions in the present; for others it is a prerequisite for effective citizenship and democratic participation; many have found it useful in anchoring their own identities by searching out their roots; all of us surely believe that historical perspective offers an invaluable platform for understanding of the world we live in now; and some of us have simply delighted in history as a fascinating voyage through time and place.

But tonight, I'd like to explore yet another dimension of our shared discipline. Is history useful as we encounter the personal problems of life? Does it offer us anything of value when we turn to those matters of the heart and spirit which all of us must confront as we make our way in the world?

I believe it does! I think that it is possible to find a measure of comfort, inspiration, example, encouragement and perspective in the historical record that can assist us in confronting matters of the heart and soul. So let me highlight several major and inescapable tasks of life and reflect briefly on what the study of history might contribute to our dealing with them.

The first is suffering. It is of course the bedrock human reality. We all suffer, even those of us who live in this favored land. We suffer from the normal processes of life: natural disaster, disease, aging, and the awareness of death. We suffer from expectations that we cannot achieve...and from some of those we do achieve. We suffer from consequences of our own poor choices. We suffer from the loss of those things, and especially those people we love most. And, of course, much of human suffering has come at our own hands in the shape of war, racism, exploitation, inequality, oppression, and neglect.

History is, among other things, a veritable catalog of the varieties of human suffering. It provides ample evidence, should we need it, of the universality of suffering. It makes clear that we are not alone in our suffering and thus provides an antidote to whining about our particular difficulties. It may also provide one response to the terrible questions which suffering often provokes: Why me? Am I being punished? Has God ceased to care? History suggests that suffering is the way of the world...and none of us are exempt.

But it also reminds us of the enormous reserves of courage and perseverance in difficulty on which others have drawn. How did Nelson Mandela come out of 27 years in a South African prison without bitterness? And here is my personal favorite from the diary of a young Jewish woman from Amsterdam waiting for a train that would take her to Auschwitz: “Against every new outrage and every fresh horror, we shall put up one more piece of love and goodness, drawing strength from within ourselves. There is only one way to prepare the new age...by living it even now in our hearts. We may suffer, but we must not succumb.”

Is it possible that some exposure to the staggering sum of human suffering revealed in the historical record can act to soften our hearts, to generate compassion for our own suffering and for that of others. And this leads to the second task.

It is what I will call simply “doing good.” There is something about the recognition and experience of suffering that prompts the impulse to be kind. And is there anything in the whole catalog of human virtues that we need more than simple kindness? When we come to the end of this road, we will not ask ourselves how many books we have written nor how many “A”s we received. But we may well ask--did I show enough kindness to others?

I would like to think that a heightened awareness of human suffering drawn from our study of history might engender within our own hearts a measure of compassion for those we meet on a daily basis. A positive word to a struggling student, a sympathetic ear for those dealing with broken relationships or other disappointments; a gentle inquiry about how a friend is dealing with a problem--all of this represents what we need most from other people--a simple recognition of our common and varied suffering. I have been the recipient of such kindness on many occasions from the wonderful colleagues with whom I have worked for 32 years and frequently from my students as well. I am grateful more than I can say.

Beyond personal kindness, recognition of the world's sufferings often prompts efforts at social repair and collective healing. Here, the language of the Bible perhaps best describes this task of life: We are called to feed the hungry; to beat swords into plowshares; to let justice roll down like waters; to make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. It is among the great callings of life--to extend kindness, to be of service, to tame the cruelty of the world.

And what does history offer as we confront this central task of life? For one thing, it provides a record of those who have struggled long and hard. Movements to abolish the slave trade, to end racial discrimination, to achieve independence for colonized peoples, to secure the vote for women, to end oppressive regimes, to protect the environment--all of this and much more reminds us that men and women create human societies through their own actions, that the ideas we hold in our heads really matter, and that change, positive change, is possible in this world.

*(cont on page 11)*

## ARDEN BUCHOLZ NAMED DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Further recognition came to the Department of History's scholar-teachers with the promotion of **Arden Bucholz** to SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor, the highest teaching rank in the state system. Bucholz becomes only the eighth SUNY Brockport faculty member to achieve the rank since its inception nearly three decades ago—but the third member of the history faculty! Brockport's first SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor was the late **W. Wayne Dedman**, for whom the Dedman Graduate Award in History is named, and Department Chair **Owen S. Ireland** achieved the rare distinction in 1997.

Bucholz's distinguished career began with his undergraduate education at Dartmouth College, two years of teaching English in Turkey, and three years in Counterintelligence with the United States Army in Germany. Bucholz took an MA and PhD at the University of Chicago, much of the time also teaching history at the Latin School of Chicago. He came to SUNY Brockport in 1970 and, along with **Robert Strayer**, helped launch the world history program that remains a centerpiece of the major and of the College's General Education program. In 1977 he received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and in 1987 the Georges Queen Award for Excellence in Teaching History.

A consummate teacher, Bucholz's courses in world history, Nazi Germany, and the American military experience, to name a few, are noted for their blend of dramatic lecture; audiovisual material; music; extensive writing; and almost daily feedback on students' end-of-class two-minute essays. Beyond that, Bucholz spends countless hours early in each semester interviewing all of his students. As one said, "His compassion and thoughtfulness outside the classroom are only surpassed by his insightfulness within the class." Indeed, student accolades redounded in the award nomination material, typified by the following: "Professor Bucholz...created a classroom environment that was sensitive and intellectual, human and academic, and welcoming and rigorous; a classroom environment that afforded me the opportunity to find the scholar within my own being."

The material presented in class stems from the mind and research of an internationally recognized scholar. Bucholz has published four books, authored several dozen scholarly articles, book chapters, and reviews, and presented his research in England, Germany, the Netherlands, Scotland, and Sweden, as well as at numerous stateside venues. This

(cont page 10)

## STRAYER WINS NEW AWARD, RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS

**Robert Strayer** closed his extraordinary career at SUNY Brockport this May by receiving the first-ever SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. The award caps a 32-year career of exemplary scholarship, teaching, and service to the College and its students.

Strayer took his bachelor's degree at Wheaton College in Illinois and his MA at the University of Wisconsin. He then served two years in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia, returning to Wisconsin to complete a PhD with a specialty in African history. Coming to SUNY Brockport with the storied faculty "Class of 1970," when the Department of History alone hired 13 new faculty, Strayer plunged into the work of making world history central to the major—as well as the General Education program.

Students and alumni know Strayer best for his popular courses in world history (undergraduate and graduate), Modern Africa, and the Soviet Union. His teaching prowess has been recognized with the Georges Queen Award for Excellence in Teaching History (1992) and the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (1997). In 1996 he was named a Senior Fellow of the School of Letters and Sciences.

Faculty recognize not only Strayer's teaching skills and dedication but also his widely known scholarship. He is the senior author of a world history textbook adopted by some 100 colleges and universities and the author of three other books and numerous articles. Currently, he serves as editor of a new McGraw-Hill series in world history for which he will also write a short "framework" text and a thematically focused volume on Communism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the World History Association, reflecting the respect of his colleagues across the discipline. As the editor of the *Journal of World History* wrote in supporting Strayer's nomination for the Chancellor's Award for Scholarship, "Through his publications and other scholarly contributions, Strayer has brought distinction to SUNY Brockport."

Not least, Strayer served the College and the department in administrative capacities almost too numerous to mention, including director of general education; acting director of international education; director of the graduate program in history; acting chair, associate chair, and frequent member of the Governance Committee in History. In

(cont page 10)



## Kudos to Harrington!

**Kristopher Harrington**, a junior, earned All-American honors in wrestling, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the 2002 NCAA Division III national championships. College wrestling requires a seven-month season, and no other sport is more demanding of student athletes. Yet, asked when he would begin preparing for the next season, Harrington replied: "Tomorrow."

(cont from p. 1)

## HISTORY FORUM TO WASHINGTON

The Forum organized a variety of programs during the spring semester, including two speakers (**Kevin White** of the Department of Anthropology on "Native American Issues in New York State" and **Eileen O'Hara** of Drake Library on the making of HBO's *Band of Brothers*); a film series on violence in America, with films shown in various dormitories, and showings of *Paths of Glory* and *JFK*—all with faculty commentary; a trip to the Niagara Falls region and the Robert Moses Power Plant, co-sponsored by Campus Life; a Trivial Pursuit contest with students from the Department of Political Science (won by the history majors, of course, with help from Professor **Bruce Leslie**!), and an ice cream social for faculty and students. At semester's end, Forum members said good-bye to Professor **Strayer** at a student retirement party in the Union.

The Forum would like to thank **James Spiller** for serving as adviser to the club and for accompanying students, with expert commentary, to the historic sights of the Niagara Falls area.

New officers for 2002-2003 will be **Eric Sterling**, president; **James Wallington**, vice president; **Nicole Campanali**, secretary, and **Nicole Wilkinson**, treasurer.

## CONGRATULATIONS! ALPHA CHI INDUCTEES

Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into Alpha Chi National Honor Society on April 5. Alpha Chi is SUNY Brockport's highest recognition for outstanding academic achievements by students in all disciplines, majors, and programs. Membership is offered only to college juniors and seniors in the top 10 percent of their class (this year, the minimum Brockport GPA was 3.61 for juniors and 3.65 for seniors). The new inductees are: **Kerry Blocker**, **Deanna M. Halquist**, **Daniel J. Palmer**, **Tracy A. Snyder**, and **Eric P. Wheeler**.

## MA STUDENTS PRESENT TO REGIONAL CONFERENCES

**Christopher J. Arnold** ("The Catholic Worker Movement: How a Protestant and a Peasant Saved the American Catholic Church") and **Christine DiVeronica** ("I Danced with Rudolph Valentino: Spiritualism and the New Age in Twentieth-Century America") presented papers at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference held at SUNY Geneseo on April 20. Both papers had been prepared in **John Daly's** 600-level seminar on American religious history.

**Jane Oakes** presented a lecture/demonstration at the Mid-Atlantic Region conference of ALFAM (the Association of Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums) held at Genesee Country Village and Museum in Mumfordsville. Oakes, a historical re-enactor who has been guest "schoolmarm" in several restored schoolhouses, shared ways in which museums can research and implement a first-person interpretation program in a one-room schoolhouse. For her own school presentations, Oakes varies the year that she interprets, depending on site and curriculum needs of the school district. She reports that "educational theory, costuming, curriculum, 'current events', and materials/books used differ for each period, making the programs easily tailored to the era the visiting class is studying."

## SCHOLARS DAY 2002

Students and faculty of the Department of History, as has been traditional, participated extensively in Scholars Day, held this year on April 10. Twenty-one students and eight faculty delved into topics ranging from America's imperiled natural and urban environments to Hollywood treatments of the Roman Empire and slavery, American women's history, the banjo's American roots, and SUNY Brockport's recent past.

Congratulations to the following students and faculty members whose research contributed to another successful showcasing of SUNY Brockport scholarship and student success: **Paul Andrea**, **Mary Buggie-Hunt**, **Sean Crandall**, **Thomas Crimando**, **John Daly**, **Joe DeSalvo**, **Christine R. DiVeronica**, **Michael Faucher**, **James Hauck**, **Kevin Heckman**, **Michael Kiesow**, **Robin Kunow**, **Andrienne Lattin**, **Joshua M. Leathersich**, **Mary K. Maslanka**, **Sean McLaughlin**, **Paul Miller**, **Kenneth O'Brien**, **Leah Oltean**, **Dan Palmer**, **Alison Parker**, **Wade R. Postell (2)**, **Ann Prohaska**, **Verdis Robinson**, **James Spiller (2)**, **Eric Swick**, **Melanie Thompson**, **Wanda Wakefield**, **Eric Wheeler**.

## 2002 DEPARTMENTAL AWARD WINNERS

The Chair and Governance Committee of the Department of History take great pleasure in announcing the 2002 recipients of departmental honors, presented at the College's annual Spring Honors and Awards Ceremony on April 10. We congratulate the following students on their fine academic records, and we thank them for their contributions to the department and the College.

**DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLAR  
ERIC WHEELER**

**JACK CRANDALL AWARD  
NICOLE WILKINSON**

**W. WAYNE DEDMAN AWARD  
CHRISTINE DIVERONICA**

**KEMPES SCHNELL AWARD  
KERRY BLOCKER and TRACY SNYDER**

**GEORGE S. QUEEN ESSAY AWARD  
DANIEL PALMER**

**ROBERT GRISWOLD AWARD  
MARK MOON**

**ARTHUR LEE AWARD  
ANGELO MERCONE**



## PHI ALPHA THETA NEWS

The Department of History's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the international history honorary, held its annual induction of new members on April 5 at the historic Morgan Manning House on Main St. in Brockport. **Arden Bucholz** addressed inductees and their families on "History as Puzzle," showing a brief clip from the movie *Saving Private Ryan* to illustrate his theme. **John Daly** inducted the new members into the chapter and then

joined **Kathy Kutolowski** and **Paul Moyer** to introduce each student.

Phi Alpha Theta is one of the oldest disciplinary honor societies and sponsors a scholarship program and the scholarly journal *The Historian*. To qualify for membership, undergraduates must have completed 18 credits in history with a minimum 3.3 GPA in history courses and 3.25 overall. Graduate students must have finished 12 credits in history with a minimum 3.5 GPA. Congratulations to the following students on their induction: **Heather C. Acosta, Kevin C. Best, Kerry A. Blocker, Nicole Campanali, Casey L. Chase, Christine R. DiVeronica, William S. Fisher, Douglas Forken, Thomas B. Gearing, Jr., David K. Goodberlet, Deanna M. Halquist, Joshua R. Leathersich, Daniel J. Palmer, Vassilios Pinopoulos, Oral "Nick" Robertson, Tracy A. Snyder, James A. Wallington, Lisa M. Westrick, Eric P. Wheeler.**

SUNY Brockport students and faculty also took part in the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference held at SUNY Geneseo on April 20. **John Daly** organized and chaired an all-Brockport panel entitled "Religion in America," along with a second session on "Immigration and Ethnicity." For papers presented by two Brockport MA students, see the story on p. 4.

## KERRY BLOCKER AWARDED REGIONAL MCNAIR HONOR

Junior major **Kerry Blocker** on May 6 received the prestigious Association for Equality and Excellence in Education's Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Scholarship Award at a conference held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The award recognizes an outstanding student who has modeled successful behavior, academic excellence, and leadership qualities.

According to **Barbara J. Thompson**, project director for Brockport's CSTEP/McNair programs, Blocker is "an extremely motivated, hard worker who values education greatly." A non-traditional student, Blocker "has been able effectively to combine the demands of her college education with the demands of her family, her job, and her community service."

Blocker's earlier research project, mentored by **Wanda Wakefield** of History and Delta College, was presented at the McNair Conference at SUNY Buffalo and published in the *2001 Ronald E. McNair Summer Research Journal*.

This spring Blocker also was one of three SUNY Brockport students to receive a Rochester Area Colleges Continuing Education Outstanding Adult Student award. In addition, with a 3.81 GPA, Blocker was selected for membership in Alpha Chi National Honor Society and Phi Alpha Theta, the history honorary. Upon graduation from Brockport, she plans to pursue a PhD and to become a college professor. Some day, Thompson predicts, Blocker will be "teaching a new wave of history students the kind of sensitivity, compassion, and determination that she herself exhibits."

## FACULTY NEWS

**TONIO ANDRADE**'s Yale University dissertation won a prestigious Gutenberg E-Prize from the American Historical Association in January. The prize carries a monetary award of \$20,000 and a contract for publication by Columbia University Press. In the words of the prize committee, Andrade "argues convincingly, and in wonderfully rich detail," and "brilliantly reminds us of how important the brief episode of European occupation was to the future development of Taiwan...." In addition, Andrade gave papers at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco in January and at the Association for Asian Studies in Washington, DC, in April. Andrade will spend the summer and fall doing further research in Taiwan before joining the faculty at Emory University where he has accepted a new position.

**ARDEN BUCHOLZ** became SUNY Brockport's newest SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor with promotion to the prestigious statewide rank in May (see accompanying story). In the nearly three decades since its inception, only seven other Brockport faculty members have achieved the rank—two of them fellow historians (the late **W. Wayne Dedman** and **Owen S. Ireland**). Bucholz's most recent book reviews appeared in *War in History*, *History: Reviews of New Books*, *Central European History*, and *The Historian*.

**MARY BUGGIE-HUNT** was selected (one of 40 statewide) to participate in the Northeast Great Teachers Seminar sponsored by Cornell University in May. Buggie-Hunt also presented a seminar/demonstration entitled "Concept Mapping for College-level Classes" at "Beyond Chalk and Talk: Enhancing Student Learning in Higher Education," sponsored by the Northeast Regional Conference on Excellence in Learning and Teaching at SUNY Oswego in April.

**THOMAS CRIMANDO**'s 4,000 word essay, "Roman Warfare During the Empire, 27 B.C.E.-476 C.E.," has been published in *Weapons and Warfare*, a two-volume Salem Press overview of weapons, strategy, and tactics from ancient times to the present. Crimando also had four entries published as part of the *Encyclopedia of the Ancient World*, Salem Press.

**EVELYN JENNINGS** presented "Public Work and Public Workers in Colonial Havana, 1763-1840," at the Southern Labor Studies Conference in Miami, FL, in April. Jennings also contributed a chapter entitled "State Enslavement in Colonial Havana, 1763-1790," to *Slavery Without Sugar*, forthcoming from University Presses of Florida.

**JOHN PATRICK DALY**'s first book, *When Slavery Was Called Freedom: Evangelicalism, Proslavery, and the Causes of the Civil War*, was published by the University of Kentucky Press in its Religion in the South Series in June 2002. Bertram Wyatt-Brown, a leading Antebellum scholar, writes, "This highly commendable work should make its mark in the field of American religious history." In the words of the Press, Daly's is "a bold new interpretation of the intellectual foundations of secession and the Civil War." Daly also served as session chair and gave a paper, "Public History on Film and on Site: Racial Revenge and Gothic Horror in Film and Southern History," at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Far West American Popular Culture Association Conference in Las Vegas in February, chaired two sessions at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference held at Geneseo in April, and completed three book reviews for scholarly journals.

**RONALD HERLAN** continued as vice president of the Orleans County Historical Association, helping to administer microfilming of a collection of local Civil War letters; an oral history project focusing on World War II veterans, and an illustrated local history of 20<sup>th</sup>-century life in the town of Clarendon.

**JOHN KILLIGREW**'s article, "A Case Study of Chinese Civil Warfare: The Cao-Wei Conquest of Shu-Han in AD 263," was published in *Civil Wars* in the Winter 2001 issue. This was Killigrew's third scholarly journal publication in the past four years.

**JOHN KUTOLOWSKI** has been promoted to the rank of professor emeritus and continues to work on his monograph, "Heroes and Villains," a study of how Victorian historians assessed the influence of major historical figures.

**KATHY KUTOLOWSKI** contributed a chapter to *Freemasonry on Both Sides of the Atlantic*, published by the East European Monograph Series of Columbia University Press (2002). The essay revised and updated one of Kutowski's earlier essays in the *American Quarterly*.

**BRUCE LESLIE**, along with **John Halsey** (International Education and Sociology), contributed an essay, "A College Upon a Hill: Exceptionalism and American Higher Education," to *Marks of Distinction: American Exceptionalism Revisited*, published by Aarhus (Denmark) University Press. Leslie also contributed book reviews to *History of Education Quarterly*, the *American Historical Review*, and *American Studies in Scandinavia*, and this July teamed with **Ken O'Brien** to present a tribute to the late Professor **W. Wayne Dedman**, "Cherishing This Heritage," at Alumni Weekend.

**JENNY LLOYD**'s latest article, "Collective Memory, Commemoration, Memory and History: An Intersection, or William O'Bryan, the Bible Christians and Me," was published in *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly*, in May. Lloyd also presented "Bible Christian Women in the Field" to the North Atlantic Conference on British Studies in Toronto in November 2001, reviewed a manuscript for Haworth press, completed her second year as Faculty Senate President, co-chaired the College's very successful Middle States Self-Study, chaired the Women's Center Advisory Board, and served as outside evaluator for the SUNY Oswego Department of History's self-study and as consultant for their assessment program.

**ANNE MACPHERSON** chaired and commented on a panel at the annual meeting of the American Ethnohistory Society in Tucson in October 2001, published a book review in the *Hispanic American Historical Review* in February 2002, had an article accepted by the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, and completed work on an anthology that she is co-editing for the University of North Carolina Press.

**MORAG MARTIN** continued her research at the University of Warwick, England, on a Leverhulme Research Fellowship this past semester. The department looks forward to Martin's return for the fall semester and to the new insights that she will bring to her undergraduate and graduate courses in modern Europe.

**KENNETH O'BRIEN** presented two invited workshops on World War II for Project Advance students in western Monroe County and teamed with **Bruce Leslie** to present a tribute to the late Professor **W. Wayne Dedman**, "Cherishing This Heritage," at Alumni Weekend in July.

**LYNN H. PARSONS** spent the spring semester on sabbatical leave but took time to present eight lectures on the Antebellum Period for the Strong Museum's annual Advanced Placement history conference. He also appeared on Bob Smith's WXXI radio talk show in February to discuss presidential leadership in time of war. Parsons' appearance resulted from an op-ed piece that he had written for the *Democrat and Chronicle*—one that he reports was "roundly applauded in all parts except the Department of Economics of the University of Rochester." Parsons' one act play on Abigail and John Adams, *The Tye More Binding*, was presented by the Cranetown Players for the Montclair, NJ Historical Society.

**JAMES SPILLER** has won a Research Grant-in-Aid from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library Foundation to support summer research at the Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, TX, and also a UUP Individual Development Award for research.

**ALISON PARKER** has been offered tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor. Parker will spend much of the summer as a participant in the competitively-chosen 2002 National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar on "Motherhood and the Nation-State in Western Societies," to be held at Stanford University's Institute for Research on Women and Gender. The seminar will provide insights that Parker will incorporate into her new fall course on family history, as well as research perspectives. Parker also received a UUP Individual Development Award to travel to research collections in Philadelphia and the District of Columbia, where she will continue work on her second monograph. In June, Parker chaired a panel on "Gender Relations and Commercial Sexuality in America's 20<sup>th</sup>-Century," at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women.

**ROBERT STRAYER** became SUNY Brockport's first-ever recipient of the new Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities (see accompanying story). Strayer continues to serve on the Executive Committee of the World History Association and to edit a new series of World History texts for McGraw Hill Press.

**BARBARA THOMPSON** presented a paper, "Reflections on the High School Experiences of Low-income First-generation College Students" at the annual conference of the American Educational Studies Association. Thompson's paper, based on oral history research conducted with McNair Students at the College, was published in a collection of graduate student papers developed at SUNY Buffalo.

**WANDA WAKEFIELD** served as chief of control for luge competition at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, UT, and at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Cup of luge in Lake Placid. Wakefield is working on a new research project involving the end of the Cold War and its impact on sport in Europe and North America. Wakefield published a book review in the *International Journal of the History of Sport* and will contribute a chapter for a book entitled *Sexual Sports Rhetoric*.



## ALUMNI NEWS

**ROBERT BROWN** BA '91 is completing his PhD in history at Syracuse University and has taught as an adjunct at SUNY at Oneonta and at Le Moyne College.

**DIANE SALM COLE** BA '71 lives in Painted Post, NY, and is a probation officer for Steuben County. Cole finds that "history comes in handy in doing family genealogy research with my sister."



**STEVEN DAZZO** BS '00 has joined the public relations department of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks of the National Hockey League. Dazzo's new position joins his long-time interest in sports (he was a sports broadcaster for WBSU) to his communications and analytical skills.

**THOMAS DOWNS** BA '98 MA '01 has left Bishop Kearney High School to join the faculty of Webster Thomas High School. Downs will teach world history this year and American history the following year.

**ROBERT DUNBAR** MA '02 has been accepted into the MA/PhD program in Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University (Bloomington). He is spending the summer studying Uzbek at the University in preparation for his program.

**SCOTT FARRELL** BS '89 has left Foley and Lardner, the nation's 11<sup>th</sup>-largest law firm, where he practiced corporate and securities law to campaign for a seat in the Florida State House of Representatives in the upcoming election. Along the way to a legal career, Farrell earned a master's degree in mass communication from the University of Florida, College of Journalism and Communications. He graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in 1995. Farrell stresses the role of his history undergraduate major in developing his analytical skills: "Too often students spend a majority of time learning a trade...while spending little, if any, time developing analytical skills needed to excel in various facets of life. History majors don't suffer this malady."

**JEANNETTE FORD FERNANDEZ**, PhD BA '75 is an assistant professor at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, FL. She is starting an Oral History Center preparatory to the 2004 centennial of the College's founding. Ford Fernandez wishes her mentor, Professor **John Killigrew**, "all the best."

**JOEL FREEDMAN** MA '98 is an adjunct instructor in social sciences at Finger Lakes Community College. Freedman has taught sociology and American government and this fall will teach American history.

**ELIZABETH LAMB** MA '95 will teach Global History and East Asian History at St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA, in 2002-03. Lamb is a PhD candidate in history at Carnegie Mellon University.

**ROBERT "ROCKY" LAROCCA** BS '73 is director of Seneca Meadows in Geneva, NY. LaRocca was a member of the Geneva City Council from 1986 to 1992 and of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors from 1992 to the present.

**JAMES "JAKE" GIBBS** BS '75 is a professor at Lexington Community College in Lexington, KY, where one of his colleagues is Molly Crandall Frisbie, daughter of the late SUNY Brockport professor and vice president, **John C. Crandall**. Gibbs writes that his "life is focused mainly on my daughters (8 and 11), and then on a collection of Haldeman-Julius Little Blue Books from the 1920s," about which he hopes someday to write a book. Remembering Brockport, Gibbs asked "to publicly thank **John Kutolowski** and **Kempes Schnell** for turning me on to the joys studying history and giving me encouragement to go to graduate school. Without their influence, I expect I'd still be working a manual labor job---and not liking it much."

**DOUGLAS HANSON** BS '90 has taught social studies at Spencerport High School for the past seven years. Hanson taught 10<sup>th</sup> grade Global Studies for six years but this year had a chance to return to his first love, American history. He has been asked to teach the first Advanced Placement US History course to be offered by Spencerport, and he and his wife are expecting their first child.

**JOHN "JAKE" HARDING** BS '71 spent a few years teaching after graduation and then worked his way up from the warehouse floor to the presidency of a construction supply business in Auburn. Harding writes that studying history taught him "new ways of seeing issues and thinking outside the box." He is "raising a two- and four-year-old and nearing completion of my retirement house."

**ROBERT TODD JANTZI** BS '89 is an auctioneer and appraiser with a small real estate and auction service company in Genesee County. Jantzi writes: "I live with history every day and have used my experiences/skills obtained at SUNY Brockport daily." His job entails researching, identifying and classifying objects, as well as organizing and appraising them for potential buyers. While business skills and innovation remain central, Jantzi stresses the human dimension of his profession: "I love the freedom and the 'living history' I find every day. I love the story everyone has to share and the stories behind their items."

**JEAN M. KOVACH** BS '72 has been named assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for the West Seneca Central School District. Kovach, who holds master's degrees in social studies education (SUNY Buffalo) and English (the University of Miami), has taught in Florida and Texas as well as New York. She is a former director of instruction for the Hamburg Central School District and assistant principal for East Senior High School in the West Seneca district. Kovach resides in Grand Island with her husband Paul and daughters Katie and Sara.

**RICHARD LORENZEN** BA '82 is a lieutenant commander in the Coast Guard, just completing an assignment as an HH60 "Jayhawk" Helicopter Search and Rescue/Instructor Pilot and Operations Officer of the US Coast Guard Air Station, Cape Cod, MA. Lorenzen began his military career as an Army officer and aviator before transferring to the Coast Guard. Later this summer he will transfer to Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, DC, in the Office of Aviation Forces. Lorenzen's military career has included tours in the Bahamas, Germany, Hawaii, Korea, and Japan, as well as various American posts.

**JASON E. LYONS** BS '93 teaches economics and global studies at North Collins Central School, where he also coaches the modified baseball team. Lyons completed a master's degree in general education at Canisius College and will begin a second master's, in educational administration, this summer.

**MICHAEL J. MASSEY** BA '88 operates his own advertising business, AdMania, in Schenectady. Massey has been a customer service representative, a bank officer, a radio sales representative, and also sold television airtime before going into advertising itself—"something I never imagined I'd be doing." Massey writes that "the history degree has given me the ability to communicate clearly, think broadly and dream wildly....The best advice I could give to upcoming graduates is never, ever limit yourself."

**BRYAN MILLER** BS '01 is a researcher for the New York State Assembly's Department of Communications in Albany and plans to begin graduate work in the near future.

**JACINTA M. PENKSZYK** BS '01 has begun graduate study in library science at Florida State University.

**JOSEPH RALYEA** BA '95 began his teaching career at the middle school level and now teaches high school social studies in Hilton. Married and the father of a "beautiful daughter...just about to turn two," Ralyea says that he tells his own students about the benefits of studying history with these words and this teaching philosophy: "I, as well as this course and content, will make you all into independent autonomous learners with the skills and abilities to learn, adapt, succeed, and search out answers in an existence where your character leads to your success."

**ANTOINE M. THOMPSON** BS '93 is a member of the Buffalo City Council, representing the Masten District. Thompson chairs three committees (community development, Kensington Heights, and regional governance).

**D. GREGORY VAN DUSSEN**, DMin BA '69 MA '83 is Batavia District superintendent for the United Methodist Church. Van Dussen continues to write occasional book reviews in the areas of Irish and Irish-American history and the history of religion in America and also teaches as an adjunct instructor for Empire State College and United Theological Seminary, Buffalo. He represented the Western New York Conference at the 2000 General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

**SALVATORE VASTA** MA '98 is the founding editor and master spirit behind his own historical journal, *COORTE*, an Italian military history journal. Vasta describes himself as a "student...who's found a way to keep writing...." The journal will be based in Rochester, but eventually Vasta plans to return to Italy and will coordinate the journal from Europe.

**EUGENE S. VOGEL** BS '73 is national business services manager for 3M, responsible for all sales centers and offices, along with the support staffs at these locations. Vogel writes that majoring in history gave him a "head up over many business majors, many of whom did not know how to write well, present a position and support it, research and find information...." As well, since 3M does about half of its business outside the United States, Vogel has found that his knowledge of other countries "was a real asset in understanding the direction my company was going, and the challenges."

**CEDRIC WALKER** BS '87, a social studies teacher at Monroe Middle School in Rochester, is best known as a high school track coach and director of the Flower City Track Club of Rochester. Walker has mentored hundreds of young track athletes, many of whom are now coaching themselves. This summer will find Walker an assistant coach for elite 14 to 19 year old track athletes at the World Junior Championships in Jamaica.

**ARTHUR WINTERFELD** BS '74 worked in international business and then operated his own business for eight years. Currently, he is import operations manager for a customs brokerage firm. Winterfeld would like to hear from classmates, who can reach him at [wint1951@aol.com](mailto:wint1951@aol.com)

**ROBERT ZICHITTELLA** BS '70 teaches sixth grade at Depew Middle School. Zichittella writes that he has "great memories of an excellent faculty, tremendous friends and a great education—thanks, Brockport."

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## ARDEN BUCHOLZ NAMED DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

(CONT FROM 3)

is work regarded highly by Bucholz's peers in academe. As one wrote of his *Hans Delbruck and the German Military Establishment*, "This stimulating and original work successfully challenges a broad spectrum of conventional wisdom...."

Along with service to students and the discipline, Bucholz has made his mark in departmental leadership as well, particularly as director of the graduate program from 1990 to 1997 and in several terms on the Governance Committee. Yet here, too, his efforts related to student needs and success. As his colleagues' nomination letter concluded, "Through three decades of service to the college and to SUNY [Bucholz] has provided a range of service to his students rivaled by few."

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## STRAYER WINS NEW AWARD, RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS

(CONT FROM 3)

keeping with his commitment to academic excellence and vision for the College, Strayer helped establish the Academic Convocation that now launches each new school year, and chaired the College's Committee on Academic Quality.

Strayer has left the chill of Western New York for sunny CA, where he lives a block from the Pacific Ocean, works in consulting, and will teach part-time at California State University at Monterey Bay. We congratulate him on a marvelous career of service to the College and its students, and we wish him well in his new life—even as we try to fathom life at SUNY Brockport without him!

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(cont from page 2 "**History of the Heart**")

But if the historical record can be encouraging, it can also be cautionary. Historically informed people know that good intentions often do not turn out well. The grand dreams of socialism in the Soviet Union and China turned into the horrors of Stalin's Gulag and Mao's Cultural Revolution. And we know also that good things often take a long time to achieve, as the struggle against racial oppression in South Africa and here at home surely shows. But there is a record of deliberate efforts to improve human society that can encourage and inspire our own attempts to repair the brokenness of our own world.

Doing good involves action, commitment, and perseverance. But there are times when life poses to us a different task--that of letting go and moving on. Here is a third of those inescapable tasks of life with which we are all confronted.

How desperately we often hold on--to power, to privilege, to identities, to position, to relationships, and, of course, to life itself.

Often, of course, holding on is something noble--hanging in there with a friend, persisting in a difficult cause or task....finishing your Incompletes!

But the sages tell us--almost all of them--that sometimes holding on to that which inevitably changes only increases our suffering and that of others around us.

How much pain did South Africa suffer because an entrenched minority could not let go of a racial identity and the privileges it conveyed?

How much pain do we suffer as individuals when we cannot let go of a destructive or confining relationship, of a professional identity whose time has past, or of an image of self that can no longer be sustained? How sad is the person of 60 who tries to look and behave like he or she was at 25!

Letting go is a painful task and facing the uncertainty which it inevitably evokes is a fearful undertaking. There is no magic formula, but it strikes me that history has something to offer us in this matter. History is a standing reminder of the changeability of everything and the unpredictability of much of life, it is the discipline of change and uncertainty--political systems, economic arrangements, cultural values, social systems, the centrality of particular nations.

And surely our own lives testify to this truth as well. Who among us 10 years ago could have predicted the shape of our lives today?

(cont on page 11)

Change and uncertainty, like suffering, are simply the way of the world. Is it possible that those of us who immerse ourselves in the record of human change might come to expect it more, to fear it less, and to adjust more readily to the changes which life imposes upon us? Can history, as the discipline of the whole, help us to embrace all of life—the difficult and the pleasant, or as the wedding vows have it— better and worse, sickness and health, richer and poorer? Can we see it all as part of the grand process of life unfolding?

This leads to a fourth, and for tonight, a final task of life. Let me call it opening up. We are, all of us, inclined to be insular, to regard our own ways as the norm, to be fearful of difference. Nor is this largely our own fault. We all have limited experiences. Few of us have had much personal encounter with cultures beyond our own country, and none of us, of course, knows from personal experience what life was like before our birth.

And yet we also know that maturing as a person involves reaching beyond those barriers and boundaries which confine us; it means transcending limited conceptions of ourselves, perhaps appreciating more and judging less. In short, it means opening up to a wider world. If we base our understanding of life only on what we personally experience, we are impoverished indeed.

In this task of life, history has much to offer. It provides a marvelous window into other times and places. It confronts us with the whole range of human experience—its achievements and its tragedies. It gives context and perspective to our own limited lives. It allows us some modest entree into the lives of North American Puritans and Virginia planters, of Brazilian slaves and their owners, of African nationalists and their colonial rulers, of Chinese revolutionaries and their peasant supporters, of Afghan women and Taliban rulers. If we take it seriously, history can assist us in enlarging and enriching our sense of self. And in helping us to open up to that which is different, it can enable us to grow up into more mature people.

In confronting suffering, in doing good, in letting go, and in opening up—History has something to offer us all. It cannot promise you an optimistic or an easy life, but it can provide a richly connected life and plenty of company for the journey.

And so as you leave us now, let me commend to you, on behalf of your proud faculty, a continued engagement with the wonderful discipline which we share. For it can not only enrich your mind and provide an exciting voyage through time, but it can also, if you will let it, touch your heart as well.

(Cut Here)



**SUNY BROCKPORT**  
State University of New York  
College at Brockport  
350 New Campus Drive  
Brockport, New York 14420-2956  
Department of History

Postage Here
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## Alumni News

Attention history alumni! We'd like to hear from you. To make it easier, please fill out, clip and mail this form to: Newsletter, Department of History, SUNY College at Brockport, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420-2956. Or e-mail: [trombaut@brockport.edu](mailto:trombaut@brockport.edu) or fax to (585) 395-2620.

Many thanks!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Any news that you'd like to share (career, hobbies, travel, family, etc.):

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