ing, graduate training, and ground-breaking research.” According to their report, “our unanimous impression was of a first-rate department made up of distinguished and promising scholars who have made the most of scarce, diminished resources, and yet are poised to emerge as one of the best programs in historical studies in the country.”

This is both good news and an ongoing challenge in the current fiscal environment in public higher education. Happily, our faculty continues to distinguish itself through ground-breaking scholarship in ways that bring recognition to the department and underscore the centrality of History’s excellence to that of the campus as a whole. We have had two Guggenheim Fellowship winners in a row (Professors Diane Koenker and Mark Steinberg) and an NEH winner as well (Professor Frederick Hoxie). Adrian Burgos’ book, *Playing America’s Game: Baseball, Latinos and the Color Line* (University of California Press), won the Latin American Studies Association prize—and as this publication was going to press we received the news that Vernon Burton’s *The Age of Lincoln* (Hill and Wang) has won the Heartland Prize, sponsored by the *Chicago Tribune*, for non-fiction. We continue to contribute to the production of new historical knowledge and to the teaching of history through our graduate program, where students do award-winning research through exposure to our faculty and our library archives and collections and train to become the next generation of scholars and classroom teachers as well. In fact, one of our graduate students, Julilly Kohler-Hausmann, won campus recognition for her undergraduate teaching last spring, the second year in a row that honor has been captured by History. Not least, our wonderful undergraduates push us in new and untold ways as they grapple with history’s meaning and significance for the new millennium. They have breathed new life into the History honor society, Phi Alpha Theta, and we are daily inspired and humbled by their talents and the ability to show us how understanding history can change the world.

These phenomenal activities, together with all the other amazing daily work of our faculty, students and staff, are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the signature excellence of History at Illinois. In order to highlight the many scholarly and pedagogical projects we are doing we are moving ahead with our plans for the establishment of our Center for Historical Interpretation, which is beginning to organize events in anticipation of the Lincoln Bicentennial, 2008-2009. We aim to make the Center a place of public engagement and scholarly exchange, and we look forward to having the chance to meet you at some of its programs in the near future.

All the best,

*Antoinette Burton, Chair*

*Professor of History and Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies*
tinctively, he integrates into his narrative the voices of the poor, women, war resisters, immigrants, and minorities. Early reviews of the book have likened the work to such classic historical texts as Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.’s *Age of Jackson* (to which it pays titular tribute) and James McPherson’s *Battle Cry of Freedom*. Barely off the press, the book won the Heartland literary award for nonfiction, given yearly by the *Chicago Tribune*.

Burton’s intriguing thesis is that Lincoln’s most profound achievement was not the abolition of slavery but the enshrinement of the principle of personal liberty protected by a body of law. The outbreak and course of the Civil War, he proposes, should be seen in the light of competing notions of what “freedom” meant rather than (as has usually been the case) as a bloody conflict over states’ rights or black emancipation. Lincoln’s greatest legacy, Burton continues, was to oversee the vast expansion of federal power—which was pragmatically necessary to win the Civil War—but justified in ideological terms as the best means to protect personal freedom for all, something to which the government had hitherto paid little attention.

Focusing on the half-century from the 1840s to the 1890s, Burton emphasizes that Lincoln was able to hijack the South’s appeal to religious principles without diminishing his reverence for the secular Constitution, a potent combination that gave his visionary fusion of federal power and individual rights the staying power to outlast its betrayal during and after Reconstruction. In the academy and beyond, readers are likely to be debating Burton’s major re-reading for years to come.

**Associate Professor Max Edelson’s** book, *Plantation Enterprise in Colonial South Carolina* (Harvard University Press, 2006), is another highly impressive scholarly debut. A student of Early American history, especially the colonial South, Edelson joined the Department of History in 2001. In his articles and book, Edelson has pioneered a creative, powerful blend of economic, environmental, and cultural history.

*Plantation Enterprise* examines and reinterprets one of the nation’s oldest symbols—the southern slave plantation. Edelson reconstructs in meticulous detail the interactions between planters, slaves, and the natural world they colonized to create the Carolina Lowcountry. White European settlers came to South Carolina in 1670 determined, Edelson shows, to possess an abundant wilderness. Over the course of a century, they settled highly adaptive rice and indigo plantations across a vast coastal plain that eventually became one of the most prosperous (and repressive) regions in the Atlantic world. Forcing slaves to turn swampy wastelands into productive fields and to channel surging waters into elaborate irrigation systems, planters initiated a stunning economic transformation.

The result, Edelson contends, was two interdependent plantation worlds. A rough rice frontier became a place of unremitting field labor. With the profits, planters made the city Charleston and its hinterland into a beautiful, refined place to live. From urban townhouses and rural retreats, they ran multiple plantation enterprises, looking to England for affirmation as agriculturists, gentlemen, and stakeholders in Britain’s American empire. The closing chapter of Edelson’s study, titled “Henry Laurens’ Empire,” provides a fascinating portrait of a “forgotten founding father” whose plantation business was the best documented in colonial America and who served as first president of the second Continental Congress. Offering a new vision of the Old South that was far from static, Edelson’s book reveals the plantations of early South Carolina to have been dynamic instruments behind an expansive process of colonization. In recognition of its scholarly and intellectual merits, *Plantation Enterprise* continued on page 4
The Guggenheim Five

There are many fellowships for academic scholars, but none quite carry the prestige and prominence of a Guggenheim—the Rolls Royce of the world of fellowships. Awarded annually since 1925 by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, these coveted grants recognize scholars who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts. The Guggenheim Fellowships target “advanced professionals in their mid-careers” with consistent publication records and are intended to give recipients a substantial block of free time in which they can work. Competition for the fellowships is national and, needless to say, intense.

Lately, the UIUC Department of History has been on a roll. In the past eight years, no fewer than five faculty members have won Guggenheims! In 1999, Professor Peter Fritzschke received a fellowship, in the field of cultural/intellectual history, for a historical study of nostalgia and modernity. Fritzschke’s project argues that in the Western world the experience of time changed in fundamental ways after the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars. These massive, tumultuous events brought a mutation in the very sense of temporality that had previously underpinned shared notions of the self, subjectivity, and the relation among past, present, and future. Plumbing letters, diaries, novels, memoirs, and autobiographies of the first half of the nineteenth century, Fritzschke discovers new “cultural practices of memory” that expressed this changing temporal consciousness. The “emergent memory landscapes” of the time, however, were much less secure than their predecessors: fraught with uncertainty and anxiety about the meaning of a remembered past that was now in ruins, the identity of the present age, and the drastically altered possibilities for the future, Europeans fell into a condition of emotional and cultural “nostalgia,” which ironically became part of “modern” consciousness. The discovery of the...

continued on page 6 from left: Diane Koenker, Lillian Hoddeson, Peter Fritzschke, Maria Todorova, and Mark Steinberg

Banner Year, continued

dition and that in October, 2007 began a five-year, twenty-seven city tour. Like the museum exhibition of the same name, Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country broadens the scope of conventional study of America’s most celebrated expedition of exploration to include Native American perspectives. The book’s chapters analyze aspects of the expedition’s long-term impact on the “Indian Country” and its residents, drawing along the way on compelling interviews conducted with Native Americans over the past two centuries as well as on secondary literature, the Lewis and Clark travel journals, and other primary sources from the exhibition. They also marshal rich stories of Native Americans, travelers, ranchers, Columbia River fur traders, teachers, and missionaries, who were often in conflict with each other and who illustrate how complex were the interactions between settlers and tribal people. “In widening the reader’s interpretive lens to include many perspectives,” Hoxie and Nelson write, “this collection reaches beyond individual achievement to appreciate America’s plural past.”

For the Department’s Americanists, 2006-2007 was clearly one for the history books.
variety of its peoples and their diverse cultures. Complicating the experience, however, was the fact that state-approved vacations simultaneously served as a tool for creating loyal subjects and as a site for individuals to cultivate their own autonomous thinking and aspirations. One analytical goal of Koenker’s project, as a result, is to probe “the relationship between state intentions and individual’s appropriation of state projects.” Another aim is to highlight the evolution of Soviet socialism across half a century, from the post-revolutionary years up through the Brezhnev regime. Koenker is also finding that, despite the official rhetoric of the Soviet Union, both the government’s handling of its tourist citizens and tourists’ personal experience of travel varied by ethnic identity, “class,” and gender. (Most Soviet-era tourists were Russians but they traveled to non-Russian areas of the Soviet Union. Likewise, wives and husbands tended to vacation separately, with women preferring cities or the seashore and men preferring to go solo into the wilderness.) Last year, Koenker co-edited Tourism: The Russian and East European Tourist under Capitalism and Socialism, with Cornell University Press, which includes a lengthy chapter of her preliminary research. She is now busily writing up the extended book version of the project.

Finally, Professor Mark Steinberg, Koenker’s colleague in modern Russian/Soviet history, received the happy news of his Guggenheim award in the spring of 2007. Steinberg will use the advantages of the Guggenheim to advance his work on a highly ambitious project—a comprehensive cultural history of a single Russian city, titled St. Petersburg Fin de Siècle: Landscape of the Darkening Modern, 1905–1917. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Steinberg points out, St. Petersburg was the Russian empire’s capital city and a metropolis that defined itself deliberately by its desire to identify with the civilizations of European modernity to the west. He is reading deeply in the fiction, philosophy, poetry, social and political journalism, cultural essays, popular magazine features, newspaper reports, and archival documents of this twelve-year period in order to reconstruct its dominant mentalities and preoccupations. He is also drawing heavily on photography and the earliest Russian silent films. At the core of the book, Steinberg envisions several thematically interlinked chapters. One chapter reconstructs the overlapping discourses of progress, backwardness, and degeneration that marked early twentieth-century St. Petersburg. Another chapter examines the world of city streets. Another analyzes the ubiquitous theme of public masquerade, disguise, and deception that apparently allowed respectable middle-class men and women to explore their alternative, transgressive selves. And yet another section of the book will explore the mysterious emotional mood of anxiety and melancholy that, Steinberg finds, darkened so much of the thinking and writing of the period.

“Portraits of an age” have long been available for such European cities as Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and Berlin during their famous fin de siècle phases. Steinberg’s work, which he plans to have completed early in 2009, will provide the first major interpretative account of a Russian metropolis during this proto-Modernist period.

Kudos to Fritzscbe, Hoddeson, Todorova, Koenker, and Steinberg, who seem to have “invented” a “new tradition.” The Department can only hope it continues into the future.
Culture (ASALH), the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH), the Association for the Study of the World Wide African Diaspora (ASWAD), the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), and National Council of Black Studies (NCBS). Moreover, several faculty members hold prominent offices in these organizations.

As might be expected, the increased numbers of scholars working on Africa America is reflected in the range of intellectual endeavors underway at AASRP. Presently, there is an African American Studies minor program through AARSP. Plans are also underway to offer B.A. and Ph.D. programs in coming years. Beginning in the fall of 2007, AASRP minors will have the opportunity to earn the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Certificate in Black Women and Gender Studies. Undergraduate students echo their enthusiasm for information learned in African American History and Studies classes. Instructors in AARSP and the Department of History repeatedly appear on the “List of Teachers Ranked Excellent,” at the University of Illinois.

African American Studies and History is extending beyond the borders of UIUC. During the summer of 2007, AARSP sponsored the Kufundisha—KiSwahili to Teach—Summer Teaching Institute. The theme of the seminar was “Teaching the African American Sociohistorical Experience.” The Institute provided educators and social workers in the Champaign-Urbana school districts the opportunity to learn and, hopefully, employ methods of African American History in their classroom. Participants devoted two full weeks to learning aspects of African American History, taking a tour of the Underground Railroad museum, and engaging in critical dialogues about the interplay between theory and the practical day to day experiences of teaching in the local Champaign-Urbana community.

AASRP also has an ongoing relationship with the remarkable new program HistoryMakers. HistoryMakers is an effort to capture and archive the testimonies and narratives of both renowned and everyday black Americans. AASRP is engaged in a University of Illinois system-wide initiative to produce a series of public engagement venues to bring African American history to life in a way that connects with current issues and public debates on topics such as race, education, inequality, and community development.

UIUC is quickly becoming a center for the exchange of salient dialogues on the state of black scholarly studies. Each year AASRP and other sponsoring units host the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Symposium on Gender and Black Women’s History. AASRP houses the new journal, Black Women, Gender and Families. It also hosts a bi-annual conference on Black Studies. During the Spring of 2008, scholars from across the country (and world) will meet to discuss the conference theme “Rupture, Repression and Uprising: Raced and Gendered Violence Along the Color Line.” Featured panelists include Gerald Horne, Sonia Sanchez, Abdul Alkalim and James Loewen. The conference will provide faculty and students from cross disciplines with the opportunity to present their work and dialogue about new trends in the study of African Americans.

As can be seen, the study of African Americans is itself making history in crucial and distinct ways at UIUC.
History Textbook Thrives in Its Fourth Decade

In October 2007, the 9th edition of A History of Western Society was published by Houghton-Mifflin Company. The book began in 1976 as an adventure among three young University of Illinois history professors, Joan McKay, Bennett Hill, and John Buckler. In its third edition, the book became a best-seller, noted for its engaging and accessible prose and its pioneering focus on social history. Thirty years later, it remains one of the most frequently assigned textbooks for college-level and AP Western Civilization courses. In 1983, the three authors renewed their success with A History of World Societies; subsequently co-authored with fellow U. of I. historian Patricia Ebrey, now at the University of Washington.

On a rainy fall afternoon in Urbana, the newest member of the writing team, Clare Crowston—who joined the department in 1996—sat down with one of the original authors, John McKay, to discuss the past, present, and future of A History of Western Society and A History of World Societies.

**CC:** First of all, we should pay tribute to Bennett Hill, who passed away in 2005. That must have been a very hard moment for you personally as well as for the textbook.

**JM:** It was a real blow. He was in good health and was coming back from Jamaica and in the process got pneumonia. He died a few weeks later in the hospital, suddenly, at the end of February 2005. We were comrades in arms from the beginning.

**CC:** When and why did you and Bennett and John Buckler decide to write a Western Civilization textbook?

**JM:** The reason I got into it was that I wrote a first monograph that got a good reception in economic history and in particular in Russian economic history. I went to the Soviet Union for five months, leaving my wife home with two young children, to do research in the libraries and archives there. I was going to write a history of the Russian petroleum industry to 1914. My materials were supposed to be shipped back through the Consular service and all my notes were lost, not only my archival materials but everything I had taken with me. I was crushed; for the first time since beginning graduate school I didn’t have the next three years planned. An editor from Houghton Mifflin, who was looking for a new Western Civilization book that would highlight social history, approached us in the fall of 1975. Bennett Hill, John Buckler, and John Dahl (another U of I colleague) had all done manuscript reviews for her. I had taught History 112 (and sometimes History 111) for nine years. To make a long story short, we decided we would try it. Had I not lost my papers, I would have written a third monograph, and I doubt if I would have done the textbook.

**CC:** When did the textbook become one of the bestsellers in its field? Why do you think it was so successful?

**JM:** It did pretty well in the first edition for a new book. In the second edition, I remember Bennett called me up and said the editor had called him and asked: “do you know you have a best seller?” Bennett was ecstatic. In the third edition, it sold a huge number of books and since then it has been a leading book.

I think it succeeded because it was fresh and conveyed the drama of the human experience. It covered the mainline topics with up-to-date scholarship, and it had the newer types of social history. We were the first basic European text to have themes like the family, women, the life of the people, population, and even some sex. We tried very hard to make it engaging and good reading. Enough of it was different to catch people’s attention, and eventually many other books copied it. And we were lucky: our timing was good, and the publisher really pushed it.

[continued on page 12]
like every topic in European (and indeed world) history is of interest to me, and I should learn about it. This has given me a new way to relate to my colleagues, a new appreciation of what I learn from teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, and even a new engagement with the global politics and societies that have resulted from the long-term developments I write about.

**JM:** When I hear you say that, I want to add that for me it was always a wonderful learning experience. Every edition, it was a joy to read. Some of these extraordinary books that people write, books I would have never read had I stayed focused on economic development in the nineteenth century. Bennett was the same way; he looked upon every new edition as a learning experience.

**CC:** What message do you have for students who are reading or have read your textbooks? (By the way, I met a woman today who is an alumnus of the History Department and who remembered reading *A History of Western Society* with real pleasure and said it was one of the best textbooks she ever read. You seem to get that response frequently).

**JM:** I hope that they find it an interesting and rewarding learning experience. It's only an introduction, but it's a good introduction. I was very pleased that Merry Wiesner [another co-author] wrote in the preface of this edition that many students had told her: "this was not a boring textbook." Over the years, the editors at Houghton Mifflin have said that that was one of the reasons for its success: it was a lively and accessible textbook.

**CC:** I feel like telling them to hold on to their copies of the book, because they contain so much information about so many places, themes, and events. You may not appreciate it at the end of a long semester, but I know that I go back all the time to my college Western Civilization textbook for general information about so many different periods of history.

**JM:** Now you'll be able to go back to a textbook that you wrote yourself!

**CC:** Well, I'll always be grateful for the model you've shown us. Thirty years as a leading textbook, that must be some kind of record!
Faculty Promotions

Adrian Burgos, Jr. was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. He specializes in U.S. Latino history, African American Studies, sports history, and urban history. His book, *Playing America's Game: Baseball, Race, and Latinos, 1868–1959*, was published by the University of California Press in 2007. He has taught graduate seminars in urban history, “Race and the City” and “Latino & Cities” in addition to undergraduate courses on Latino migrations and baseball history. His research interests also include Latino urban history, transnational life in Latino America, and Negro League baseball.

S. Max Edelson was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. He is the author of *Plantation Enterprise in Colonial South Carolina* (Harvard University Press, 2006). A specialist in Colonial and Revolutionary America, he has taught courses on the Caribbean, environment and society, and the Atlantic world. He is now researching the Lisbon earthquake of 1755 and its impact on the understanding of empire in Europe and the Americas.

Dana Rabin was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. She specializes in the history of eighteenth-century Britain and teaches courses on British history, the history of crime, early modern Jewish history, and world history. Her book, *Identity, Crime, and Legal Responsibility in Eighteenth-Century England* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2004. Her new book will study British anxieties about empire across the entire eighteenth century as they coalesced around perceived differences of religion, race and gender.

New Faculty

The Departments offers its warmest welcome to two new scholars who have joined the UIUC faculty.

R. Jovita Baber (pictured below right) received her Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago in 2005. She specializes in the legal and social history of Colonial Latin America. Already the author of numerous articles, she is currently revising her book manuscript titled “The Construction of Empire: Politics, Law and Community in Tlaxcala, New Spain (1521–1640).” She is teaching courses on colonial Latin American history, early modern Spain, and modern Mexico.

Matthew Sakiestewa Gilbert (pictured below left) received his graduate training at the University of California at Riverside. He specializes in Native American History, public history, and historic preservation. Gilbert’s dissertation (2006) and early articles deal with the history of the Hopi Indians, and his book in preparation is titled “Education Beyond the Mesas: Hopi Student Involvement at Sherman Institute, 1902–1929.” He is teaching courses in both the History and American Indian Studies programs.

Faculty Retirement

After many years of teaching ancient Western civilizations to generations of Illinois students, Professor John Buckler has stepped down from his teaching post. Buckler hardly needs an introduction to the countless students who have passed through his classes or used the textbook he co-authored with Bennett Hill and John McKay, *A History of Western Society*. (See pp. 11–13.) He is the author of numerous highly regarded books and articles on the history of ancient Greece, including *The Theban Hegemony, 371–362 B.C.* (Harvard University Press, 1980), *Philip II and the Sacred War* (E. J. Brill, 1989), and, most recently, *Aegean Greece in the Fourth Century B. C.* (Brill, 2003). He has also been the recipient of many fellowships and awards, including an Alexander von Humboldt fellowship (1984–86), which he held at the University of Munich.

Matthew Gilbert and Jovita Baber
excellent past and current graduate colleagues; we appreciate the deeply devoted and exceptional work that has produced this gallery of achievements.

The Eighth Annual Graduate Symposium on Women's and Gender History, held in March, presented an impressive program with participants from across the nation and globe, that included two stimulating keynote addresses, one by Joan W. Scott, the Harold F. Linder Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study, on “Clashing Discursive Systems: Western and Islamic Views of Sexuality/Gender,” and the other by Tze-Lan Deborah Sung, Associate Professor of Chinese Literature at the University of Oregon, on “Abj ect Modern Girls in Early Twentieth-Century China.” Year-round graduate students also do much of the work of coordinating the ongoing reading groups that bring students and faculty together to explore, among other fields, Gender and History, Russia, Working-Class History, Early America and the Atlantic World, Early Modern European History, Blackness and Belief, and Environmental History.

We are continuing to explore new venues and programs to improve the history graduate program and its visibility in the university and larger community. Our first-year sequence, in which entering graduate students address broad topics of historiography, methodology and analysis as these dimensions of historical thought apply across varied geographical, chronological and thematic interests, is entering its third successful year. Plans are also afoot this year to initiate a “History Day” that will feature panels including paper presentations from this sequence alongside some of the research of our undergraduate honors scholars, to showcase to the public the range of exciting research being done by graduates and undergraduates. We built on a year of workshops on diversity in the history profession with a graduate-faculty forum on integrating histories of peoples of color into the curriculum on Western Civilization, US intellectual history, and historiography. We will further carry forth this focus on teaching with a forum on undergraduate teaching more generally as it engages the shared and collaborative efforts of faculty and teaching assistants.

As we build on these achievements and look for new areas where our already nourishing conversations among faculty, graduate students and undergraduates can be enhanced, I am continuously grateful for the creative help of Professor Carol Symes, our TA Coordinator, who is always inventive and inspired in her work with TA orientation, workshops, and ongoing conversations with our graduate teaching staff, as well as Professor Adrian Burgos, Assistant DGS for Diversity Initiatives, who has provided outstanding leadership in our diversity recruitment efforts. And needless to say, none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the inspiring and sympathetic leadership of our departmental chair, Antoinette Burton. Along with the dedicated and imaginative work of our faculty in mentoring, advising, and teaching graduate students, their efforts promise to continue to add to the delectable and nutritious intellectual menu in History at Illinois.

Information on all our graduate students, current and recent PhDs, and many other related items can be found on the Department website: www.history.uiuc.edu

### Entering Graduate Students
#### Fall 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appleford, Simon</td>
<td>M.A. St. Andrews University</td>
<td>US South, Digital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attig, Derek</td>
<td>B.A. Beloit College</td>
<td>American Cultural History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bisson, Wilfred M. (Mark)</td>
<td>B.A. Norwich University</td>
<td>Middle Eastern History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bui, Long Bao</td>
<td>M.A. UC Berkeley</td>
<td>US Political/Diplomatic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duroso, Lauria</td>
<td>M.A. Stanford University</td>
<td>Latin American History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dodson, Heidi</td>
<td>M.C.I.S. University of Texas, Austin</td>
<td>US South, African American</td>
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<td>Greenstein, David</td>
<td>B.A. Vassar College</td>
<td>US Political/Social History</td>
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<td>Heinzel, Sally</td>
<td>M.A. Illinois State University</td>
<td>American Cultural and Political</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ivanova, Veneta</td>
<td>M.A. Univ. Sofia-Kliment</td>
<td>Ohridski</td>
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<td>Jordan, Jason</td>
<td>B.A. Rhodes College</td>
<td>African-American History</td>
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<td>Koroloff, Rachel</td>
<td>M.A. Oregon State University</td>
<td>Russia/History of Science</td>
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<td>Polansky, Gregory</td>
<td>B.A. Stony Brook University</td>
<td>Germany, Intellectual History</td>
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<td>Poppel, Zachary</td>
<td>B.A. University of Denver</td>
<td>Military and Cultural History</td>
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<td>Reid, Patryk</td>
<td>M.A. Carleton University, Ottawa</td>
<td>Russian History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seawell, Stephanie</td>
<td>M.A. Indiana University/ Purdue</td>
<td>US Urban History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
He is also using first-person accounts in patient records and the hospital’s intramural newspapers to explore the perspectives of patients on their illnesses and the care they received. He argues in the dissertation that American psychiatrists have sought to reconstruct mentally distressed men and women for proper citizenship and that the implementation of these goals has been shaped by deeply-held assumptions about differences across lines of race, ethnicity, and gender. Mark Micale and Leslie Reagan serve as faculty sponsors of his work on the dissertation.

Matt has also distinguished himself in other venues at the University during his grad career. He has worked as a tutor at the U of I Writers’s Workshop. He has served as Research Assistant for Professor Barrington Edwards, on the theme of the racial dimensions of behavioral genetics, and for Professor Lillian Hoddeson, on the idea of scientific genius. In 2003, he received a John Bardeen Graduate Student Fellowship through UIUC’s Center for Advanced Study; in 2006, he received similar support from the University’s Center on Democracy in a Multinational Society. For the past three years, he has been the prime mover behind the History of Science and Medicine Reading Group on campus, and in the spring of 2007 he helped to organize a highly successful conference for MD/PhDs and MD/PhD candidates in the social sciences and humanities.

Equally exciting, Matt is now beginning to present his work to varied professional communities. In the past three years, he has delivered papers at several scholarly conferences in Canada and the States, which he will also do at the January 2008 meeting of the AHA in Washington, D.C. And he is set to make his publishing debut with a forthcoming article, to appear in the Cambridge-based journal History of Psychiatry, that examines racial psychiatry among black Americans in the age of Jim Crow.

Having received a Dissertation Completion Fellowship this year from the Graduate College, Matt is presently living in Chicago and plans to be finished writing by August 2008. Following completion of the dissertation, he will return to the College of Medicine to continue with his medical coursework. Ultimately, he hopes to practice psychiatry and teach medical history to students and residents as part of a medical humanities program.

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Graduate Placements 2006–2007

Tenure Track Jobs

Nicanor Domínguez  Boise State University
Theodora Dragastinova  Ohio State University
Jennifer Edwards  Manhattan College
Matthew Jennings  Macon State University, Georgia
Michelle Moran  Montgomery College, Rockville, MD
Christine Varga-Harris  Illinois State University

Hired with Tenure

Frank (Tobias) Higbie  UCLA
Nancy Van Deusen  Queens University

Other Positions

Misha Auslin  American Enterprise Institute, Resident Scholar
Greg Stroud  Bennington College, Visiting Assistant Professor

Other News

We’ll leave them nameless, since these decisions are always hard and sometimes controversial, but we also had at least five declined job offers. Three were among those above who took positions elsewhere; at least two came to people not appearing here who decided to devote an extra year to completing their dissertations and then trying the job market again.
Undergraduate Studies at Illinois

by Dana Rabin and Chris Cosat

With over 600 majors and about 100 double majors and minors, the undergraduate program in history at UIUC is booming. In 2007 the undergraduate advising office in 300 Gregory Hall underwent a dramatic transformation. Where there was once one office, there is now a suite of advising offices housed in the Department of Undergraduate Studies and the Undergraduate History Advisor, Chris Cosat. The office is a busy place, and Chris’ calendar is filled with student appointments.

Given the higher profile of our History Honors Program, the undergraduate studies committee is assessing the Program with an eye to expanding the number of students who participate. We are eager to encourage qualified students to choose the honors track, culminating in the senior honors thesis. We had nine thesis writers in 2006-2007, and we hope that this trend continues and grows in the coming years.

In addition to the coursework and curricular concerns handled by the undergraduate studies committee, the latest news from the program has been the changing composition of the Epsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, our history honors society. Last year, with the help of Karen Phoenix, our former president, Phi Alpha Theta diversified its membership, inviting undergraduate history majors to join and take part in the leadership of the organization. We held an initiation ceremony in April, which ushered in a large class of 60. Led by Megan Macdonald-McGinnis, president, Laurie Schuetter, vice president, Matt Filter, treasurer, and James Garcia, secretary, and a membership that includes both undergraduate and graduate students, the chapter is active and thriving. So far this year, PAT has hosted the successful “welcome back” picnic attended by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates, taken a field trip to the Pullman Houses in Chicago, and begun a tutoring program to help students in the large survey courses. The rest of the year promises to be just as dynamic with an informational session on Teach for America and an historical movie followed by a discussion with a faculty expert. Check out the chapter’s Facebook page the next time you are online.

We always welcome alums visiting the UIUC campus. Next time you are in C-U, please come by and say hello.

2006–2007 History Undergraduate Honors Students

Christopher P. Clasby, “The Legacy of the Pompeys”  
Advisor: Ralph Mathisen

Stephanie E. Esbrook, “The Conversion of the Aristocracy: Active Women Converters in the Fourth and Early Fifth Centuries”  
Advisor: Ralph Mathisen

Kate E. Gustafson, “Please, Mister Postman: Authority and the Epistolary Process in the Letters of Hildegard of Bingen and Catherine of Siena”  
Advisor: Carol Symes

Winner of the Martha Belle Barrett Prize for Outstanding Honors Thesis

Ryan M. Karijolich, “The Metropolis in the American Arcadia: Depictions of the City in Popular Fiction from 1840-1860”  
Advisor: Larry Ratner

Sarah Beth Okner, “Relocated Classrooms: The Incarceration and Education of Japanese American Students in Wartime Relocation Camps”  
Advisor: Augusto Espritu

Advisor: Carol Symes

Advisor: Mark Leff

David G. Wernette, “Democratic Idealism, Popular Front Ideology and New Deal Liberalism in the Chicago Art Community, 1910–1943”  
Advisor: Jim Barrett

Chris Cosat and Dana Rabin
Sample election ballots published in The Urbana Daily Courier, March 23, 1917, showing different versions for male and female voters.

completed browsable and keyword searchable, with full downloading and e-mailing functionality.

The Library also owns the original microfilm of several decades of our student newspaper, The Daily Illini, and in 2006 we began digitizing the DI for the same time period. As we soon learned with both of these newspapers, the quality of the original microfilm is a critical factor in a successful digital conversion. Unfortunately, the microfilm produced at UIUC in the 1960s does not meet contemporary preservation filming standards. The DI and the Courier were then filmed on acetate film stock, which deteriorates significantly over time. Therefore, before scanning the film, we first have to transfer the images to polyester film stock. In some cases, our film is so badly deteriorated that we have not been able to transfer it. We would love to refilm the Courier, but tragically, all known original print runs were discarded after the film was produced in the 1960s and 70s. If we are ultimately unable to salvage the old film, we will have lost a portion of our local cultural heritage.

The digital versions of both the Courier and the DI reside in our repository, called the Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection (http://www.library.uiuc.edu/idnc/). Now that we have completed digitization of the issues from 1916 to 1935 for both titles, we are making plans to work back to the inception of these newspapers and as far forward as possible. We have used a combination of gift funds and grants for the work accomplished so far, and we are seeking additional funding to continue the project.

Thanks to the Urbana Free Library and the Champaign County Historical Archive, we for-
mually launched the digital Urbana Daily Courier on July 28, 2007 with a public presentation in the UFL auditorium. Many former Courier employees attended the event and shared their recollections. We were thrilled by the presence at the launch of the general manager and publisher of the Courier from 1934 to 1964, Byron Vedder. The launch of the DI is planned for early 2008.

In addition to our newspaper digitization projects, we have also undertaken digitization of two decades of the Illio (the UIUC yearbook), and we will begin digitizing two vaudeville trade publications, The Vaudeville News and The Player, as soon as we complete microfilming of the originals. We are also digitizing a portion of the Chuck Olin Film Archive (selections from his documentary film In Our Own Hands: The Hidden Story of the Jewish Brigade in World War II), which will be available later this year. In addition, we are working with other colleagues in the Library to assist with the mass digitization of our general collections. Digitization of the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey (translations of extracts from 102 ethnic newspapers published in Chicago between 1861 and 1938) is scheduled for this fall in conjunction with the Open Content Alliance.
A visitor to the history department conference room (300 Gregory Hall) will encounter the striking oil portrait of Professor Larson lookingsearchingly into the far distance. Like Evarts Boutell Greene (1870–1947), the first full-time Professor of History and eventual department head at the University of Illinois, Larson too was born abroad. Greene (the eldest son among eight children) was born in Japan; Larson (also the eldest son among eight children) was born on a farm near Bergen, Norway. Whereas Greene’s parents were American Congregationalist missionaries, Larson’s parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents were all born Norwegians and members of the Lutheran Church.

That Norwegian connection was to play a central role in Larson’s life, career, and scholarship. His evocative posthumous memoir The Log Book of a Young Immigrant (1939) is the tale of his self-conscious Americanization. Admittedly, he was less than two-years old when he arrived in the United States, and he was to visit Norway only once, fifty-five years later; by then only a single relation, an octogenarian aunt, could still recall his departure. In 1870 the entire family group of eleven (made up of Larson, a sister, parents, grandparents, uncles, and aunts) had embarked on a sailing ship crammed with 278 other Norwegian emigrants. It took forty-nine days for the “Maryland” to plow its way from Bergen to Quebec. More journeys followed: by train to Detroit and to Ludington, Michigan; by ship across Lake Michigan; by further train journeys across Wisconsin; and a twenty-five-mile march by foot to a corner of Northern Iowa.

Within a year, Larson’s father had bought a farm first granted by the American government to a veteran of the Mexican-American War; the formal patent bore the hand of lawyer Abraham Lincoln. Soon thereafter he built a log cabin for his growing family. In the course of the next several years he plowed the prairie first with oxen and then with horses, and—in the aftermath of the Great Depression of 1873—he grew corn rather than wheat. In the meantime, his mother cured for the cows and the hens. For more than four decades, four-fifths of the inhabitants of Winnebago County, Iowa, spoke and read and attended Lutheran services in Norwegian. That religion emphasized the “sinfulness of earthly life” and forbade card-playing, alcoholic beverages, and dancing. Once American citizens, they voted Republican, but in 1876 they defeated “the Americans” and took over most of the county offices. His father learned to cope with English, but once the son left Iowa he would write to him weekly in Norwegian until the father’s death in 1919.

From age eight on, young Laurence became a hard-working farm lad—plowing, harvesting, binding, and cattle herding. Yet he became an increasingly adept reader also; he pored through the Bible, and he first consumed Dickens’s Oliver Twist in Norwegian as serialized in a weekly Norwegian-American newspaper. He also began to read an increasing number of works in English in the local one-room schoolhouse that met for several months each winter. A few years later, he became the champion speller in the local school, and at eighteen he earned a state certificate to work as a teacher himself.

He was twenty when he took the train to Des Moines to become the “only Norseman on the campus” at Drake University, for him part of an “urban” and “American” world, evangelically Protestant but not Lutheran. Drake vastly expanded his

continued on page 26
more sent telegrams and letters that celebrated not only his scholarship but also his collegiality. A group of former students thanked him for his "ready humor, the depth of insight, the warmth of heart and the unfailing graciousness." A central event was the unveiling of the oil portrait by Richard E. Hult of Chicago. As Larson's colleague James G. Randall observed, "the personality that glows on the canvas has something of the humor and twinkle as well as the ruggedness of the man himself."

The timing of the dinner was propitious. Only a few months after Larson's formal retirement in September 1937 and less than three months after his official installation (in absentia) as President of the American Historical Association in late December of that year, Larson was dead. A victim of lung disease, he succumbed on March 9, 1938 at his home at 708 Michigan Avenue, Urbana. He and his wife (who died in 1946) were buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Champaign. An annual graduate student prize in his honor and the portrait in Room 300 serve as occasional reminders of his now distant era.
Kai-wing Chow published an article entitled “Reinventing Gutenberg: Woodblock and Movable Type Printing in China and Europe,” in Agent of Change: Twenty-Five Years of Print Culture Studies, ed. Sabrina A. Baron, et al. (University of Massachusetts Press), 169–92. In May 2006 he was invited to present a paper on “Zhu Xi’s Commentary on the Four Books: Commentaries and Philosophical Construction,” at The International Conference on “Zhu Xi and His Commentary on the Four Books,” at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.


Max Edelson presented a paper on the Lisbon earthquake of 1755 at the Social Science History Association meeting in Minneapolis. He discussed meanings of “tyranny” to slave-owning revolutionaries at the Université Paris 7-Denis Diderot. His article on trees and culture in colonial South Carolina appeared in the Summer 2007 issue of Agricultural History. For 2007–2008, Max is the Jay I. Kislak Fellow in American Studies at the Library of Congress. During this sabbatical year in Washington, D.C., he will begin research on a history of geography and empire in British America.

Augusto Espiritu participated in the launching of the Philippine Studies Conference in Japan in November 2006, presenting a paper that will soon be published in English and Japanese, doing commentary, and appraising graduate student work along with an interdisciplinary cast of colleagues from Japan, the US, Southeast Asia, and Australia. In fall 2007 he taught three courses for Semester at Sea—Nationalism in the Twentieth Century, Global Migration, and American Empire—and he traveled to Honolulu, Yokohama, Kobe, Qingdao, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, Chennai, Alexandria, Istanbul, Dubrovnik, and Cadiz.

Poshek Fu is on the 2008 American Historical Association program committee and is directing the 2008 AHA film festival. His essay on the Hong Kong-based Shaw Brother pan-Chinese cinema has been translated in Dangdai dianying (Contemporary Film) July 2006, a premier Chinese-language cinema journal published in Beijing. His invited essay on “Zhongguo quanjiu: 1997 hou de Xianggang dianying” (“China Global: Hong Kong Cinema after 1997”) has appeared in Dangdai dianying, July 2007. He received a Mellon Faculty fellowship and traveled to Canada, China, Hong Kong, and Japan for talks and research.

Caroline Hibbard gave a paper at the UIUC conference “Gender Matters” held in March 2007; it was entitled “The Queen of Love becomes ‘Generalissima’: From Peace to War with Queen Henrietta Maria.” She continued her work as Library Liaison, including service on the Rare Book Room advisory committee and the Rare Book Room selection committee for the Veldes Summer Research grants. She served on the Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid Committees. She had a sabbatical leave in Fall, 2006 and completed a long tenure on the H-Albion advisory board. She continues her work on a study of the early Stuart court.

Lillian Hoddeson has been working on two projects of very different character. In one, now in press, she is examining some of the historical consequences of the trend to do larger experiments in groups of several hundred physicists at large laboratories, like Fermilab. The other project, on electronics of submicroscopic scale aimed at reducing global warming, her work highlights the continuing importance of the independent inventor. Finally, along with Kristen Ehrenberger and members of the Neuroscience Program, she has been studying analogies between the memory-making of brains and social systems in an effort to contribute both to neuroscience and history.

Kristin Hoganson celebrated the publication of her second book, Consumer’s Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1855–1920 and, after taking the afternoon off, got cracking on her next project, “Once Upon a Place,” on fictions of locality before globalization. She did a little research in the National Archives on the Kickapoos, delivered several talks, published a critique of the Americanization of the world paradigm in Diplomatic History and finally heeded her students’ advice and jumped on the Power Point bandwagon, sound track and all.
Ralph W. Mathisen published a book chapter in H. Drake, ed., *Violence in Late Antiquity* (Ashgate, 2006) and an article, “Peregrini, Barbari, and Circi Romani: Concepts of Citizenship and the Legal Identity of Barbarians in the Later Roman Empire,” in the *American Historical Review* 111 (2006): 1011-1040. He delivered papers at the University of Colorado; the Byzantine Studies Conference in Baltimore; Aire-sur-l’Adour, France; the University of Leeds, England; Western Michigan University; the University of Cardiff, Wales; and UIUC. He was appointed editor of the *Journal of Late Antiquity* and the Oxford University Press series “Oxford Studies in Late Antiquity.”

John McKay is happily passing some of his chapters to Professor Clare Crowston. He has completed his portion of the revisions for the 9th edition of *A History of Western Society*, which appeared in Nov. 2007. Ramblings with JoAnna in a rental car through northern France and an occasional book review were also part of his historical landscape.


Evan M. Melhado published “Health Planning in the United States and the Decline of Public-interest Policymaking.” *Milbank Quarterly* 84/2006: 359-440. His research and teaching concern American health care, health policy, and public health from the nineteenth century. He continues as Head of the Medical Humanities and Social Sciences Program in the UI College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign.

Mark Micale spent last year editing *History & Illinois*, teaching with Clare Crowston a new graduate course on French historiography and completing his book manuscript “Hysterical Males: The Hidden History of Male Nervous Illness,” which is now forthcoming with Harvard University Press. He also published two articles on topics in the history of medicine and gave lectures at the University of Michigan Medical School, the Philadelphia Psychoanalytic Society, and the Metropolitan Manchester University, where he was keynote speaker at a conference on Men and Madness. In May, he received an honorary doctorate from his undergraduate alma mater, Washington College in Maryland, and in June he was interviewed about his work on BBC radio.

Elizabeth Pleck gave a paper, “Stolen from Angola,” at the conference of Early American History, 1600-1877 in Global Perspective held in Tianjin, China in May of 2007. The speakers at the conference included scholars from many countries, including faculty at Chinese universities who were doing research in early American history. Tianjin University has a graduate program in early American history which encourages Chinese graduate students to do original research in English-language online sources. The special issue of *Journal of Women’s History* on Domestic Violence edited by Megan McLaughlin and Elizabeth Pleck will appear in 2008.

David Prochaska continues to focus his research and writing on visual culture. After curating or co-curating two exhibitions for Kranert Art Museum in the past couple of years, he co-chaired a session on photography for the 2007 College Art Association conference. He published an article on a contemporary female photographer of French and Moroccan background, “Returning the Gaze,” and another one using film to illumine history and memory in France and Algeria, focusing especially on the controversy over French torture during the Algerian war (1954-1962), which he compared to American torture today in Iraq.

Dana Rabin is enjoying her responsibilities as Director of Undergraduate Studies. In addition to scheduling and curricular concerns, she is at work on her second book tentatively titled “Imperial Disruptions.” Her article “The Sorceress, the Servant, and the Slaves: Sexuality and Race in Eighteenth-Century Britain” will appear in *Moving Subjects: Gender, Intimacy and Mobility in an Age of Empire* edited by Antoinette Burton and Tony Ballantyne, forthcoming from University of Illinois Press. Most recently she is completing an article titled “Seeing Gypsies and Jews in Eighteenth-Century Britain.”

John Randolph has begun work on a new book tentatively titled “The Singing Coachmen and the Society of the Road in the Early Russian Empire.” He writes: “After my book on the Bakunin family (Cornell Press, 2007), I got a little tired of drawing rooms. So I decided to study the means of movement in the old Russian Empire.” “The Singing Coachmen” tells the story of serf villages obliged to provide drivers and carriages for hire. Along the way, Randolph hopes to discover how mobility structured social and political life at the beginning of modern Russia.
In Memoriam

Lorman Ratner, 1932–2007

The History Department is deeply saddened to report the death of Professor Lorman “Larry” Ratner. He died in his home in Champaign, Illinois. His life exemplified that of a teacher, scholar, mentor, and friend extraordinaire.

Larry Ratner was born on July 23, 1932 in Brooklyn, New York. As a young teen, Larry went off to Princeton, New Jersey, to attend the Hun prep school. He excelled at school and at both football and baseball. An active athlete, his whole life, he played football at Harvard University. During his freshman year, his section instructor (same as a TA here) was one Henry Kissinger. Larry was not impressed. In 1954 he graduated from Harvard with honors in history. If pushed, Larry would share wonderful witty vignettes, telling stories of the many history and political luminaries he crossed paths with at Harvard and later in New York. After graduation Larry tried his hand in business, but realized his true love was the life of the mind and teaching. He returned to the academy and earned a Ph.D. at Cornell University (1961), at the same time teaching at Ithaca College. His dissertation, “Northern Opposition to the Anti-Slavery Movement 1831-1840,” was written under the direction of David Brion Davis.

In 1961 Ratner began teaching at City University of New York, first at Hunter College, where he advanced from Instructor to Professor, and then at Lehman College, where in 1970 he became chair of the History Department, Dean of Academic Planning (1972–74), and Dean of Social Science (1974–77). He was so good at organization and with people that he spent most of his career as a full-time administrator. At the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, he was Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost and Dean of the Faculty (1977–83). He served as the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Centers from 1983–1986. At the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, he served as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences for more than a decade. From 1996 to 1999 he was the Director of the Center for Multicultural Societies. In 1999, he retired as an Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Tennessee. While a full-time administrator, Larry also taught one course every semester, usually at 8:00 am, and he was very happy to resume a concentration on teaching and research when he came to the University of Illinois with his wife Paula Kaufman. As an Adjunct Professor of History at Illinois, Ratner taught surveys and advanced courses in American history, and he guided a number of Honors theses.

Larry Ratner loved researching and writing and discussing history. He authored and edited eleven books, among them Pre-Civil War Reform: The Variety of Principles and Programs (1967), Powder Keg: Northern Opposition to the Antislavery Movement, 1831–1840 (1968), Antimasonry: The Crusade and the Party (1969), James Kirke Paulding: The Last Republican (1992), Andrew Jackson and His Tennessee Lieutenants: A Study in Political Culture (1997), Fanatics and Fire-Eaters: Newspapers and the Coming of the Civil War (with Dwight L. Teeter, Jr., 2003), and with Jon Buehner he co-edited two editions of the reference work Multiculturalism in the United States: A Comparative Guide to Acculturation and Ethnicity (1992, 2005). He also served as the General Editor for Prentice-Hall’s American Historical Sources Series and oversaw the publication of eight volumes. Ratner had just completed a manuscript, “Anxious Spirit of Gain,” which he was submitting to the University of Illinois Press, and he was excited about another project in which he would pursue the theme of anxiety over unfettered capitalism and the pursuit of mammon in the antebellum United States.

While this number of books is a major accomplishment, Ratner is also well known for his prowess on the tennis court and ultimately for his integrity, humor, and compassion. His fierce competitiveness in tennis contrasted with his generosity as a historian and colleague. According to Walt Tousey, with whom he shared an office for five years at Illinois and regular tennis matches, “Larry was a fine scholar who took his teaching responsibilities very seriously. Perhaps more importantly,
Renowned as a teacher and scholar, Phil Paludan was even more well thought of as a man of integrity and willingness to help others—students and colleagues alike. As Chancellor Richard Ringelsien told the State Journal Register (Springfield, IL, August 3, 2007), "Phil is just the kind of person you'd like to talk with, so we miss him in the sense of his being such a distinguished professor, but also (because) he was such a kind, warm individual."

—Vernon Burton

Robert F. Erickson,
1923–2006

Robert Erickson, who received his Ph.D. from the UIUC History Department in 1955, passed away on November 30, 2006. For over three and a half decades (1955–1986), Erickson taught medieval and early modern European history at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

After serving in World War II from 1943–1945, Erickson received his B.A. at Cornell University in 1948 and his graduate degrees several years later in Champaign-Urbana. His dissertation examined the work of the French Academy of the Sciences in Spanish-speaking Latin America during the eighteenth century. Erickson interrupted his graduate education to serve in the Korean War.

Upon completion of graduate studies, he took up a teaching post in the Department of History at Butler University in Indianapolis, where he taught until he joined the faculty at SIUE in 1959. During his many downstate years, Erickson had done volunteer work at the Missouri Botanical Garden Library, which was a particular passion of his. In 2005, he had moved to North Carolina.

Deno Geanakoplos,
1916–2007

Deno John Geanakoplos, who lead one of the history department's most distinguished careers and who was perhaps its only member to specialize in Byzantine history, died in Hamden, Connecticut on October 4, 2007.

Professor Geanakoplos was a renowned scholar of Byzantine cultural and religious history and Italian Renaissance intellectual history. The author of some 13 books and over 100 articles, he was considered one of the foremost Byzantine scholars in the world. Born in Minneapolis in 1916, Geanakoplos studied classical music before becoming a historian. Indeed, he earned a diploma in violin from the Juilliard School of Music in 1939 and even played in the first violin section of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. Simultaneously, he pursued a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Minnesota. After serving in the Second World War, during which time he was stationed in North Africa and Italy, he decided to devote himself to the intensive study of Italian and Mediterranean history. He completed his Ph.D. in these fields at Harvard in 1953.

From 1954 to 1967—formative years of his teaching and scholarly career—Geanakoplos taught at the University of Illinois before joining the faculty at Yale, where he remained until his retirement in 1987. At Illinois and Yale, he taught a range of courses in medieval, Renaissance, religious, and East European studies. He was remarkably erudite. His best known book-length studies are Greek Scholars in Venice (1962); Byzantine East and Latin West (1966); and a textbook titled Medieval Western Civilization and the Byzantine and Islamic Worlds (1979). Arguably no scholar demonstrated in greater detail the intricate interplay between Byzantine and Italian intellectuals and between the Greek and Roman churches. Ironically, Geanakoplos taught at Yale when current UIUC history professors Kristin Hoganson, Mark Micale, and Kathy Oberdeck were studying there. During his career in the classroom, he educated hundreds, if not thousands, of undergraduates about these great eras of Western civilization.

Time and again, Geanakoplos has been described as "a scholar's scholar." One former Illinois colleague remembers him fondly as "a congenial eccentric." Another recalls the tall piles of books, like so many stalactites of scholarship, that covered the entire surface of his office floor space at any given time. Yet from this famously disheveled environment poured forth one highly organized, lucidly written, and intricately researched historical monograph after another. Geanakoplos is survived by his daughter Constance, a concert pianist, and his son John, the James Tobin Professor of Economics at Yale.
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Scenes from the August Faculty Reception

The tanned, Mediterranean goddess and her entourage

Power—with a friendly face

Clearly, a pro-Hillary group

Finally, someone at this party who is not writing a monograph