Notes from the Chair

Even casual readers of the education press are aware that higher education is falling under increasing public scrutiny and demands for accountability, budgets are annually reduced as expenses increase, and, in the case of history enrollments, demand continues to expand. Nationally, the code words that encompass our challenge seem to be “strategic planning,” a euphemism for “downsizing” at worst, and, at best, coping with steady-state financing. To take on responsibility as executive officer in any academic department in these times may be the ultimate act of masochism.

Yet, on assuming the chair in this department this past January, I must admit to a certain sense of optimism about our current state and our future direction. In mid-August the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences charged each of his departments with the task of responding to a questionnaire about their current strengths. He asked the strategic planning committees reviewing these documents to contemplate a college that was being built anew: which units ought to be central and how should resources be reallocated to further their mission? The results of that exercise will not be in before early next semester, but in drawing up our response I learned a few things and had other impressions confirmed about our department and faculty. It is this which underlies my optimism.

We reviewed longitudinal surveys done in 1991 and 1990 of history graduates from 1976 as well as 1989 to see what kind of job we have been doing in the classroom. From both groups, the number of history graduates who responded that they would repeat their major field if starting over today exceeded collegewide responses to the same question by 12%. Likewise, “strongly positive” attitudes toward the university by our history majors led both college and campus figures. Forty-four percent of our 1989 graduates went on for post-graduate study, most of them in other fields. Those fields are reflected in career patterns of the 1976 graduates: law (42%), education (15%), business (11%), and library/museum work (9%). What these data point to is an advertisement for the value of a humanities education and, in particular, the part our unit has been playing in preparing students for professional careers.

Jumping to measures of productivity, the numbers of history majors at Illinois have conformed to a steady increase in national enrollments in history since 1988. Today, this department has more than doubled the number of students in comparison to a decade ago (taught by a combined faculty and teaching assistant strength that is slightly less than 10 years ago). Despite the numbers, the department continues to rank among the best teaching units in the college as measured by student assessments. Our PhD “production” during the last two academic years (nine each year) puts us in the company of the average figures for all but three of the mythical top ten departments nationally.

Faculty productivity is equally impressive. During the past five years, 76% of our full professors (68% of our faculty as a whole) have published at least one book, and, combining those figures with refereed articles and book chapters, during the past two years, 96% of the professors (89% of the entire faculty) have appeared in print, most on multiple occasions. These same figures resurface when we look at prestigious awards in national and international competition. During the past 15 years, 77% of our colleagues have won such awards for their research (most of them more than once).

In short, we are poised to enter our second century of service, teaching, and research with an optimism that contradicts all omens that are usually conjured up when we hear about “strategic planning.”

Charles Stewart
Jack Goody, David Donald
Announced as Centenary Lecturers

During the 1993-94 academic year, the department will observe its first century of activity with two Centenary Lectures, a published bibliography of contributions to the discipline by members of the department during the past hundred years, and an LAS Alumni Association-sponsored event. If resources permit, there are plans to prepare an alumni directory as well, which should be ready for distribution next fall. In connection with this landmark in the department’s history, we have set for ourselves the ambitious goal of reaching the $100,000 mark for our Graduate Student Fellowship fund during that year.

The first Centenary Lecture is scheduled for October 14, 1993, and will feature Professor JACK GOODY of St. John’s College, Cambridge. Professor Goody’s 32 books on family history in Europe, Africa, and Asia, and his work on literacy make him one of the most provocative writers in social history today. As a Centenary Lecturer he will be addressing one of the major frontiers in cross-disciplinary method with which the profession is now engaged. Professor Goody will also be meeting with a graduate seminar, joint sponsored with Anthropology, during the month of October, and he will deliver four lectures in connection with that class.

The spring Centenary Lecture will be delivered by Professor DAVID DONALD (PhD 1945, under James G. Randall), perhaps this department’s most distinguished living alumni historian, who is emeritus professor of history at Harvard University. Professor Donald may be chiefly known for his two Pulitzer Prizes, awarded in 1962 for his book on Charles Summer and the Coming of the Civil War and in 1988 for his biography of Thomas Wolfe. But his 10 other books, 9 edited volumes, and many honors also distinguish him as the leading southern United States historian today. Professor Donald’s work has consistently demonstrated levels of complexity in civil war and reconstruction history glossed over by previous generations; on these and other issues he has reshaped historical thinking and debate.

We are now talking with the LAS Alumni Association about helping with one or more events during the next academic year to celebrate our anniversary. Watch your college alumni news for an announcement.

During the month of April 1994 the Library will mount two exhibitions, one on the history of the department and another, in the Rare Book Room, on Lincolnia and the work of James G. Randall and David Donald. A bibliography of writings by all past faculty members who have served in the department will be published in connection with these exhibits.

Each of the Centenary Lectures will be an occasion for alumni to join faculty members in this birthday celebration. We will be informing alumni of the details as these lecture times are finalized, and we hope to see many of our former students in attendance.

New Appointments and Visitors

The department welcomed two new members of the faculty in the current academic year. Leslie Reagan is announced in June’s issue of History at Illinois while she was on a post-doctoral fellowship at The Johns Hopkins Institute of Medicine, where she spent the 1991-92 academic year before taking up her appointment this year. Our new second-named is a joint appointment with the Afro-American Research and Studies Program. Dr. MICHAEL O. WEST. Dr. West completed his PhD at Harvard University in 1990 with a thesis on the African middle-class migration in colonial Zimbabwe 1890-1965, and he has since taught at Macalester College as well as pursuing a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at Northwestern University. He has published articles on African nationalism and on South African politics and he continues to work on the African diaspora. Michael will be teaching courses in the department.

Dr. TADESSA TAMRAT, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and former director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, joined our faculty in a joint arrangement with the African Studies Center to teach two courses during the 1992-93 academic year. Professor Tamrat’s Church and State in Ethiopia, 1270-1527 (Oxford, 1972) has been followed by articles on fifteenth-century politics in Ethiopia and, most recently, on ethnic interaction and integration in Ethiopian history.

During the fall semester, and of our recent PhDs, DEBRA ALLEN, joined the faculty for a one-semester visiting appointment. Allen completed her doctorate this year under Professor WILLIAM WIDENER’S supervision on “American Policy Toward the Oder-Neisse Line, 1945-1975.”

Also during the fall semester Professor MARGARET STROBEL, Professor of Women’s Studies and History at the University of Illinois at Chicago, joined our faculty to teach one graduate course in exchange for SONYA MICHEL, teaching at the Chicago campus. Strobel has been teaching at UIC since 1979, and she has published widely in women’s history dealing with East Africa and, most recently, Europeans Women and the Second British Empire (Indiana University Press, 1991). This pilot arrangement, “sharing faculty” between the two campuses, is one we hope to continue in future years as a mechanism to broaden the range of expertise we are able to offer our graduate students.

In spring 1993 we will welcome back Dr. CLARA GARCIA-YLUARDO from the Mexican Instituto Nacional de Antropologia y Historia where she is a research professor. She was a visitor in the department in 1988-89, after receiving her PhD at Cambridge University for her thesis, “Confraternity, Cult and Crown in Colonial Mexico City, 1700-1810.” She will teach a course on colonial Mexican history and, for the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, a course on the Latin experience in the U.S.

During the spring semester 1993 we will also be joined by four of our ABDs, three teaching undergraduate colloquia, JACQUELINE DEVRIES, BRUCE TAP, and LAURA PHILLIPS, and one, MASH JONES, teaching the Modern British survey while Professor WALTER ARNSTEIN is on leave.

Promotions

In June 1992 the Board of Trustees gave its final assent to our recommendation that three colleagues be granted associate status with tenure: Professors NILS JACOBSEN, HARRY LIEBERSOHN, and MEGAN MCLAUGHLIN.

Professor McLaughlin joined our faculty in 1982, two years before completing her PhD at Stanford in medieval history, and she has since become one of our most cited instructors on the "Incompletest List of Excellent Teachers." She received an undergraduate instruction award in 1989, and in 1991 she was awarded both the Queen Prize by the department and the Amoco Prize by the campus for her accomplishments in undergraduate education. Her book, Converting with Saints: Prayer for the Dead in Early Medieval France will appear this year from Cornell University Press, and she has also published articles in Women’s Studies, The Journal of Gender and History on subjects as varied as a comparison with the dead and women warriors in medieval Europe.

Professor Nils Jacobsen taught for five years at the University of Bergen in the Federal Republic of Germany before coming to Illinois in 1986 as a specialist in Latin American History. His thesis at the University of California at Berkeley (1982) focused on land tenure and society in the Persian Achaemenid period between 1700 and 1930, which became the founda-
of his book, Mirages of Transition, The Persian Alti-
> pano between Colonialism and the World Market, now in pro-
> duction at the University of California Press. Jacobson has also
> edited and co-edited two other books, one on the economies of Mexico and Peru during the late colonial period and another on economic liberalism in Latin Ameri-
> can history. He has, in addition, 6 book chapters to his credi-
> bit and 13 articles, in Spanish, German, and English. His new book takes as its focus the Persian civil war and revolution in the mid 1890s.

Professor Harry Liebshohn joined us in the fall of 1990 from the Claremont Graduate School where, since 1985, he had taught modern European history. His book, Fate and Utopia in German Sociology, 1870-1923 appeared from MIT Press in 1988, and he has also published book chap-
> ters and articles on themes from religion and industrial so-
> ciety to educated elites in America and Germany. Curr-
> ently, he is engaged on a project entitled "Scientific Trav-
> elers and Savages in the Romantic Era," focusing on an
> understanding of French and German culture in the first
> half of the nineteenth century. This year, he is serving as an
> advisor in our graduate program.

Burkhardt Awarded Guggenheim, NSF
Professor RICHARD BURKHARDT heard on the same day in early April that his plans to spend time during the acade-
> mic year 1992-93 working on a project on the emergence of ethology as a scientific discipline in the 1945-65 period was endorsed by both the John Simon Guggenheim Me-
> morial Foundation and the National Science Foundation. Burkhardt thus became the fifth department member to
> have received the coveted Guggenheim honor. He is spend-
> ing this year in Paris.

Schröder Named Jubilee Professor
The department was honored with a sec-
> ond Jubilee Professorship in the spring of
> 1992, with the announcement of PAUL SCHROEDER as a recipient of the award. The Jubilee Professorships were created on the 75th anniversary of the LAS College, three to be awarded annually during a five-year period. Schröder was cited as "probably the best and most
> fertile mind working in the history of European international relations today." It was not simply his exemplary schol-
> arship, but his role as "a leader and resident conscience in
> the Department of History and across campus in mat-
> ters of our common educational enterprise," upon which
> the professorship was awarded.

Schröder's first two books won national prizes; his third book, Austria, Great Britain, and the Crimen War (Cornell, 1972), was described by one reviewer as "the most important American contribution to European dip-
> lomatic history of the last generation," and the current project now in press with Oxford (The Transformation of European Politics 1787-1848) has had rave reviews already.

During the 1991-92 year Schroeder received a joint ap-
> pointment from the Department of Political Science, was
> appointed to the campus Center for Advanced Studies, and was named a 1992-93 Peace Fellow in the Jennings
> Randolph Program of the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he is in residence (Washington, D.C.) during the cur-
> rent year.

During the course of a year it is difficult to select only two or three colleagues whose recognition on campus and off warrants special notice. Therefore, the department has been invited to recognize grants received in national competition by DONALD CRUMMEY (National Humanities Center, Tri-
> angle Park, North Carolina) for his work on state and so-
> ciety in Ethiopia; VERNON BURTON (National Science Foundation) for his continuing project on historical U.S. census database applications; NELS JACOBSEN (Social Science Research Council, Latin American Studies Com-
> mittee) to push ahead with his next project on the Peru-
> vian revolution in the 1890s; DIANE KOENKER (IREX and Fulbright) for her work in Russia this year; and WALTER KNITZEN who received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from City College of New York. Sum-
> mer 1992 instructional awards went to KENNETH CUNO,
> DANIEL LITTLEFIELD, VERNON BURTON, and GEOFFREY PARKER, and two grants were awarded, to
> Vernon Burton from the Educational Technology Board for computer-aided instruction, and to JOHN LYNN from the Smith-Richardson Foundation to continue an exchange in military history with The Ohio State University.

Fritzsche Wins Humboldt, Queue Prize, Named University Scholar
PETER FRITZSCHE'S Alexander von Humboldt Foundation one-year scholarship, awarded in 1991, has been noted in a previous issue; that project, on "Boulevard Newspapers and the M
> etropole 1904-1933," is now underway in Berlin, where Fritzsche is spending the year. Last spring, his teach-
> ing skills were acknowledged by the award of the depart-
> ment's Queen Prize for teaching excellence, and this past fall he was recognized as a University Scholar. Fritzsche's second book, A History of Flames: German Aviation and the Popular Imagination (Harvard, 1992) also appeared this past year.

Other Special Honors
The department's Queen Prize for excellence in teach-
> ing was awarded to PETER FRITZSCHE and, for out-
> standing work as a teaching assistant, to HENRY
> KAMERING. Undergraduate awards were: the Michael J. Scher Prize for the best undergraduate paper written in calendar 1991, to SUSANNA L. VASQUEZ from Lincoln, Illi-
> nois, for her paper, "Trene McCoy Gaines: Agitator for
> Equality in Black Chicago and the Black Women's Club Movement," under the supervision of Professor JULIET
> WALKER. The Martha Belle Barrett Prize for academic excellence went to two history graduates with perfect (5.0) grade point averages, ANDREW CRAIG DENSON from Western Springs, Illinois, and STEPHEN JAMES KEELEY from Fairfûlurg, Illinois. The Barrett Prize for the most out-
> standing senior honors thesis submitted in the academic year 1991-92 went to CHRISTINE SHEEHAN of Naperville, Illinois, for her work with Professor SONYA

Graduate prizes awarded last spring are as follows: the Lawrence Marcellus Lanson Prize for the outstanding graduate student in English or medieval history went to PETER ROTTICTELLI. The William O. Rodney Prize for outstanding work in Russian history went to THOMAS R. TRICE. The winner of the Joseph Swan Award for the best research paper by a graduate student was JONATHAN HUENER. The Joseph Ward Swan Publica-
> tion Prize was won by THOMAS KRUGGER for his article, "El doble desafio: Los arsensatos del Cusco ante la crisis regional y la constitucion del regimen repubucano (1824-1869)" in Alpanusat, 38 (1991),15-63.

Departmental Politics
At the spring Phi Alpha Theta banquet, the department recognized five graduating seniors with college honors: CAROLYN
> HOFFMANN, arumna cum laude; DAVID JOHANNSEN, cum laude; ANDREW JOHNSON, magna cum laude; JOHN NEADERHISER, cum laude; and JAMES WYMAN, cum laude; and six graduates were awarded Bronze Tab-
> let recognition: ANDREW CRAIG DENSON (at Indiana University on fellowship), CAROLYN HOFFMANN (in Poland for the WorldTeach ESL program), STEPHEN JAMES KEELEY (Rothys Fellow at University of Durham), DANIEL WAYNE REEM (Fellow at Cornell), JONATHAN EISTEN, and DAVID MIHEVC.

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hDs Awarded
During the 1991-92 academic year, the following doctorates were successfully completed:

ANDERSON, ALISON D. (BM, W Virginia; IS, W Vir-
> ginia; MMUS, Illinois; MS, Illinois) "The Julich-Kleeve
> Succession Crisis, 1609-1628: A Study in International
> Relations" (Geoffrey Parker)

BEELER, JOHN F. (BA, Guilford College, MA, North Carolina-Greensboro) "Stonning Ethnocentrically Towards the Dreasnest: The British Navy in the Era of Gladstone and Disraeli" (Barrett Arntz) 1992-93: Visiting Assis-
> tant Professor, Eastern Illinois University

BRYAN, FANNY E. (Mart., U. of Paris VI; DEA., U. of Paris VI) "State Efforts to Undermine Religious Alle-
> giances: Themes and Aspects of Anti-Islamic Propa-
> ganda During the Soviet Period" (Diane P. Koenker) 1992-
> 93: Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-St Louis

CAHALL, MICHAEL C. (BA, Ohio Wesleyan; MA, Illi-
> nois) "Jewels in the Queen's Crown: The Fine and Per-
> fuming Arts in Cincinnati, Ohio, 1865-1919" (Winton U. Solberg) 1992-93: Assistant Professor of History, Duquesne University
CROUCH, CHARLES P. (BA, Louisiana State; MA, Louisiana State; Ph.D., Peirce Bourgeois of Paris during the Bourbon Restoration, 1814-1830: A Prosephographical Inquiry into the Political and Economic Integration of the Parian Lower Middle Class" (John P. McKay) 1992-93: 3-year Assistant Professor, College of Charleston DEBCHAUDRY, SUDATA (BA, U of Calcutta; MA, Jadhavpur U. & Ohio U.) "Japanese Imperialism and the Indian National Movement: A Study of the Political and Psychological Impact of Possible Invasion and Actual Occupation, 1939-1945" (Blair Kling 1992-93: Mesa College, San Diego FREEMON, FRANK R. (BS, Florida; MD, Florida; MA, Vanderbilt) "Medical Care during the American Civil War" (Vernon Burton) 1992-93: Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt Medical School KAMINSKI, THERESA (BA, Rosary College; MS, Illinois State) "From Personal to Public: Women's Liberation and the Print Media in the United States, 1966-1974" (Sonya Michel) 1992-93: Assistant Professor of History, Wisconsin-Stevens Point MURPHY, DAVID T. (BS, Southern Illinois; MA, Illinois) "The Heroic Earth: The Flowering of the Geopolitical Thought in Weimar Germany, 1924-1933" (Paul W. Schroeder) 1992-93: Assistant Professor of History, Anderson College Prof. of Economics at UIUC, spoke on "The Finance Industry during the Industrial Revolution." LACEY BALDWIN SMITH, Peter B. Ritzema Professor in the Humanities at Northwestern University, addressed the March 1992 meeting on "Why You Should Never Write a Textbook But Will Do So Anyway." Two meetings were held in April. At the first, NICHOLAS CANNY, Professor of History at the National University of Ireland, University College Galway, discussed "The Irish Famine of 1846 and the New British History." At the final meeting of the year, the paper presented by SETH KOVEN, Assistant Professor of History at Villanova University, was "Re-membering and Elision/membering: Crippled Children, Wounded Soldiers, and the Great War." The final meeting was also the occasion of the nomina-tion and election of the new BHA cabinet. The outgo-ing officers were MICHAEL SHIRLEY, Prime Minister; GEORGIA-BETH BULLOCK, Chancellor of the Exchequer; and PETER BOTTICELLI, Foreign Secretary. The 1992-93 cabinet consists of ROBERT NAEHTING, Prime Minister; Georgia-Beth Bullcock, Chancellor of the Exchequer; STEPHANIE CATALDO, Foreign Secretary; BETTY COTTON, Minister of Health and Human Services (a new post), and Michael Shirley, Lord Chancellor.

Michael Shirley

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DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

**The British History Association**

The British History Association began the year in September 1991 with an anniversary banquet to mark the completion of its 20th year. Professor WALTER L. ARNSTEIN delivered the keynote address, "Queen Victoria as the Public Voice of Victorian Liberalism." Following his talk, Professor Arnstein was presented with a plaque in commemoration of his service to the organization as faculty adviser. In October, Dr. JONATHAN CLARK, Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, spoke on "Class Formation in Britain, 1750-1850." At the November meeting, Professor JAMESACK of the University of Illinois at Chicago delivered a paper, "Parliamentary Reform in England, 1780-1832: A View from the Right." In the spring semester, LARRY NEAL, length study on that country’s preeminent family of in- dustrialists: KEN CUNO’S "An Unknown Chinese Princess in the History of Ottoman-Era Land Tenure," a paper on juridical debates over the status of land in Egypt and Syria; and a fascinating analysis of rural market systems and social re-lations in the Persian highlands by Nils Jacobsen. In a summer seminar organized by DIANE KOENKER and MEGAN MCLAUGHLIN we looked at representations of women in social class settings. The group is an evolving community of intellectual interests, but is also a place for colleagues to see and enjoy one another outside the confines of Gregory Hall.

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**History Alumni Gathering**

The "smoker" held each year at the AHA meeting; this year in Washington, in the department’s suite is always a welcome opportunity to catch up on news and to make new acquaintances as well as introduce some of our recent PhDs to alums in attendance. Along with that occasion is the revived alumni and faculty breakfast at the AHA convention. MARK LEFF has provided the following note on the AHA breakfast last spring:

On April 4, 1992, 35 History Department alumni and faculty convened at an ungodly hour in the French Quarter restaurant of the Palmer House for what has become our annual breakfast at the AHA convention. Contrary to ex- pectations, the overpriced food was neither inedible nor to use what we presume is the correct term—cholesterol challenged. As WINTON SOLBERG reminds us, the so- ciality was as always, "beyond price." We hope all will keep this in mind when we meet again at 7:00 a.m. at the Anheuser Hilton on April 16, 1993. Further information will be mailed early next semester.

Lisa Warr-Magro
Past President

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**History Colloquium Series 1991-92**

Due to budget constraints, the 1991-92 departmental colloquium series concluded at the end of the fall semes- ter. The monthly fall presentations were as follows: Sep- tember 18, Elizabeth Roberts from the University of Manchester spoke on "Wives and Mothers in the Lancashire Textile Industry: The Broadsheet of Social Life"; October 9, Marilyn Lake from Latrobe Uni- versity (Australia) lectured on "The Desire for a Yank: Sexual Relations between Australian Women and Ameri- can Servicemen during World War II"; November 20, Jeff Peters from the University of the Transkei, South Africa, talked about oral history techniques in the construction of African history; and on December 11, Adam Walewski from Jagiellonian University (Cracow, Poland) spoke about Polish immigrant children.

QUELLER and VERNON BURTON. This annual event provides an opportunity for graduate students in the last stages of writing their dissertations to ask questions and get advice about finding jobs.

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**Phi Alpha Theta's initiation ceremony and reception for new members took place on March 24, 1992, in Greg- ory Hall. Due in part to the increased number of history majors, the event was unusually large: this year, 51 under- graduates and graduate students were among the members of Phi- alpha Chapter. This may well be the largest single group ever to join the organization at UIUC. The annual departmental dinner was held on May 2, 1992, in the Colonial Room of the Illini Union. About 80 people attended, including several emeriti and a number of undergraduate students who had won History Depart- ment prizes. Professors CHARLES STEWART and JAMES BARRETT delivered the "state of the department" remarks; Professor WINTON SOLBERG recalled his ca- reer and the evolution of the department in his address, "Beer for the Kettles." Professor WALTER ARNSTEIN entertained the audience with his collection of students' historical blunders, which he called "The History Follies." At the close of the evening, Phi Alpha Theta officers for the 1992-93 school year were elected: ELISE MOENTMANN will serve as president, GREG GUELCHER as vice-president, STEVEN BIRD as secre- tary, and JOSHUA SHANES as treasurer.

Lia Warr-Magro
Past President
Undergraduate Studies

The number of students majoring in history in the academic year 1991-92 was 489. We have seen increases in the number of undergraduate majors yearly since the mid-'80s. The number of students in the Teaching of Social Studies Curriculum was up this past year and almost double the number in 1990-91. These increases are part of a national trend that has caused great pressure on the undergraduate program both in the numbers of students enrolled in classes and in the demands they place on advising. As a result, our classes are generally larger, and we are depending increasingly on graduate assistants to help advise undergraduate students. At the same time we are reexamining our undergraduate curriculum, including recommendations for an increase of one history course required for our majors. The areas of concentration for undergraduates are also being expanded to reflect topical interests and to be sensitive to new gender and racial diversity issues in the curriculum at large.

Our honor students continue to do well. In the 1991-92 academic year, 12 history majors completed honors theses; this year, we again have 12 students in the history honors program. Undergraduate awards for 1992 are listed under "Department Awards." Our best undergraduate graduates continue to receive offers from other prestigious graduate institutions, including the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan, Indiana University, and Cornell. Law also continues to be attractive to our students and approximately one-third of our history majors plan to attend law school.

Sharon D. Michalove Assistant to the Chair for Undergraduate Affairs

Graduate Studies

It is a great pleasure to report that the graduate program is flourishing, thanks largely to the quality of our students. Over 50 applicants accepted our admission offers for fall 1991, so many, in fact, that we faced a brief crisis in offering financial aid and staffing courses. We applied very rigorous admissions policies this past fall and recruited a class of 21 from our more than 300 applicants. The result is a small, very gifted class, half of whom have already received the MA from such diverse institutions as Michigan State, Boston University, and the University of Colorado. Average GRE scores and GPAs remain extremely high, and many of us on the faculty are thankful that we do not have to apply for graduate work in this department ourselves.

Current enrollment stands at about 140 with a substantial majority working at the doctoral level. This is a highly talented, hard-working group of people. They continue to dominate the competition for fellowships within the Hume Faculty on campus, and in all probability they have had increasing success in national competitions. This year Illinois students have won fellowships from the Social Science Research Council, the Fulbright-Hays program, the DAAD, IREX, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and other agencies. Last year nearly 20 students presented papers at a dozen different conferences, and journal publications are now fairly common among the more advanced doctoral students.

We will graduate more than a dozen PhDs in the course of the current year, and most of our recent PhDs are now working in academic jobs, though not all in permanent tenure track positions. While financial conditions remain grim, particularly at state institutions, placement remains an area where the department has always enjoyed considerable success. In this, and many other regards, we recognize our debt to the program's alumni. We hope that our work in the graduate program continues to justify the trust they have placed in us and the loyalty you have shown toward the department.

Jim Barrett Associate Chair and Director of Graduate Studies

Reflections on Retirement: Winton U. Solberg

At the end of our earthly existence, it is said, our whole life flashes before us in an instant. Perhaps with this in mind, the editor of this publication has asked me to reflect on my 31 years in the History Department. Here are some mental images of my pilgrimage on the prairie.

I arrived at Illinois in 1961, having previously taught at West Point, Yale, and Macalester College. I was impressed with the diversity and dynamism of a large state university. The department, housed in Lincoln Hall, was then lightly administered; the faculty was research-oriented and competing in its own ways, with little corporate social life. A number of young turks complained incessantly about the shortcomings of the senior faculty, but the frustrations and tensions of those days were relatively harmless. The students impressed me as serious if somewhat passive, and, within limits, willing to work. They were rewarding to teach.

Within the department, the Vietnam War, and the counterculture troubled universities during the sixties, and when I returned to Urbana in 1968 after a year in Italy as a Fulbright professor, I sensed new tensions in the department (then housed in the Armory). Faculty members were divided along political and ideological lines as well as over professional issues. I was active in the AAUP at the national level at the time, and as colleagues here and elsewhere sought to enlist universities in promoting their personal political and ideological agendas, I suddenly found myself an outspoken defender of institutional neutrality as essential to the preservation of academic freedom.

These divisions within the faculty persisted when I became chair in 1970 (the year the department moved to Gregory Hall), and about that time the relative affluence of the sixties gave way to financial austerity and history enrollments began to decline. I tried to administer the department on the basis of academic principles rather than politics, and I believe that never a period in our history was better. But the chair was complicated: the faculty was polarized and budgets were shrinking. I soon abandoned the chair to return to teaching and research. Time heals all wounds, however, and the issues that divided the faculty in the sixties gradually dissipated.

Every academic department in a large university has to work out its own salvation, and for history at Illinois the task is difficult. Within the department, views differ as to the best route to academic excellence and the price that must be paid for it. Within the university, history (along with the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts) has to swim against a tide that favors the sciences and practical pursuits. Universities inevitably reflect the society of which they are a part, and in recent years affirmative action, political correctness, multiculturalism, and intellectual tendenciness have all spread over the nation's campuses. A department has much to gain from the rich diversity offered by a pluralistic democratic society, but some of these same new currents also seem to me to represent a threat to the integrity of the university as an academic institution.

With few exceptions, I have greatly enjoyed my students at the University of Illinois. The number and quality of students in the department has fluctuated considerably over the years, with enrollments high and rising at present. My general impression is that undergraduates do not write as well as they did two decades ago. Admission to our graduate program is now very competitive, and we are attracting superior graduate students. I have six graduate students whose dissertations I will supervise in retirement, but I greatly regret that I will not be able to work with some of the most promising new students in American history.

Everything considered, I owe a great debt to the department and to the university for providing a marvelous place in which to spend most of my career. The intellectual atmosphere was challenging, the present faculty is outstanding, and the library is superlative. After 41 years of teaching, perhaps it was time to retire. I have a backlog of research and writing to complete and relative freedom to concentrate on it. So far, I thoroughly enjoy retirement.

Winton U. Solberg

Ullom Davis Reports on the Lincoln Legal Papers Project

As a graduate student in history at the University of Illinois during the 1960s, Ullom Davis (PhD, 1968) sought a broad grounding in American history. His interest focused on Abraham Lincoln, and he attended a dissertation under Leonard Bates' direction on the Federal Trade Commission in the early twentieth century, did not make him an expert on Abraham Lincoln. However, they provided him with the scholarly tools and professional attitudes that proved essential 20 years later when he faced the challenge of directing a major manuscript collection, editing, and publication project. Moving to Springfield in 1979, where he became Professor of History at Sangamon State University, inexorably led Davis to focus his attention on Illinois' greatest (adopted) son.

The state capital, with its many Lincoln sites, major collections of Lincoln documents, and institutions dedicated to the study of the sixteenth president, challenged Davis, as he puts it, "to get right with Lincoln." He be-
case involved with improving the interpretive programs at the Lincoln sites, edited a collection of essays on Lincoln, and during the past decade has dedicated even more of his own research and publications to the career of this crucial figure in the evolution of the American nation. Since 1977 Davis has served on the board of the Abraham Lincoln Association, a private organization dedicated to the accurate and authentic portrayal of Abraham Lincoln’s life and times. On the Board, and together with University of Chicago’s Robert Johannsen, and the Board’s Publications Committee, Davis assisted in revitalizing the association’s journal (Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association), an important scholarly forum for Lincoln scholarship, whose current editor, Tom Schwoner, was another student in our department.

In 1985, the Illinois State Historian asked Cullom Davis to take over as director of the Lincoln Legal Papers project. Initiated in 1886 with active support by then-Governor James Thompson, the project is collecting, arranging, and publishing documentary material related to Lincoln’s work as an attorney from 1836 to 1861, when he left Springfield as President-elect. When the Collectors Works of Abraham Lincoln were published in eight volumes in 1953, the editors decided to exclude all legal papers, because sifting through the records of multiple court houses would have involved too great an effort. That Professor Davis not only vigorously carried this daunting task forward is owed in no small part to his capacity to elicit broad financial and professional support. Sponsored principally by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and in part by the Abraham Lincoln Association, the University of Illinois College of Law, and the Sangamon State University Center for Legal Studies, the effort also receives funding from the federal Archives, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and numerous private organizations and individuals. In addition, it draws upon the support and counsel of prominent Lincoln scholars like John Richter.

Davis estimates that Abraham Lincoln was involved in some 5,000 court cases during his legal career, entering pleas before dozens of county courts. Court trials in eastern and central Illinois, the State Supreme Court and district and circuit courts of the new 7th Federal District, in Springfield, Chicago and, at least on occasion, in Cincinnati, mean that individual researchers are now combing through the holdings of 71 Illinois county court houses, dozens of manuscript libraries and archives, as well as collections held by hundreds of smaller libraries, as well as county circuit court clerks and individual collectors. Upon completing this first stage of their work in early 1994, they will have located and photographed approximately 100,000 documents, and have prepared for publication 36 volumes containing the life of Abraham Lincoln. Professor Davis suggests that by that time a vibrant, significant and continuous body of research work on Lincoln’s legal career and his interactions as a lawyer will have been accomplished, and that the materials will be available to researchers in Lincoln’s home, helping him form a network of influential friends and acquaintances.

The importance of the Lincoln Legal Papers goes beyond the better understanding of the President’s life. It promises to become a crucial tool for the field of American legal history, a dynamic field of historiography. The project’s value is that it’s "representative legal practice" of the American West in the mid-nineteenth century, provide evidence for the evolution of American common law, and demonstrate the important role lawyers and judges played in the economy of frontier regions.

Two sets of publications will result from the project. All documents will be published on microfilm or as electronic discs, and a five-volume annotated edition of the most important and complete cases will be published in hardcover by a major university press. All publications should be available by the end of the decade, concluding what may be the last major editorial project of Lincoln manuscripts.

In Pursuit of the African-American Past in United States History

Professor Julius E. E. Walker joined the department in 1976 and, in 1980, taught African-American history. His research interests focus on the entrepreneurial activities of African-Americans, and he has been a major contributor to the identification and resuscitation of Free Frank as an Illinois hero.

Professor Walker discusses his research and how it relates to key issues of contemporary American life.

Davis’s papers show that the Black Experience reveals an African-American past far more varaiety and complex than portrayed in mainstream historiography. Beginning with publication of Free Frank (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1983), a study of both slave and free black entrepreneurship, a major area of my research has focused on a much neglected area, African-American business history. In subsequent publications and with my forthcoming book, The History of Black Business in America: Capitalization, Race, and Entrepreneurship, my research attempts to establish the African-American tradition of business participation.

Black Business, the first comprehensive historical assessment of black business activities in the United States, documents that, not-withstanding the absolute increase in the numbers of black entrepreneurs since 1861, the proportion of black entrepreneurs in the total African-American population today differs little from that which existed before the Civil War. Moreover, the same economic factors that limited black business success in the age of slavery persist today.

The failure of African-Americans to make sustained profitable inroads in the American business community raises the question to why historians have failed to pursue the study of business activities in the reconstruction of the Black Experience. Typically, the answer is that African-Americans were not only inferior but destructive to their white counterparts in the business experience, but also that, unlike other racial and ethnic groups in American business, activities stand outside their cultural heritage. Consequently, my ongoing study, Captains Capitalists: Black Business in the Age of Slavery, also seeks to explore the African foundation of the African-American business ethos, particularly during the twentieth century transnational slave trade era. When the vast majority of Africans were brought to the United States, Americanists seldom confront the volcanic market response that gave impetus to the African slave trading in new world, as brought about by the gargantuan demands of New World slave markets. The extent that in which African business practices and the transatlantic slave trade was eventually ignored. Primarily, the interest of Americanists in precontact and precolonial Western African societies has been limited to identifying expressions of folk culture. While more than 50 years have elapsed since publication of Melville Herskovits’ pioneering work on African survivals, Myths of the Negro Past, the African propensity for business, also discussed by Herskovits, has remained peripheral in that search. This neglect has contributed to the prevailing myth that Africans are incapable of organizing in the black community: that the pursuit of wealth, participation in business, and economic success are the "white man’s thing." To emphasize an African propensity for trading and marketing in the study of African survivals ignites the heritage of an African business ethos in the African-American experience. My research in African-American business history that such propensities are now vigorously schizophrenia and the continuity of oppressive forces in the African-American transformation from slavery to freedom. At the same time, I am interested in a structural violence and the peace activism of black women. Although these expanding fields of research may seem somewhat distant, there is an underlying coherence that is based on the need to see the African-American economic experience as not only part of any major changes in the institutional structures that support racism, minority deprivation, and white economic power. Nor, as demonstrated by events in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, does political power held by people of color offer hope that racial and ethnic conflict will cease any more


The American Historical Review 97:3 (June 1992) featured PAUL W. SCHROEDER's article, "Did the Vienna Settlement Rest on a Balance of Power?" as the leader for an AHR Forum, with responses by three noted historians and political scientists, and a rejoinder by Schroeder. His essay on "World War One as Gallipoli Gaffe" was reviewed (for the fifth time) in a D.C. Heath collection on the origins of the First World War, edited by Holger Herwig. So were his articles "The 19th-Century International System: Changes in the Structure," and "The Last International: The Impact of the European System," in "De Verlichtheid van Europa: Aspecten van de Ontwikkeling van het Europese Staatsestendal", M.C. Bened et al. (Amsterdam: Uitgeverij Harwood Academic Publishers, 1992). The latter essay was Schroeder's appointed section editor for the section on International Relations, 1815-1920 for the new American Historical Association Guide to Historical Literature (with PAT EBBREY as section editor for medieval China, the department thus has two of the 47 editors for this important undertaking).

CHARLES STEWART served as a discussant at a panel at the African Studies Association in November and delivered a paper on "Colonial and Post-Colonial Justice" at a meeting in Paris in June on "Administration et Societes nomades dans l'anocient A.O.F. He took over as chair of the department in January and continues to serve on the Executive Committee of the Education and Research and Advisory Committee for the African Studies Center.


ANDREW VERNER contributed reviews to Slavic Review and The Russian Review. For the fall of 1991 he was selected as fellow of the UIUC Center of Advanced Studies.


During the past year the following gifts have been received from alumni and friends of the department for the Fellowship Fund and the History Department Fund with special thanks. Our thanks go to each of you for your thoughtfulness.

**RECORD OF GIVING**

**August 9-14-August 92**


**Contributions which have tax deductible may be sent to the University of Illinois Foundation, History Graduate Student Fellowships, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801.

**History—General Endowment**

One dream we all share is the prospect of a donor coming forward to help us create a named chair in honor of the department's centenary in 1993-94; other unspecified gifts to the department may be added to this general fund.

**History Library Fund**

We are particularly anxious to replace century-old printed primary sources that are falling apart. Reprint editions of such sources, used by both graduate and undergraduate students for research papers as well as by faculty for research, are available, but the condition of some of our basic sources is frankly desperate. If you wish to provide a gift of books, the direct mailing address is: History Library Fund, Development Office, 227 Library, University of Illinois, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801.

Our current goals are:

a) reach an endowment of $100,000 in our Graduate Fellowship Fund,

b) renovate two seminar rooms for use by our undergraduate colloquia,

c) an endowed chair to mark the department's centenary.

The first two goals could be met during the next year if each graduate donates a sum that is the multiple of 10,000 times the years since their graduation. A 1978 graduate, for example, would multiply $10 to arrive at his or her individual goal. We know from survey data that history graduate students are not all earning the top salaries among Illinois alumni, but the formula suggested here is a good way to help us reach a total of only a $1,000 debt hope we have you come to realize with each small gift that you are able to deliver. We have, in fact, made choices in making a gift: no specification of your contribution leaves your pledge in a general college development fund. However, you may specify the following.

**History Graduate Fellowship Fund**

Currently we are more than half way toward our goal of $100,000 if this fund was first set up in 1967-68.

**LAS Development Fund—History**

This fund provides monies for annual prizes and awards for the students, subsidizes some teaching equipment purchasers we cannot wholly purchase on our limited resources, and, we hope, will make possible the renovation of two seminar rooms dedicated to undergraduates' colloquia.

**then the LAS Telethon Caller Rings**

Private giving to maintain our competitive edge as an institute is also necessary, and are increasing a matter of necessity as well as urgency. Within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, all graduates are contacted by letter and phone annually—for history graduates this normally pays in late January or early February—to request a pledge to help us make a difference in the quality of education that we are able to deliver. You have, in fact, made choices in making a gift: no specification of your contribution leaves your pledge in a general college development fund. However, you may specify the following.

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**Editors**

Niles Jacobson (with help from Sharon Michalove, and Walter Amstutz)

Assistant: John Bolza

Design: Richard Maud
Let Us Know What You’re Doing

Name ____________________________________________________________

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Please indicate all U of I degrees: BA year ___________  MA year ___________  PhD year ___________

Current position and employer (If retired, indicate last position prior to retirement.) ________________________________________________

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 309 Gregory Hall, 810 S. Wright Street, Urbana IL 61801

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