

Department names cultural historian

The department's new professor of American culture and intellectual history is **Amy L. Wood**, who received her Ph.D. last year from Emory University.

Raised in the home of Brown University historian Gordon Wood—whose book *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1993—Amy Wood nevertheless considers it “the biggest irony in the world” that she became an historian. As an undergraduate at Wesleyan University in Connecticut her major interests centered on literature.

This interest continued when she moved to Oxford, Mississippi, in 1992, began working in a bookstore, and then enrolled in the master's program in Southern studies at the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture. Southern literature was her main interest initially, but she found she worked best with historians and she wrote her thesis on the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s.

Wood next moved on to Emory University in Atlanta, where her dissertation was entitled “Spectacles of Suffering: Witnessing Lynching in the New South, 1880-1930.” The dissertation addresses why lynchings became mass spectacles by examining the cultural intersections between racial violence and other forms of spectacle, including religious ritual, photography, and motion pictures.

The dissertation is being read for publication at the University of North Carolina Press. In addition to presentations drawn from her lynching research, she has published on “Feminine Rebellion and Mimicry in Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*” in the *Faulkner Journal*, and has a solicited article on “Lynching Photography and the Conventions of 19th Century Portraiture” forthcoming in *American Nineteenth Century History*.



Amy Wood

She is teaching the two-semester course on American culture and intellectual history, as well as “American Culture: Texts and Traditions.” She plans to develop courses on Southern social

and cultural history, American religious history, and the rise of mass culture in America.

Koke thesis wins

A thesis by **Andrew Koke**, a 2003 master's graduate, has won the \$600 James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis Award.

Koke's thesis, “Making Time: The Development of Modern Temporal Consciousness,” was earlier nominated by the Arts and Sciences awards committee as the social science nominee. The thesis is now the university's entry in the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools master's thesis competition, with the winner to be announced in the spring.

Anthony Crubaugh was thesis adviser and joined Koke for the awards ceremony on December 1. Koke is working for State Farm Insurance as he prepares to enter a Ph.D. program.

Booth in CAS Hall of Fame

The College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame inducted **Stephane Booth, D.A. '83**, on November 7 in a ceremony at the Bone Student Center.

Booth has risen through the ranks at Kent (Ohio) State University to her position as the associate provost for academic quality improvement as well as associate professor and interim dean for academic and student services. She is author of *Buckeye Women: The History of Ohio's Daughters* (Ohio University Press, 2001) as well as numerous articles.

Olsen book feted

The Rocky Mountain Conference on Latin American Studies, the oldest of the regional Latin American Studies organizations, has named **Patrice Olsen** winner of its Michael C. Meyer Prize for the best solely authored first academic book. The book manuscript, *Artifacts of Revolution*, will be published by Scholarly Resources.

The book examines Mexico City's architecture in relation to the impact of Mexican revolutions. It is part of Olsen's long-term study of Latin American architecture amid the changes brought by political revolutions.

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Illinois State University, seeking new ways to communicate with its more than 150,000 alumni, is asking graduates to report their e-mail addresses if they have them.

Please update your information online, with e-mail or other new information, at: www.illinoisstate.onlinecommunity.com/updateuserinfo.htm.

Master's student keynotes U.K. conference

Master's student **James Amemasor** was featured as the keynote speaker for the Fifth International Narrative Therapy and Community Work Conference in Liverpool, England, in July.

His participation in the annual event grew out of a visit by four persons to the Cape Coast Castle Museum in Ghana, where Amemasor worked as education officer. The castle was one of the main castles used by the English in the slave trade. He led the group on a tour, and three days later they requested an interview for publication in *The Journal of International Narrative Therapy & Community Work*. It appeared later in 2002.

Freedom's context studied at sessions

Five History Department teachers made presentations in August to a summer institute called "Doing History: Understanding the Context of Freedom." The four-day event drew 32 teachers from the department's partnership and mentoring schools as well as several graduates now teaching in the state.

Frederick Drake directed the event, assisted by **Fred Walk**, who teaches the social sciences seminar and is an instructor at Normal Community High School. Walk also served as Master Teacher at the event, and made a presentation entitled "Route 66: Using the 'Mother Road' as a Primary Source."

Other faculty presenting were: **Kyle Ciani**, "Understanding the Context of Urban Families through Core Documents of American History;" **Lucinda Beier**, "Matters of Life and Death: Core Documents in Local Histories of Suffering;" **Richard Soderlund**, "Advanced Consumerism, Freedom, and American Society: Core Documents;" and **Silvana Siddali**, "Antebellum Midwestern State Constitutions: Context of Core Documents and the Issue of Free Black Families."

Amemasor was then invited to present a keynote speech at the Fourth International Narrative Therapy and Community Work Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, but he was unable to attend and his paper was read by someone else.

A repeat invitation took him to Liverpool last July. The three-day conference presented talks by scholars, professionals, and community workers from 18 countries on topics ranging from therapy for survivors of violence to reclamation of cultural healing ways.

The title of Amemasor's talk was "History and Healing." In it, he sought to "engage with the riddles of the past

in order to try to heal its injuries." As he explained, "What I've been doing so far is to find the relationship between narrative therapy and history," and history, he argues, "is the mother of narrative therapy just as geography is the mother of history."

After the Liverpool Conference he returned to the United States to participate as a commentator at the North American meeting of the Narrative Therapy Conference in August at Northwestern University in Evanston, where he provided commentary on two of the papers.

CNN covers Keogh

Six months after his high school class was featured in a *New York Times* article on schools debating the Iraq war, **Kelly Keogh, M.S. '95**, had visitors again. CNN went to his Normal Community High School classroom on September 4 to film the classroom discussion on terrorism. Keogh developed the curriculum through the Choices for the 21st Century Education Program at the Watson Institute at Brown University. The segment aired on CNN's "NewsNight" on September 11.

Two final D.A.'s

The History Department Doctor of Arts program at the University has graduated its final two students. **Andy Dvorak** and **Hossein Birjandi** both graduated in May 2003.

Dvorak, who teaches at Highland Community College in Freeport, titled his dissertation "Rendezvous with Death: The Assassination of President Kennedy and the Question of Conspiracy." His earlier advisers were Ed Schapsmeier and L. Moody Simms, both now retired.

Birjandi's dissertation was "Energy and Globalization," under his adviser Mohamad Tavakoli.

The D.A. program, launched in 1975 with cooperation from Carnegie-Mellon University and others, was stopped in 1997 because of a lack of student demand and funding. D.A. graduates now teach in many areas of the United States as well as in Africa, Palestine, and Thailand.

Bone Scholar picked

Senior **Kelly LeJeune** was named a Bone Scholar for the 2003-4 school year, capping a career that saw her enter the University as a Presidential Scholar and make Dean's List every semester.

Last spring she enrolled at the University of Sunderland in Great Britain. Outside the University community LeJeune has volunteered at the McLean County Museum of History, conducting interviews on the Great Depression's impact on McLean County residents.

After graduation, she plans to spend a year studying languages before going on to graduate school.

Death and dying targeted

A drive-in conference, "Death and Dying: Preserving the Material Culture of Who We Are," brought some 50 high school teachers from across the region to Illinois State University on November 5.

The event, co-sponsored by the department and the Illinois Council for Social Studies (ICSS), featured talks by **Lucinda Beier** on "The 'Good Death': Dying Well in Seventeenth-Century England," and **Kyle Ciani**, on "Keepsakes of Grief: Mourning Quilts as Records of Family Loss." **Frederick Drake**, who serves as ICSS executive director, chaired the conference, which included talks on children's books and death, and preserving the material culture of funeral services.

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Illinois State University
Department of History
Campus Box 4420
Normal, IL 61790-4420

Newsletter Staff
Mark Wyman

2003 was a fruitful year for faculty

By Amy Wood

In March 2003, **Mohamad Tavakoli** participated in a centenary conference celebrating “The Wondrous World of Sadeq Hedayat: Iranian Writer, Critic, Intellectual” at Oxford University in England. Tavakoli presented a paper on “Memory and Narrative Identity” and chaired a session on “Fiction, Language, and Scholarship.” The Institute later awarded Tavakoli its Iran Heritage Visiting Fellowship in Iranian Studies in 2004. As part of his duties, he will organize a conference for September 2004 and will edit the proceedings of the conference.

Also in March, **Patrice Olsen** took part in the XXIV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, in Dallas, Texas. She chaired a panel on “Mexican Cities, Public Space, and Labor in the Shadow of the Revolution (1920-1940)” and gave a paper entitled, “Remembering the Generals: Collective Memory, Public Space, and the Mexican Revolution.” Olsen more recently traveled to Monterrey, Mexico, in October to present a paper, “To Give Form to Our New Civilization: Functionalism in Mexico City, 1920-1930” at the XI Reunión de Historiadores Mexicanos, Estadounidenses, y Canadienses, sponsored by the Colegio de México, Colegio de la Frontera Norte, and the Tecnológico de Monterrey.

Alan Lessoff published two articles in April 2003. “Harland Bartholomew and Corpus Christi: The Faltering Pursuit of Comprehensive Planning in South Texas” appeared in *Planning Perspectives*, volume 18, number 2, while “Washington-Berlin, 1871-1945: Nation-State, Capital, and Metropolis” appeared in *Proteus: A Journal of Ideas*, volume 20, number 1. In addition, he wrote two pieces, “The Election of 1904” and “The Election of 1908” for *American Presidential Campaigns and Elections*, volume 2, edited by William G. Shade and Ballard C. Campbell (Sharpe, 2003). Lessoff also will be acting as a consultant and editing the catalog for an international exhibit on Adolf Cluss, an 1848 German radical who became a Washington architect. The exhibit will be housed at the City Museum of Washington, D.C. and at the Stadtarchiv in Heilbronn, Germany, Cluss’ hometown.

John Freed went to the University of Wales in July to present “The Creation of the Codex Falkensteinensis (1166): Self-Representation and Reality.” The conference was titled “Representations of Power in Medieval Germany, 500-1500.”

The History Teacher, the flagship journal for history teaching, published an article by **Fred Drake** and his daughter, **Sarah Drake Brown '95** entitled, “A Systematic Approach to Improve Students’ Historical Thinking” in volume 36, number 4. Their article’s title also appeared on the front cover as the featured theme of the issue. In September, Drake was a facilitator for a state committee on civic education, which includes state legislators, regional superintendents, and representatives from the Illinois State Board of Education. The committee met in Wash-

Ciani’s paper was entitled, “A ‘Growing Evil’ in San Diego: Anglo Reactions to the Presence of Indian Women in their Community;” Wyman’s was “Tramp Loggers and Skid Road Firefighters in Western Forests to 1925.”

Also in October, **Richard Pearce** gave a paper at the Comparative and International Education Society Midwestern Regional Conference, at Eastern Michigan University-Ypsilanti. His paper was entitled, “A Cross-Sectional Study of Higher Education Systems and Issues: Japan, China, Canada, Spain, Australia, India,



Ten former members of the department gathered last May 8 to help (left to right, front) Niles Holt, Sandra Harmon, and Paul Holsinger begin their retirements. The celebrants, and the years they retired, are: second row: Gerlof Homan (1994); Earl Reitan (1990); Jo Ann Rayfield (1997); and Roger Champagne (1989). Third row: Mark Plummer (1994); Arlan Helgeson (1981); Kyle Sessions (1999); Roy Austensen (left in 1992 to become provost at Valparaiso); David Chesebrough (2002); and L. Moody Simms (2002).

ington, D.C. at the First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education, a bi-partisan sponsored event. Drake also co-directs the We the People: The Citizen and Constitution Program, with a retired teacher, Patton Feichter. They will be hosting a one-week summer institute next July for elementary, middle-school, and high school teachers. The institute, co-sponsored by the History Department and its History Education Program, will take place on campus. Drake was granted tenure by the University during the fall semester.

October was a busy month for history faculty. **Kyle Ciani** and **Mark Wyman** presented papers at the Western Historical Association meeting in Ft. Worth, Texas.

and the United Kingdom.”

The University of Umea in Sweden invited **Mark Wyman** to serve as the outside critic October 4 for a Ph.D. dissertation on return migration of Swedish engineers.

Lucinda Beier presented a paper, “No Place like Home: Hospitals, Health Culture, and Gender in Bloomington, Illinois, 1880-1980” at the Oral History Association’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Also in October, **Lou Perez** served as the program chair for the 52nd annual meeting of the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA) on the Illinois State University campus, October 10-12. The meeting included 40 panels and was attended by about 200 people. **Richard**

Pearce and Subho Basu contributed as panel chairs or discussants and Larissa Kennedy served as the associate program chair. That same weekend, The MCAA sponsored a half-day K-12 outreach workshop entitled, "Infusing Asia into the K-12 Curriculum." Fred Drake and Larry McBride helped coordinate it through the Illinois Council on Social Studies, and Cherie Valentine served as a facilitator. Perez also was elected to serve a three-year term as chair of the Midwest Japan Seminar.

In other news, the Illinois State University Friends of the Arts organization elected Sandra Harmon as president for 2003-4. Harmon, who retired last spring, is serving this year as interim director of Women's Studies. Also on the board of the group, which promotes fine arts events on campus and raises funds for talent grant scholarships, is Terri Ryburn-Lamonte '85, M.S. '88, D.A. '99.

Most recently, William Reger saw his article "European Mercenary Officers and the Reception of Military Reform in the Seventeenth-Century Russian Army" published in *Modernizing Moscow: Reform and Social Change in Seventeenth-Century Russia*, edited by Kotilan and Poe (Routledge).

State's history featured in conference

Three graduates of the master's program, one current master's student, and a retired professor kept the department's string of participation intact at the 2003 Conference on Illinois History in Springfield in October.

Master's student Cindy Bruchman presented "Labor, Ethnicity, and Family in Bureau and LaSalle Counties, 1900," in a session on local studies. The paper was drawn from her master's thesis.

The three alumni participating were Evelyn R. Taylor M.S. '88, chair of the session on Illinois Resources; Dan Monroe M.A. '89, who chaired the session entitled "The Lincoln Image in Portraits and Print" and delivered a comment; and William Steinbacher-Kemp M.S. '00, who commented on a session entitled "Planned Visions for the Prairie." Mark Plummer, who retired in 1994, commented on papers presented in "The Civil War in Memory."

Davis, Wyman plan retirements

Two long-time faculty members, Don Davis and Mark Wyman, have announced their retirements for May 2004. Davis is the longest-serving member of the department, having arrived in 1964. Wyman came in 1971.

Wyman's retirement event is set for April 16, 2004 at the McLean County Historical Society. Davis's will be an April 24 luncheon at St. Luke's Union Church. Further details on both retirement events will be available from the History Department office at (309) 438-5641.

Drake receives \$11,000 grant

State Farm Insurance has presented \$11,000 to Frederick Drake for the Illinois Institute for Civil Education.

The grant's first \$5,000 will go in part to support a December project in Chicago, the "We the People: Citizens and the Constitution State Competition."

The remaining \$6,000 will support a "We the People" institute in July for high school teachers.

Speaker fetes McBride

The Midwest Regional Conference of the American Conference for Irish Studies honored Lawrence W. McBride in a special session of its fall meeting in Bloomington October 17.

The event's host was the Public History Consortium of Central Illinois, made up of Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, the McLean County Museum of History, and the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site.

Clifton Jones, chair of the consortium, was co-chair of the conference.

In his Friday noon tribune to McBride, who has been one of the leaders of the ACIS, Emmett Larkin of the University of Chicago termed him "a fine scholar and dedicated teacher," making special note of McBride's numerous publications that opened up new areas of study in Irish history.

U.K. examined

Some 80 persons from around the region gathered at the Chateau Hotel in mid-October for the 2003 Midwest Conference on British Studies, with the University as host, Lee Beier as local arrangements director, and several faculty as participants.

Richard Soderlund presented "Industrial Policing and Petty Producers in the Yorkshire Worsted Industry, 1820-1850," and Beier presented "Reading Theories: An Overview of Recent New Historicist Perspectives on the Early Modern Literature of Roguery."

A roundtable discussion entitled "What the Tourist Seldom Sees: History on—and below—the Ground in the British Isles and Beyond," included Tony Adedze, Subho Basu, and Lucinda Beier. Chair of the panel was Helen McKay Katz M.S. '86, of Heartland Committee College.

Student news

Farahnaz Amirkhani, in the master's program, was appointed to an internship last summer by the University of California at Berkeley, to work in its Middle Eastern Collections. She worked on a weekly journal and a reflective essay for her project under Berkeley professor Shayee Khanaka.

Cindy Bruchman, in the master's program, has been accepted into two programs at Northern Illinois University: the master's program in English, and the doctoral program in history.

Clemens honored

The College of Arts and Sciences announced that Ray Clemens has been selected as its Outstanding Teacher in the Social Sciences.

Clemens is on leave for 2003-4, working at the Newberry Library in Chicago on a Mellon Grant, and traveling to Great Britain under a Newberry/British Academy Fellowship. He is director of the department's honors program.

Commenting on Clemens' latest honor and other pending nominations of department members for top prizes, Chair John Freed said, "The award and nominations speak for themselves about the high quality of teaching in this department."

This was a bountiful alumni autumn

The McLean County Museum of History has appointed **William Steinbacher-Kemp, M.S. '00**, as librarian in its archives collection. Steinbacher-Kemp formerly was employed by Milner Library and taught at Heartland Community College. He was a 1999 winner of the Cavanagh Award for Best Master's Student.

Steve DePasquale, M.S. '93, has begun a tenure-track position in history at Kankakee Community College.

The Filson Institute's May conference, "21st Century Approaches to the Ohio Valley's History," heard **Chris Phillips, M.S. '86**, present " 'Secession and Bullitt Forever': The Civil War Southernization of a Kentucky Family." He is a professor of history at the University of Cincinnati.

Shawn Lemenager '01 completed a six-month National Guard tour of duty in Egypt in August.

Festivals of Freedom recently published

African-Americans' emancipation celebrations are the focus of a new book by **Mitch Kachun, M.S. '90**, an assistant professor of history at Western Michigan University.

Festivals of Freedom: Memory and Meaning in African American Emancipation Celebrations, 1808-1915, examines how black leaders developed a vibrant tradition celebrating the end of slavery, at a time when they were often excluded from Fourth of July celebrations. These new events provided a sense of shared history and identity, although they sometimes became embroiled in debate over issues of black leadership and participation in public events.

Reviewer David Blight hailed the book's "sophisticated understanding" of the events, and stated that Kachun "succeeds in showing the multiple layers of contested memory. . . ."

The University of Massachusetts Press published the work, which was heavily based on research in African-American newspapers and oration texts. Kachun received his Ph.D. from Cornell in 1997.

Calhoun Community College (Alabama) has awarded tenure to **Michael Kinney, M.S. '95, D.A. '00**, who teaches history and political science. As reported in last year's Newsletter, he recently published *Joseph Wheeler: Uniting the Blue and the Gray* (Lincoln, Nebraska, 2002).

Chiropractic Economics, a national business magazine, featured **Steven Brown '89**, in volume 8. The cover story examined the success of Brown's firm, Brown Chiropractic & Acupuncture PC, in Tempe, Arizona. Brown, who graduated from Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis, has lectured on alternative medicine to pre-medicine classes at Arizona State University.

Jeremy Meiners '02 is a doctoral student in econometrics and economic history at Washington University in St. Louis.

Carmen Ganser, M.S. '02, is teaching eleventh grade in Valley Alternative Magnet School in Los Angeles. She teaches American literature, U.S. History, and an eighth-grade elective on the history of 20th century avant-garde and experimental visual art, literature, and music.

Kent University Press has issued a book contract to **Tina Brakebill, M.S. '02**, for publication of her revised master's thesis, " 'Circumstances are Destiny': Celestia Rice Colby, 1827-1900: Public Words, Daily Duties, and Private Ideals: The Struggle to Define Sphere." The thesis won the Cavanagh Best Master's Thesis award in fall 2002.

Christy Eyre '02 is enrolled in the University of Michigan's Graduate School of Information, in the archives and records management program.

Fort Collins, Colorado, is the new base for **Sarah Mae Grant '02**, who works for a firm doing research related to northern Colorado construction projects. She has worked with Lakota tribespeople and is helping establish a museum about Wounded Knee, to be located in Wall, South Dakota.

The third book of **Ron Bluemer '67, M.S. '72**, *Rails across the Heartland*, came out recently, barely beating his fourth book, *Speakeasy*, which was published in fall 2003. The third book chronicles railroading in the Illinois River Valley, while the fourth book details the Prohibition era there. Bluemer, who retired from Putnam County High School, still teaches history part time at Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby.

Walter Payton College Prep High School in Chicago has hired **Cheryl**

Sirabian '97 to teach AP government courses. She is completing her master's degree in history at DePaul University.

The new dean of academics at St. Scholastica High School in Chicago is **Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins M.S. '96**. She is a member of the national board of directors of Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation.

As she completes her Ph.D. at Indiana University, **Sarah Drake Brown '95** has published two articles drawn from her investigation of history education: "A Joint Project to Study History Education in the United States: A Report," appeared in the May issue of *Perspectives*, and "World History in the Curriculum" appeared in *History Matters* in November.

Focus on Asia

A 10-week seminar series, "Teaching about Asia," will run from January 14-March 31 on the Illinois State University campus under the leadership of **Richard Pearce**. Directed by the East Asian Studies Center of Indiana University in conjunction with the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, the 30-hour seminar aims at helping teachers from grades six through 12 incorporate East Asia into their curricula.

Fall history awards garnered by seven

Seven students walked off with top honors on November 18 at the History Department's annual Fall Awards Program.

Cavanagh Best Master's Thesis awards went to **Josh Miller** for "On Moral Ground: Herbert Hoover's Policy of Containment and the Nonrecognition of the Soviet Union," and **Drew Koke** for "Making Time: The Development of Modern Temporal Consciousness." Each received \$1,450.

Tasher Senior scholarships, worth \$5,000 each, went to **Kelly LeJeune**, **Valerie Sherman**, and **Mark Frederiksen**.

The Gleyrafa A. Ray Award in Teacher Education went to **Megan Wegryn** and **Carl Mueller**. Each received \$50 and a Ray Certificate.

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Name (maiden if appropriate) _____

Graduation year(s), degree(s) _____

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