

Rotating chairpersons

The department's reins, in the hands of **Paul Holsinger** for the past year and a half, were handed back to **John Freed** at the end of December.

Freed was acting dean of Arts and Sciences for the 2001-02 school year and has been on sabbatical leave during the fall.

Holsinger will retire in May, along with **Niles Holt** and **Sandra Harmon**. Plans for a retirement party were not final at press time; check later with the department at (309) 438-5641 for details.

Holsinger's farewell address appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

University award winners

The department's harvest of university awards was even greater than usual this fall, as **Patrice Olsen** won a Teaching Initiative Award; **Monica Noraian** won Outstanding University Teacher honors, in category II, and **Lawrence McBride** was named Outstanding College Researcher in Social Sciences.

McBride also won a significant off-campus award from the American Association for History and Computing for a CD-ROM that was named the outstanding CD of the past year. Titled *Chicago 1919!*, the CD looks at many aspects of Chicago life during the fateful year following the First World War—a race riot, attacks on the Industrial Workers of the World, etc. McBride was general editor for the history section of the CD, which is being retooled and put on the World Wide Web.

Also, the Kerr Prize for the best article published during the preceding year in *New York History* has gone to **Susan Westbury**. Her article, "Why Did New York Delegates, Robert Yates and John Lansing Jr., Abandon the Constitutional Convention?," appeared in the journal's fall 2001 issue.

Department grows by three

Three new historians joined the department in fall 2002. They are **Subo Basu**, **Ross Kennedy**, and **William Philpott**.

Seeing firsthand how workers in India were recruited and how they developed their own issues in strikes helped guide Subo Basu into an interest in



South Asian labor history.

Raised in the West Bengal city of Santiniketan, a university community in eastern India, Basu joins the department in South Asian history and peace history. After obtaining his bachelor's and master's degrees at Visva-Bharati University, he went on to study at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and then on to England's Cambridge University for his Ph.D.

His dissertation topic: "Workers' Politics in Bengal, 1890-1929: Mill-Towns, Strikes and Nationalist Agitations."

After graduation he served as a Smuts Fellow at Cambridge and then taught at the University of Exeter's College of St. Mark and St. John, lecturing on British imperial history while serving as manager of the history research unit. He then returned to Cambridge to teach undergraduates and American students attending Cambridge for their junior year abroad, and followed that with teaching at the University of London, where he also supervised M.Phil. and Ph.D. projects.

Coeditor of three books and author or coauthor of four articles on Indian history, at Illinois State he is teaching non-Western history, South Asia, peace history, and global studies.

His wife, Mallika Banerjee, currently employed as a tax consultant in England, will join him next summer.

Ross Kennedy comes to the department from San Francisco State, where he taught for four years after returning from two years in China. From 1995 to 1997 he taught U.S. history to Chinese graduate students in the Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies.

A native of San Jose, California, Kennedy went to the University of California at Berkeley for his undergraduate and graduate work, receiving his Ph.D. in 1994. His dissertation was titled "Uncertain Security: American Political Ideology



and the Problem of Militarism, 1890-1941." It is being revised for publication.

Kennedy also attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and then worked for a year in Washington, D.C., as a political consultant for a firm that worked mainly with Jordan and Saudi Arabia. His labors there included writing two speeches to be delivered by the queen of Jordan.

While in China he met his wife, Larissa, and the couple has a daughter, Sidney, soon to be joined by a sibling.

Kennedy's teaching in the department includes both U.S. history surveys, the two U.S. diplomatic history courses, and the senior seminar (theme: the cold war).

Growing up in Colorado, William Philpott came to history early, hearing

Continued on page 5

Those active alumni...

Jenny Howell '94, M.S. '96, is in her fourth year of teaching history at American Pacific International School in Thailand, which has Thai, Chinese, and Western students.

Sarah Drake '95 is completing her Ph.D. in curricular studies at Indiana University, writing on the history of history education. She obtained her master's in history at Purdue in 2000.

"His Honor, Her Fear: A Civil War Courtship" was presented October 3 by **Beth McMurray, M.S. '02**, at the 2002 Conference on Illinois History in Springfield. She developed her paper from research done in the Civil War seminar under Silvana Siddali.

The *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* for summer 2002 featured an article by **Tina Stewart Brakebill, M.S. '02**; "From 'German Days' to '100 Percent Americanism'—McLean County, Illinois, 1913-1918: German Americans, World War One, and One Community's Reaction."

Jessica Lee Powell '00 is teaching social studies in Unit 46 schools in Elgin. Last July she married Gregory Clay Stephens, an Illinois State graduate in finance. The couple lives in Schaumburg.

The death of **Eve Marie Nyaradi Dvorak, M.A. '93**, on March 31 has been reported. The daughter of a prominent Hungarian refugee who fled communist rule in 1948, she was completing her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota when she became ill with cancer. Married to Illinois State doctoral candidate Andrew Dvorak, she had been a Fulbright Scholar from 1996 to 1997 in

Vienna, Austria. The couple's home was in Freeport, where **Andrew Dvorak** teaches at Highland Community College.

Two alumni had articles in the spring 2002 issue of the *Journal of Illinois History*. **Evelyn Outlaw Taylor '76, M.S. '88**, wrote "The John F. Temple Photography Collections: Scenes of Everyday Life Make It Special." **Dan Monroe, M.A. '89**, authored "Henry Clay and the Courtship of the Old Whigs of Illinois." The issue featured book reviews by **Sandra Harmon**, retired historian **L. Moody Simms**, and alumna **Patricia Ann Owens**, who teaches at Wabash Community College.

Kent State University has named **Stephane Booth, D.A. '83**, interim dean for academic and student services at regional campuses.

Dan McGurk, M.S. '00, has been hired as reference and electronic services librarian at Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri.

Cheryl Sirabian '97 is teaching history at Hubbard High School in Chicago.

John Wood Community College in Quincy has conferred tenure on **David Harbin, M.S. '02**, who teaches history, including an on-line history course there. Harbin spoke last April to the Warsaw (Illinois) Historical Society on his thesis research on the Mormons and Icarians at Nauvoo.

Who's Who Among American Teachers has named **James J. "Jim" Cunningham '75** to its membership. He is a Close Up Foundation New Americans Program sponsor and serves as an IHSA-certified official in volleyball.

From the chairperson

By **M. Paul Holsinger**

When I agreed to fill in as chairperson for John Freed during the 2001-2002 academic year so that he could accept the post as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I thought my major responsibility would be simply to "hold down the fort" until he could return full time. These last 16 months have been, to say the least, "interesting," as one financial rescission after another has buffeted the department; but we have survived, a little beaten around the edges perhaps but still standing.

I have been proud to serve as chairperson of the Department of History for the last year and a half, trying to continue to make us one of the great teaching and research components of Illinois State. I wish that I could say that everything is now back to "normal," but, of course, it is not. This year, especially, has been accompanied by severe financial restraints that have hampered the way that we do our job both in and out of the classroom, but it speaks well for our distinguished—and I can't think of a better word to use in this context than that—faculty that they continue to "gladly learn and gladly teach" even in the midst of an often untenable situation.

The Department of History here at Illinois State has been an important part of my life for more than 33 years, and I am thankful every day that I've had the opportunity to be associated with all of you—students, faculty, and staff.

Two students feted

Two graduate students have won top awards from the University. **Carmen Ganser**, who graduated in December, won the \$2,900 Ada Belle Clark Welsh Scholarship, annually presented to the best woman graduate student. **Tina Stewart Brakebill**, who graduated last spring, was the College of Arts and Sciences's winner in the Fisher graduate thesis competition (social sciences category) for her master's thesis; it placed second in the university-wide competition. It was titled "Circumstances are Destiny: Celestina Rice Colby, 1827-1900—Public Words, Daily Duties, and Private Ideals: The Struggle to Define Sphere." Her award was worth \$300.

Two win grants

Two grants dealing with developing better history teachers are continuing this year under the leadership of **Frederick Drake** and **Lawrence McBride**.

The grant for Professional Development School Network for Learning and Teaching American History, in its second year, brought in 86 high school teachers in its first year—half veterans, half in their first four years of teaching. The National History Project pilot project brought 30 teachers to meet with experienced historians for a workshop last June.

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Presses roll for faculty

“Baptizing Mars: The Conversion to Russian Orthodoxy of European Mercenaries During the Mid-Seventeenth Century,” by **William Reger**, is part of the story of *The Military and Society in Russia 1450-1917*, ed. Eric Lohr and Marshall Poe, which Brill Publishers of Boston brought out recently.

Anthony Crubaugh delivered a paper titled “*Le bon sens villageois*: Images of the Peasantry in French Revolutionary Newspapers, 1789-1791” at the Western Society for French History Conference in Baltimore on October 4.

“Dance to Sustain the Union!,” a three-session workshop dealing with the antebellum and Civil War era, was presented by **Silvana Siddali** at the McLean County Historical Society on November 2 and 9. The event included instruction on various aspects of social life of that era, including hairstyles, clothing, and dancing etiquette. It closed with a dress ball on November 9 and ran in conjunction with the Civil War exhibit *To Sustain the Union*, curated by **Sharon MacDonald**.

An interdisciplinary group of Illinois State University faculty that teaches the American family course presented a panel, “Teaching the ‘American Family’: An Interdisciplinary Approach to General Education Requirements,” at the Social Science History Association Annual Conference in St. Louis on October 25. The group included historians **Kyle Ciani** and **Sandra Harmon** as well as former Illinois State historian **Pamela Riney-Kehrberg**, who is now at Iowa State. Also at the conference, **Lucinda Beier** talked on “Expertise and Control: Childbearing in Three Twentieth-Century Working-Class Lancashire Communities”; she also commented on a panel, “Special Studies of Aging and Mortality.”

Patrice Olsen continued her participation in events in Cuba, attending the first NEH institute ever held on the island in June and July, on “The Americas of Jose Marti” (with some events at the University of South Florida). In November she returned to present “The Axis of Misunderstanding: The Bush Administration and the Intelligence Community and Changing Definitions of Hemispheric Security after 9/11” at a Havana conference sponsored by the Asociacion para

la Unidad del Nuestra America, the Institute for Inter-American Studies, and the University of Havana. She spoke on “Havana Between Two Revolutions” before the Urban History Association in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on September 26 and on October 18 spoke to Illinois State’s Senior Professionals on contemporary life and politics in Cuba.

Louis Perez organized and chaired the roundtable discussion “Okinawa: Whose Colony?” at the annual meeting of the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA) at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, in September. He was also elected to a three-year term as director of the Midwest Japan Seminar, beginning May 2003.

The Newberry Library Center for Great Lakes Studies has awarded **Silvana Siddali** a fellowship for research on antebellum state constitutions.

“Leagued together to drive all the missionaries out of their country: Dakotas, the Federal Government, ABCFM Missionaries, and the Treaty of 1837” was presented by **Linda Clements** at the Western History Association Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on October 17.

Poling thesis

A spring 2002 master’s thesis that won the Cavanagh Award has been attracting attention in the Chicago gay community. **John Poling, M.S. ’02**, was honored last May when he presented his thesis at the Gerber/Hart Library in Chicago and again in September when he spoke there on the subject of the thesis, “Mattachine Midwest,” a gay rights organization. Two gay publications—Gerber/Hart’s *Newsletter* and the downstate *Prairie Flame*—have featured the thesis, the latter terming it “the first significant narrative that has been written on the groundbreaking group, whose formation in 1965 predated the Stonewall Riots by four years.”

Davis book out

An examination of the start of antagonism between the United States and the new Soviet Union during President Woodrow Wilson’s administration is at the focus of a new book by **Donald Davis**.

Titled *The First Cold War: The Legacy of Woodrow Wilson in U.S.-Soviet Relations*, it was published by the University of Missouri Press, (and in Moscow, Russia, by Olma-Press with the title *Pervaiia Kholodnaia Voina*).

The book, Davis’s second, was launched with coauthor Gene Trani, whom he met while doing research in Moscow. The two are now working on a book on U.S., Russia, and China relations in the 20th century.

The Richmond *Times-Dispatch* called the book surprising on two counts: although presented as an academic book, “It is written with style and verve and should appeal to the nonacademic public”; and it ran contrary to the usual view of Woodrow Wilson as an idealist in foreign relations.

D.A.’s book hailed

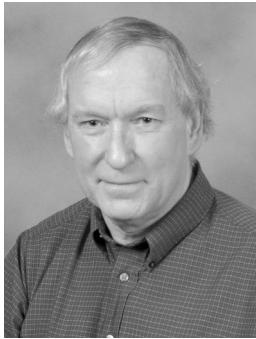
Another doctoral graduate of the department has written a book that is attracting attention. **Mike McKinney, D.A. ’00**, who teaches at Calhoun Community College in Decatur, Georgia, has published *Joseph Wheeler: Uniting the Blue and the Gray* (Writers Club Press) about the Confederate general who later led a cavalry unit in the Spanish-American War.

The *Decatur Daily* reported that Kinney “is big on battlefields and historical sites and has seen plenty of them,” as well as forecasting weather for 20 years in the Air Force. Traveling around Alabama and visiting Wheeler’s plantation site whetted his interest in the military hero, who, he found, deserves recognition for his dealings with the defeated Spanish in 1898.

The book is based on Kinney’s dissertation, written under mentorship of **Louis Perez, Sharon MacDonald, and Lawrence McBride**.

Jones appointed

The department's archivist and manuscripts expert, **Clifton H. Jones**, has been given a regular faculty appointment, it was announced early in the fall semester.



Jones, who formerly headed Milner Library, teaches U.S. history and Illinois history as well as the archives and manuscripts course. He

earlier was director of the Idaho State University libraries from 1991 to 1997, the Saginaw Valley (Michigan) State University Library from 1985 to 1991, and Southern Methodist's DeGolyer Library from 1980 to 1985. While at DeGolyer, he was editor of a book publishing series on Texas history.

With a B.A. in history from Claremont-McKenna College in 1971 and an M.A. in American history in 1973 from Oregon, Jones moved into archives work with his University of Denver M.A. in 1975. He has led the Public History Consortium of Central Illinois this year.

Global event held

The annual International and Global Studies Student Conference last April 23 featured **Patrice Olsen** and two specialists from outside the university: R. K. Ramazani, Stettinius Professor Emeritus of Government and Foreign Affairs at the University of Virginia, and Nesta Ramazani, author of books and articles dealing with Middle Eastern women. Olsen spoke on "Religion, Politics, and Modernity in Cuba."

Mohamad Tavakoli was cochairperson of the event, which was sponsored by International Studies and the History Department. Forty-one students from several departments read papers, ranging from "The Ritual of Fasting in Islam" to "The Masquerading Women of Taliban" to "Quaranic View of Jesus."

Phi Alpha Theta students meet

Five students from the History Department delivered their work at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference on April 20 at Eastern Illinois University, walking away with three top prizes for their research.

Undergraduates **Kelly Lejeune** and **Jason MacConnell** took first and third places respectively in the category Non-United States History, and a paper by graduate student **Van O. Furrh** was selected for first place in the Global Issues with Local Concern category.

Congratulations are in order to all participants:

Kelly Lejeune, "The True Cost of

Debt: An Analysis of the Third World's Debt Crisis and the Roles of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank," first place, Non-U.S. History; Jason MacConnell, "Defining the Other: British and Chinese Viewpoints in Flashman and the Dragon," third place, Non-U.S. History; Van O. Furrh, "The Holocaust and Survivors: Trauma, Post-traumatic Stress, and Response to Neo-Nazis in Skokie," first place, Global Issues with Local Concern; **Susan Crowe**, "Television and Postwar Culture: Mirror Images"; and **Barbara Rexroat**, "The Depression's Effects on an Ordinary Woman."

Retirees score

Retired historian **Mark Plummer's** *Lincoln's Rail-Splitter: Governor Richard J. Oglesby* won the Illinois State Historical Society's Book of the Year Award at ceremonies last April.

A romantic comedy set in 970 B.C. by retired professor **Earl Reitan** was presented June 9 by the Heartland Theatre Company in Bloomington. A second edition is coming out of Reitan's book, *Tory Radicalism: Margaret Thatcher, John Major, and the Transformation of Modern Britain, 1979-1997*.

Another retiree, **Charles Gray**, reports from Springfield, Missouri, that in addition to fishing in the Ozarks he works on regional history, writing and editing. His new e-mail is graysfolly02@mchsi.com.

Adlai reexamined

The annual Bone Lecture linked up in November with commemoration of the 1952 presidential candidacy of Bloomington's Adlai Stevenson. Two historians, **Alan Lessoff** and **Mark Wyman**, led the events.

The Bone Lecture, organized by Lessoff, brought in James Patterson of Brown University, a leading Stevenson scholar, for a November 16 lecture at the McLean County Museum of History and a November 18 lecture at the University on "The Life and Legacy of Adlai Stevenson." The Stevenson exhibit at the McLean County Museum of History, "Adlai! His Life and Times," will run until May 30, 2004. Wyman was guest curator.

Pearce appointed

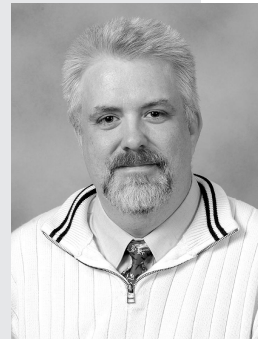
Richard Pearce, who received his bachelor's degree in 1989 and his master's in 1992 from the department, was appointed history advisor on July 1, succeeding the retiring David Chesebrough.

Pearce joins Charles Ross in the position. Ross doubles as internship director.

Pearce will also serve as assistant chairperson when required.

Pearce spent six and a half years in China as program coordinator for the International School of the University of Colorado-Denver in Beijing. While there he met his wife, Fan Zhang. The couple has two sons, Eric and Andrew.

Pearce is teaching two courses each semester, rotating between East Asian civilization, Chinese civilization, Japanese civilization, and "Foundations of Inquiry."



Spring awards



Photo by Louis Perez

Seated from left: Jessica Miskell, Ray Scholarship; and Carmen Ganser, Cavanagh Master's; standing from left: Michael Haak and Jesse Risley, both Ray Scholarships; John Poling, Cavanagh Master's; and Robert Seidel, Wilborn Scholarship. The Ray Scholarships were for \$3,000 apiece, the Cavanagh Best Master's Degree Student \$2,000, and the Wilborn Scholarship for Sophomores \$400.

Faculty publications

Alan Lessoff is author of "Alexander R. Shepherd: The Haussmannization of Washington," in *The Human Tradition in Urban America*, ed. Roger Biles, which Scholarly Resources published last summer, and "The Peculiar Savagery of the Engineered City," in *Journal of Policy History*, Vol. 14, No. 2.

An Iranian book includes an article by **Mohamad Tavakoli**. His chapter, "Tau Vatan Bishnas Ay Khajah Nukhast: Digardisi-I 'Vatan' va Paydayish-O Nafs-I

Mashrutah-kh ah," appeared in *Pazhuhish-ha-yi Iranshinasi: Namvarah-I Duktur Mahmud Afshar*, ed. Isai Afshar and Karim Isfahaniyan. It was published in Tehran.

"Abraham Lincoln and the Rule of Law," a lesson plan analyzing primary documents, by **Lawrence McBride** and **Frederick Drake**, appeared in the National Council for History Education's *History Matters!* for May.

Michael G. Matejka honored

A 1974 graduate has been awarded the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award by the Illinois Humanities Council, an honor juxtaposed upon release of his book that documents the struggles of Illinois firefighters.

The honoree/author is **Michael G. Matejka**, well known in the Bloomington-Normal community as a member of the Bloomington City Council as well as

editor of the *McLean-Livingston Union News* and activist for social causes.

Matejka analyzes the nearly century-long struggle of Normal firefighters to unionize in the recently published *Fiery Struggle: Illinois Fire Fighters Build a Union, 1901-1985* (Illinois Labor History Society). The book and a traveling exhibit document firefighters' efforts to win collective bargaining rights.

Three new historians...continued from page 1

stories of his grandfather's childhood amidst the Cripple Creek gold rush. His



senior thesis at Williams College, and his master's thesis and doctoral dissertation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison were all on Colorado topics—a mine labor dispute

in Leadville, the creation of Vail as an instant resort town, and the transformation of the Colorado environment from tourism.

During summers in college and graduate school, Philpott held editorial, research, writing, and consulting positions with the Colorado Historical Society, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the National Park Service, the *Dictionary of American History*, the Center for the New West (in Denver), and the Colorado Governor's Office.

Philpott's several awards include the Colorado Historical Society's LeRoy Hafen Award for his book *The Lessons of Leadville, or, Why the Western Federation of Miners Turned Left* (1995). Hired as the department's environmental historian, Philpott is also teaching the U.S. history survey, the senior seminar, History 200, and "American Diversity" and is developing courses in environmental history.

Shelby Balik, Philpott's wife, is completing her doctoral work in U.S. history at Wisconsin. She is a Los Angeles native.

Lend a hand!

Send your news to the newsletter.

Name (maiden if appropriate) _____

Graduation year(s), degree(s) _____

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Your news _____

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