

# Today & Yesterday

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 31  
Summer 2007

## Dispatches from the electoral front—Mexico, D.F.

By Ron Gifford

In the summer of 2006, sponsored by the department of history, Patrice Olsen, our Latin American specialist, organized a “civic engagement” internship for graduate students that took us to Mexico City for the presidential election. During a two-week period, we and our students—Sravani Biswas, Dave Marcial, Mark Bunting, Sally Heinzel, and La Tishia Baker—served as international observers on behalf of the Federal Electoral Institute (I.F.E.), Mexico’s governing body overseeing elections, and explored the politics, history, and culture of that nation. Because Professor Olsen is on sabbatical this semester, I have volunteered to offer some of my observations concerning the success of our trip.

I joined Olsen primarily because I have been interested in Mexico since 1983, when I lived there as a student for four months, but I was also intrigued by the opportunities to witness democracy in action, particularly in a place where many doubt that it has much of a chance, and to provide a different kind of educational experience for students, one in which we could learn as much as they. Even though my area of expertise, Atlantic slavery and abolition, is somewhat removed from Mexican history, I have retained my Spanish and could act as an interpreter, another mentor to help our students navigate Mexican culture, and as a relief expert when necessary. Olsen’s familiarity with Mexican history, politics, and architecture was particularly useful in that most of our students did not speak the language and had relatively little knowledge of Mexico’s past or present.

One of the keys to the success of this trip was that we allowed the atmosphere to dictate where we went and what we did. If there was a political rally taking place, we donned our I.F.E. badges, which gave us unrestricted access to the electoral process, and hopped in a cab. If, on a given day, there was no political event we could attend, we explored historic sites. Probably the most impressive location we visited was the Plaza of the Three Cultures, where we found the convergence of three disparate identities: pre-Conquest, colonial, and modern.

Although the students were impressed by the grandeur of ancient Mexico, it was the politically charged atmosphere they found the most intriguing. Our first exposure to the campaign came during the last major rally on June 25 for the National Action Party (P.A.N.) and their candidate Felipe Calderon. In 2000 the final rallies for all the parties were held in the Zocalo, but not this year. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (P.R.I.), which held the presidency from 1929 to 2000, decided to have a smaller rally away from the capital; the P.A.N., possibly thinking that the Zocalo was enemy territory, decided to hold theirs in Azteca Stadium, a soccer venue that holds more than 100,000.

What we found inside the stadium was a political spectacle presented not as high drama but as civic sport. Prior to the arrival of their candidate, the people were continually entertained with dancers, mariachis, videos of historic Mexico, and opening acts that exhorted the people to deafening cheers and even a “wave” you might

find at a soccer match. The candidate, arriving in a Chevy Suburban, an image fed to the people via giant digital screens, seemed almost an afterthought. There was little need for us to translate P.A.N.’s message to our students. They got the idea: Calderon, the candidate of prosperous, modern, and



On June 28, 2006, graduate students La Tishia Baker, Mark Bunting, and Sally Heinzel, next to her spouse Andrew Hughes, watch a procession of P.R.D. supporters as they make their way toward a rally in the Zocalo, the political center of Mexico City.

urban businessmen and bankers, also had something to offer the rural poor and Indian populations. More important for our students, we had the opportunity three days later to attend the finale of the Democratic Republican Party (P.R.D.), held in the Zocalo, the appropriate counterpoint to what we witnessed in Estadio Azteca.

The P.R.D.’s candidate, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, better known as Peje or AMLO, had no problem filling the immense Zocalo. His supporters, clad in yellow, were remarkably different to those we saw days earlier. While the crowd at the P.A.N. rally was excited by the pomp and circum-

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# Letter from the chair

The History Department's strength continues to be its faculty, and several members of the department achieved distinction during 2006 through their scholarship. The Victorian Society in America selected Alan Lessoff's book, *Adolf Cluss, Architect: From Germany to America* (Washington, D.C.: The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., and Berghahn Books, 2005), for its Henry Russell-Hitchcock Award honoring the best book in 19th-century studies published that year. Linda Clemmons's article, "'We Will Talk of Nothing Else': Dakota Interpretations of the Treaty of 1837," won the 2006 Frederick C. Luebke Award for outstanding regional scholarship in the *Great Plains Quarterly* in 2006. The Illinois State Historical Society presented Roger Biles's book, *Illinois: A History of the Land and Its People* (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2005), with its 2006 Award for Superior Achievement, and the University Press of Kentucky issued his *The South and the New Deal* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1994, 2006) in a paperback edition. Several history faculty, including Lee Beier, Lucinda Beier, Ray Clemens, Andrew Hartman, Patrice Olsen, Touré Reed, and Amy Wood, are completing manuscripts under contract to university and commercial presses; Agbenyega Adedze, Ray Clemens, Fred Drake, Richard Hughes, Issam Nassar, and Patrice Olsen had articles published in refereed journals or chapters in edited books.

History Department faculty distinguished themselves in teaching as well. Kyle Ciani won the Stan and Sandy Rives

Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education in 2006, the first time the award has been given. Bill Philpott won the College of Arts and Sciences' Teaching Initiative Award; the college nominated Patrice Olsen for the University Teaching Award—Category I and Daniel Stump for the University Outstanding Teaching Award—Category II. With more than 600 majors and a continuing record of winning awards for outstanding pedagogy, the History Department continues to be viewed as one of the best teaching units on the Illinois State University campus.

As the spring 2007 semester draws to a close, changes in the faculty continue to give the History Department a new look. During the past year, we hired two new faculty members—in Russian and ancient history—and regretfully acknowledged the retirement of a longtime colleague, Fred Drake. (See "Comings and Goings" for additional information.) Professor Drake's departure leaves a void in the nationally renowned teacher education program and presents a great challenge to hire someone in that position. Our success in recent years of hiring talented young faculty gives us hope that we can continue to build an outstanding department of teacher-scholars.

Roger Biles



Roger Biles

## David McCullough lauds Illinois State's history education program

Renowned historian and author David McCullough was the featured speaker at the 2007 Sesquicentennial Founders Day Celebration in February, receiving an honorary doctorate from Illinois State University. McCullough is the author of seven books, including *The Johnstown Flood*, *The Great Bridge*, *The Path Between the Seas*, *Mornings on Horseback*, *Brave Companions*, *Truman*, and *John Adams*. His books have received two Pulitzer Prizes, two National Book Awards, and two Francis Parkman Prizes.

In his keynote address at the Founders Day Convocation, attended by over 1,000 people, McCullough lauded the history education program at Illinois State University for requiring future teachers to study history. According to the *Pantagraph*, McCullough stated that "almost no other institution is doing this." He criticized a state of education where eight of every 10 history teachers in America earn teaching degrees that do not require them to study college-level history. At Illinois State, future educators must also declare a major subject in addition to completing a teaching sequence. "Maybe all the academic experts ought to come here to see what you are doing," he concluded.



## Students honored at spring awards ceremony

Our spring 2006 awards ceremony was held May 2. Four outstanding students were honored for their academic excellence. Caroline Shupe received the James Todd Wilborn Scholarship for sophomores, and Brian Fanning received the Kyle and Jean Sessions Honors Scholarship, which is awarded to the outstanding junior in the history honors program. Eduardo Garza and D. Edwin Lind both won the Helen M. Cavanagh Award for Best Master's Degree Student. Finally, Lou Perez inducted the newest members of Phi Alpha Theta.

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## Faculty teaching recognized

The History Department continued its strong tradition of earning teaching awards this year. Kyle Ciani won the Stan and Sandy Rives Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education in 2006, the first time the award has been given. This award recognizes outstanding teaching or any significant contribution to the undergraduate experience. It was established in honor of Professor Stan Rives' long-time commitment to an undergraduate program of the highest quality and for his contributions to Illinois State University as dean of undergraduate education.

Professor Ciani specializes in the histories of women and gender in the Americas, and focuses her research on understanding how sociolegal positions defined one's access to work, childcare, housing, health care, and social welfare programs. She also received a University Teaching Initiative Award for 2004–2005. Since her arrival in 2001, she has been on the

programming committee for the Women's and Gender Studies Program, where she takes an active role in the annual symposium which highlights student research and performance. Other student-centered service has included advising Illinois State's chapter of FLAME (Feminist Led Activist Movement to Empower), serving as a mentor with the Women's Mentoring Network and History Floor in Atkin/Colby, and involvement with programs of the local YWCA. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Family History, Women in the United States, Women in North America, and Women's Activism.

Bill Philpott won the College of Arts and Sciences' Teaching Initiative Award. Professor Philpott specializes in environmental history and the history of the American West, with additional interests in the 20th-century United States and public history. He is writing a book about tourist development in the Colorado high country

after World War II, focusing on how tourist destinations were packaged and recreational landscapes were advertised. His book uses this story to explore how the postwar explosion of commercial outdoor leisure radically reoriented American environmental attitudes and environmental politics. He has also written a book on western labor unionism and is co-author and co-editor of a forthcoming guide to the historic built landscapes of Wisconsin. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on the American West, environmental history, and 20th-century America. He also has created a course on the environmental-social history of American suburbia.

The college also nominated Patrice Olsen for the University Teaching Award–Category I and Daniel Stump for the University Outstanding Teaching Award–Category II.

## Alumni spotlight: R. David Edmunds

R. David Edmunds is the Watson Professor of American History at University of Texas at Dallas. He is an expert on Native American history, and teaches undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in American history, Native American history, and the Civil War. He received his master's degree in history at Illinois State University in 1966. As a world-renowned scholar in Native American history, he has taught all over the country, including the University of Wyoming; Texas Christian University; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Berkeley; and Indiana University. He also served as the director of the D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History at the Newberry Library.

Professor Edmunds was raised in a tiny town called Blue Mound, located just south of Decatur. He described the town as "Mayberry," and his father even served as the town mayor. He came to history in a very roundabout way. After majoring in chemistry at Millikin University in Decatur, he took a teaching job at Bloomington High School. While teaching, he decided to work towards a master's degree in history in preparation for law school. He never made it to law school, however, as he found that he loved history. After receiving his master's degree, he went on to earn his Ph.D. in history at the University of Oklahoma.

When asked about his best memory of Illinois State, he noted that his best and worst memory are the same. While at the University, he took a course with Helen Cavanagh. He described her as a "demanding taskmaster" who "scared [me] to death." However, she gave him self-discipline and taught him the "nuts and bolts of documenting history" which he has used the rest of his career. Cavanagh taught him to "keep his nose to the grindstone" until his work was finished.

Edmunds, who is of Cherokee descent, focuses the majority of his research and teaching on Native Americans. He has two books in press: one entitled *Enduring Nations*, about Native Americans in the Midwest, and the other a textbook of Native American history. He also is a consultant for a PBS series on Native American biography. He has been very involved in the Western Historical Association, serving as its president in 2007. In his spare time he likes to fish and is a huge college football fan. His favorite team to follow is the Texas Christian University Hornfrogs.



R. David Edmunds, M.A. '66

**Mark A. Plummer, professor of history from 1960 to 1994**, was the speaker at the Abraham Lincoln Association Banquet. His topic was "Governor Oglesby and Lincoln's Death and Burial," based on his book, *Lincoln's Rail-Splitter: Governor Richard J. Oglesby* (University of Illinois Press). His talk was later published as "A Tomb for All Times: Governor Richard J. Oglesby and the Battle over the Lincoln Gravesite" in *Illinois Heritage* (May–June 2005). He also gave a short course on the Civil War at the Illinois State University Academy of Seniors Program, at the Arizona State University Life Long Learning Program, and on the New Orleans-to-Chicago ship of the American Canadian, Caribbean line.

**Don Cavallini, M.A. '67, D.A. '80**, served as local arrangements co-chair for the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC). Over 230 archivists from 13 midwestern states attended the spring meeting in Bloomington-Normal at The Chateau. The plenary speaker was Leon Dash, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a professor at University of Illinois. A reception for MAC members was held at the Museum of History, and tours included trips to the David Davis Mansion, the Funk Museum, and the Route 66 Museum in Pontiac.

**Donna Eichstaedt '76, M.S. '78, D.A. '90**, was awarded the Doña Ana County Historical Society's Gemoets Prize, which recognizes the outstanding article in the 2006 *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (Volume XIII). She also served as secretary of the board of directors of the Doña Ana County Historical Society, and was recently the recipient of the society's 2007 Hall of Fame Award. She teaches U.S. history at Doña Ana Community College, and has a manuscript in progress about a historic 1920s lodge in Silver City, New Mexico.

**Jack B. Nicholson, D.A. '80**, and his wife Helen sponsored the Nicholson Historical Research Library at the new Madison County History Center and Museum. Located in Anderson, Indiana, the library's collection contains almost 5,000 volumes. The library was dedicated on May 17, 2006.

According to a recent feature story in the *Pantagraph*, **Bill Case, M.S. '91**, the guide and caretaker of the Funk Gem and Mineral Museum at the site of the Funk Prairie Home in rural Shirley, will preside over the expansion of the museum. The expansion will allow the museum to display more carriages, sleighs, farm equipment and tools, and provide additional archival space.

**James Amemasor, M.A. '04**, is a Ph.D. student at Rutgers University–Newark in the Division of Global Affairs. He was one of the recipients of the 2006 Rutgers Graduate Student Government Association Excellence Awards. He also participated in a roundtable discussion on "Neoliberalism and the Study of Globalization" at the New York State Political Science Association's 60th Annual Conference in New York City. His advisor is Yale Ferguson in the Department of Political Science.

**Kelly LeJeune '04** was accepted into the University of Chicago with a full-tuition scholarship. She will work to earn her master's degree.

**Sally Heinzel, M.A. '07**, was accepted into the Ph.D. program in history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with full financial aid. She will study American cultural and intellectual history.

## In memoriam

**Frederick Kohlmeyer**, professor emeritus of history, died on April 19 in Normal. He graduated from Winona State University in Minnesota in 1943 and received his doctorate in history at the University of Minnesota in 1954. After several years of research and writing the history of Weyerhaeuser, other forest products companies, and the Chippewa Indian Claims cases, he accepted a position in Urbana in the economics department in economic and business history. In 1964, he joined the Illinois State University History Department in economic history, until his retirement in 1983.

Kohlmeyer's membership in professional associations were numerous.

He became internationally known and reviewed manuscripts for various scholarly journals as well as published more than 100 book reviews. He also edited the scholarly journal *Agricultural History*.

**Edward Schapsmeier**, Distinguished Professor emeritus of history, died on February 10 in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. He received his bachelor's degree from Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska, in 1949; his master's degree from the University of Omaha in 1952; and his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in 1965. He taught at Illinois State from 1966 until his retirement in 1995. In 1982 he was named a Distinguished Professor, the highest honor

the University can bestow upon a faculty member.

Schapsmeier was an expert on 20th-century American history. He wrote numerous books with his twin brother Frederick, including biographies on Henry A. Wallace, Senator Dirksen of Illinois, Ezra Taft Benson, Walter Lippmann, and Gerald R. Ford. The brothers also authored two encyclopedias on American agricultural history and American politics. In addition, there were 10 co-authored chapters in books and 21 articles. Ms. Lee Love has provided for a memorial tree that will be planted in Schapsmeier's memory on the campus of Illinois State University.

## Faculty updates

**Susan Broderick** presented “PBS’s POV: ‘Street Fight,’ An Interview with Filmmaker Marshall Curry.” This presentation took place in Dallas at the Film and History Conference in November 2006. She also presented “Learning from Oral History: Focus on the WWII Generation” at the 2007 Illinois Historical Symposium at Illinois State University in February.

**Ray Clemens** published two articles this past year. The first, entitled “The Pope’s Shrunken Head: The Apocalyptic Visions of Robert of Uzès,” appeared in *History in the Comic Mode: Medieval Communities and the Matter of Person*, edited by Rachel Fulton and Bruce Holsinger (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007). His second article, “Marie-Madeleine et la politique de l’espace, Saint-Maximin, XIIIe-XIVe siècles,” appeared in *Regards américains sur le Midi médiéval. Projet de numéro spécial Annales du Midi* 118, (2006): 411-429. He was on leave in the spring semester, having been awarded a sabbatical.

Despite his impending retirement, **Fred Drake** did not slow down this past year. He traveled all over United States giving presentations. He was invited by the U.S. Department of Education to speak last September and October to over 800 history educators in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Cleveland, Ohio, on the topic of “History Education and Potential Research in Historical Thinking.” He also presented 11 times for the National Council for History Education across the United States on topics of “Doing the Teaching of History: Creating the History Laboratory,” “Primary Sources and Historical Thinking,” and “The Tenth Federalist as an Ever-Changing Document.” In his free time (perhaps on the plane between speaking engagements), Drake wrote “Swing of the Pendulum: From Social Studies Education to History Education at Illinois State University,” which will come out in the book *History Education 101: The Past, Present, and Future of Teacher Preparation* (Charlotte, N.C.: Information Age Publishing, 2007). Finally, he has a contract for a revised edition of *Engagement in Teaching History: Theory and Practices for Middle and Secondary Teachers* (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Education Inc., 2005).

**Richard Hughes** published “The Civil Rights Movement of the 1990s: The Anti-Abortion Movement and the Struggle for Racial Justice,” in *Oral History Review*, 33(2), 2006. He also published “Burning Birth Certificates and Atomic Tupperware Parties: Creating the Anti-Abortion Movement in the Shadow of the Vietnam War” in *The Historian*, 68(3), 2006, and “Minstrel Music: The Sounds and Images of Race in Antebellum America,” in *The History Teacher*, 40(1), 2006.

**Ross Kennedy** participated in a panel presentation at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Annual Conference at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, June 23-25, 2006. His paper was entitled “Democracy and International Reform: Woodrow Wilson and the Democratization of Germany.”

Continuing her commitment to providing fascinating educational experiences for her students, **Patrice Olsen**, along with three of her students from her seminar in atomic history—Rob Witt, Mark Bunting, and T.J. Urbanski—developed a panel on atomic culture for the Popular Culture Association meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She brought them to Los Alamos so that they could consult archives at the Los Alamos Historical Society and visit the Bradbury Science Museum (Los Alamos National Laboratory’s science museum). They also visited the National Atomic Museum in Albuquerque. On their last day, they drove to White Sands Missile Range to study the collection of weapons at the Missile Range Park and the White Sands Museum. Their paper topics ranged from atomic films pre- and post-9/11, ABM systems, secrecy and atomic culture, and her own on atomic music, “Selections from Dr. Strangelove’s iPod.” She remarked that “it was a fantastic educational experience.” In addition to her travels, she published a chapter on intelligence, “The Axis of Misunderstanding: The Bush Administration, Intelligence, and Hemispheric Security after September 11, 2001,” in a book edited by Gary Prevost and Carlos Oliva, *The Bush Doctrine and Latin America*, published by Palgrave Macmillan. This work is based on a presentation she gave at the Center for the Study of the United States Seminar on Inter-American Relations at the Universidad de la Habana, Cuba.

**Katrin Paehler** conducted research in Moscow in the former Secret (KGB) Archive and in Berlin at the Political Archive of the Foreign Ministry. She also attended an international workshop on intelligence and the Holocaust at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and served as a moderator for a panel at the German Studies Association Annual Meeting. She recently presented a paper, “The Wrong Grad, the Wrong Victims: (West-) German Historiography on the Siege of Leningrad” at an International Conference in Tampere, Finland. The conference’s title was “Re-Calling the Past: Collective and Individual Memory of World War II in Russia and Germany.” Her article entitled “Foreign Intelligence in a New Paradigm: Amt VI of the Reich Main Security Office (RSHA)” appeared in *Secret Intelligence and the Holocaust: Collected Essays from the Colloquium at the City University of New York Graduate Center*, ed. David Bankier (New York and Jerusalem: Enigma Books and Yad Vashem, 2006), 273-279.

In January 2007 **William Reger IV** presented a paper entitled “Mercenaries for the Tsar: A New Look at Early Modern Military Professionalism” at Louisiana State University, Shreveport.



## Comings and goings

The History Department was pleased to welcome three new faculty members in August. **Andrew Hartman** is the new history education specialist. He stated that his new “job is a great fit for me because I have high school teaching experience—I taught history and social sciences for two years in the Denver area—and because I research and write educational history.” He decided to become a historian once he “realized that the revolution was a long way off.”

Professor Hartman earned his Ph.D. from George Washington University where he studied under Leo Ribuffo, whom he calls one of the most important historians of the past 30 years. He is finishing his book manuscript, *Education and the Cold War: The Battle for the American School*, which is to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in April 2008. *Education and the Cold War* explores the political and intellectual culture of the 1950s via one of the more under-examined realms of U.S. society. His essays have appeared in a number of publications, including *Third World Quarterly*, *Race and Class*, *Socialism and Democracy*, *Poverty and Race*, and *Teachers College Record*. His teaching and research interests include intellectual history, educational history, history of conservatism, critical theory, historiography, and pedagogy.

**Issam Nassar**, the new Middle Eastern specialist, is a familiar face in Schroeder Hall. He completed his doctoral degree at Illinois State in 1997. He also taught several courses on Middle Eastern history for the History Department. In addition to his work at the University, Professor Nassar has had a varied teaching career. In 1997, he lived in the Middle East where he taught for five years at a number of institutions. He had a position at the Center for Area Studies at



Andrew Hartman



Issam Nassar



Stewart Winger



Frederick Drake

Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, and taught at various times at other universities in the region and abroad. Last year, he was a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

While at Illinois State this year, Professor Nassar participated in a number of conferences and workshops including an ongoing project on Jerusalem as a shared city at The Ohio State University and a similar project at Arizona State University. He served as the associate editor of *Jerusalem Quarterly* and is preparing a special issue devoted to the theme of photography and visual culture. He is finishing the work for two books that will be published abroad—an edited volume on *Memoirs and Autobiography as Sources for Historical Study of the Levant* that will appear in Arabic later this year, and a photographic book in honor of photographer Myrtle Winter that is due to come out in Beirut this summer. He noted that it “is very nice to be back at Illinois State and the Department of History in particular. Great colleagues and nice, enthusiastic students certainly make all the difference.”

**Stewart Winger** joined the History Department as our Civil War specialist. After his B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1985 and two years studying at the Freie University in Berlin, Professor Winger returned to Chicago for his M.A. (1993) and his Ph.D. (1998) in history of culture under Martin Marty. His Ph.D. thesis won the Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Award in 2001 from the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Lincoln Institute of the Mid-Atlantic. *Lincoln, Religion, and Romantic Cultural Politics* (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2002) subse-

quently won the 2004 Barondess/Lincoln Prize, granted by the Civil War Round Table of New York. Professor Winger has written articles and reviews on Abraham Lincoln, American religion, and American law.

After teaching for two years at Purdue University–Calumet, Professor Winger joined the Department of History at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, in 1999. He left Egypt in 2003 for Lawrence Technological University in Michigan and joined the History Department at Illinois State, where he now teaches “Civil War and Reconstruction,” “Religion and the Civil War,” and “American Religious History.” He is working on a museum exhibit on Lincoln’s legal practice as well as a project on Lincoln’s constitutional thinking against the background of his common law practice. Professor Winger mentioned that he “hopes to foster connections between Illinois State’s History Department and the Middle East.”

Finally, it is with great sadness that the History Department announces the retirement of **Frederick Drake**. Professor Drake, though his tireless efforts, has made the history education program at Illinois State one of the most renowned in the nation and a model for all other universities. He has written two books, *States’ Rights and American Federalism: A Documentary History* (Greenwood Press, 1999), and *Engagement in Teaching History: Theory and Practices for Middle and Secondary Teachers* (Prentice Hall, 2005). He has also written numerous articles on historical thinking, civic education, and performance assessment. He was named Outstanding University Teacher, 2003–2004. His presentations on history education have been heard around the nation.

## Dispatches, from page 1

stance staged for them, they seemed passionless in comparison to AMLO's crowd. In Azteca we attracted little attention. Here people grabbed us at every opportunity to explain why this election of Obrador was so important for Mexico and democracy. The people formed lines four and five deep behind riot barriers, held children on their shoulders and pointed down Madero street as their candidate made his way toward the Zocalo on foot.

Both rallies were a good warm-up for the main event—election day. As international observers, our only duty was to bear witness. Mexican law only required that we not ask anyone for whom they would vote, show favor to any candidate or party, or obstruct in any way the voting process. Otherwise, we could go anywhere we pleased. As we walked from polling station to polling station, the city appeared a different place. It was eerily quiet. Occurring on a Sunday,

voting day was not affected by the normal business of the workaday world. There were few automobiles running and we even found ourselves meandering into neighborhoods that an outsider would generally be wise to avoid under normal circumstances. For the most part, all was peaceful as voters, notable because of the purple ink stain on their thumb to show they had already voted, nodded to us as we passed.

Voting day did not pass without incident, however, as the special polling station in the Zocalo, catering to those voters not from the capital, became the focus of some controversy. Our students were amazed that the people waited patiently in line to cast their ballots. Some of these men and women stood in the rain for eight hours or more with no idea whether or not they would be able to finally vote. Rumors spread quickly that there was some conspiracy afoot, yet only a small group at the front of the line

encouraged the people to storm the doors. Of course, this was the image that the world would see, as every reporter and cameraman was drawn to the unfolding scandal. Olsen and a few of the students stayed inside the polling station and watched the man in charge destroy ballots after the polls were supposed to have closed, and escape through a back door rather than brave the increasingly angry crowd.

The controversy surrounding the ultimate victory of P.A.N. and Calderon unfolded quickly in the days after the election; nevertheless, our students were impressed by the democratic aspirations of the Mexican electorate and the strange mixture of idealism and fatalism, the past and the present, everywhere visible in Mexican politics, history, and culture. For five graduate students and two professors from Illinois State University it was an adventure that would leave a lasting impression.

## History education news

The big news from the history education program involved changes in personnel. After over 30 years teaching at both Dwight High School and Illinois State University, Frederick Drake announced his retirement effective this June. Richard Hughes began the unenviable task of filling Professor Drake's shoes in February. Fortunately, the program added a new faculty member in Andrew Hartman in August. Professor Hartman taught high school in Denver before completing his Ph.D. in history from George Washington University. His background lies in the history of American education and he is finishing his book entitled *Education and the Cold War: The Battle for the American School* (2008).

In response to changes in state certification for teachers, the department formally merged the history education and social science education programs. This should ensure that all students benefit from the depth that comes from a full degree in history and the breadth that marks state certification in all the social sciences. In addition to coursework in methods and student teaching in almost 200 schools, the program continues to benefit from its valuable partnership with 15 professional development schools and the McLean County Museum of History. New partnership schools include Glenbard South High School, Stevenson High School, Peoria Woodruff High School, and Thornton-Fractional South High School.

The past year also brought an urban education initiative as the program explores ways to better prepare students for teaching in urban schools. Professor Hughes has worked to revise aspects of both History 290 and 390 to eventually include readings, speakers, and clinical experiences in urban schools. He also spent a number of days during the summer in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago as part of a faculty team working on the initiative. The department, as a result, approved an optional curriculum track in urban education which provides coursework within the existing major that best prepares students for urban education.

In terms of publications and presentations, Professor Drake wrote a forthcoming chapter, "Swing of the Pendulum: From Social Studies Education to History Education at Illinois State," for the book *History Education 101* (2007). He is also revising his book *Engagement in Teaching History* for a second edition. Professor Drake continued his busy schedule with 11 presentations on history education for the National Council on History Education and was also invited by the U.S. Department of Education to speak to over 800 history educators in New Mexico and Ohio. Professor Hughes published an article entitled "Minstrel Music: The Sounds and Images of Race in Antebellum America" for *The History Teacher*.

# Let us know your history!

**Send your news to the newsletter.**

Name (maiden if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation year(s) and degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Your news \_\_\_\_\_

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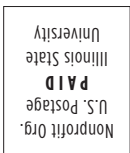
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