



# Today & Yesterday

Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 35 Summer 2011

## Former chairs reflect on the history of the department

By Amy Rudnick

As historians we are often so caught up in the study of other cultures that we overlook the history in our own backyard. This year we set out to recover our own past by interviewing eight of our former chairpersons. In a series of conversations, these chairs reminisced about their tenures at ISU, updated us on their current activities, and most importantly, provided us with a rich institutional history.

The History Department did not come into existence until 1965. Before then, History was a component of the Social Science Department, located in the Old Main building. Illinois State Normal University (ISNU), as it was called at the time, was still predominantly a teacher's college. **Roger Champagne**, who sadly passed in summer 2010 (see "In memoriam"), served as the first chair of the newly established History



Roger Champagne

Department. As chair, Champagne put all of his efforts into cultivating the department by hiring new faculty members and trying, unsuccessfully, to establish a Ph.D. program. At his retirement party in 1989, his colleagues joked that he had built a "Champagne" department on a beer budget.

**Earl Reitan** continued Champagne's good work when he ascended to chair in 1970, most significantly, by

beginning the assembly of a Doctor of Arts degree. This degree did not have the research component of a Ph.D. program and instead placed more emphasis on pedagogy. It appealed to community



Earl Reitan

college and small college teachers who were looking to get a doctorate degree to strengthen their teaching abilities. Reitan also reorganized the way advisement was handled in the History Department by creating a specific advisement office within the department instead of expecting faculty members to serve as advisors amongst their other duties—a practice continued to this day. In addition, Reitan expanded the diversity of the department. He hired the first scholar of African American history and the first historian to teach women's history.

Reitan, who still resides in Normal, retains many warm memories of his time at ISU; most significantly to him, he met his wife here in 1954, when he started as a new faculty member.

Under the tenure of **Mark Plummer**, who was chair from 1973–1975, the department grew at a fast pace, with many new hires, even as the department faced financial difficulties. (Plummer also took two later terms as chair in the late 1980s and mid–1990s). During tight times, Plummer joked that the currency of the department should have

been mimeograph paper, bartering off packages of it to swap for all sorts of things. He also became involved with the study abroad offices, a foreign component that he was able to enjoy by taking students to Taiwan, while also teaching at the National Taiwan University.



Mark Plummer

Plummer's interests in travel and teaching have continued in retirement. With his wife, he has visited all Seven Wonders of the World. And now, he spends much of his time teaching in his retirement community through a program called Lifelong Learning. Plummer splits his time between Illinois and Arizona.

**Gerlof Homan**, chair of the department in the late 1970s, also felt the financial pinch that Plummer experienced. As the University was transitioning from a teacher's college to a multipurpose institution, the History Department began facing a decline in enrollment. Homan set out to boost the numbers of history majors by, for instance, creating a course geared towards students who were curious about history as an occupation.



Gerlof Homan

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# Letter from the chair

The August arrival of our new specialist in U.S. colonial history, John Reda, coincided with the sad news about the death of Roger Champagne, the department's first colonial historian at its inception in 1965. Thus are we reminded that an institution such as ISU's History Department, despite turnover among faculty, staff, and students, lives on as an independent entity. More than an agglomeration of offices and courses, the department possesses an identity stemming from its mission to provide excellent education and is formed by the collective memories of those who spent their student days or professional lives here.

A snapshot of a busy spring semester provides a good sense of our activities. January opened with the annual History Education Seminar at the McLean County Museum of History. The semester ended on May 6 with a closing ceremony for graduating history and social science education students, a reception for all graduates and their families attended by 200 people, and the CAS commencement. In the interim, the department conducted a successful search for a historian of South Asia; cosponsored academic programs such as the International Studies seminar, Black History Month, and the Women's and Gender Studies Symposium; witnessed numerous students present their research at the WGS Symposium, Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference,

and the ISU/Eastern Illinois/Indiana State Graduate Symposium; hosted an awards ceremony honoring 19 students who received more than \$28,000 in scholarships; held its faculty research seminar as well as a joint ISU-Illinois Wesleyan research seminar; and celebrated scholarly achievements ranging from the publication of books to the opening of museum exhibits. The highlight of the semester came with the news that, of ISU's 15 Bone Scholars for 2011-2012, three—Brock Bodine, Chris Pendergast, and Danica Taylor—are history majors.

No snapshot of the department's spring activities would be complete without mention of the 71 sections offered to 2,690 students—a sign that the demand for history's diverse courses remains strong. Student evaluations confirm faculty excellence in the classroom, but the classroom continues to expand beyond Schroeder Hall, as last year saw students accompany instructors to the Newberry Library, on architectural tours of Chicago, and on trips abroad to Greece and Peru. Whether occurring inside or outside of Schroeder Hall, the strong relationships among faculty, students, and staff in a learning environment generate the collective memories that will continue to give the department its unique identity.

Anthony Crubaugh

## Comings and goings



John Reda

Assistant Professor **John Reda**, a specialist in early American history, is the newest addition to our faculty. Reda grew up in the Chicago area and earned his B.A., his M.A., and his Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois

at Chicago. Reda took a winding path to academia, having worked as concert and sports merchandiser for several years before going back to school to study history. His scholarly interests match his Midwestern

roots, as his research focuses on the history of the Mississippi and Ohio valleys in the colonial and early national periods. He is revising his dissertation, "Joining the Union: Land, Race and Sovereignty in the Illinois Country, 1763-1825," into a book. The manuscript explores the notion of sovereignty in the Illinois country and examines how the United States government succeeded in incorporating the area into the Union through negotiations with white European settlers. Of his new position, Reda says, "I'm happy to be a part of ISU's outstanding history

department and hope to spend many years working with a great bunch of scholars and teachers." He teaches courses on the American Revolution, Colonial America, and the Early National Period.

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# Alumni spotlight: Melizabeth Orozco Santos, M.S '08

By Linda Spencer

As an undergraduate at Millikin University in Decatur, **Melizabeth Orozco Santos**, M.S. '08, became very distraught when she learned she would have to be a history major in order to prepare to teach sociology. However, she fell in love with history because of the way it was taught at the college level.

Santos teaches World Studies, Latin American History, and Social Studies at Lake View High School in Chicago—a high school on the North Side of Chicago with 1,600 students, 60 percent of whom are Latino. Santos has been there for four years and, since she primarily teaches freshmen classes, this year she will watch the graduation of students whom she taught her first year at the school.

Her training as a historian, Santos believes, has had an enormous impact on her pedagogy. “I am a better teacher because of the analytical skills I learned as a student of history,” she states. She is most proud of her Latin American History class, an elective that she created two years ago. The curriculum allows the students, 99 percent of whom are Latino, to make real connections between history and their cultural heritage. Every Friday is “current events day,” when students are required to bring news articles about current events in Latin American countries or about Latinos in the United States for discussion.

Santos teaches her Social Studies class to English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) students, which creates obvious challenges. Representing a true global society, her class this past year was made up of 25 students speaking five languages: Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Ukrainian, Amharic, and Arabic. There needed to be a Mandarin Chinese translator in the classroom translating every sentence. All the same, Santos enjoys learning from her ESL students. She can now say “Hello, how are you?” in six languages and, for good humor, “You’re crazy!” in five.

There are other challenges that come with teaching in the Chicago Public School System, including not enough time to prepare her students for college, not enough textbooks to go around, working with students who come to her with only a sixth grade reading level, and a constant struggle for resources. Nevertheless, Santos finds the work very gratifying. The diversity of the community allows her to meet people from all over the world and discuss global issues firsthand, often with students who have lived it.

Originally from Aurora, Santos got her master’s degree from ISU by commuting from Peoria Manual High School where she was teaching. She then completed her degree by attending the classes offered by the department at Lincoln-Way High School. She appreciated the academic rigor of the program and still uses topics and methods she learned from ISU in her teaching. She cites Anthony Crubaugh, Touré Reed, and Patrice Olsen as having particular influences on her. Thanks to Crubaugh, she is better able to teach the French Revolution to her World Studies students. She uses Reed’s technique of asking students to generate discussion questions with her seniors. And she calls Olsen a “breath of fresh air” and the reason she developed her own class on Latin American history.

Santos, who married last summer, is not finished with her formal education. This fall she will be taking a graduate class in Latino Studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago in anticipation of pursuing a Ph.D.



Melizabeth Orozco

## Alum inducted into CAS Hall of Fame

By Amy Rudnick

**Alfred Runte**, M.A. '71, writer, public historian, and environmental consultant, was inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in April. Runte received his bachelor’s degree from Binghamton University in 1969 before coming to ISU to pur-

sue his master’s degree. Although he initially intended to study colonial history, he ended up writing his thesis on “The Scenic Preservation Movement in the United States, 1864–1916.” After earning his M.A., he went on to obtain his Ph.D. in history from

the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1976. He has since taught at five major institutions of higher education.

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**Michael Wille '08** completed his master of public policy degree from the Georgetown Public Policy Institute in May 2010. His thesis focused on school voucher programs and whether privately funded or publicly funded ones work better. While in Washington, D.C; he interned at the Heritage Foundation and worked as the University Tour Coordinator for a documentary called *The Lottery* (thelotteryfilm.com).

**R. Elliott Olson '08** teaches World History and AP Psychology at Rolling Meadows High School, his alma mater. In addition to teaching, he coaches girls volleyball and serves as School Spirit Club sponsor. His free time is spent with his girlfriend, Ashley, kayaking, country line dancing, and raising livestock. When asked about his ISU experience, he said that new teachers graduating from the ISU History Department are well prepared because they have taken coursework in both content and teaching methodology. "Our knowledge of history is always top notch and our ability to create and implement invigorating lessons puts us at the top of the profession," he writes.

**Beth Ann Caffery, M.A. '08** is the curator of collections at the Liberty Hall Historic Site in Frankfort, Kentucky. She is heavily involved with the research and docu-

mentation of the ongoing restoration of Liberty Hall, which was constructed in 1796. She has written several articles for the local newspaper, *The State-Journal*, about her research. Caffery married Joseph Carter on June 4, whom she met at a Liberty Hall Historic Site fundraiser.

**C. Lawrence Mroz '09** is working at Harvard High School, in Harvard, Illinois, where he teaches World History, Early American History, and World Geography. Mroz was also head junior varsity baseball coach in 2010. Mroz writes that there are six other teachers at Harvard from Illinois State University.

### Calling all alumni. . .

We really would love to hear from you. We are very interested in where you are, what you are doing, and what is going on in your life. Email us at [History@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:History@IllinoisState.edu) or [ljspenc@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:ljspenc@IllinoisState.edu), or contact us via the website, [History.IllinoisState.edu](http://History.IllinoisState.edu). You can also become a fan of the History Department on Facebook or send us mail at Illinois State University, Department of History, Campus Box 4420, Normal, IL 61790-4420. Please keep in touch.

## Miglio leaves large gift for the department

The History Department honors the memory of **Louis E. Miglio '49, M.S. '51**, who died in Decatur on December 15, 2010. During his time at ISU, he gained a fondness for the University that he would carry throughout his life. Miglio previously endowed a generous history scholarship fund, but prior to his death and in his will he gave an additional \$175,000 to the department.

Miglio considered his gift a repayment for the excellent education he received at ISU. "Loving history like I did, my time at ISU was the happiest time of my life," he stated in

an interview before his death. "My greatest joy is to send people to ISU." In another interview, he added that, as a beneficiary of the GI Bill, "I was lucky that the government helped [me] to go to school, and I figured, now that I was able, I should help people with tuition."

Born in 1922 in Marseilles, Illinois, Miglio came from a family affected by the Depression but that greatly prized education. The Miglio children were known not only for their good grades and love of reading but also their grooming and attire in the classroom, a sign that school was an institution to be respected.

Miglio enlisted in the Navy during World War II and became a Pharmacist Second Class who served on a hospital ship plying the dangerous waters of the English Channel. Miglio attended ISU after the war, having decided to pursue teaching because, as he expressed in a 1946 essay, "This recent war has proved the failure of education in some respects. It is only through education that we can mold the future generation and kindle in it a desire for peace... Children represent the 'raw stuff' that becomes our future citizens."



Miglio with awards winners, Brock Bodine and Christopher Pendergas

Upon receipt of his degrees Miglio embarked upon a long career as a successful teacher beloved by students. His career began in Pekin in 1952, shifted to Decatur High School in 1962, and ended with his retirement from Mound Middle School in 1982. In 1957–1958 Miglio was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Exchange Scholarship to teach in England. When asked the secret of his success as an instructor, Miglio cited his love of reading and the fact that he was a lifelong learner.

The Miglio History Scholarship is intended to attract outstanding high school freshmen into the

history/social sciences education program. The scholarship has been achieving its mission, as two recipients, Chris Pendergast and Brock Bodine, were awarded Bone Scholarships, ISU's highest undergraduate honor. Miglio was very devoted to the recipients of his scholarships and enjoyed staying in contact with them.

Of his visits with Miglio, Chairperson Anthony Crubaugh writes: "Lou Miglio was fascinating company as a product of the history he lived through, especially the Depression and World War II. He was also passionate about ISU and teaching. Though I am saddened by his death, Miglio's legacy will live on through his stunning generosity to the History Department and its future students."

Miglio was preceded in death by his parents, sisters, and brother. He is survived by his first cousin, nephew, and great niece.

Former professor and department chairperson, **Roger J. Champagne**, passed away on August 7, 2010. A specialist in colonial American history, Champagne earned his graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, before moving to Normal to teach at ISU in 1960. He played an enormous role in the History Department's development, serving as its first chairperson from 1965 to 1970. After his retirement from ISU in 1989, he spent much of his time woodworking, creating furniture for his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Theresa Zicarelli, his daughter, two sons and their wives, five grandchildren, and one sister.

**Donna R. Eichstaedt**, a former academic advisor for the department, passed away on January 2, 2011. Eichstaedt obtained her bachelor's degree, master's degree, and doctor of arts from Illinois State University. After leaving ISU, Eichstaedt worked at Lincoln College for 11 years, as an administrator and then as dean, before retiring to New Mexico. In retirement she lived on an 18-acre horse farm with her husband while teaching United States History at the University of Texas, El Paso. Eichstaedt is survived by her husband, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

**Sandra R. Kidwell**, who served for several years as a secretary in the history education program, passed away on April 2, 2011. Kidwell had worked at Illinois State University for 15 years, retiring in 2000. She worked in the History Department in the mid-1990s. Kidwell was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, and her husband. She is survived by her three children, six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.



Become a fan of the Department of History or join the group "ISU History Education" on Facebook. Learn about events happening in the department and in our partner schools or share your news and photos with current students and alumni.

# Faculty accomplishments

We congratulate **Andrew Hartman** for receiving early tenure and promotion to associate professor. This year, Hartman delivered conference papers related to his new project on the culture wars at the History of Education Society Annual Meeting in Cambridge, and at the United States Intellectual History Conference in New York. Hartman was the co-organizer for the latter conference. In addition, he presented a paper, by invitation, on recent battles over the history curricula in schools at a conference, *Morality, Public Policy, and Partisan Politics in Recent American History*, in Tempe, Arizona.

**Georgia Tsouvala** spent last summer and fall as the Sterling and Elizabeth Dow Fellow at the Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies at Ohio State University. In November, she was invited to Shanghai, China, to give the keynote address, “The Invisible Women of Ancient Greek Athletics,” at the Conference on Theory and Practice in the Study of Women’s History. In that same visit, she gave talks at the Shanghai Normal University and at Shaanxi Normal University in Xi’an. Last fall Tsouvala also delivered the keynote address for the 2,500th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Marathon, sponsored by the Federation of Hellenic Societies in New York, and was invited to speak on female athletics in first century Greece at the Graduate Center at CUNY in New York. In January, she presented a paper on “Women and Athletics in the Roman East,” at the American Society of Greek and Latin Epigraphy Conference in San Antonio.

**Katrin Paehler** published an article, “Breaking the Post-War Goose-Step: Three Films by Michael Verhoeven,” in *Shofar, An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* (summer 2010), and presented a paper on the German spy Hildegard Beetz at the German Studies Association Annual Meeting in Oakland, California.

Last October, **Christine Varga-Harris** presented a paper, by invitation, on socialism and daily life in the Krushchev era at a conference on the Soviet Union of the 1940s and 1950s at St. Petersburg State University in St. Petersburg, Russia.

That same month, **Anthony Crubaugh** presented a paper, “The Peasant at the Gates of Heaven: La Feuille villageoise, Religion, and the French Revolution, 1790–1792,” at the Western Society for French History conference in Lafayette, Louisiana.

**Amy Wood** won the 2010 Lillian Smith Book Award for her book, *Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in America, 1890–1940* (University of North Carolina, 2009). The award, sponsored by the Southern Regional Council, the University of Georgia Libraries, and the Georgia Center for the Book, honors the best books on the U.S. South that deal with issues of race and social justice. Last summer, Wood was invited to speak about lynching and cinema at an international conference on “Violence and Visibility” in Berlin. She was also an invited participant in a “State of the Field” session on mob violence at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting in Houston, in March.

**Richard Hughes** published two articles about historical pedagogy this past year. “Race, Music, and a Meaningful Approach to Teaching Historical Methods” appeared in *Teaching History: A Journal of Methods* (fall 2010), and “Teaching About Racial Segregation in Postwar America Using Black Like Me” was published in the journal *Social Education* (January/February 2011). Hughes also presented a paper on the contested use of the term “ghetto” during the Progressive Era at the United States Intellectual History Conference in New York.

**Agbenyega Adedze** curated three exhibitions this past year. Last summer, his exhibit, “The Beautiful Game: World Cup Soccer on Postage Stamps” was shown at the McLean County Arts Center to coincide with the World Cup Games. In addition, he curated two permanent exhibitions in Accra, Ghana, relating to African stamps: “Dr. Kwame Nkrumah: A Philatelic Exhibition” and “Icons of Independence or the Role of the Individual in History: A Philatelic Exhibition.” These exhibits were inaugurated at an international symposium on African independence held in Accra last September.

## Students revive history club

By Amy Rudnick

The past couple of years have witnessed the welcome revitalization of the History and Social Sciences Club. The club is a social and educational organization, run by students and open to all history and social science majors.

Students meet to discuss a wide range of historical topics and listen to presentations from professors, community leaders, and their peers. This year's activities included student-professor lunches and the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Walk, at which actors portray deceased local citizens. At one meeting, several history education students, who were undergoing their student teaching, held a discussion on what upcoming student teachers could expect from the experience. In another, representatives from the David Davis Mansion and



History Club members at Festival ISU 2010

the McLean County Museum of History spoke to students about intern and volunteer opportunities.

The History and Social Sciences Club would love to hear about your experiences as members of the club.

The club is always looking for new ideas and new members. Check the club out on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/ISUhistory](http://www.Facebook.com/ISUhistory) or email us at [isuhistoryss@gmail.com](mailto:isuhistoryss@gmail.com).

### Alum inducted into CAS Hall of Fame, from page 3

Runte's life work has focused on environmental conservation. He made his mark with his first book,

*National Parks: The American Experience* (1979). He

has since served as an advisor for and appeared in director Ken Burns' PBS series, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. Runte has also appeared on *Nightline*, *The Today Show*, *48 Hours*, and *The*

*History and Travel* channels. His latest book, *Allies of the Earth: Railroads and the Soul of Preservation* (Truman State University Press), reflects his interests in public transportation and environmentalism.

After 40 years, Runte returned to ISU for the induction ceremony and to deliver a public talk to students, faculty, and staff. His lecture, "The Last Frontier: Teaching History in an Age of Scarcity," addressed the significance of national parks to the identity of our country, especially in the face of population density and modernization. Runte strongly believes that "when we lose the ability to stand on a mountain-

top and look across a landscape [with nothing between] us and the horizon, we are no longer the United States of America."

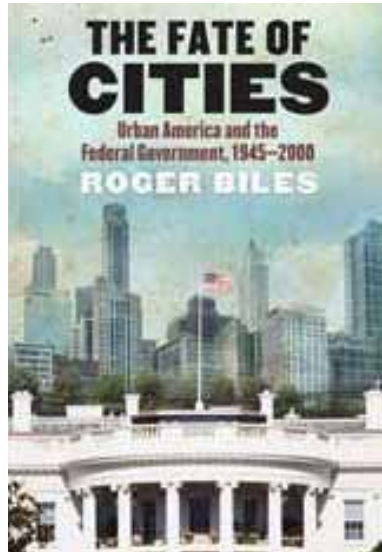
Runte expressed fond memories of his experience at ISU. "This campus is built for teaching. It's built to make sure the teacher and the student are foremost on the campus, and it shows from the minute you touch the campus to the minute you leave it... It's genuine. It's not put on or a façade just for the parents or for the press—it's real."



Al Runte

## Two faculty members published books this year

**Roger Biles**, one of the most prolific members of our faculty, has published eleven books. His latest, *The Fate of Cities: Urban America and the Federal Government, 1945–2000* (University Press of Kansas), deals with federal policy toward cities in the United States after the Second World War, chronicling policies crafted during 10 presidential administrations ranging from Truman to Clinton. Biles argues that Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society represented the high water mark of federal attention to urban problems. But, beginning with the Nixon presidency, Democratic as well as



Republican administrations opted for decentralization and devolution, allowing the decline of urban America to proceed at a rapid pace. The book pays particular attention to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), citing its ongoing inability to serve as a strong advocate for the cities within the federal government. Last March, Biles traveled to England, where he was invited to speak about the book at Cambridge University, Oxford University, and the University of London.

This summer saw the release of *Illusion of Ignorance: Constructing the*

*American Encounter with Mexico, 1877–1920* (University Press of America) by **Janice Lee Jayes**, an instructional assistant professor in the department. Her book examines the United States’ cultural encounter with Mexico at the turn of the 20th century as a model and a precursor for later U.S. encounters with the world. She discusses the logistics of conducting diplomacy, doing business, or traveling abroad to show how Americans experienced this age of international expansion. She also contrasts Mexican and American visions of their changing relationship. In the end, Mexico’s efforts to promote itself as a partner in progress with the U.S. was lost to an American illusion, one divided between fantasies of American leadership toward modernity and refuge from it. Jayes argues that American ignorance of other nations is not so much a barrier to better understanding of the world, but a strategy Americans have chosen to maintain their vision of the relationship of the U.S. with the world.

## Three Faculty Win University Awards

Academic advisor and assistant chair of the department, **Ron Gifford**, was honored at Founder’s Day Convocation with the Distinguished Service Award. This award is the highest nonfaculty award given by the University.

“Dr. Gifford’s assignment in the History Department as a teacher, lead advisor and assistant chair suggests his multiple talents and responsibilities,” said Department Chair Anthony Crubaugh. “This award for service is a fitting tribute not only to the amount of good work that Gifford does but also to the kind of person he is: deeply devoted to the students he counsels, the col-

leagues with whom he works, and the institution that he cares about.”

Director of the History Education Program, **Monica Noraian** was also recognized at the Founders Day Convocation with a University Service Initiative Award. In addition to all of the work she does coordinating the history education program, Noraian has served as a faculty advisor/sponsor for numerous student clubs and organizations, as well as the Urban Teacher Education Committee/Pipeline, Provost’s Distance Education Task Force, and the College of Arts and Sciences Council for Teacher Education. Noraian is also

cochair of the College of Education Diverse Learners Taskforce.

**Touré Reed** received the Outstanding Faculty Award, which is one of the Dean of Students’ Commitment to Diversity Awards. He was honored for his work as the mentor for the College Democrats and the Black Graduate Student Association. Reed also serves as chair of the President’s Task Force on Diversity and Tolerance, as well as the chair of the editorial board for ISU’s diversity newsletter, *Identity*.



# 2010-2011 Student Awards

## HELEN M. CAVANAGH AWARDS

Best Master's Degree Students  
Vanda Rajcan  
Dominic Garzonio

Best American Thesis  
Sarah Teeters

Best Global Thesis  
Stephen Bennett

## LUCY LUCILE TASHER SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Alexis Baldacci  
Kera Storrs  
Eric Vinsel  
Katie Wright

## GLEYNFAFA A. RAY AWARD

Jessica Glade  
Kate Gray  
Courtney Wilhelm

## MARK WYMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Felicia Farden  
John Giglio

## JAMES TODD WILBORN SCHOLARSHIP

Andrew Goveia

## DARREL A. SUTTER SCHOLARSHIP

Brockton Lange  
Brittany Sedberry

## KYLE C. SESSIONS HONORS SCHOLARSHIP

Katelyn Rogers

## WILLIAM AND JEANNE HOWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Ryan Hollister

## STEPHEN BOWMAN AWARD

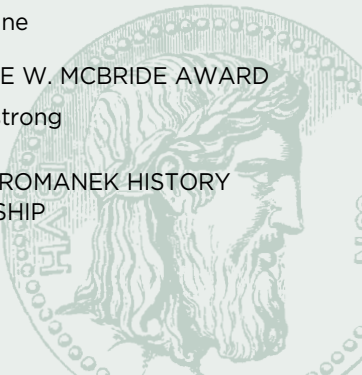
Brock Bodine

## LAWRENCE W. MCBRIDE AWARD

Katie Armstrong

## HOWARD ROMANEK HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP

Tricia Land



## Paehler servers on important historical commission

Books by historians rarely lead the daily news cycle, but such was the case in October 2010 with the publication of *The Foreign Office and the Past: German Diplomats in the Third Reich and the Federal Republic* (original title: *Das Amt und die Vergangenheit: Deutsche Diplomaten im Dritten Reich und in der Bundesrepublik*). It was coauthored by an Independent Commission of Historians, which then-German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer organized in 2005 to undergo an official scholarly reinvestigation of the history of Germany's Foreign Office.

The commission, which included ISU's Katrin Paehler, offered devastating findings that garnered international media attention: first, the German foreign ministry was actively involved in the crimes of the Nazi regime rather than a cradle of bureaucratic resistance to them; second, the 1951 re-establishment of the Foreign Office in the new Federal Republic of Germany included an upper diplomatic corps of whom 40 percent were former Nazis. Germany's present Foreign Minister, Guido Westerwelle, concluded that the study "impressively and shockingly" demonstrated the Foreign Office's administrative participation in Nazi tyranny.

The first printing of *Das Amt* sold out within a week. An English translation is in the works.

"It was a great honor to be asked to participate in this project," said Paehler, whose prior experience with

international endeavors included work on the "Nazi Gold/Forced Labor" projects in the late 1990s. She noted that "a contentious debate about some of the book's interpretations is gathering steam and additional research is being conducted." However, she professed to "like that development, as this is how progress is made in historical research."



Katrin Paehler with copy of book that captured media attention

"The use of archival research to expose institutional whitewashing and to force a nation to confront its past represents history at its best," Chairperson Anthony Crubaugh said. "Paehler's invitation to join this select Commission highlights her international credentials as a first-rate scholar of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust."

Homan says that his greatest joy at ISU was working with and relating to faculty members and students. “I think



Moody Simms

being an academician is a great profession and interacting with colleagues in an academic setting was a tremendous challenge, but wonderful and very exciting,” Homan said.

In 1980 **Moody Simms** stepped up to the plate and, like his predecessors, dealt with severe budget crunches. But despite these struggles, Simms, like the others, enjoyed working with other faculty members. “If I was able to work with somebody and help them... [I] felt like [I had] accomplished something,” he notes. Through his tenure, he worked to make the department run as smoothly as it possibly could. Simms resides with his wife in both Illinois and Arizona, which is allowing him to rediscover southwestern American History.

While serving as chairperson for three years in the mid 1980s, **William Haddad** faced the issue of whether the History Department should maintain a history education program or whether teaching methods classes should be left to the College of Education. Thankfully, we retained those classes in the department; our history education program remains one of the strongest in the



William Haddad

nation, in part because we integrate historical content with pedagogical method. After serving as chair, Haddad left ISU to pursue a position as vice president of graduate studies at California State University at Fullerton. He has been the chairperson of Fullerton’s History Department for the past 12 years.

In 1990 **Lee Beier** was hired from the University of Lancaster in England to serve as chair. He came into a divided department as an outsider—a situation

with which he admittedly struggled. He also faced harsh budget cuts. At this time, the University gave what they called “dry



Lee Beier

promotions,” in which a professor could get a promotion without a pay raise. These budget issues thankfully improved in Beier’s third year. His other major challenge was student-faculty ratios; there were too many students and too few faculty members—a problem that affected class sizes. His solution was to increase the number of students in 100-level classes so that professors could devote more attention to their upper-level classes. Beier also devoted a lot of energy to increasing the profile of the history education program.

Even though Beier came into his position during a time of tension, he has nothing but fond memories of the department and of his former colleagues. He especially enjoyed working with the younger faculty members. “It really kind of kept you young,” he jokes.

Taking over in 1994, **John Freed** led the department through a major stage of transformation. Arguably his most significant legacy is that he made the department more youthful. When he began his tenure, the History Department was the most senior department in the college; but through the 1990s and early 2000s, Freed oversaw the hiring of an entirely new generation of faculty.



John Freed

Freed has been the department’s longest-serving chair. He held the position for more than ten years, taking one break for sabbatical leave and another to serve as interim dean of the college for a year.

Since retiring in 2005, Freed has continued to teach medieval history for

the department, without pay. He says he just doesn’t know how to retire. He jokes that, if you had told him in 1969 that he would spend more than 40 years teaching at Illinois State University, he “would have thought you were mad!”

**Roger Biles** was hired in 2005 from East Carolina University, where he also served as chair. Without the budget issues that previous chairs had to contend with, Biles was able to hire new professors and promote existing ones. As chair, Biles says he most enjoyed helping faculty achieve their professional goals. He appreciates the culture of shared governance within the department and feels that professors strike a terrific balance between teaching and research. Biles stepped down as chair and joined the faculty as a professor in 2008. He continues to be one of the most productive and collegial members of the department.



Roger Biles

While serving as chair, each of these men taught at least one class a semester so that they could remain involved with other faculty members and stay grounded in their trade of education. Several former chairs have continued to teach, while others have taken time to research and publish in their retirements. Some have also followed their historical interests and traveled.

When it comes to an overall attitude of a former History Department chairperson, Homan said it well: “When you get to be my age and when you retire, you often think about your life, and you think ‘Did I choose the right profession?’ And I think I did. I thoroughly enjoy my profession—as a historian and also as an academician. I have been very happy in it, very comfortable in it, and I love history.”

## Annual symposium focuses on teaching history in a global society

A global society can refer to the interconnectedness of the world, the ease with which we communicate around that world, and how much we know about that world. It can also refer to the student make up of many classrooms in Illinois today. All of these definitions were addressed at this year's



Ron Gifford presents at a session on slavery and abolition in the Atlantic World at the symposium.

History-Social Sciences Education Symposium held in January at the McLean County Museum of History.

More than 150 teachers from across the state, as well as preservice history teachers from ISU, discussed a variety of topics ranging from "Teaching Globalization" to "Global Warfare" to "How Student Teaching

Can Help You Get Your First Job." Participants also had an opportunity to tour the museum and learn about resources available to them and their students. For the first time, area businesses had booths offering additional resources for teachers. According to Monica Noraian, director of the history-social sciences education program at ISU, one of the highlights of the event this year was the session on "Global Warfare," featuring a panel of veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War.

Gary Higham '02 first attended the symposium as a preservice student and returned this year as a teacher from LeRoy High School. As a student he says he felt "a great sense of excitement and anxiety" at the symposium. This year, however, he found listening to the lectures allowed for professional growth. He especially enjoyed Patrice Olsen's lecture on the Mexican government.

## History education program helps area museums with educational outreach

The history education program has begun working with the organization Museum on Main Street, which provides assistance and resources to small town and rural museums. The project, in partnership with the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibition Services, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and various humanities councils throughout the nation, brings Smithsonian exhibitions about our nation's heritage to local communities. Our part is to facilitate educational outreach to schools and teachers in communities that are hosting an exhibition. We offer workshops for teachers on content and pedagogy and provide information on how to use the exhibit as an educational tool in their classrooms. Since being asked by the Illinois Humanities Council several years ago to be part of this project, history education faculty Monica Noraian, Richard Hughes, Andrew Hartman and Fred Walk have held four workshops in Danville, Carmi, Carbondale, and Chillicothe.

## Lincoln exhibit opens at David Davis Mansion

A permanent exhibit on Abraham Lincoln's legal career has opened at the David Davis Mansion in Bloomington. Associate Professor **Stewart Winger** is the co-curator of the exhibit, along with local lawyer, Guy Fraker. The exhibit, titled "Prologue to Presidency: Abraham Lincoln on the Illinois Eighth Judicial Circuit," highlights the influence of Lincoln's law practice on his rise to the presidency.

Winger's contributions to the exhibit concern the role played by the courts in transforming Illinois

from a subsistence and limited market economy to a rapidly expanding market-oriented society. Changes in law ranged from such things as liability for damage done to animals in transit or common property disputes to the creation in law of the modern business corporation. Lincoln's sprawling practice on the Illinois Eighth Judicial Circuit provides a unique window to all of these developments.

This exhibit is the first of its kind to be created and will be housed in the Lincoln-era barn on the grounds of the

David Davis Mansion. David Davis was a personal friend of Lincoln's and was instrumental in helping Lincoln obtain the Republican nomination for president in 1861.

The exhibit opened on April 29. Winger and Fraker were assisted by exhibit designer Susan Hartzold, researcher Mark Johnson from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, as well as the David Davis Mansion staff.

