BERRY COLLEGE
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Alumni news continued

Joy (Deaton) Barresi (05) married last April and is scheduled to finish her master's degree in history this May at George Mason University in northern Virginia. She also changed jobs last June and is now a Development Associate at the Charles G. Koch Foundation in Arlington, Virginia.

Melanie M. Blanchard (05) is engaged to be married to Rodney A. Morris on August 7, 2010. She currently lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and works as an independent Collections Management Specialist for the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

Ted Goshorn (06) and his wife **Dana (07)** are expecting their first child this June. They now live in Macon, Georgia, and Ted works at Mercer University in Orientation. Ted last fall published an article in the National Orientation Directors Association quarterly journal.

Lisa Chastain (09) has taken a job at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum in Athens, Tennessee, where she is the new Curator of Collections and Exhibits. She is working on a variety of projects including recreating the museum's military exhibit, creating an archaeology camp, and organizing the National Heritage Quilt Show.

Whitney Crouch (09) is working as a staff writer at the *Times-Courier* in Ellijay, Georgia, where she covers education news as well as features about everything from the history of 400 year old trees in the county to handmade wooden kayaks. She also writes her own column in which she likes to incorporate a lot of historical stories. Previously Whitney worked in Port Tobacco, Maryland, as a National Park Service guide at the Thomas Stone National Historic Site, named after a little-known signer of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. There she gave tours of Thomas Stone's historic home, and for five months lived at George Washington's Birthplace National Monument in Virginia. She writes that it was quite an experience to literally walk in the footsteps of our founding fathers.

Dusty Dye (09) is currently pursuing a master's degree in the Public History Program at the University of West Georgia and this semester will receive the Albert S. Hanser Graduate Paper Award from the university. She also is working as an intern with Oakland Cemetery assisting with the production of an outdoor exhibit that will interpret the African-American section of the cemetery.

Robert Lang (09) is a graduate student in history at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming, where he has received the Larson-McGee grant from the university's history department. This coming May he will be presenting at the Second Military Oral History Conference hosted by the University of Victoria.

Laura Lieberman (09) is happy to report she's almost done with her first year of law school at George Mason University (GMU) in Arlington, Virginia. She is currently a research assistant for Dr. Thomas Hazlett, an economics professor at GMU Law, and also an intern with the newly founded Harlan Institute for Constitutional Studies, which aims to promote legal knowledge amongst high school and college students.

After accidentally taking a year "off," **Jesse A. Milby (09)** will be starting a Master's of Theological Study at Emory University in the Fall with a concentration in Ethics.

HISTORY in the making

Department of History newsletter
Spring 2010, Volume 4

A message from the chair

Greetings from the Berry College history department. As the new chair, I want to express the department's gratitude to **Larry Marvin**, who stepped down as chair this past summer after serving with distinction for three years so he could take a well-deserved sabbatical and begin a new research project. I am also pleased to report that for the fourth time in the last five years the history department has been among the top ten majors at the college in terms of number of majors. Unfortunately, our continued requests for a fifth faculty member who specializes in non-Western history remain unfulfilled and undoubtedly causes us to lose some majors to departments that can offer more regionally diverse courses. Despite this disadvantage, the department's continuing success at recruiting majors is due to the high quality of our faculty, the program's flexibility, and the increasing prominence and use of history in contemporary social and political debates. Indeed, it is difficult to think of a subject under discussion today, including health care, tax reform, and foreign policy, whose adherents fail to use historical precedent as a justification for their positions.

Of course, using history to support one's agenda is not a new phenomenon. Public figures have long relied on history to bolster their plans and actions. Martin Luther King, Jr., used historical references to call for an end to racial discrimination. Theodore Roosevelt used the past to justify increased regulation of big business. Alexander Hamilton's call for a government that could protect itself militarily relied on historical examples of how humankind had repeatedly succumbed to the "passions of war."

The difference in the use of historical analogies and rationalizations today is both the frequency that they are employed and the shallowness of their understanding of the past. The war in Afghanistan, for example, cannot be easily compared either to American experiences in Vietnam or 19th century British imperialism, yet that has not stopped commentators and policy makers from using the lessons learned from these prior events to criticize or defend present-day actions.

The misuse and lack of in-depth knowledge of history by so many should not be surprising. The study of history has been reduced in many elementary schools due to a growing focus on improving math and reading scores. Most high schools require only one year of United States history and one year of World history. There has been at Berry College even some discussion of how history should no longer be a general education requirement, but instead only an option from among a group of humanities electives. According to this line of thinking, historical content is not as important as critical thinking and textual analysis skills that can be obtained in a wide variety of subjects.

As men and women trained in the discipline of history, however, we know just how erroneous is this perception. Facts matter. One cannot make sound judgments or come to accurate conclusions about the important issues of the day without having evidence and knowledge of content upon which to use analytical skills. Rather than cutting back on history requirements, society should be demanding in this age of globalization and transnational exchange that more history, especially international history, be taught. By failing to do so, we doom the next generation to being unable to participate intelligently in future social and political debates.

Given this belief, the history department will continue to push for the addition of a non-Western historian to our faculty. Moreover, department members will persist in our efforts to provide the highest quality education to all our students, to pursue excellence in research and writing, and to serve the Berry College community.

My best wishes,

Christy Snider

Dr. Christy Snider
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of History

Don't forget to Write

Do you have news you would like include in next year's Department of History newsletter? Please contact Matthew Stanard at mstanard@berry.edu.

BERRY COLLEGE

Historians abroad

by Kelly Petronis

*History majors **Kelly Petronis** and **Amber Rickman** are spending the spring 2010 semester abroad in Glasgow, Scotland, through the Honors Program. Kelly logged the following report from Glasgow:*

Amber and I agree that the study abroad experience has been enriching, especially for a history major. We both arrived here to find the classes we wanted had filled up, but fortunately we still had our pick of the lot, and virtually whatever class we chose would have fit the history major requirements. But in Glasgow there is even more to learn outside the classroom. The city itself is particularly cosmopolitan, especially in the school district; it is amazing how many different languages one can hear spoken on the way to class. In fact the international program is one of the biggest clubs on campus, hosting lucky Americans such as myself as well as students from Norway, Italy, and the Netherlands, just to name a few of dozens of countries. This diversity adds a new perspective on everyday life, one that could never be emulated back in Georgia—even in the area of the state I am from, which is relatively diverse. It is certainly a different taste of life, one that is markedly "European." Of course, this is to be expected—Glasgow is in Europe, after all. But more importantly there are bits and pieces of Continental Europe and even the world strewn about the community, such as the Polish Deli around the corner, a tapas bar down the street, and Indian restaurants that dot the city.

Even more enriching than the diverse European cuisine has been the opportunity to actually visit different countries on the Continent. So far I've had the chance to visit Dublin, Brussels, and Norway, and I am preparing to leave for Spain, Italy, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia as I write. Amber is even going to have an opportunity to go to Egypt for a week. Although this is not to diminish the beautiful green countryside of Scotland, or the austere castles nestled within it, or even the gleaming city of Edinburgh.

All of my travels have given me a physical recognition of what I used to know only on paper. Never before had I truly known where the European Parliament was until I went to Brussels; nor did I ever before have the opportunity to stand in front of the Monument au Congo that my advisor had referenced in his work on Belgian imperialist propaganda. Nor had I really understood the great living conditions of Norwegians, arguably a result of their government system. Even in Glasgow, it truly adds a new meaning to history when I walk by the architecture that Adam Smith was once familiar with on my way to the library to research his theories of economics and of morality. Or during my class when I sit directly next to the acquired fireplace in front of which Sir Walter Scott wrote many of his novels. Or when I have the opportunity to search out the dozens of Pictish symbol stones I have learned about in class. Here, they measure history in hundreds of years, not decades.

History major Kelly Petronis, at left, visiting a colonial monument in Brussels, Belgium.

Faculty news

During the year Professor **Jonathan Atkins** published two book chapters and finished his work on the James A. Rawley Prize Selection Committee for the Southern Historical Association. Currently he is working on the fifth chapter of *The American Union*, a textbook he is writing for courses on the Early American Republic (1789-1848).

Associate Professor **Laurence Marvin** published "The White and Black Confraternities of Toulouse and the Albigensian Crusade" in the journal *Viator*. His book reviews appeared in *The Catholic Historical Review*, *The English Historical Review*, *Canadian Journal of History* and *Choice*. Fall 2009 he was on sabbatical, and in February 2010 he was promoted to Professor of History.

Associate Professor **Christy Snider** presented a paper on Sophonisba Breckinridge at the Peace History Society conference at Winthrop University in October 2009. Her book chapter, "Creating a Transnational Identity: The IFUW Confronts Racial and Religious Membership Restrictions in the 1930s," will appear later this year in the edited volume *Women and Transnational Activism in Historical Perspective*.

Assistant Professor **Matthew Stanard** presented papers and chaired panels at a number of conferences in 2009, including the French Colonial Historical Society annual conference in San Francisco, California, the Southern Historical Association meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, and the Culture and International History IV conference in Cologne, Germany.

Alumni news

Carol Guthrie (80) has been an attorney with the firm Joyce, Meredith, Flitcroft and Normand for the past ten years after graduating from the University of Tennessee School of Law in 2000. She completed her Ph.D. in History at the University of Tennessee in 1994, writing a dissertation on The Berry Schools. She has been married to **Don Windham (81)** for 28 years and together they have two sons, Ian, fifteen years old, and Alec, who is seven.

Mike Wilcox (92) is in Afghanistan finishing up a year of active duty with the Georgia National Guard. He tells us that he transferred from the Navy reserves to the Georgia National Guard at a point when he could have retired, just so that he could get over to Afghanistan.

Christie Hampton (93) is an editor of Asia-Pacific news for *The Associated Press*. She recently transferred to the AP's Asia headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, after working at AP's national news and supervisory desks in New York for 10 years.

Chaplain (Captain) Andrew (Drew) Arrington (98) received the Army Commendation Medal from the 8th Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas, prior to his permanent change of station to Mannheim, Germany. Drew, his wife Allison, and two daughters Anna Claire (3 years old) and Elizabeth Grace (1 year old) moved to Germany in September 2009. Currently serving as the chaplain for the 95th Military Police Battalion, the largest and most diverse MP battalion in the US Army, Drew is deployed in Afghanistan. His unit is responsible for mentoring the Afghan Uniform Police in the southeastern portion of the country.

Philip Herrington (99) is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Corcoran Department of History at the University of Virginia, where he studies American history with an emphasis on the plantation and its place in American society during the period 1830 to 1860.

Richard Allen Lester (00) is currently a claims representative with the Social Security Administration. He recently published his second book, *Clearview Stories*, which is an anthology of short stories based on the high school exploits of characters from his first book, *The Color of Secrets*.

Matthew Ryan (04) is currently pursuing his M.A. at Georgia State University in Atlanta with a focus on 19th Century U.S. and military history.

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Department of History news

Phi Alpha Theta inductions were held in Frost Chapel.

The Department of History and History majors have been active during the academic year 2009-2010. The Department started the year off with a cookout held at Oak Hill to welcome returning and new students. Berry College's Phi Alpha Theta chapter held fall inductions in October at Frost Chapel on the Mountain Campus, welcoming a number of new members to the group. Dr. **Christy Snider** hosted a "history night" to bring together history majors and history faculty in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

During the fall semester, history majors organized a mini-film series to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The series comprised three German films: *Der Tunnel (The Tunnel)*, the true story of a 1960s escape under the Berlin Wall; the comedy *Goodbye Lenin!*, about a socialist East Berliner who awakes from a coma after the fall of the Wall; and the somewhat darker *Das Leben der Anderen (The Lives of Others)*, which tells of Stasi spying in East Germany during the Cold War.

February and March were busy months. In February, Associate Professor of History **Laurence Marvin** was promoted to full Professor. In March, the Department of History along with the Departments of Government & International Studies and Economics hosted guest speaker Dr. Jason Vuic for a presentation and meetings with faculty and students on campus. An Assistant Professor of History at Bridgewater College and an expert on the former Yugoslavia, Vuic discussed his book *The Yugo: The Rise and Fall of the Worst Car in History*.

The month of March also was a busy one for Berry history majors and Phi Alpha Theta. Majors **Katelyn Boykin**, **Amanda Haskell**, and **Jennifer Peaslee** presented papers at the 2010 Phi Alpha Theta regional conference at Reinhardt College in Waleska, Georgia. Haskell's paper, "Anti-Semitism and the People's Crusade: Limitations and Alternatives," won an award as one of the best papers presented at the conference. Both Boykin's paper, titled "A Slice of Heaven and a Taste of Hell: The Influence of Royal Mistresses, 1500-1700," and Peaslee's paper on "The Salem Witchcraft Trials" were well-presented and well-received. In other Phi Alpha Theta news, **Katelyn Boykin**, **Kelsey McKernie**, **Kelly Petronis**, and **Amber Rickman** were elected President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively, of Berry's chapter of the national history honors society. Outgoing Phi Alpha Theta President **Amanda Haskell** received the prestigious Spivey Fellowship at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where she will begin her career as a graduate student in history this coming fall.

In fact, a number of history majors received various awards and fellowships during the 2009-2010 academic year. Senior **David Thomas** was the recipient of the Jennifer W. Dickey Award. This year's N. Gordon Carper Award, given to the senior history major with the best academic record in American History, was awarded to **Amanda Haskell**. The Noel and Todd Carper Award, which recognizes the junior history major with the best academic record in history, was awarded to **Amber Rickman**. Rising junior **Jessica Cantrell** and rising senior **Amber Rickman** won the competition for the 2010-2011 N. Gordon Carper Scholarships, and each will receive approximately $2,600 toward their tuition for the 2010-2011 academic year. The two scholarships are possible as a result of a generous endowment from Dr. **Gordon Carper**, Dana Professor of History who taught at Berry College from 1965 until his retirement in 2003.