

# HISTORY ★ in the making

Department of History newsletter  
Spring 2009, Volume 3

## A message from the chair

**G**reetings from the History Department at Berry College. This is the third newsletter produced under Dr. Matthew Stanard's able editorship, but the last for me as chair of the department. In academia the chair of an academic unit is elected by the members to serve their interests. I was grateful to have the experience but never saw myself as a permanent administrator, and the collegial principle of rotation meant that I could step down after three years happy to have done my duty but even happier to return to the faculty ranks fulltime. For the next three years the department will be led by our friend and colleague, Dr. Christy Snider.



The coming years will challenge both our department and the college. Recent events in the financial world mean that parents and students might rethink whether a private liberal arts education is the best return on their dollar. Students are encouraged more than ever to pick something "practical" so they will have a job after graduation. How shortsighted. History majors are well aware that the liberal arts are not practical, nor were they ever intended to be. But lacking immediate utility is what makes the liberal arts beautiful, timeless, and appropriate for the ages. In this department we preach "education" instead of "training" and I believe that all four history professors at Berry live that life every day. Learning the liberal arts may be a luxury, but understanding the past on its own terms is just as sweet as viewing a beautiful painting or listening to a symphony.

I was reminded of all these things because of my contacts with alumni this semester. In one week I spoke to a librarian, a state law enforcement officer, and a law student, all history graduates who I had as students. How gratifying it was to know that even with a history degree these young twenty somethings had left the Berry "bubble" for worthwhile employment or further education. None complained that their degree had left them unprepared for a job. On the contrary, they told me in one form or another that the supposedly impractical things they learned as liberal arts majors had proven remarkably helpful. Good, solid writing skills, the ability to read and analyze texts in a closely-focused way, and the joy of understanding history had enriched their lives and made them better citizens, workers, and human beings. These are not the first three who have told me this; I talk to a couple of alumni every semester who contact me out of the blue, to thank the department for the education they received.

I hope I have been an effective advocate for the history students, professors, alumni and the college. Look for me in the trenches in the next newsletter. I will be there, fighting the good fight.

Sincerely,

Larry Marvin  
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History

## ΦΑΘ

### Phi Alpha Theta Update

**P**hi Alpha Theta is a history honors society whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. During the fall 2008 and spring 2009 semesters, the Berry College chapter of Phi Alpha Theta participated in numerous college events and held events of its own. These included holding movie and discussion nights, sponsoring booths at both Mountain Day and Marthapalooza, and traveling to the High Museum in Atlanta to visit The First Emperor exhibit. Future plans include representing the country of Turkey in Relay for Life and holding an additional movie and discussion night open to the Berry College community. Phi Alpha Theta looks forward to inducting new members at the end of the semester and recognizing seniors who will be graduating. The Berry Phi Alpha Theta chapter has a promising future in the hands of Mandy Haskell, who will serve as president for the 2009-2010 school year.

### Also in this issue

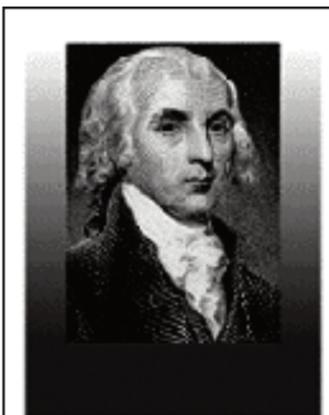
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# ★ 4 Fellowship

## James Madison Memorial Fellowship available for graduate school

by Christy Snider, associate professor

**I**f you teach high school history and are looking for a way to pay for your Master's degree, you should consider applying for a James Madison Memorial Fellowship. James Madison Fellowships provide funding to current and prospective high school history, government and social studies teachers who wish to pursue a Master of Arts (M.A.) in American history or political science, a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) concentrating on American Constitutional History or American government, or a Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in American history or American government. Congress established the fellowship program in 1986 to improve the quality of teaching about the United States Constitution in secondary schools. Every year, the Foundation selects at least one James Madison Fellow from each state. Madison Fellows receive a maximum of \$24,000 to cover tuition, books, required fees, and room and board at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States. Anyone interested in applying for a Madison Fellowship can find further information at <http://www.jamesmadison.com>.



JAMES MADISON  
MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP  
FOUNDATION

# Faculty news



**P**rofessor Jonathan Atkins continues work on his book project and is awaiting publication of two book chapters and seven reference work essays. He is also serving on the selection committee for the James A. Rawley Prize, given by the Southern Historical Association for the best recent book on the sectional crisis.

**Associate Professor Laurence Marvin** published book reviews in *The American Historical Review*, *Journal of Military History*, *History: Reviews of New Books*, and *Choice*. He also made scholarly presentations at two conferences in addition to an invited lecture at St. Louis University in March on "A War like No Other: Massacre in the South of France, 1209-1219." This fall he will be on sabbatical to edit a collected volume on

Louis VII of France and complete various reviews and articles.

During the fall of 2008, **Associate Professor Christy Snider** gave an invited lecture on the "Gilded Age" to elementary and high school history teachers in Savannah, Georgia, as part of the Teach American History grant program. She will become the chair of the history department in the fall of 2009.

The *Journal of Contemporary History* recently published **Assistant Professor Matthew Stanard's** essay "Interwar Pro-Empire Propaganda and European Colonial Culture: Toward a Comparative Research Agenda." He also has published, or has forthcoming, a number of book reviews on the H-French Colonial discussion network and the new online journal *Ex Plus Ultra*.

## Experience it Firsthand: A history alumna at work in public history

by Erika Gilbert (08)

**W**hile I studied at Berry College, I participated in the work study program as a docent at Oak Hill and the Martha Berry Museum. Before long my job came to mean more to me than a paycheck as it became a focus for my professional future. My duties at Oak Hill included using appropriate techniques to clean artifacts, working in the gift shop, and giving tours of the museum, house, gardens and college campus. It was in this environment that I became aware of

Public History as a profession.

As I began to make it known that I was interested in museum studies, Dr. Jennifer Dickey, at the time curator and director of Historic Berry, invested her efforts to help me cultivate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the place of Public History in our world. This relationship led to an academic internship through Oak Hill during which time another history student and I researched, rewrote, reworked and redesigned two displays in the museum that focused on two important men in Berry's history, G. Leland Green and Sam Henry Cook. This hands-on experience coupled with the reading and discussions in a Public History seminar convinced me that museum work was for me.

Since graduation, I have started a job at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta as a Visitor Services Representative. At the front desk and elsewhere I work closely with security and others to ensure the best experience for our patrons. For those who may not be aware, the High Museum is one of the most notable art museums in the Southeast and with our recent exhibit,



Oak Hill

### ★ "Historian" ranked near top of best occupations in U.S.

**T**he January 26, 2009, *Wall Street Journal* reported that the occupation of historian ranks seventh among almost 200 different professions in the United States, coming in ahead of accountant (10), market research analyst (44), attorney (82), senior corporate executive (88), agricultural scientist (102), veterinarian (123), and surgeon (156), among others. The study's methodology took account of not only work environment and income but also the future outlook for the profession as a whole, stress levels, workplace hazards, and physical demands of the job. Full results and methodology are available at <http://www.careercast.com/jobs>.

"The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army," we have been host to high volumes of visitors on a weekly basis. It is my job to get visitors in quickly, sell tickets, direct crowds and answer questions. This job is a wonderful steppingstone in my career as it offers future possibilities for growth within the High's organization and a way to develop further experience. However, my long-term goal is to go back to school to get my Masters degree in Public History or Museum Studies and become more involved in the creation of exhibits.

My advice to anyone who is looking for possible careers involving a history degree is to look into Public History. The field is viable, widespread and offers jobs in most any subject matter. Public History is a great way to utilize your research and writing skills that Berry helps you hone and also lets you use your creative, interpersonal, and speaking skills. Most of all, use this time at school to make contacts and use your resources. There are people at Berry College involved in Public History who can help you if you are interested in Museum Studies, Public History, and related fields.

# Alumni news



**G**ene McNease (65) writes that he has discovered a fantastic means of seeing and studying history through Rotary International's Fellowship of Tennis Players, which organizes and puts on sanctioned tournaments in historical settings such as Salerno, Italy, Barcelona, Spain, Vienna, Austria, Birmingham, England, and even at Wimbledon, home of the famous All England, British Lawn and Tennis Racket Club. McNease currently serves on the international board of directors as the representative from the United States and the Americas. He has won trophies—not to be confused with tournaments—in three different countries on two different continents and has visited several great historic sights including Pompeii, the Isle of Capri and the Amalfi Coast, and Rome and Naples, among others. He highly recommends the program for anyone who loves to travel, study and/or play tennis: "You see and experience these historical places while being hosted by great world class Rotarian friends. What more can you ask?" At the moment they have 658 members from 57 countries. You can find more information at [www.itfr.org](http://www.itfr.org), where you can login and find a list of frequently asked questions. He says that you should not hesitate to contact him or anyone on the list from the website if you need any information or help.

**John McBride (74)** runs Amber Grove, a special events venue specializing in weddings ([www.ambergrove.com](http://www.ambergrove.com)). It is a



25-acre site that was once part of a 350-acre dairy farm. Because of his background, he has taken an interest in compiling a history of the house and the land itself, the results of can be viewed on the website. He writes, "It has been very fulfilling interviewing wedding guests who have

some link with this place dating back to the 1930s. That has enabled me to compile a fairly complete picture of how Amber Grove came to be as it is today. It goes to show what I have said from the beginning of my academic journey: the study of history prepares one for few things directly, but practically everything indirectly. Who could have predicted that a 1974 history graduate would have become the wedding guy who applied historical research principles to enrich the experience of everyone who uses his services?"

**Dr. Laura Gilstrap Musselwhite (89)** recently chaired a panel titled "English Society and Literature" at the Renaissance Society of America national conference in Los Angeles, Calif. Laura also was nominated for a Regents Award in Teaching Excellence by Georgia Highlands College, where she is Professor of History.

**Britt Cottingham (91)** currently serves as Social Studies Department Chair at McEachern High School, where he teaches AP World History and also coaches Girls' Soccer.

**Doug Hyche (95)** was recently promoted to GeorgiaVIEW Program Director for the Office of Information and Instructional Technology of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. He manages both the day-to-day activities as well as the strategic direction of the statewide GeorgiaVIEW Vista implementation with more than 220,000 active users. It is one of the largest consortial implementations of an academic enterprise system (course management system/learning management system) in the world.

**Susan Asbury (97)** is curating an exhibit entitled, "Happy Birthday, Barbie! Fifty Years of America's Favorite Doll," opening at Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, N.Y., on June 27. She is an Associate Curator and Executive Assistant to the President at Strong National Museum of Play.

**Luther McDaniel (99)** is Principal of Whitehead Road Elementary School in

### ★ 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](mailto:mstanard@berry.edu).

Clarke County, Ga., and is enrolled in the Ed.S. program in Education Administration and Policy at the University of Georgia.

**Sherri Thomas (04)** is currently a second year law student at the University of Alabama law school.

In May, **Ted Goshorn (06)** will be graduating from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., with a Master of Education in Counseling and Higher Education Administration. He also recently accepted a job at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., responsible for Orientation and Academic Advising. In May, 2007, he married Dana Mire, a 2007 graduate of Berry College.

**Neil Boggan (06)** will receive his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology in May.

**Amy Potts (07)** is now living in Chattanooga, Tenn., and working at Wild Birds Unlimited.

### ★ Who's Who

A number of history majors were named to the 2008-2009 *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. Students must be nominated, or may self-nominate, and the award is based not only on academic achievement but also community service, leadership, and potential. Majors Haley Burke, Lisa Marie Chastain, Whitney L. Crouch, and Jeannene Parsons all made the list for 2008-2009.