



Historical
Administration
Program
Association

HAPpenings

A Historical Administration Program Association Publication

Winter 2006

From the President, by Lori Cox-Paul ('88)

This message will be kept short because this is a jam-packed edition. I want to remind everyone to put the weekend of March 31 through April 1 on their calendar now and plan to attend the annual Symposium. Details for the Symposium are below; it is shaping up to be an outstanding program. We really want to encourage those of you who are part of "anniversary" classes to make that extra effort to come back.

I also want to encourage everyone to pay his or her annual \$10 dues. This is such a nominal fee, but it does provide the funds necessary to print the newsletter. While the Board is exploring the creation of our own HAPA website, the newsletter is currently our primary method of keeping in touch and disseminating information to alums.

While the HAPA Board was not able to meet in person this fall, there have been a number of activities taking place in support of the HA Program. HAPA provided funds to purchase an upgrade of Past Perfect software which the students use, provided funds to defray costs associated with the fall trip, and purchased a subscription to the professional journal *Collections*.

This year's Historical Administration Program Association symposium will look back on the 30-year history of the HAPA, and towards the future of our profession. We ask for ideas for speakers for this year's conference. The sessions will cover issue pertinent to both small and large museums, and will encompass many different areas within the field. We'd like to do a roundtable with representatives from classes celebrating five year anniversaries (2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1976) to talk about how the changes in the field during their careers, the ways that the HAPA helped them in their careers (or whether they would suggest a different approach than during their time at EIU), and advice for the current class of HAP students. Please contact HAPA VP Jim Sturgill at jsturgill@mahoninghistory.org or 330.743.2589 (work) if you would like to speak, or can suggest a speaker for this year's event. We look forward to seeing you in Charleston on April 1st.

SAVE THE DATE!

Symposium 2006 is April 1st (no fooling!). Pamphlets for registration will go out soon, so keep an eye out for them to arrive in the mail. We are still looking for reminiscences from HA alums from 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, and 1996. If anyone from those anniversary years would like to submit a story about their time in the HA program or their experiences since graduation, please send them to Jim Sturgill at jsturgill@mahoninghistory.org. We look forward to seeing you at Symposium 2006...

EXTREME CAREER MAKEOVER

HAPA NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

After three years of editing and publishing the HAPA newsletter, I have decided to relinquish this responsibility. I will publish the next newsletter in May, but hope someone will be able to take over in time for the Fall issue. I hope everyone has been happy with the work I have done; it has been a pleasure. Contact Lori Cox-Paul hapaprez@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter. *Susan Shickley*

Letter FROM the Editor

by Susan (Schwerer) Shickley ('96)

Changes... This edition features many professional developments, both for recent HA graduates and some from the 1980s, as well as institutional changes at Old Sturbridge Village and The Henry Ford. The annual Symposium, "Extreme Career Makeover" carries the same theme.

Please send submissions for the Spring newsletter to me by April 23. While all alumni are receiving the Winter issue of HAppenings, only those with a paid membership to HAPA will receive the Spring issue, so please respond to the enclosed membership renewal form.

Get in touch with us!

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Wedding Bells

Heather Mell ('04) married Michael Rudy, who is currently working on his PhD at the University of Missouri at Columbia.

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New Positions

Chuck Backus ('00) tells us, "just a quick note to say "Hi!" I apologize for not getting work out sooner, but have been very busy getting set up here in Reedville (Virginia) as the new executive director of the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. Please drop me a line sometime!"

Contact Chuck:
Reedville Fishermen's Museum
PO Box 306
504 Main St.
Reedville, VA 22539
804.453.6529
www.rfmuseum.org

Stephanie Chontos ('99) has been hired as the Archivist for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and started her new position in January. She will start the Symphony's archival program. Stephanie says, "I'm very excited about the opportunity and look forward to what awaits me." Contact Stephanie at:

Cherie Cook ('85) left the Oklahoma Museums Association after eleven years to move closer to family in Wichita. During the spring and summer, I took time off to adopt my second daughter, Mari Claire, and to just goof off! I have recently accepted a position with AASLH as Project Director for both the Performance Management program and the Incremental Standards project (I'm telecommuting from Wichita). The Performance Management program helps museums measure and analyze visitor satisfaction and opinions using a scientific and tested survey questionnaire.

Information from the resulting report can:

- 1) serve as support data in grant applications and funding requests.
- 2) help staff set goals.
- 3) enhance strategic planning by providing much needed information on what visitors value and what they feel needs improvement.
- 4) provide valuable material for PR and media relations.
- 5) prevent a museum throwing money at issues that will not improve its position with visitors.

The second project I am directing, Incremental Standards, was recently funded for three years by IMLS. Incremental Standards will create a framework for small and mid-sized museums to improve their operations at their own pace and as their budgets allow. Committees made up of professionals from across the country will begin work in early 2006 to develop the standards, determine an affordable way for museums to access the standards and accompanying resource materials, and create a funding mechanism to sustain the project on a long term basis. In addition, by working with field service programs and state and regional museum associations, the project will develop a "train-the-trainer" component to strengthen the capacity of service providers as they work with their constituent museums to implement the standards. HAPA members who are interested in either program can contact me at 316.721.9956 or cook@aaslh.org.

Cherie Cook, Project Director
Performance Management Program
AASLH

Kendra Derrer ('05) finished her internship in November, and began a two-year term position in Chico, California in December. This position may become permanent. She will be the project manager for a newly acquired ranch house, and be involved in the development of a storage facility for the house's artifacts. **Merrilee Garner** ('05) recently accepted a position at the Galena- Jo Daviess County Historical Society and Museum as the assistant director. Her duties include improving educational programs, assisting with new exhibit design and implementation, and trying not to get lost in her own museum.

Patty Kennedy ('05) accepted a position at Garfield Farm in La Fox, IL. "For those of you who do not know where that is, it is near St. Charles and Geneva. Closest big city is Aurora. I will be the Assistant Site Manager in charge livestock care, daily interpretation, developing programming, volunteer coordinating, collections care, and event coordinating. Basically, everything. But I am happy because I think I can make a real difference there. Besides I get a free house! And I get to live on a farm! And I get to have a dog! It just gets better and better."

Heather (Mell) Rudy ('04) was recently hired as the Registrar for the Missouri Division of State Parks in Jefferson City, Missouri. "I am in charge of updating and maintaining the Division's PastPerfect database, along with training employees on using PastPerfect and everything else related to collections management. I am

really excited about the position and love that I get to travel to different sites all over the state."

Professional Updates

Jennie Bailey ('94) "I'm still the Executive Director of the Iowa Museum Association. This year, I am working with a fellow HAPA alum, Mary Turner of the Illinois Association of Museums and Brian Bray of the Association of Midwest Museums on a joint conference to be held in Davenport, Iowa, Sept. 26-29, 2006. I hope to have a special event for HAPA alumni at the conference.

I've recently accepted a teaching job at the University of Iowa as an Adjunct Instructor in their museum studies program. I'll be teaching exhibit design during the Spring 2006 semester."

Kathryn Vogt Dixon ('80) has for the past five years been principal of Avient Museum Services, an exhibit development and design firm in Atlanta, Georgia. She and her team have recently developed exhibits for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and Emory University's Robert W. Woodruff Library.

Dal Smilie tells us that "the Wall Street Journal ran a story on December 27 in Sec D, p. 8, about how tough non-urban museums are having it. Even mentions pretty substantial layoffs at Sturbridge. Dal adds "everybody is sure invited to Pickerington, Ohio for the "Motocross America" exhibit at the Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum. I'm on the board of that museum and am past Chair."

Publications

Marcia Anderson, a friend of the HA program and senior curator for the Minnesota Historical Society (www.mnhs.org), announces "we have a fairly new publication that might be of interest to your constituency, Caring for American Indian Objects: A Practical and Cultural Guide, edited by Shereilyn Ogden, the Society's head of conservation. We've received a number of positive outside reviews to date from Germany, James Nason in Seattle, and one forthcoming from a curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, England." To purchase the book, go to:

http://shop.mnhs.org/moreinfo.cfm?Product_ID=521

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Neil Dahlstrom writes, “my big news is the release of my second book, Lincoln's Wrath: Fierce Mobs, Brilliant Scoundrels and a President's Mission to Destroy the Press. There is a description of the book on my website (www.neildahlstrom.com), as well as reviews and images. The book was released the first week of December. A picture of the cover is shown to the right. The John Deere Story is now in its second printing as well.



Debra Reid, HA faculty, received a \$2,500 mini-grant from the Illinois Humanities Council to fund several events during the MOMCC conference that featured Tim Eriksen. Eriksen, a multi-talented folk musician who contributed to Academy-Award winning, *Cold Mountain* (2003), appeared in three free events, made possible through IHC support. He led a shape-note sing in the Harris Building, Lincoln Log Cabin and presented some highlights from his research into historic music, both as part of the MOMCC conference. He also performed to a packed house at the Early American Museum in Mahomet on Friday, Nov. 11, presenting a mix of love songs and war imagery included in shape-note music, ballads, and other folk music.

Other HA representatives attending the MOMCC conference included *Laura Daugherty* (current student and graduate Assistant to Reid and MOMCC), *Patty Kennedy* ('05); *Sarah Hagye* ('04), *Heather Mell* ('04), *Kate Herring* ('03), *Dan Schoeneberg* ('97), *Joe Woodard* ('93), and *Tom Vance* ('79).

MOMCC Conference Bursting with HA Enthusiasm

by Dr. Debra Reid

The Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council conference, hosted by Lincoln Log Cabin and headquartered at Eagle Creek Resort/Lake Shelbyville, Illinois, Nov. 10-12, was a smashing success. More than 150 people attended, including many HA alums. *Rob Martin* ('02), was elected MOMCC president, and will serve for two years in that position. *Pete Noll* ('02) continues as Editor in Chief of the Midwest Open Air Museums Magazine, and leads an editorial team that includes *Susan Nordmeyer-Gordy* ('93) and *Chris Gordy* ('97).

Merrilee Garner ('05) received MOMCC's Candace Tangorra Matelic Award, presented at the conference with a cash award, for the best paper submission to MOMCC. She won for her article "Community Collaboration: Schools, Museums, Historical Societies and You," written originally for HIS 5030: Archival Methods, taught by Debra A. Reid, Fall 2005, and published in the Midwest Open Air Museums Magazine 26, no. 2 (Summer 2005): 8-16.

Changes Abound at The Henry Ford *by Stephanie Chontos, Member-at-Large,* *Membership*

(Stephanie was formerly research specialist in the Benson Ford Research Center, part of The Henry Ford)

Like most institutions around the country The Henry Ford is dealing with tough times and numerous changes. Not only dealing with an institutional name change, but also in the midst of leadership changes, as Steve Hamp has resigned as President, after twenty-seven years of dedication at The Henry Ford.

Steve accepted a position at Ford Motor Company as Vice President and Chief of Staff, reporting to Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Bill Ford, Jr. This was effective November 18, 2005.

Upon his announcement Steve said:

“I have been a part of The Henry Ford for more than twenty-seven years and have deeply enjoyed the privilege of serving as president for the past decade. I love this institution and this was a difficult decision for me. We have accomplished a great deal together and I will miss working with you every day. I look forward to staying active in the strategic development of the museum, although in a different capacity.”

During his twenty-seven years Steve went from museum intern to institutional president and it is said that he was the most creative museum leader. He was ambitious, visionary, approachable, charismatic, and absolutely innovative. Steve set new standards for leadership which some say paved the way for the museum's future, as the board announced that Patricia Mooradian was unanimously appointed the first female president of The Henry Ford.

Again, Steve commented that he had worked with Patricia nearly six years and "watched as her strategic vision has driven an enormous amount of our current transformation." Hamp was elected Vice Chair of the museum's Board of Trustees; Bill Ford, Jr. remains Chairman. Steve plans on staying active in The Henry Ford's strategic development through his new position.

Mooradian states she "is both honored and privileged to be named the next president...and humbled to be the first female president of this venerable institution." Patricia has a background in fine arts and strategic planning, primarily in the retail and tourism industries, before coming to The Henry Ford. She was hired as Vice President in charge of managing the program, product, and marketing side of the operations.

I believe that the museum was ready for such a change. However, so much is happening at once (from layoffs to holiday parties to exhibits openings and closings), you can truly see how these changes affect everyone at the institution on a daily basis. Following in Henry Ford's ideals though the institution will survive and start a new year ready to achieve higher standards.

(Editor's note: read about Stephanie's own changes in "New Positions," p. 2)

Virtual Visit...

by Susan Shickley

Some respondents to the HAPA survey suggested that individual museums be featured in HAPpenings.

I was intrigued by a brief article in *Ohio Magazine* about the Vent Haven Museum in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky (five miles south of Cincinnati). This is the only museum of its kind, dedicated to the art and artists of ventriloquism or "vent." It hosts an annual convention for ventriloquists. I requested a brochure from the museum's curator, and received it along with a postcard featuring a schoolhouse exhibit, "populated" by various vent figures.

The museum is open by appointment only from May through September. I was unable to visit before its closing last fall, so I made a virtual visit to its website. Retired businessman and amateur ventriloquist W.S. (William Shakespeare) Berger founded Vent Haven Museum, after his collection of ventriloquist figures and memorabilia outgrew his home. Berger also established a magazine for ventriloquists.

The Vent Haven collection contains more than 675 ventriloquist figures, photographs, playbills, and books. The website features images and audio clips not available on the regular tour. The video clips are 360-degree pans of the exhibits. Intact figures are seated on individual chairs.

Each is labeled with information about its maker, "user," and other interesting facts. Shelves hold figure heads that outlived their bodies; each head is also labeled with provenance information. Posters, and photographs of ventriloquists and their figures fill the walls behind the exhibits.

The website also offers a "figure of the month" poll, in which virtual visitors vote on their favorite figure from a choice of four, from the collections. An archive of past victors of the polls provides full color photographs of the figures, as well as their histories. Contact curator Lisa Sweasy to make arrangements to visit.

Vent Haven Museum Inc.
33 West Maple Ave.
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41011
859.341.0461
www.venthaven.com

A Retrospective on the Telegram

(Editor's note: My husband found this interesting and thought it might be a good addition. It is an article from a computer technology website that he visits often. While the site's focus is by no means a historical one, this article was written from the perspective of a computer industry writer commenting on the recent decision of Western Union to end its telegram service.)

"The Victorian Internet" by Ed Stroglio

In the United States, commercial telegraphing has Western Union **ending telegram service**. Your initial reaction is likely, "my, my, aren't we being exceedingly retro this morning, Ed?"

Not at all, but don't worry, this will not be a "Morse code is better than GMail" article. However, to really understand where we are and where we're going, sometimes you have to look back at where we've been.

People throughout the ages want the same kinds of things. People didn't start liking music with the iPod, or even the transistor radio. It is how they get them and how much it costs them that changes.

Before the telegraph, if you wanted to send or get a message, any message, to or from anybody, with one small exception**, somebody had to go from Point A to Point B.

***Yes, nitpickers, there was something called the "optical telegraph," but imagine a bunch of guys sitting on hills waving flags at each other. Expensive on land (only France had any real network), impossible across an ocean. The optical telegraph tells us how desperate people were, back then, to get information quickly.*

You all know what an *Internet* forum is. Well, imagine having to send somebody to where the forum is to get or send a message, **any** message, via Horse - or Sailnet. Bet that would cut down on forum traffic!

If you were really lucky and had lots of money, around the time the telegraph was invented, you could get a message from New York to Washington in a day or so, and one from London to New York in about two weeks, or to India in about two months. *All this using brand new, high tech, railroads and steamships, and that was a lot better than it had been just a decade before, when only Horse- and Sailnet were around.*

Of course, those times were all **one-way**. If you were so fussy as to expect a response, double the time, which could be terminally aggravating if your message were, "Help!! We're being attacked!!"

Now, all of a sudden, you have this new-fangled device that not only lets you communicate in mere minutes, but it doesn't even really matter how far away you are. **That's** disruptive technology. One author has called *the telegram*, "**The Victorian Internet**", and if anything, that understates the impact it had.

It would be like *space* aliens showing up tomorrow just to hook us up to the interstellar phone system.

Within 25 years of its invention, any place that was anyplace had a telegraph line. Yes, it was very expensive. Yes, it was clumsy to use. Yes, it required geek telegraph

operators to make it go. But it worked, and when speed mattered, it was the only way to go. Just ask the guys at Pony Express what happened to their business when the transcontinental telegraph was installed. By the 1860s, you even had the equivalent of fax machines.

If President Bush was told by the alien *phone* installation guys, "it costs a million dollars a message," do you think he'd say, "forget about it, it costs too much?" No, of course not. You just wouldn't have to worry about anybody spamming the aliens anytime soon.

However, other, slower means of communication didn't stop, didn't stop at all. Why? Because they were a lot **cheaper**. A Sears and Roebuck catalog would have been impossibly expensive to be sent by telegraph, but extremely doable using railroads, and if it took a week or two to get there, so what?

Again, to use the alien phone guys example, if President Bush asked, "don't you have anything cheaper?" and they said, "well, if you use the ancient Xiflaquo system, and just send dots and dashes in the Xiflaquo language, it will take two weeks to get there, but it will cost you a penny a word," guess what every scientist and maybe even you would be busy learning.

The telegraph did not hold a monopoly on instant communications very long. The telephone was invented roughly thirty years after the telegraph. There's no doubt the telephone is not just a different way of communicating, but a better one, unless you have a fetish for Morse Code.

Nonetheless, when it came to long-distance communications, the telephone didn't even gain the upper hand over the telegraph until well into the twentieth century. Why? Because by then, it was the telegraph that was **the cheaper way to go**. When phone rates got competitive, the telegraph took a nosedive, but not until then.

A few decades after the telephone came radio, and a few decades after that came television. Neither put the fixed wire telephone out of business, the CB craze of the '70s notwithstanding. It took almost a century after radio was invented to come up with the cell phone, and again, despite its unquestioned superiorities, fixed-line telephones held their position for a long term because, again, they were cheaper. Now that they're not a lot cheaper anymore, they're taking a nosedive.

Do you see history repeating itself?

What Does This Have To Do With Now?

As a technological jump, the telegraph was a much bigger one than the Internet. Samuel Morse and Charles Wheatstone would have had little difficulty comprehending the Internet, much less Alexander Graham Bell or Thomas Edison. Sending data packets over wires is conceptually little different than sending dots and dashes. They would have been a bit more in wonder about computers, but much less than you might think. After all, they were geeks, 19th century geeks, but still geeks.

No, what would have really stunned them about the Internet was not the technology, but its cost. The Internet has been around over thirty years, but has been a disruptive technology for just a little more than ten. It's disruptive not because it allows anybody to communicate with anyone else, you could pretty much do that almost 150 years ago. It is disruptive because it allows everyone to communicate with everyone else for almost nothing.

The Internet has another advantage, too. Not only is it cheap, it's flexible cheap. Data is data, video, voice, words, the Internet will take it all; it's an infoslut. If everybody can't be a radio or TV star because nature doesn't provide enough bandwidth, well, some extra fiber optic cables can take care of that.

However, strip away the technohype, and what remains is merely a hyped-up telegraph. What about wireless? OK, a hyped-up radio. We're still talking about technology a century old.

And if you think the technological concepts are old, consider the motives for using/not using them. When did people start wanting to talk to each other? When did people start being rich or poor, when did they start having money?

People have always had a bad habit of thinking the world begins and ends with them, and that they invented everything that matters. Like sex, to cite the most absurd example.

If you realize that almost all "new technologies" are just new variations or improvements on old technological concepts meant to meet ancient needs and desires, you'll have a proper perspective on the matter.

So don't scoff at the telegraph. It really was something new and different, and it started a big bandwagon that led to *how* you're reading this today. (*this was originally posted on the Internet and the author assumed that context*).

Maurer's Musings

by Professor Emeritus David J. Maurer

We were delighted to receive so many Christmas cards and newsy letters (many with photos) from HA alumni. I feel happy and old when I see your children growing so rapidly. I am sure that they have come to know and enjoy museums and historic sites around the US and Canada.

Most of the news is good news. **Suzy Gerula** ('96) married Scott McKerlie, and **Julie Onnega's** ('88) married name is Geronimo. **Patricia Kennedy** ('03) has been selected as assistant site manager at Garfield Farm in LaFox, Illinois. **Cherie Cook** ('85) is AASLH's coordinator of the Performance Management Program, and she has adopted Si Na (now Mari Claire). **Charles Backus** ('00) has been named executive director of the Reedville Fisherman's Museum in Reedville, Virginia. **Mary Maronde** ('91) missed Minnesota's cold, so she vacationed in Iceland last September. **Joy Matthiessen** ('88) has completed sixteen years as executive director of Des Plaines Historical Society. Those of you familiar with the operation in 1989 are astounded by the transformation.

John Weck ('04) has produced a technical insert for the Illinois Heritage Association, "Disaster Planning and Survival in Illinois" Newsletter, vol. 23, no. 6, Nov.-Dec. 2005. **Bob Mullen's** ('87) book [Recasting a Craft](#), has been published by SIU Press. It is about changes in the printing, type founding, typography, and advertising industries at the end of the nineteenth century. About thirty alumni contributed to the EIU History Department Telefund. Because of your generosity, the Historical Administration Scholarship Fund continues to grow and provide needed financial aid to HA students.

The sad news is that **Karen J. (Luker) Caldwell** ('84) passed away in July. She will be missed by her family, classmates, and the faculty who always enjoyed her enthusiasm and good humor.

On a positive note, please remember to send me information on professional and personal changes. I am available by snail mail at 9187 NCR 1420E, Charleston, IL 61920 or by phone at 217.345.6755.

2006 Conference Calendar

HAPA Symposium March 31-April 1.....	Charleston, IL
NCPH (National Council on Public History) April 19-22..... (joint conference with Organization of American Historians)	Washington, DC
AAM (American Association of Museums) April 27-May 1.....	Boston, MA
ALHFAM (Association of Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums) June 4-8.....	Baton Rouge, LA
MPMA (Mountain-Plains Museums Association) September 18-22.....	Taos, NM
AASLH (American Association for State and Local History) Sept 13-16.....	Phoenix, AZ
AMM (Association of Midwest Museums) September 26-29.....	Quad Cities, IL/IN
SEMC (Southeastern Museums Conference) October 17-21.....	Chattanooga, TN

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