

Alumni News

Chris Bailey (MA 02) received Eastern's Distinguished MA Thesis Award and his thesis was entered into a Midwest-wide competition. Cornell University has admitted Chris as a Ph.D. candidate with a fellowship.

Don Beckett (BA 2001) teaches History and English for Wilmington High School in Illinois, and is a sponsor for the National Honor Society and coaches 7th grade boys basketball.

Andy Cougill (HA 02) was hired as Manager of Collections and Interpretation at the Grissom Air Museum, Peru, Indiana.

Scott Cross (HA 98) published an article on "History and Public Memory at Rock Island Barracks" in *Midwest Open-Air Museums Magazine*.

Calvin F. Heide (MA 80) works as Operations Officer of White Sands Resident Office, 902nd Military Intelligence Group, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

Genia Hesser (HA 02) published "Being Productive: An Analysis of an Amish Sewing Room and its Tools in the 21st Century," in *Midwest Open-Air Museums Magazine*, 22, no. 3. In April, she starts as site supervisor of Fort Buford in North Dakota.

Rob Martin (HA 02) continues to work at Conner Prairie outside Indianapolis and as Webmaster for Midwest Open-Air Museums Coordinating Council.

Sean Morris (HA 85) passed away in Gettysburg. Sean is sorely missed by his many friends and family in the Eastern community and around the country.

Peter M. Noll (HA 02), Program Coordinator for the Volkening Heritage Farm, Schaumburg, published an article on 19th-century agriculture, family economy, and community in an Illinois German settlement in *ALHFAM Bulletin* 32, no. 3.

Tom Reitz (MA 85) has hit the speaker's circuit in Canada on loan to the province of Ontario, speaking to museum groups across the province on governance issues in museums and not-for-profit organizations.

Duane Smith (HA 02) received one of nine ALHFAM Fellowships to attend the 2002 annual conference in Nova Scotia. He has landed a job as the executive director of Historic Latta Plantation.

Hans Rudolf Velten (MA 85, Ph.D. 94 at J.W. Goethe-Universität Frankfurt) is now at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institut für ältere deutsche Literatur, Germany.

Promotion?, Marriage?, Birth?, News of Interest? (BA?, HA?, MA?) We want to know. Email us. <histnews@www.eiu.edu>.



History at Eastern

Annual Newsletter of the History Department at Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL June 2003

Message from the Chair, 2003 Dr. Anita Shelton

In these times of fiscal uncertainty and stress in Illinois, I am tempted to write this year about the severe budget cuts with which we are struggling, the people they will hurt, and all the things they will prevent us from accomplishing. The cuts are real, the stress is real, and the damage to our endeavor to do the best job we can is also real. But I think I will resist that temptation and focus instead on some of the things that we are able to accomplish here in the History Department and give credit where it is due: to hard-working, committed and collegial faculty and students.

The student body in the History Department is numerous this year (we have about 250 undergraduate majors) and dynamic. Both History Club and Phi Alpha Theta (the national History honors society) have been very busy. Under the enthusiastic leadership of students Justin Collins, Rachel Dent, Stephanie Johnson, and Nicole Klingler, and supported by joint faculty advisors Lynnea Magnuson and Charles Titus, the History Club organized: a successful historical film series (showing, among others, *Black Hawk Down*, *Norma Rae*, *The Searchers*, and *The Crossing*), a book sale, and an open information session on Study Abroad. They maintained and changed monthly our departmental bulletin boards in Coleman Hall with interesting and informative displays. They published the occasional periodical, *History As It Happens*. They ran the "Mystery in History" contest. They sponsored a campus-wide lecture series on Terrorism. They also hosted numerous get-togethers throughout the year at which History majors and faculty could meet and mingle in a casual and friendly way. They have been a pleasure to work with, both in class and out of class.

The Epsilon Mu chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, which is advised by Michael Shirley, inducted 18 new members at its annual (and festive) Awards

Banquet, attended by faculty, students, and family members, at which no less than eleven students received special awards and scholarship money for their outstanding achievements (see articles). And, for the third year running, our student-edited journal *Historia* (2002) won the Phi Alpha Theta competition for best student history journal in the nation online and was co-winner in the print category. If you are reading this newsletter (edited by Jim Sturgill, Ryerson Rich, Eric Schroeder, and Eric Edquist), I hope you have also received the new (2003) issue of *Historia*, co-edited by Dave Bell, Herb Meeker, and Michael Pollock, which I confidently predict will keep our string of first place awards going into next year. (Check out the cool cover!) Let me also give credit here to Newton Key. More than any other individual in the History department, he is responsible for our "public face": as faculty advisor to both the *Historia* and *Newsletter* editorial staffs, and as the department's webmaster.

The short highlights of faculty activities from the past year reveal that our faculty has earned its reputation as a department with an impressive record of research and publication. I won't try to repeat the list here; I just would like to draw your attention to the fact that among the many publications our faculty produced, no less than four of them are text or source books for use in teaching. Roger Beck co-authored a world history textbook, Lynne Curry co-edited a four-volume sourcebook on constitutional history, Newton Key co-authored a textbook and co-edited a companion sourcebook for English history, and David Kammerling Smith co-edited a two-volume sourcebook on world history. What better evidence could there be that the nexus of research and teaching that many invoke as an ideal of dedicated scholar-teachers is thriving here at Eastern?

The people I mentioned above, and others like them, are what



keep this department strong and dynamic despite setbacks that befall us. I'm grateful to you all.

[Stop Press: As we go to print, the editors have learned that Dr. Shelton has been chosen Chair of the Year (see Faculty News). Congratulations!]

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