GREETINGS

It's my pleasure to introduce the inaugural issue of Taking Time, our new undergraduate newsletter, which we hope will keep our undergraduate majors and graduates in touch with departmental happenings. The History Department is well known for its excellent reputation in scholarship. It is one of the most productive departments in the country with one of the largest and best graduate programs. At the same time, however, the Department also teaches some 15,000 undergraduates each year, and its faculty is constantly seeking to enhance the quality of undergraduate instruction. The History Department already enjoys an excellent reputation for its teaching. Six members of the faculty have received distinguished teaching awards and are members of the university’s Academy of Teaching. Many more are nominated for honors and awards every year. Nevertheless, we are always making new efforts to improve. Two years ago we initiated Retrieving the American Past: Readings from Ohio State University’s Electronic Bookshelf. This pioneering venture in electronic publishing combines scholarly articles and historical documents in a reader that is customized to the instructional needs of the students who enroll in our survey courses in American history. We have also led in the development of multimedia teaching technologies for this and other courses. And last year we revamped our history major and forged a new and expanded honors program.

You can read about these and other developments in the pages that follow, and in subsequent issues of this newsletter. Our hope is to keep you posted on the many exciting instructional and intellectual ventures in our department and to introduce you to our excellent faculty, our eager students, and our many happy and successful graduates. You can help by letting us know what you would like us to report. We mean it when we say that we want to hear from you.

Michael J. Hogan
Chair

NEW HISTORY MAJOR

The History Department’s Undergraduate Studies Committee has fashioned significant revisions in the major. Students now will acquire historical knowledge of at least two cultures as well as knowledge spanning chronological periods before and after 1750. Such breadth in the 50 credit-hour major will be complemented by a 20-hour focus in a geographic or thematic area.

A new “gateway” course, taken soon after the GEC sequence, will introduce prospective majors to the secrets of the historian’s craft. The course, History 398, will be entitled “Introduction to Historical Thought”. Together with History 598, the required senior colloquium, History 398 will give students at least two small classroom experiences with recognized scholars. The faculty also will
encourage mastery of a foreign language in order to help students prepare for employment in an ever-broadening world arena, as well as to make them more competitive in postgraduate study programs.

The new major will be effective for students whose declaration of major takes effect Spring Quarter 1996 and thereafter. For additional information, contact the Undergraduate History Office, 110 Dulles Hall, 292-6793.

STAFF PROFILE -- MARIA MAZON AND THE UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY OFFICE

Many of you already have been to the Undergraduate History Office (UHO) in 110 Dulles Hall to take advantage of Maria Mazon's considerable knowledge of history programs at Ohio State. Maria is beginning her twelfth year in the History Department, having become coordinator of the UHO in 1987. Her many duties include advising students about the major and minor, compiling quarterly course description booklets, processing section changes, and evaluating transfer credit. She also enjoys planning history "Career Night" held in Spring Quarter, one of the most successful of such programs on campus.

Maria thinks the best part of her job is talking with students and giving them whatever help she can. "The Undergraduate History Office is here to help students," she says, "and I hope that they will use our services." Her current message for majors is: "If you haven't been in to see your adviser, do so; if you haven't been assigned an adviser, see me as soon as possible."

The UHO is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She recommends that students make an appointment, especially if the conference is for transfer credit, help in scheduling classes, or filing for graduation. If you are thinking about a history major and have not yet talked with Maria, do so. She will be happy to see you.

WE'RE ON THE WEB

The Department began a World Wide Web service this year, and it has expanded its gopher service. The Web pages, available at http://www.cohums ohio-state.edu/history/ inform several audiences about the Department. Current students can obtain up-to-date information about the faculty and their courses, while prospective students can learn about the advantages of studying at Ohio State as well as admission requirements and application procedures. The Web pages also inform members of the faculty and student body, as well as onlookers all over the world, about opportunities for obtaining information useful in research and teaching over the Internet. In addition, the Department provides some graphics and texts from faculty members' research projects as well as interesting material on the history of Columbus and the University.

The gopher, like the Web, offers students course syllabuses, questions from old examinations, as well as biographical information about the faculty. Accessible from the World Wide Web Home Pages, one can also point to the University's gopher, called "oasis" (oasis.acs.ohio-state.edu).

As you use the Web in your studies, please tell the department's "Webmaster," Professor Austin Kerr, of links you have discovered that are interesting for studying history. Prof. Kerr can be reached at Kerr.6@osu.edu.

HISTORY TELEPHONE:
292-2674

HISTORY OFFICE:
106 DULLES HALL
HISTORY OF AMERICAN LAW
NEW COURSE -- WINTER 1996!

Professor Les Benedict, a nationally recognized scholar in American legal and constitutional history and recipient of the University Distinguished Scholar Award, will offer a new five-credit course on the History of American Law in Winter Quarter 1996. The course is History 687, and will meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. in 251 Law Building. Because the course is new, you will not find it in your current Master Schedule. Non-majors as well as majors are welcome to enroll. For enrollment information and answers to questions about the course, contact Ms. Maria Mazon, 292-6793, 110 Dulles Hall.

THE CLIO AWARD

The Department of History celebrates the accomplishments of its teachers whose distinguished work in the classroom has won a variety of honors. The Clio Award for Distinguished Teaching in History is given each year to both a professor and a graduate teaching associate. It is an honor with special meaning for the Department because it sprang from the initiative of undergraduate students.

In 1993, Steve Tsuchiya and other students in Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, conceived the idea and raised the funds necessary to develop the award. They were motivated by the belief that history teachers deserve recognition from students and that an award bestowed by students might mean more both to recipients and to students. The inaugural Clio Award went to Assistant Professor Mark Grimsley and Graduate Associate Amy Staples in 1994.

The student founders named the award aptly, for Clio is the Muse (source of inspiration) of history. You may not realize it, but many of you have seen Clio, or at least Clio as depicted in the fine sculpture resting outside the History office in the lobby of Dulles Hall. The artist is Tom Tsuchiya who donated his time and talents. In Greek mythology there were nine Muses, the daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne (Memory). Each presided over a special field, such as astronomy, poetry, and dance. The Greek writer Hesiod tells us that one day the Muses appeared to him and said: "We know how to speak false things that seem true, but we know, when we will, to utter true things."

The History Department appreciates this recognition from its students, and it continues to seek ways to enhance the classroom experience. Future issues of Taking Time will speak more to faculty efforts in this area, which is central to the mission of the Department.

1995 CLIO AWARD WINNERS:
SANDY ZALE AND RANDY ROTH

1995 was an eventful year for Sandy Zale: he received the Clio Award for his work as a Graduate Associate; he completed requirements for the Ph.D. degree; and he began teaching at Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. Congratulations to Sandy!

The faculty recipient of this year's Clio was Randy Roth, who joined the History Department in 1985 after teaching for seven years at Grinnell, a distinguished liberal arts college in Iowa. He teaches history 151 and advanced courses in early 19th century American history. A former director of Undergraduate Studies in the department, Prof. Roth's scholarly interests range from The Democratic Dilemma, his book about religion, reform, and society in early Vermont, to the book he currently is working on, "Heroes of Our Own Histories: Democrats, Republicans, and the Writing of American History," a project that grew out of his teaching and that will examine the rhetoric and
politics of writing American history.

As much as Prof. Roth likes writing history, he likes to teach it, too, and he shares the following about his purpose in the classroom: “Our goal as history teachers is to help students gain confidence in their ability to think for themselves. That is why I decided a few years ago to spend less time telling stories about the past and more time discussing the strengths and weaknesses of historical interpretations. The approach works well at Ohio State in part because our students are diverse. They enjoy discussing conservative, liberal, and radical histories, whether they agree with them or not; and they are willing in time to see the merits of arguments they deplore politically and the faults of those they admire. That is one reason why Ohio State is a great place to teach. You can’t find a student body anywhere with more diverse experiences or points of view.”

**DID YOU KNOW?**

... that three scholarly journals are edited in the History Department: Diplomatic History, by Michael J. Hogan; The Russian Review, by Allan K. Wildman; and Essays in Economic & Business History, by William R. Childs.

**WOMEN’S HISTORY AT OHIO STATE**

How do historians begin to comprehend the whole of human experience? The answer, in part, is specialization. History departments comprise a variety of fields that specialize not only in geographical areas and chronological periods but in such topical areas as military, business, diplomatic, and labor history. Historians at Ohio State are nationally recognized in these and other fields. One of the Department’s strongest is women’s history, a field of historical specialization that has achieved major stature in the last twenty-five years.

No fewer than five Ohio State historians view the human experience largely through the lens of women’s history. Three of them, Stephanie Shaw, Claire Robertson, and Susan Hartmann have joint appointments with the Department of Women’s Studies. Prof. Shaw has combined her interest in women’s history and African-American history in a book on African American white-collar workers in America. Look for it soon. Prof. Robertson teaches courses in the history of the family and African history and has written the award winning Sharing the Same Bowl, a study of the social/economic opportunities of market women in Ghana. Birgitte Soland joined the History Department last year as an Assistant Professor. A native of Denmark, Prof. Soland has teaching interests in Scandinavian history and modern European women’s history. Currently she is engaged in research on Danish women in the early 20th century.

Susan Hartmann came to Ohio State in 1986 as Director of Women’s Studies. She began her career as a historian of the recent U.S. and wrote her first book on the Truman Administration. Subsequently, she published The Home Front and Beyond and From Margin to Mainstream, notable studies of American women in World War II and in the postwar period. This year the College of Humanities gave her its highest honor, the Exemplary Faculty Award, recognizing her achievements in teaching, scholarship, and service.
to the University community.

Ohio State's other senior scholar in women's history is Leila Rupp, who has taught at Ohio State since 1977 and has written *Mobilizing Women for War*, on propaganda efforts on German and American women in World War II, and *Survival in the Doldrums*, with sociologist Verta Taylor, on the women's movement in the U.S. Her interest in cross-cultural history currently finds expression in her study of transnational women's organizations. This year the Ohio Academy of History announced that Prof. Rupp “brings honor to the calling of history teacher” when it honored her with its Distinguished Teaching Award. In 1984 Ohio State named Prof. Rupp an Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award winner, and she is one of six in the Department admitted to the University’s Academy of Teaching.

Prof. Rupp thinks that history is inherently fascinating if taught well, but that it has considerable practical value also. She believes that people can make intelligent decisions about personal, social, and political issues only if they know something about how they have gotten to where they are now and how the process of change occurs. The best way to teach history is to open new ways of looking at the world by introducing new material, or old material from a fresh angle, or by raising questions that students may never have thought to ask.

Prof. Rupp’s goals in the classroom are to pose lots of questions and try to encourage students to ask lots more. “Often we don’t answer too many of them,” she says, “which I know can be frustrating at times, but I really want students to leave my classes with a fresh perspective on the past and on the world rather than a lot of information about a subject.” You can find Prof. Rupp’s approach to history in her courses on women’s history and the history of sexuality.

**RECENT RETIREES**

At last spring’s awards banquet, the History Department honored four colleagues from the Columbus campus who retired at the end of June—Professors Samuel Chu, Donald Cooper, Williamson Murray, and John Rule. All will remain active as historians. Sam Chu is President of the Ohio Academy of History and is editing two books on recent Chinese history; Don Cooper is teaching Latin American history at the Newark campus; Wick Murray is spending this year at the Marine Corps University in Quantico; and John Rule is teaching two classes at the Columbus campus and completing a book on Louis XIV. We wish them well in such active retirements.

**Seventy Years Ago . . .**

. . . in April, Margery Corbett Ashby, the British president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, visited Ohio State and left this entry in her diary:

“Columbus has 10,000 students from every kind of home. How are the ‘faculty’ to deal adequately with such numbers or keep up a scholarly standard? Then the fraternities & sororities are tending to become merely social expensive groups, endangering common work, absorbing money, time & energy, lowering moral tone. ‘Self government’ prevails in some universities i.e. at Vassar which I hope to visit. They have, it seems to me at first sight, self government in unimportant matters whereas when it comes to hard mental work, they are relieved as far as possible by the professors who arrange & digest & tabulate until the student just opens his mouth & swallows without effort. This may be over statement to be corrected later. Anyway one great evil is that professors are left with no time for research. I cannot find any one in favour of coeducation. The appalling numbers, growth of wealth, lack of discipline & cars make the dangers very great. All the authorities seem oppressed with the low morality.”
A STUDENT'S VIEW:
MR. STEVE TSUCHIYA

Steve Tsuchiya earned the B.A. with distinction in history in 1995. He was the recipient of The Humanities Alumni Society's first Outstanding Student Award, which recognizes exemplary scholarship, leadership, and service. Taking Time invited Steve to share his thoughts in this first issue.

There are several "components" that provided me with a first-class education at Ohio State: first and foremost, the faculty and staff of the history department; second, fellow history-majors and graduate-students; third, the Honors program; and, fourth, miscellaneous programs organized by the university and its students.

The professors of the department changed my views of history: prior to my second year, I perceived history simply as "what happened in the past"—I was only interested in the information. After I began taking upper-division courses in the second half of my sophomore year, I became aware of what history is really about. History 302, the Historian's Craft, was particularly helpful.

Many professors are willing to go out of their way to help students beyond the course-work; for instance, Dr. Mansel Blackford read an early draft of my thesis and annotated it with many useful comments. I worked with Dr. John Guilmarthus as a research assistant on his project on the history of the technology of seafaring. He helped me extensively as advisor for my Honors thesis. I know several fellow undergrads who have studied under Dr. Timothy Gregory in Greece; he allowed the students to work in archaeological sites in Greece—a practice not common among many universities. Professors Alan Beyerchen, James Bartholomew, Williamson Murray, Mark Grimsley, and others participated in Fireside Chats, a quarterly seminar sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta.

My education was supplemented by my contact with other history-majors and grad students, whom I met, in part, because of my lengthy involvement with Phi Alpha Theta, the history honorary. Many of us spent hours in local bars discussing, among other things, various topics in history. With Phi Alpha Theta, we went on "field trips" to the Ohio Historical Society, the Dayton Air Force Museum, the Warren G. Harding birthplace, and many other locales.

Researching and writing an honors thesis was by far the most helpful aspect of the Honors program. My research dealt with the history of the America's Cup. I had the opportunity to visit places such as San Diego and Marblehead, Massachusetts to acquire primary sources by interviewing participants and examining documents. By the way, if you undertake a thesis, listen to your advisor and start writing early—believe it or not, I am just finishing my overdue project. I highly recommend writing a thesis, because the best way to learn history is to write it.

In addition to regular course-work, I took advantage of the multitude of programs sponsored by the Department, the College of Humanities, and its students. Graduate students annually hold the Theatrum Militarum in Spring, a three-day
conference on military history; I really enjoyed these programs. The College of Humanities sponsors the *Humanities Round-Table*, a bi-weekly discussion group consisting of undergrads from the College. The College also hosts the *Inaugural Lectures* of new full professors. This past spring, Dr. Carole Fink’s talk included how she became involved in her field of diplomatic history. In addition, the History Department regularly invites many professors from other universities around the world to hold seminars and lectures. One of the most memorable seminars was Geoffrey Parker’s discussion on the Spanish Armada a few years ago. The staff of the Department annually puts together the “History Career Night,” a useful resource for all majors.

If one takes the initiative, your education in history at OSU will be a valuable experience.

**ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE:**

**MR. ARTHUR HERRMANN**

Arthur Herrmann graduated with a B.A. degree in history in 1947 and earned a J.D. degree from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1949. He has received many honors for his productive career in finance, banking, and community service, including awards from Ohio State.

I didn’t exactly stumble into being a history major. It wasn’t foremost in my mind when I entered The Ohio State University as a freshman in January 1944. What occupied my thoughts was trying to complete at least three quarters of college before I registered for the draft. Oh, I loved history, but in truth, I enrolled in the old College of Arts and Sciences because my family and high school advisor insisted that I would never regret the background in the humanities—and besides, they said, “you can always transfer later.”

Winter quarter 1944 was the low point in enrollment at the University. There were approximately 3,800 students and all departments had lost many of their younger instructors to the armed services. One result was that for all of 1944, our history teachers were, for the most part, the senior and most respected members of the faculty. These were pedagogues in the finest sense who had honed their skills over many years. They expected us to already know the “when” so we could concentrate on the “why.” Many of them could turn lectures into oral literature. Dr. Washburn, who chaired the History Department, could dramatize the vicissitudes of Magellan’s voyage so vividly you could hardly wait for the next episode. I’ve never lost that “to be continued” feeling. For the first time, the term “higher education” had real meaning for me as I began to understand the significance of the social and cultural environment in which historic events occurred. From that time on, I was a history major.

As the years went by after college and I gained some experience in the business world, I realized that anyone who studies history becomes a philosopher whether he wishes to or not. History is indeed the study of humanity. Every day, the recurrent themes of the past are present. The same motivations propel actions today as they did countless years ago. History is the story with everything anyone could want: treachery, loyalty, sin, virtue, hate, love, success and failure. I am convinced the study of history gave me the perspective to deal with what achievements came my way, and those disappointments that are inevitable. I think it must take a massive ego to ignore history.

In the Next Issue . . .

---the new honors program
---new faculty
---more on teaching
---the field of military history

... and much more.
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