FROM THE CHAIR

Once again, it is my pleasant responsibility to greet you as chair and to bring you up to date on activities within the History Department. I want to begin, however, by acknowledging my great debt to Professor Lloyd Benson, who magnificently filled my shoes while I was on sabbatical leave during the winter and spring terms of 2002. I fear that in assisting the department, Lloyd delayed completion of his upcoming work on the “caning” of Senator Charles Sumner. Indeed, all of us owe Lloyd much admiration and praise—as well as promises to purchase his book once it is published. All of us also owe a great debt to A.V. Huff, Jr., who will be retiring from Furman in June 2003. A.V. has served the university faithfully as a professor of history, as chair of the department, and as vice president for academic affairs and dean. We shall miss him. We also miss Bill Levette, who passed away in March.

Lloyd’s and A.V.‘s willingness to assist the History Department and Furman in all ways possible is representative of a spirit of giving to others that characterizes the entire department. Our classes continue to be filled to overflowing and extra sections of courses are needed to fill unexpected demands. At much personal and professional cost, my colleagues have stepped to the plate when needed, and have accepted overrides in classes as well as offering to teach additional sections. This fall, for instance, over half of the department are teaching overloads. While some of this extra work is due to upcoming sabbaticals, much of it is not. In short, we are working hard at this end. The administration has authorized a search for a new department member for the next academic year (South Asian history) and that should help lighten our load.

I should note that overall our students seem happy and excited and continue to do first-rate work. They are receiving acceptances at top tier graduate and law schools.

The department has a new addition this year. Erin Snyder Shelor (Furman ’92) is on a one-year appointment offering sections of western civilization and an upper level class on eighteenth-century England. Erin is completing her PhD. in British history at the University of Kentucky. Erin is currently housed in David Spear’s office while David is on the foreign study program this fall to England and France. The last I heard, he was embarking for the World War II battlefields of Normandy. Rob Hart (Furman ’95) taught with us during the

THE PASSING OF
WILLIAM E. LEVERETTE, JR.

On March 11, 2002, the Furman History Department community lost one of its finest members. Bill Leverette, professor of history emeritus, was a legendary teacher and highly respected colleague in our department for three decades. A native of Nashville and a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Bill Leverette inspired and guided a great many Furman students over the years. Several of those students for whom Bill’s
William Leverette continued...

mentorship meant so much, including John Block, Steve O’Neill, and David Shi, spoke movingly of Leverette at his March 15 memorial service at Daniel Chapel. Shi described him as “a man of ideas who offered his self to his students as well as his learning.” Bill Leverette. Shi recalled, “wanted me not just to learn about history but to be wise, decent, humane, generous and sincere.” As the memorial speakers noted, Leverette is greatly missed at Furman, but his influence and spirit live on here.

Barbara Weinstein Lectures on Cultural History

Over the last decade or so (perhaps since the publication of The New Cultural History in 1989) the historical profession has been enmeshed in an intense, but fruitful debate over the merits of postmodernist or culturally oriented theories. In hopes of bringing some of these debates to Furman, the History Department invited to campus for two days Professor Barbara Weinstein of the University of Maryland. A scholar of Latin American History with a specialization on Brazil, Weinstein was an ideal candidate to invoke discussion and incite reflection. She is a highly regarded historian and recently has received recognition for use of cultural theories. Although Weinstein is a strong advocate for a postmodern approach to history, she...

From the Chair continued...

winter and spring of 2002; Jim Smart came out of retirement to teach in the spring, and will do so again in January. Going on foreign study during the winter term of 2003 will be Ron Granieri (the Baltic) and Erik Ching (Africa). Steve O’Neill is on sabbatical until March; John Barrington and Diane Vecchio will begin sabbatical leaves in the winter to work on pioneering projects of their own. In the meantime, Tim Fehler is back full-time at Furman after spending a year in Emden, Germany, with his family. Tim was delighted to welcome the birth of a baby girl in late August. Also in baby news, John Barrington has a new son, born at the beginning of September. Jan Kiely’s daughter was born in late January. So after many years of almost no children in our ranks, we are blessed with adorable little ones to grace our department social gatherings. Occasionally, we also catch glimpses of the grandchildren of John Block (3), Bill Laverty (1), and Carolyn Sims (3). Carolyn, by the way, continues to be our departmental secretary. She sends each and every one of you her warmest regards.

Let me end by thanking you for your continuing support of the History Alumni Fund. It has funded departmental picnics and field trips, the purchase of books and videos, and helped support the visits of outside speakers. Our academic program is greatly enriched by your generosity. We hope that some day soon ALL of you will be able to visit Furman and the History Department. We are still in Furman Hall, but expect building renovations to commence within a year or so. We miss our graduates and always are eager to visit with you and to hear what you are doing. Please send us an e-mail—or better yet, stop by for a chat. You will be welcomed with enthusiasm.

—Marian Strobel

Faculty Notes

Lloyd Benson (Nineteenth-Century U.S.) continues to enjoy teaching his nineteenth century America course and the department’s new American Civil War Era class. Last October he presented a paper on “The Cannng of Sumner

Incident:
Paradox and Parallel in the Lives of Sumner, Butler, and Brooks” at the Edgefield Southern History Summit. His recent article “Faculty Collaboration in the Humanities: A Response”...

Lloyd Benson at mile 18, St. George’s Marathon, St. George, Utah, October 5, 2002

continue on next page
will appear in an edited collection entitled *Electronic Collaboration in the Humanities*, due out later this year. Last spring, he helped organize Furman University’s 175th Anniversary Symposium, a three-day event of speakers and panels focused on the theme of “Race, Religion, and the Liberal Arts.” At the symposium, he spoke on “The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Abolitionist Threat.” This summer he completed the manuscript for his *Casting of Senator Sumner* document reader, due out in January 2004. Lloyd also ran the St. George Marathon (his first) in Utah in October.

**John Block** (Nineteenth-Century Europe/Diplomatic) is teaching a new course, “European Diplomatic History from Napoleon to the Cold War,” that is receiving rave reviews from students.


**Timothy Fehler** (Early Modern Europe/Reformation) has returned from his year-long sabbatical spent examining the archives of Emden, Germany. In addition to participating in conferences on Martin Luther in Erfurt and Philip Melanchthon in Bretton, Germany, he completed five articles investigating various elements of poor relief, hospitals and health care provision in the sixteenth century. He also compiled sources to continue his work on crime in early modern Germany and to begin a new study on lotteries and games of chance in Calvinist Europe. Tim and his family made it back to Greenville just in time for the birth of a new daughter, Gabrielle, on August 23. He is enjoying life back in the classroom and is looking forward to getting back to coaching the club baseball team and the History Department’s intramural softball team.

**Ron Granieri** (Modern Europe/Germany) spent June and July in Tübingen, Germany, where he was a visiting professor in Tübingen University’s Seminar for Contemporary History. Ron taught a seminar in German on the Bonn Republic, 1949-1969, and worked on a book manuscript on postwar German history. He also completed work on another book, *The Ambivalent Alliance: Konrad Adenauer, the CDU/CSU, and the West, 1949-1966*, which will be published in late 2002 by Berghahn Books.

**Jan Kiely** (China) received his Ph.D. from the University of California-Berkeley last December. In early September 2002, he delivered a paper on Chinese prisons in the 1920s at the “Cultures of Confinement: The Prison in Asia and Africa Since 1500” conference held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The paper will be published in a forthcoming conference volume. Jan has also created a new course for the winter term, “Reinterpreting Twentieth Century China.”
selected readings that participants completed prior to Weinstein’s arrival. The participants chose to read some of Weinstein’s own work, particularly her recent writings in which she offers a highly self-reflective examination of her own engagement with cultural theory. In addition to being an accomplished lecturer, Weinstein was an enjoyable and inspiring discussion leader.

—Erik Ching

**History Department’s Annual Spring Outing**

If you only go downhill, does your walk still constitute a hike? This was the question faced by the participants of this year’s annual History Department spring outing. On a tepid day in late May, four members of the Department (Steve O’Neill, Jim Leavell, Erik Ching and John Barrington) kept alive a departmental tradition by embarking on an outing in the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains. Due to a variety of scheduling conflicts, the customary camping overnight was reduced to a day hike. As ideas for destinations were bantered about on e-mail in the weeks leading up to the day, the traditional desire to achieve greatness was fully in evidence.

Naturally, then, plans centered on the tallest mountain in South Carolina, Sassafras Mountain at 3,554 feet. But for reasons that still defy explanation, the decision was made to drive to the top of the mountain and hike down into Eastatoe Gorge via Rocky... continued on next page

**Faculty Notes continued . . .**

**Bill Lavery** (Russia) continued to serve as a member of the faculty of the South Carolina Governor’s School in Charleston this past summer, teaching a global issues section entitled “Roots of Rage: Ancient Conflicts in Contemporary Times.” As director of the Center for International Education, Bill planned and led the fourth annual International Summer Seminar for Furman’s faculty, which ventured to Ireland and Scotland (see below).

**Jim Leavell** (Japan) is the current chair of the ASIANetwork board of directors and has organized their spring conference to be held at Furman in April, 2003. ASIANetwork is a consortium of over 150 North American colleges, which seeks to strengthen the study of Asia in liberal arts colleges. The conference will bring professors from around the nation to Greenville and feature a keynote speech by Columbia University historian, Carol Gluck. Jim has also established Furman as the South Carolina workshop site and instructional center for the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia (NCTA), which will offer Asian Studies education to South Carolina middle school and high school teachers.

**David Spear** (Medieval Europe) is leading Furman’s study abroad program in Britain and France this fall.


**Book Reviews**


Having just taught two senior seminars focusing on the history of apocalypticism, I was happy to find that this book is now out in paperback. Albrecht Dürer’s dramatic engraving of the Four Horsemen of... continued on next page
the Apocalypse serves as the focal point of Andrew Cunningham and Ole Peter Grell’s investigation into the religious and social climate of early modern Europe. This book is not so much a history of apocalypticism as it is a nicely constructed overview of contemporary perceptions and experience of crisis in an age characterized by apocalyptic expectations and speculations, specifically the period 1490 to 1648.

The Four Horsemen from the Book of Revelation dominated contemporary Europeans’ world views, thereby leading them to interpret the religious, political, and social crises as indications of the imminence of the End Times, often seeing God’s warnings embedded in nature and current events. Each of the book’s core chapters, therefore, tackles contemporary concerns relating to one of the Four Horsemen, beginning with the conquering figure on the White Horse, which had come to be identified with the Second Coming of Christ. The religious conflicts helped to both generate and amplify the age’s apocalyptic fervor, convincing many of their role in the fast approaching eschatological drama. A thorough discussion of the Red Horse of War places special emphasis on the experience of war for both civilians and soldiers in a time of new weapons and military organization. Increase in warfare in an age of religious conflict meant that apocalyptic symbolism was often paramount, and the authors offer numerous examples of competing Protestant and Catholic apocalyptic interpretations of particular events. Under the rubrics of the Black and Pale Horses of Famine and Death, the authors investigate the impact of such factors as food, famine, climate, population shifts, agriculture, health, and disease on daily life and in molding the period’s seemingly pervasive attitudes.

The book’s main strengths lie in its broad coverage across religious confessions and geography, including a large number of Scandinavian sources which frequently are overlooked by Western European scholars. Although the book’s breadth makes it at times overly impressionistic, the extensive use of eyewitness accounts keeps it anchored in contemporary perceptions. To their credit, the authors usually avoid sensationalizing their own analysis with dramatic, apocalyptic language. They also recognize that more than one Horseman was often riding at any time, and they carefully show the interconnectedness of the chronic and acute crises in shaping the rising and falling apocalyptic fervor. The book is well-written, engaging, and accessible, and it is attractively illustrated with over 70 contemporary engravings, woodcuts, and paintings.

—Tim Fehler


In 1728, a village school teacher from a remote area in south-central China approached one of the great Chinese generals of the Manchu Qing...
very nearly encountered an arriving
David Spear amidst the innumerable security check-points at London's Heathrow Airport.

Most notably, Bill Lavery led the Furman faculty International Summer Seminar through Ireland and Scotland for two weeks. The theme was “the Celtic transformation,” with particular attention to the rise of the economic “Celtic tiger” in Dublin, political devolution in Edinburgh and the ongoing strife in Belfast. Bill reports that highlights included staying at the storied Trinity College in Dublin and Queen’s University in Belfast, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, briefings by professors, politicians and diplomats, poetry readings, plays and Celtic music. Erik Ching was a member of the seminar and (Bill informs us) was a vigorous participant in all activities as well as the leader of ad hoc nocturnal events. Erik sends word that two experiences stood out for him. First, he found the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, an annual drama festival for new plays by up-and-coming playwrights during which as many as six plays are performed a day for a month, truly remarkable. The second memorable experience was witnessing Belfast and learning about the conflicts in Northern Ireland.

Thanks to an excellent guide, Dominic Bryan, an anthropologist at Queens University, the group were able to see first-hand the localities of the conflicts and gain an appreciation for the spatial nature of the “troubles.” Moreover, thanks to Bryan, the group gained invaluable insight into the tremendous complexities of the conflict, learning how much more involved it is than simply a matter of religious sectarianism.

Book Reviews continued...

empire with a proposition: rebel against the despotic, alien ruler and the people will rise in support. The general saw matters differently. He reported the case to the Yongzheng Emperor and sparked an investigation that soon revealed that this teacher’s anti-Manchu sentiments were derived from the writings of a famed scholar who had died four decades before. In my modern Chinese history course, I have used this case as an interpretive exercise for students that have been studying the emperorship, Confucian ideology and the Qing conquest. “What do you think the emperor did about this and why?” I ask. The answer to the first question is factual: the emperor had the body of the anti-Manchu scholar disinterred and dismembered and most of his descendants exiled; he initiated a massive inquisition-cum-propaganda campaign to root out traitors and shore up his legitimacy; and he pardoned the village school teacher, a man named Zeng Jing. The vital postscript to the story is that immediately upon his father’s death and assuming the throne, the next emperor had Zeng Jing put to death. Explaining why these decisions were taken invites discussions about Confucian values, the rule of an ethnic minority and the evolving system of emperorship. In his latest work, Treason By the Book, Jonathan D. Spence has produced a brilliantly crafted account of this event and a highly sophisticated answer of his own to my questions.

Returning to the early Qing period about which he has written so evocatively, Spence launches into a gripping narrative. He closely follows the trail left in imperial documents from the throne room in Peking, to the courtrooms of provincial officials, into the secretive libraries of elite scholarly families and the dilapidated Hunan mountain temples and village school houses. The emperor is nervous. Since his rise to power amidst palace strife (during which he had several of his brothers killed), he has felt insecure about elite and popular acceptance of his legitimacy. But, of far greater concern to him are the intimations emerging from provincial reports that somebody has been writing that China should not be ruled by Manchu “barbarians.” On the trail of treason, the emperor encounters a mystifying, dispersed web of political rumors and half-truths and the subtle self-serving resistance of bureaucrats and elite constituencies. And he enters into a remarkable distant communication with the school teacher Zeng Jing. In time, Spence demonstrates, a case that begins as an effort to root out treason evolves into an attempt to project the imperial image and redefine the emperorship and imperial Confucian orthodoxy. In the marvelous Spencian literary style, there is much to stop and ponder in this book, and yet, as in the best historical detective stories, one is transported in time and along the trail of clues, this time with an eighteenth century Manchu emperor.

—Jan Kiely
Alumni News

Katie Benston '92 is manager for client relations at the software company Blackband in Charleston, SC. She is president of the Furman Young Alumni Council and gave birth to a son, Lewis Carpenter, on November 21, 2001.

Sidney R. Bland '59 is a professor of history at James Madison University. Sidney has contributed recently to the South Carolina Encyclopedia (forthcoming, University of South Carolina Press) and to a volume on southern women's history to be published by the University of Missouri Press.

Tomiko Brown '92 received her Ph.D. in history from Duke University. She also has a law degree from Yale and is currently employed at the law firm of Paul, Weiss and Reifkin in New York. She and her husband recently welcomed the arrival of their son.

Vernon Burton '69 is a professor of history at the University of Illinois.

Charles E. Davis III '86 is the director of development at the Brody School of Medicine at Eastern Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. He is the father of two girls, Virginia (2) and Marthanne(1).

Jim Cotey '94 is finishing law school at the University of Tennessee.

Tim Fox '88 and Jennifer Sucher Fox '88 live in Kennesaw, Georgia, with their eight-year-old twin daughters, Elizabeth and Morgan. Tim is in sales with Unisource Paper Co. and Jennifer has started a business selling jewelry.

Josh Gillespie '96 has been involved in county planning in Greenville, South Carolina.

Our Recent Stars: Graduates 2000-2002:

Craig Caldwell '02 received a Mellon Scholarship and is starting a Ph.D. program in Ancient History at Princeton University.

Felice Ferguson '02 received a Rotary Scholarship for research in Grahamstown, South Africa.

Mark Gomsak '00 has received his M.A. in history from the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

Lauren McCormick '02 is planning to begin nursing school.

Jesse Rice '01 taught at Culver Military Academy and is now pursuing a music career in Nashville.

Gus Suarez '00 is finishing law school at the University of Georgia.

Abbey Thompson '02 is starting a Ph.D. program in history at the University of Tennessee.
Tim Hicks '91 is teaching gifted students in Columbia, South Carolina.

Matthew Hobbs '99 is a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Vicki Bieksha Johnson '93 is an archivist at Wake Forest Medical School.

Jason Kellett '99 is in law school at the University of South Carolina.

Erin Mahan '92 received her Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia and is employed as a historian at the State Department.

Debbie Malac '77 is a foreign service officer.

Michael Malinovsky '89 is a general manager with the Marriot hotels.

Helen R. Marvin '38 taught history in North Carolina public schools and community colleges before being elected to the North Carolina Senate where she served for sixteen years. She was also a member of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina for eight years.

Russ Merritt '93 teaches history at the Hammond School, Columbia, South Carolina.

Chad O’Rear '92 is in sales with Astrazeneca Pharmaceuticals in Athens, Georgia, and is the father of three year-old twins, Abigail and Eliza.

Trey Palmer '92 teaches eighth-grade history in Atlanta.

Laura Putney '92 received her law degree from Harvard. She is currently pursuing an acting career in Los Angeles and has appeared on several episodes of J.A.G. She was married this past summer.

Nancy Rosenwald '76 is the director of the library and teaches at the Wilbraham & Monson Academy in Connecticut. Her daughter is now 17.

Deborah Carlton Loftis Schoenfeld '74 is associate professor of church music at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond.

Mark Souther '94 is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Tulane University.

Robert Steele '78 graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in 1981 and lived in New England and Florida before settling in Nashville where he is a partner at the law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman and Caldwell. He reports that his daughter is now 15 and loves history!

Emily Warren Voelkert '97 is the training coordinator at the software company Blackband. She is also pursuing a degree at Erskine Theological Seminary. She is married to Ryan Voelkert '97.

Randy Webber '82 received a Ph.D., has written two books on the origins of Christianity, and has worked in social services.

Jeffrey Willis '57 is Andrew Helms Distinguished Professor of History at Converse College. His books Spartanburg, South Carolina and A Pictorial History of Converse College were published recently.

Teresa Genobles '88 married Robert Wiegert on April 21, 2001. They live in Mauldin, South Carolina.