From the Chair

Greetings! A great deal has changed in the history department since I last wrote you a year ago. First and foremost is the fact that Furman Hall is currently undergoing renovation. The south half of the building has been gutted. Construction crews, bulldozers, diesel fumes, and dust are everyday challenges for us. The history department office (as well as those of modern foreign languages, English, classics, philosophy, and communications) is struggling as it camps out in the north portion of the structure. Due to construction, some history faculty members have temporarily been moved elsewhere, mainly to Johns Hall. We are still using our traditional classrooms on the second floor of Furman Hall, but several of us are teaching in other buildings as well. So the unity of the department has been broken. Next year promises to be even more exciting as the history department, as well as several others, will be forced to vacate Furman Hall completely. We do not yet know where the bulk of us will be going, so stay tuned. We do know, however, that the most of our classes will meet in portable classrooms that are located between Plyler, Hipp, and Riley Halls. We expect renovations on Furman Hall to be completed by the fall of 2005. The History Department will then return to our second floor haunts and be together at last. In the meantime, we are trying to keep our eyes on the prize in the midst of much confusion.

In other departmental matters, I have news of both losses and gains. As most you already know, AV Huff retired at the end of May. He served Furman for 35 years and was a valued history professor, an esteemed former chair of the department, and a much loved vice-president for academic affairs. All sorts of activities occurred in April and May to celebrate AV’s life and career. These included special lectures, luncheons, and dinners. Furman was delighted that many of AV’s former students were able to attend them and honor him. On another sad note, Ronald G. Granieri, who joined the department in the mid 1990’s as our German and twentieth century European historian, has left Furman for a challenging tenure-track position at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Welcome Savita Nair!

Editor's Note: I wanted to introduce you to our new hire, Savita Nair, so I sat down to a ninety-minute interview with her. My plan was to transcribe the notes of this interview, but for reasons relating to nothing other than the rarity with which I, as a historian, get to exercise any literary fascinations, I decided to turn it into a first-person narrative. Thus, any errors, or basically anything idiotic, is all me.

I was born in Jamshedpur, an industrial city in northern India. My parents are originally from Kerala, in southern India, but I never lived there as a child. My father worked as an electrical engineer and when I was still a young child he accepted a job with General Electric in the U.S. This possibility came about with the Immigration Act of 1965, allowing people from Asia with technical
expertise to immigrate. My father came in 1971, and my mother and I followed shortly thereafter. My sister, my only sibling, was born here in the U.S. She now lives in Manhattan and is a fourth grade teacher who just had her second child. In fifth grade we settled near Albany in upstate New York. Growing up as a person of Indian descent in this area was not particularly alienating, although I went through the usual gamut of ethnic generalizations, such as confusing Indians from India with North American Indians. Let’s just say I heard “Where’s your tepee?” more than once. My family traveled to India almost every summer while I was growing up. India was never weird or exotic to me; it was just home. For college I went to Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, back to a steel town much like where I was born. I had no intention of studying India or being a history major. In fact, I didn’t like most of my history courses. Carnegie Mellon had no history courses on India or South Asia, only world history. What I learned about India was limited to Gandhi and the caste system, but even then I knew there had to be more to the story. I was a quantitative geek, so I started out as an economics major. I was always the one in class asking what wasn’t being represented by the perfect supply-demand curves on the board. So, despite my initial aversion to history, I ended up double majoring in history and psychology. When I left school I went to work for a German publishing firm in Manhattan. I worked in the famous Flat Iron Building on the corner of 5th and Broadway. Although I found working in the publishing industry intellectually stifling, living in New York City provided a seemingly endless opportunity for cultural stimulation relating to India. One of the things that inspired me to return to school was reading the novels of Bharati Mukherjee. A woman of Indian descent, she presented India in a neo-Orientalist framework as the exotic other. I hated it. Someone once told me that if you can’t find the book you like, write it yourself. I eventually chose the University of Pennsylvania with the...
new territory's innocent settlers. The speech included brief but acidic comments about how Senators Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois and Andrew P. Butler of South Carolina had assisted in this crime. Many Southerners in Congress resented the speech and detected its author, but none was more outraged than Preston S. Brooks, a congressman from South Carolina and a kinsman of Senator Butler. Brooks vowed a thorough and humiliating revenge. He found his enemy at work in the Capital. There, on the floor of the Senate, Brooks beat Sumner to unconsciousness with a gentleman's walking cane. Never before had a senator been attacked like this, and certainly never by another member of Congress. The incident shocked the nation. Universal outrage, however, did not lead to universal agreement. This incident became a classic illustration of how partisan and sectional differences led to conflicting interpretations of the same historical moment."

No doubt about it, makes me want to read on. Congratulations Lloyd!

Faculty Doings Over the Past Year

BILL LAVERY

On the road again, or, at least in the air... Summers are always a busy time in the Center for International Education; although little time is logged in Greenville. I spent my customary month at The South Carolina Governor's School in Charleston teaching a global issues course entitled "Roots of Rage: Contemporary Conflicts in Historical Context." Furman was well represented at the Governor's School with Don Gordon and John Simpkins from political science also offering a global issues course. With clothes washed and repacked I left for three weeks in Italy with three other faculty members. The goal of our expedition was to ascertain whether a spring term study abroad option for sophomores and juniors is feasible. Braving heat and other tourists we explored Rome, Naples, Milan and Bergamo as future locations. Stand by for further news! Finally, in early September I helped settle fourteen Furman students in Edinburgh. We are now in our third year of a partnership with the University of Edinburgh wherein our students take two courses and hold an internship for credit. The internships are as varied as our students' interests; we have four with the new Scottish parliament or their parties; others with the Scottish National Trust, St. Giles Church, Mary King's Close, the Scottish Mining Museum and, oddly enough, The Scotch Whisky Heritage Center; one is with a stockbroker and two with emotionally or mentally challenged youth. The Edinburgh internship directors are uniformly impressed with the ability of our students to grasp the essentials of their new positions quickly and effectively. We can be proud of all of them.

DAVID SPEAR

I spent the entire 2002-03 academic year away from the Furman campus. In the fall term I led my first study group abroad. Accompanied by Jay Oney of the Theatre Department and Melinda Menzer of the English Department, along with forty-four students, we visited many important Roman and medieval sites in Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England. We spent the entire month of November in London where Jay Oney introduced us to the world of London theatre, and where Melinda Menzer and I lectured on "The Making of Medieval England." In addition, I led 19 of the students to Normandy for a three-week study-tour of "The World of William the Conqueror." Using many of the contacts I have made in Normandy over the years, we were able to trace William's life from his birth at Falaise, to the battlefield of Hastings, to his death at St. Gervais of Rouen.

The winter and spring terms I was on sabbatical leave and devoted most of my time to finishing my book on the personnel of the Norman cathedrals during the Ducal Period. I have identified about 2,000 clergymen who served the seven different cathe-
history and the author of the definitive study of the city and county. The Center for the Study of Piedmont History was the brainchild of A.V. Huff and Marian Strebel when it was established in 1999. Since then the Huff Center has sponsored the history department's internship program and placed majors at local historical sites and museums. The endowment honoring Huff will fund expanded programs for the Huff Center, including annual summer research opportunities in local history for majors and the underwriting of lectures by noted scholars in public history and other fields relating to the history of the Piedmont region. The quiet phase of the fund raising has produced healthy contributions by the few select former students. Their generosity was exceeded only by the praise they gave A.V. Huff as a teacher and mentor. An expanded effort at raising funds is underway. Please consider a contribution. To support the Huff Center contact Betsy Moseley ('76) in the Development Office, 294-3491.

In other news, the HCPH has received a sizable grant to write a history of the Reedy and Saluda Rivers over the next two years. The principal scholars involved in the project will be myself, as Director of Huff Center, adjunct professor Robert Hart, and local historian and reference librarian Steve Richardson. Eight to twelve history majors will also be involved as researchers and interns on the project. Huff Center interns have also made valuable contributions in other areas of local history over the past year. They continue to conduct research for the exhibits and programs of the History Museum of Upcountry South Carolina, which will be opening its doors in downtown Greenville soon. This fall two interns are researching and writing the history of early nineteenth-century cabins located at the Living History Farm at the Roper Mountain Science Center. Another intern is helping Birchwood Folklife Center produce a documentary film on history and life in the Eastatoe Valley in northern Pickens County. Over the past year, Huff Center interns have also

**Faculty Notes continued . . .**

drals of Normandy up until about the year 1200, and have tried to bring these canons to life, although as you can imagine, many of the people are almost totally obscure. The book will be published sometime in 2004 by the Institute of Historical Research of the University of London.

**ERIK CHING**

I drove from Greenville to Mexico and Central America during July and August—9,100 total miles. The main goal was to scout out a new study abroad program that I will be co-leading to the region (and Cuba) in Spring 2004. I also presented a paper at a conference in El Salvador. Although I had visited many of the cities before, I had never driven through the whole region like that, so it was a valuable learning experience for me. Beyond the innumerable rewarding academic encounters, my visit to the Mayan ruins in Copan, Honduras and snorkeling off the Bay Islands of Honduras stand out in my memory. The car ran fine, although I had to have my back brakes rebuilt in El Salvador. That cost $35. Never had any problems with authorities, although I did grow a bit weary of the numerous military and police checkpoints along the road. They were mostly checking documents in an effort to cut down on car theft, but in the case of Chiapas Mexico it was partly to guard against weapons going to the Zapatistas.

**DIANE VECCHIO**

I spent my 2003 winter and spring sabbatical working on a study of Italian emigration and transnationalism. I studied the village outward approach of migration, focusing on two communities in southern Italy, Santi Cosma & Damiano (my maternal grandfather's birthplace) and Castelforte (my father's birthplace) and the process by which immigrants build social fields that link together their country of origin and their country of settlement. I looked at the role of gender in migration; how social networks facilitate the migration process and how migrants sustained transnational ties between the United States and Italy. During my time in Italy I poured over ship manifests, suffered two weeks in New York examining birth certificates, state manuscript census and church records and was forced to eat homemade pasta and fresh buffalo mozzarella (made from the milk of buffalo cows in southern Italy) by my cousin who took pity on me and cooked for me everyday while I worked in the village archives during Italy's heat wave. My husband, John, and I then enjoyed a well-deserved vacation in a 12th century monastery (turned hotel) in the countryside of Umbria.

**JOHN BARRINGTON**

I traveled to Santiago, Chile in July 2003 to take part in a symposium on Nationalism in the New World, held under the auspices of the International Congress of Americanists. Participants presented papers analyzing the development of nationalism in countries or regions that ranged from Canada south to Chile and Argentina. I focused on British national identity in South Carolina before the Revolution. The symposium drew the conclusion that nationalism in all New World communities shared some distinctive features, especially the problem of constructing a national identity in the face of ethnically and racially diverse populations.
Alumni News

DAWSON BEATTIE ’90

SIDNEY BLAND ’59

JENNIFER BROWN ’93
...Lynes is an architectural historian with Richard Grubbs & Assoc., a cultural resources consulting firm in Cranbury, New Jersey. She is also an adjunct professor at the College of New Jersey, teaching a course on historic preservation. She is actively involved in the Trenton Historical Society and chair fundraising activities for the Preservation Committee.

DAVID DOTHARD ’99
...is currently attending law school at the University of Tennessee College of Law.

ROBERT G. DRESLIN, IV ’99
...has a new son, Brandon Dylan Dreslin, born on October 21st, 2002 in Clearwater, Florida.

CAROLINE GORDON ’95
...obtained a MA in China Studies from the University of Washington in 1999. She is now the State Department’s Foreign Service as a foreign service officer. She and her husband, Jonathan Perkins, left for a posting in Beijing, China in the summer of 2003.

JOY HEFFERNAN ’02
...is working toward an MA in History at the University of Illinois in Chicago with a concentration in gender and women’s studies. She also works at Sip Coffeehouse, “the perfect job for a grad student (free coffee!).” She is glad to be home in Chicago.

KENT SIMMONS ’83
...is teaching AP European history at Harrison High School in Kennesaw, Georgia.

Huff Center continued...
worked with the Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission, Mauldin High’s social studies program, the South Carolina Department of History and Archives Teaching American History Project, and Furman Library’s Special Collections Department. Finally, the Huff Center’s first sponsored lectureship was held on November 4, when Professor Kasey Grier of the University of South Carolina’s Public history program spoke on material culture. Grier also conducted a seminar for history majors interested in careers in public history.

— Stephen O’Neill
Director of the Huff Center

History Alumni Donors
Thanks so much to all of you!

Chris Atwell ’88
Mary B. ’54 Mullins
Benjamin A. Barnhill ’98
Dawson Beattie ’90
Marcus Bethea ’82
Sidney Bland ’59
Jennifer Brown ’93 Lynes
Craig Caldwell ’02
Deborah Carlton ’74 Lofitis
Susan E. Clayton
Robert E. Coggins ’84
Roy Cooper ’81
David Dothard ’99
Robert G. Dreslin, IV ’99
Marion Floyd ’43 Leach
Ronald E. Goodwin ’63
Caroline Gordon ’95
Brad Harmon ’97
Joy Heffernan ’02
Robbie L. Higdon ’94
Bobby D. Jackson ’61
G. Marcus Knight ’78
Leslie L. ’91 Smith
Deborah McClintock Cushing
E Scott Pfeiffer ’88
Martha Royal ’81 Shafer
Kent Simmons ’83
EDITOR'S NOTE: No, Carolyn is not retiring. As a way of acknowledging Carolyn's consistent presence in the department over the past three decades, I wanted to take the opportunity to recognize her service and give her a chance to send out a greeting to our alumni.

EC: What have you found to be the most rewarding aspect of your job over the years?

CS: All the kids that have come through here. They have all been so sweet and good. You just hate to see them leave when they graduate. It really has been fun.

EC: What are some of the changes you've seen in Furman over the 30 years?

CS: Well, we've seen shifts in the appearance of the students. Back when I started, the popular look was this sort of shaggy, hippy look. Now everyone tends to be super clean cut. As for the school, of course it has grown a lot. All the faculty used to be more localized into a couple buildings so we crossed paths a lot, but now the departments have gone into their separate areas in distinct buildings so we don't see one another nearly as often. We used to have more of a community feel to the campus. The feel of the departments are not quite as inviting as they used to be. They are like enclaves and the first thing a person encounters upon walking into them is a big wall with a secretary behind it and all the offices further beyond. It seems like we are getting more isolated from the hallways. Generally, I guess Furman feels like it has become a more formal place, and this is something that anyone who has been around here as long as I have recognizes. Our growth has obviously been wonderful, but I guess we lose some things in the process.

EC: And in the department specifically, what changes have you seen?

CS: Let me say that I feel we've always had one of the best departments on campus. Our faculty has tended to get along and work well together compared with other departments. They have been consistently congenial with one another. The first thing I think of when I think back a few years is John Block and Bill Lavery yelling at one another through the office. Their offices were just a few feet away, but they would never get up and go talk to one another. They were always yelling at one another and teasing one another. A.V. used to get in on it too. I remember one day he danced a ballet dance down the hallway. Because of these guys there was always a lot of noise in the department, and there were students constantly hanging around. They wore holes in the carpeting just lingering around and walking in while these guys harassed one another. There seemed to be a lot more student drop-ins back when I first started, which is similar to what I was talking about before with the university's lost sense of community. I think I've also noticed something ironic in that although the department, like the university, is a bit more formal than it used to be, it also seems that all the members of the department are more involved in the decision making process. When I first arrived here, it seemed the chairman made most of the major decisions alone. This has been a steady development.

EC: Any other changes?

CS: Certainly, one of the main changes in the department over the time I've been here is the hiring of women, and now having a woman chair for the first time. The department has grown just like the university. As we have grown out of the suite here in Furman Hall, we have been separated from one another, so we have had to deal with an absence of continual togetherness. Of course, with all departments there are generational shifts when new faculty come in and bring their perspectives and personalities. But the recent growth of the department in the past decade has produced the greatest sense of change. As a department we just seem to be involved in a lot more things on campus, and we are covering more topics. People seem to be going here and there more. For instance, everyone travels a lot more now than they used to. It used to be just one or two people would travel every so often, but now everyone seems to be going somewhere. All these new hires have been wonderful, and everyone gets along with one another really well, maybe even better than in the past. It has been a real pleasure to watch the changes. But, like the university as a whole, we have become a little more formal, so I say again, change can have its plusses and its minuses.