FROM THE CHAIR

It is with a great deal of humility and sense of awe that I step into the chairmanship of the history department. I feel that I have large shoes to fill after the superb job David Spear has done for the last three years. We shall greatly miss his leadership and balanced judgment. David, of course, continued the fine tradition of leadership which was displayed over the years by John Block, A.V. Huff, Al Sanders and earlier leaders from a time well before my own. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

Although many of you know me, let me introduce myself to those who do not. I have taught at Furman since 1981 and offer courses in Recent American History, African-American History and American Women’s History; I also teach the United States History survey course and Western Civilization. I am a native of Rochester, New York, and received an A.B. degree from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Duke. Before coming to Furman, I held temporary appointments at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, the University of Montana, the University of Virginia and Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. While at Furman I have served on a variety of committees—everything from discipline to academic policies to admissions to faculty status. I served as associate director of the Furman Self-Study for reaccreditation between 1995 and 1997. Thus, I bring numerous experiences to the chairmanship. I feel sure that all will hold me in good stead.

At the moment, the history department is very excited about a new initiative which it is launching; we are starting a Center for the Study of Piedmont History which will have as its goal to study the history of the Upstate and surrounding areas. Historian Steve O’Neill has graciously consented to be the first director of the institute. (Please see Steve’s column in this newsletter for more details.) Steve is a specialist in South Carolina and Southern history. Please send him or me any suggestions you may have as we prepare to launch this program.

In other news of the department, our enrollment is strong.

We have many splendid majors and other interested students. Our classes are full. Our new professors are excellent and are devising thought-provoking and appealing courses. New lecture series are being planned. Study abroad programs (including a new one to Africa) are well subscribed. This summer three of us from the history department participated in Furman’s first study abroad program for faculty, organized and led by historian Bill Lavery (who now heads Furman’s Office of International Education). Lavery, John Barrington and I accompanied five others from across campus in a tour of Quebec Province. We enjoyed morning lectures and afternoon excursions. In all, our travels took us to Montreal, Quebec City, the Charlevoix countryside, Chicoutimi, and the Lac St. Jean-Saguenay region. We were greeted warmly by our hosts throughout our stay in Canada and learned a great deal about the French separatist movement. We hope that such a fine program will continue well into the future. Already plans are being made to take groups to Prague and Cuba/Jamaica. The history department is a lively and exciting place. Please keep in touch, let us know what you are doing, and stop in when you are in Greenville. You will receive a warm welcome.

—MARIAN E. STROBEL
LOOKING BACK/LOOKING FORWARD

With my rotation as chair of the department now complete, I am happy to reflect on the achievements of the past three years. After a period of rapid change in personnel due to retirements and promotions, we are now again a stable department. The historians who have joined us are great teachers and fine people. Our most recent hire, Erik Ching, taught Furman’s new History of Africa to wide-spread interest and acclaim. And Ron Granieri has resuscitated our course on the French Revolution. Our former rookies Diane Vecchio and John Barrington are now tenured veterans. And in late-breaking news, Lloyd Benson has just been given the Walter Kenneth Mattison Chair in History, while Jim Leavell has received the Herring Chair in Asian Studies.

The History Alumni Fund met with much success during its second year. We were able once again to make urgent purchases of books, maps and videos—all for immediate classroom use. We also continued our series of symposia on the theme of “What Can I Do with a History Major?” by hosting sessions on “Thinking about Law School” (featuring Gwen Garrett ’78 Martin, Scott Pfeiffer ’88 and Dana Leonard ’97), and “Thinking about Secondary Education” (featuring Rusty Godfrey ’91 and Robbie Higdon ’94). These symposiums have proven to be very popular with our students. So thanks to all of you who gave money this past year, a list of whom appears later in this newsletter. This year we ask you to consider donating to the Center for the Study of Piedmont History. It is our intention to use the funds we receive from the History Alumni Fund to help with the start-up costs of the center.

Our classes are full of bright and eager students. Some of them have done work that has been recognized beyond our campus. David Axe ’00 won the Founders Award from Phi Alpha Theta (the national history honor society) for a paper he wrote on Theodoric the Ostrogoth. Rebekah Tippins ’00 was active this summer on excavations at both Jefferson’s Poplar Forest and Jackson’s Hermitage. Holly Daniel ’99 and Courtney Tollison ’99 both won awards for papers presented at a regional Phi Alpha Theta conference. The students have also been an active force in the Gilpatrick History Society (see separate column in this newsletter).

The faculty, too, have been active. Demetrie Faidere was in India on an ASIA Network Seminar. Erik Ching was at an institute at the University of North Carolina studying Latin American History. John Barrington and Marian Strobel participated in the faculty study abroad trip in Quebec, a program organized by Bill Lavery. Tim Fehler published a book titled Poor Relief and Protestantism: the Evolution of Social Welfare in 16th Century Emden (Ashgate, 1999). Diane Vecchio is hosting a series of lectures this fall on Immigration History, and our Leverette lecturer will be Dr. Andrew Pettigrew of the University of Saint Andrews (Scotland) who is a specialist in Reformation history. (His lecture is scheduled for the evening of November 8 for those of you who live in the area.)

Our students continue to love the study of history but are concerned about what professional paths might be available to them. I hope, therefore, you will fill out the enclosed flyer which asks if you are able to help our majors by providing internships or related opportunities.

—DAVID SPEAR

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF PIEDMONT HISTORY ESTABLISHED

The history department has taken a major initiative that will expand educational opportunities for our students and at the same time provide an important service to the Upstate of South Carolina. In August of this year the university and the history department established a Center for the Study of Piedmont History. The center’s mission is to promote a broader and deeper appreciation of the local history of Greenville and the Piedmont of South and North Carolina. The center will, on an on-going basis, support original research projects by Furman students and faculty and oversee internships for Furman undergraduates at local historical sites and museums. It will also sponsor lectures and symposia by professional scholars on topics related to the history of this region. I have been selected as the center’s first director and am very encouraged at the enthusiasm that this project has generated among university faculty and history majors as well as people in the community with an interest in local history.

The center has a number of research projects and internships lined up for the fall of 1999. Tee Coker, a junior history major from Greenville, is writing a history of Cherrydale, James C. Furman’s plantation home that was moved to Furman last March from its original location near the Stone Manufacturing plant. Cherrydale will serve as the university’s Alumni House after a dedication ceremony during Homecoming on October 23. Look for evidence of Tee’s research during your tour of the house and in the Cherrydale brochure. Martin Jakubczak, a junior from Easton, Pennsylvania, is examining how the establishment of the first cotton mill in Simpsonville, South Carolina, in 1908 affected the social fabric of the town. Two other history majors are working as interns with the Historic Greenville Foundation as that organization begins to realize
its long-standing dream of building a first-class museum of regional history. The $12.9 million project is slated to open in 2001, and the center will work closely with the foundation in developing the museum’s exhibits. One of this fall’s foundation interns is Chad Torri, a senior history major from Columbia, South Carolina. He is completing a computer database that will allow museum visitors to view an electronic map of Greenville in 1850 and then select any dwelling and, with the click of a mouse, find out biographical information about the residents of the building.

Another foundation intern, Craig Martin, a junior history major from Greenville, is researching and writing scripts and narratives for the museum’s other exhibits. Chris Bowden, a junior history major from Inman, South Carolina, is working as an intern at the Greenville Magazine, a local monthly. He is a research assistant for a regular column on Greenville history, and will also try his hand at a feature history article later in the term. These projects represent only a beginning. The history faculty has lofty ambitions for the center and is committed to offering our students a fuller educational experience and making the rich local history of the area more accessible to the public. Fund-raising initiatives for the center are in the works, but in the meantime this year’s contributions to the History Alumni Fund will help support the center. Please be generous.

—STEVE O’NEILL

BOOK REVIEWS


It is rare, even among those with a bent for genealogy, to be able to trace family history in detail. Names, occupations and relationships are known, but often little else. Imagine the challenge, therefore, of uncovering the heritage of a family which has lived in the United States for three centuries, and which possesses both white and African-American branches. Such is the accomplishment of Edward Ball, who set out to study the history of the Ball family, a large slaveholding clan who owned numerous rice plantations along the Cooper River in South Carolina. Part of Ball’s mission was to study not only his white ancestors, but also the slaves who lived and toiled on the family lands.

Elias (“Red Cap”) Ball arrived in Charleston from England in 1698 after inheriting a plantation from an aunt. By dint of hard work and through the purchase of even more land and slaves, “Red Cap” prospered. At the time of his death in 1751, he was able to bequeath great wealth to his descendants. In a richly textured narrative, Edward Ball studies the fates of Red Cap’s children and grandchildren. At the same time, he traces the family fortunes during the American Revolution, the expansion of slavery in the early nineteenth century, and the turmoil of Civil War and Reconstruction. Emerging from the story are such colorful characters as “Second Elias,” Henry Laurens and Caroline (“Buzzard Wing”) Ball, all of whom contributed to the rising and falling fortunes of the family.

While stories of the plantation-owning Balls makes for fascinating reading, of even more interest are the author’s attempts to track the stories of white and African-American branches. Such is the story of the Ball family slaves, some of whom were related by blood to him. Against considerable opposition from some members of his immediate family, Edward Ball persevered in his quest to uncover the fates of the Ball property. He introduces the reader to the African-American bondsmen and their heirs, most of whom now live scattered across the United States. As with the Ball family itself, colorful stories and characters emerge. Especially memorable are such individuals as “Angola Amy,” Frederick Poyas and P. Henry Martin. In one vignette, Ball even tells of his travels to Africa to meet the descendents of those natives who sold their fellows to the Americas. What one realizes from the narrative is the impact of the past on the present, and that the actions of ancestors still shape modern lives. Critical, too, is the institution of the family, which Ball celebrates throughout his volume.

At times, the multitude of personalities described by the author is staggering. Such a situation, however, reveals the massive and meticulous nature of Ball’s research, much of which is based on oral history. The reader is left with the conclusion that in the plantation South, white lives were inextricably tied to black ones. As Ball explains, now they must cooperate to bring peace and prosperity to their homeland and to gain a better understanding of the other. Multi-faceted in its approach and conclusions, Slaves in the Family will long remain a classic resource for students of Southern history.

—MARIAN E. STROBEL


Adolf Hitler has been the subject of innumerable scholarly and popular books, articles and films. The improbability of his rise from the flophouses of Vienna to the Reich Chancellery, and the magnitude of his crimes, appear to come from the pages of fiction, so it is not surprising that he continues to fascinate readers more than five decades after his final hours in his Berlin bunker. Ian Kershaw’s planned two-volume work (the second volume is expected soon) promises to be the definitive scholarly
immigration lecture series

Questions of immigration and ethnicity, citizenship and race have deep roots in America’s history and continue to pose important legal, economic and political questions. Today, the South, and particularly the Upstate of South Carolina, is experiencing the impact of immigration as increasing numbers of Latin Americans and Asians make the Upstate their home.

Thanks to support provided by President David Shi, I invited three speakers to campus to address issues of immigration. Titled “Still the Open Door? Historical and Contemporary Views of American Immigration,” this lecture series featured speakers who examined themes of migration, attitudes toward immigrants, the role of gender in immigration and current immigration trends.

On October 4, Rudolph Vecoli, professor of history and director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, discussed “The Immigrant: Promise or Peril?” Vecoli, considered a leading expert in the field of immigration history, has also been involved in an international effort to collect and preserve documents pertaining to immigration to the United States.


The last speaker in the lecture series was Thomas Fischer, who spoke on “The Current Impact of Immigration on the South.” Fischer is the district director for the United States Immigration and Naturalization Services in Atlanta. Supervisor of ten ports of entry, Fischer is responsible for all inquiries and processing of immigrants in Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina.

—Diane Vecchio

gilpatrick history society

The Gilpatrick History Society is excited to kick off a new year and a new fall term. This should prove to be a busy and rewarding year for the Gilpatrick Society.

The traditional start to the Gilpatrick season, the fall
picnic at White Oaks, was a great success again this year. The picnic provided a more casual, relaxing atmosphere for students and professors to converse with each other. It also allowed John Barrington to show off his nearly world famous grilling skills.

The Gilpatrick Society has several other events scheduled for the fall term of 1999. We will be sponsoring at least one history film this fall. Another major fall event is the return of the ever-popular Gilpatrick Halloween costume party. Students and professors dress up as their favorite historical figure, and prizes are given out for the best costumes. This event always brings a variety of great costumes—previously, we’ve seen a medieval monk, Chairman Mao, Stalin, Pocahontas, and even the Declaration of Independence.

The Gilpatrick History Society will also arrange field trips to a variety of historical sites. Planned trips range in scale from local battlefields to Charleston and the Low Country. The presence of Furman faculty makes trips such as these even more rewarding, and the trips provide a measure of tangibility to the history behind these places.

This is the year that the Gilpatrick Society will become a constituted organization. In the beginning weeks of the fall term, we will hold several meetings strictly for the purpose of writing a constitution. With a constitution, the Gilpatrick Society will be able to gain official recognition from AFS. Thus, the scope of things that we are able to do will be greatly increased.

This should prove to be another banner year for the Gilpatrick Society, as we revel in old traditions and new experiments. Best wishes to everybody involved in the Furman history department—alumni, professors and students—for an exciting and enriching new school year.

—CHRIS BOWDEN
PRESIDENT, GILPATRICK HISTORY SOCIETY

ALUMNI NEWS
Martha Gallman ’69 Alewine earned an M.L.I.S. from the College of Library and Information Science, USC.

Chris ’88 and Gretchen Atwell announce the arrival of their first child, Anthony Hill, on 7/31/98. Chris has been named a partner in the Oliphant, Hammond & O’Hara Law Firm.

Elizabeth Wakefield Green ’88 Ausband is living in Atlanta and is a Delta flight attendant.

Ryan Burgess ’99 is pursuing graduate work in history at the University of Richmond.

Sharah Baughcome ’90 Clark was named Newberry Middle School Teacher of the Year, 1998-99. Sharah received her M.Ed. from Lander University in 1997. She and her husband, Bret ’88, have a son, Bailey Clark, born 12/26/97.

Susan Clayton ’91 is currently an account director for CMP Media, a publisher of computer magazines and Web sites in Atlanta.

Having spent “post-Furman” years in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, William R. “Robi” Egan ’84 relocated to San Diego in 1995 where he works as a regional account executive for Metro Direct, a direct marketing firm headquartered in New York City.

The son of Lucius S. (Jerry) Fowler, Jr. ’49, Jonathan A. Fowler ’88, is currently a doctoral candidate (UT-Knoxville) in British History and an instructor at Pellissippi State Technical Community College.

Ransom Gladwin ’94 is currently teaching Spanish at Palm Beach (Florida) Community College and English as a Second Language at Indian River Community College. He plans to teach Citizenship classes next year and hopefully will apply to a doctoral program in Romance Studies.

Kelly Harden ’92 moved from Atlanta to San Francisco (2/17/99). Previously employed with West Wayne Advertising in Atlanta for the past four years. Hopes to meet up with some other Furman graduates in California!

Brad Harmon ’97 is currently a graduate student at the University of South Carolina getting a master’s degree in Higher Education Administration. He is also a graduate assistant for the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship and Intern for the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transaction.

Robert Hart ’95 is currently in the history Ph.D. program at the University of Alabama.

Bobby D. Jackson ’61 has retired from public school education.

Jennifer Brown ’93 Leynes moved to Trenton, New Jersey, in August 1998 after completing a Master of Historic Preservation degree at the University of Georgia. She is currently employed as a museum educator at the Old Barracks Museum.
Winfred B. Moore '71, interim head of the Department of History at The Citadel, will serve as a member of the S.C. Commission on Archives and History, of which his former Furman professor, A. V. Huff, is chair.

Michelle Pope '92 received a master's degree from Clemson in December and teaches history at Landrum Jr. High School in Spartanburg County. Michelle and her husband, Brian Merritt, live in Greer, S.C.

Laura Ornduff '90 has been education coordinator at Mission St. Joseph's Health System in Asheville, N.C., since 1994. Ornduff earned a Master of Science degree in Human Resource Development from Western Carolina University in 1994.

Marisa Ramos '97 is a flight attendant for Delta Air Lines based out of Cincinnati.

Kent Simmous '83 (M.A. '94) is a social studies teacher at Harrison High School in Kennesaw, Georgia. He received a Technology Grant from the Concord Consortium.

His daughter Bryden was born 4/1/98.

Courtney Tollison '99 is doing graduate work in history at the University of South Carolina.

Dorothy Eugenia Topple '94 graduated from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) in May 1998. Dorothy is presently employed with DuPont and working in Mexico City.

Ginger Williams '85 received a master's degree in librarianship and teaches high school in Williston, S.C.

CONGRATULATIONS
The History Department would like to congratulate Vernon Burton '69, history professor at University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, who was named one of four "Professors of the Year" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

HISTORY ALUMNI FUND DONORS
1998-1999

Many thanks to the following alumni and friends who generously gave to the History Alumni Fund.
Please let us know of any omissions.

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Steve Adams 1986
Chris/Gretchen Atwell 1988
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John Barrington Faculty
Katie Clerkin Benton 1992
William B. Bolt 1941
Jeanne M. Brandes 1978
James Branham 1956
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Susan Clayton 1991
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Janie Wood Durland 1956
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Robbie Higdon 1994
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