

# PAST TIMES

The Department of History Newsletter, vol. 1.no. 1 (Summer 2009)

## Hendricks Retires



After forty-seven years of service, **J. Edwin Hendricks** retired and was recognized for his dedication to Wake

Forest University at commencement 2009. For a pictorial tribute to Ed Hendricks from his retirement reception Dec. 5, 2008, please see

<http://www.wfu.edu/history/NewsArchives.html>. See also David Fyten's tribute to Professor Hendricks, "Steward of the South," Published May 12, 2009 in *Window on Wake Forest* [www.wfu.edu/wowf/2009/20090512.hendricks.html](http://www.wfu.edu/wowf/2009/20090512.hendricks.html)

## University Talks



As part of WFU's diversity initiative, Provost Jill Tiefenthaler invited Professor of History **Anthony S. Parent** to give the Founders' Day Convocation address on February 26, 2009, in Wait Chapel. His talk was titled

"Weathering Wake: the African American Experience at Wake Forest." His address can be read or seen at

<http://provost.wfu.edu/diversity/convocation.php>

## Watts Garner's Guggenheim



**Sarah Watts** was the recipient of the 2008 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship for her research into the political

cartoons of German Expressionist Lyonel Feininger.

For further information go to

<http://www.wfu.edu/news/release/2008.04.24.w.php>



Jacque Fetrow, Dean of the College, and Lorna Moore, Dean of the Graduate School, named **Paul D. Escott**, Reynolds Professor, to give

the twelfth Poteat Lecture. Escott spoke on "The Lincoln Icon: Thinking about myth and reality in our history" at the Annenberg Forum in Carswell Hall on March 26, 2009.

## History as a Top Five Major

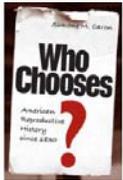
With eighty-eight graduates in 2007-2008, History ranked fifth in majors behind Political Science (103), Business (100), Psychology (100), and Economics (91).

## Service to All

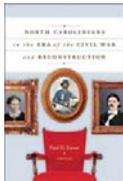
**Michele Gillespie** and **Jeff Lerner** have taken on major administrative responsibilities for the university. Gillespie, the Kahle Associate Professor of History, is an Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives. Jeffrey

Lerner, Associate Professor of History, is director of the Teaching and Learning Center. Both Gillespie and Lerner plan to return full time to the history department in 2010.

## Recent Faculty Publications



**Simone Caron**, *Who Chooses? American Reproductive History since 1830*. U of Florida Press, 2008; and “‘I Have Done it and I Have Got to Die’: Coroners’ Inquests of Abortion Deaths in Rhode Island, 1876-1938,” *The History of the Family* 14 (Spring 2009): 1-18.

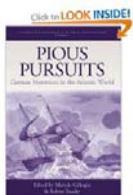


**Paul Escott**, ed., *Struggles over Change: North Carolinians in the Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction*. UNC Press, 2008; and author of “What Shall We Do with the Negro?": Lincoln, White Racism, and Civil War America. University of Virginia Press, 2009.



**Michael Hughes**, “Splendid Demonstrations: The Political Funerals of Kaiser Wilhelm I and Wilhelm Liebknecht,” *Central European History* 41:2 (June 2008): 229-53.

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=Splendid+Demonstrations%3A+The+Political+Funerals+&aq=f&oq=&aqi=>



**Michele Gillespie**, Co-edited with Robert Beachy, *Pious Pursuits: German Moravians in the Atlantic World*, Berghahn Books, 2007 (which came out of a conference organized by Michele and Robert at WFU); and “My Garden State: Memory, History and the Agrarian Ideal,” *Southern Rural Sociology* 22 (2007): 28-39.

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=Southern+Rural+Sociology+22+%282007%29%3A++28-39.&aq=f&oq=&aqi=>



**Jeffrey Lerner**, “Writing About World Civilizations,” *The Occasional Papers of the American Philological Association’s Committee on Ancient History*, 4 (2007): 1-8.



**Charlie McGraw** “‘The Intervention of a Friendly Power’: The Transnational Migration of Women’s Work and 1898 Imperial Imagination,” *Journal of Women’s History* 19:3 (Fall 2007): 137-60.



**Anthony Parent**, Co-author with Ronald L. Heinemann, John G. Kolp, and William G. Shade, *Old Dominion, New Commonwealth: A History of Virginia, 1607-2007*. University of Virginia Press: 2007.



**Emily Wakild**, “Naturalizing Modernity: Urban Parks, Public Gardens, and Drainage Projects in Porfirian Mexico City,” *Mexican Studies*, 23.1 (Winter 2007): 101-23; and “It is to preserve life, to work for the trees”: The Steward of Mexican Forests, Miguel Angel de Quevedo, 1862-1948,” *Forest History Today* (July 2007): 4-14.



**Stephen Vella**, “Newspapers” in *Reading Primary Sources*, Routledge Press, 2008.



**Qiong Zhang.** “Hybridizing Scholastic Psychology with Chinese Medicine: A Seventeenth-Century Chinese Catholic’s Conceptions of Xin (Mind and Heart),” *Early Science and Medicine*, 13.4 (August 2008): 313-60; and “From ‘Dragonology’ to Meterology: Aristotelian Natural Philosophy and the Beginning of the Decline of the Dragon in China,” *Early Science and Medicine* 14.1-3 (2009): 340-68.



## TV Coverage of Recent Publications

**Paul Escott** also discussed his book “*What Shall We Do with the Negro?: Lincoln, White Racism, and Civil War America* (2009) at George Mason University on the After words program for C-Span’s Book TV on [http://www.cspanarchives.org/library/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_video\\_info&products\\_id=285217-1](http://www.cspanarchives.org/library/index.php?main_page=product_video_info&products_id=285217-1)

**Monique O’Connell**, Assistant Professor of History, is this year's winner of the Stroupe Award in the history department. Her publications include *Men of Empire: Power and Negotiation in the Venice Maritime State* (Johns Hopkins U, 2009); “Oligarchy, Faction and Compromise in Fifteenth Century Venice,” in *From Florence to the Mediterranean: Studies in Honor of Anthony Molho* (Florence: Leo Olschki Press, 2009); and “The Italian Renaissance in the Mediterranean or Between East and West? A Review Article,” *California Italian Studies* 1 (2009).



**Department Fellow**

## Faculty Awards



**Lisa Blee** won The University of Minnesota Graduate School’s “Best Dissertation Award” in the Arts and Humanities in 2009.



**Nate Plageman** won a Presidential Library Grant to purchase materials in African history.



**Paul Escott** won a Presidential Library Grant to purchase an online collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century newspapers.



**Monique O’Connell** won a Presidential Library Grant to purchase materials on pre-modern Mediterranean.



**Robert Hellyer** won a Japanese government fellowship for academic year 2007/08, and a Presidential Library Grant to purchase the “Pacific World” series.



**Stephen Vella** won a Presidential Library Grant to purchase the British Empire online database.

## Innovations in Teaching

The following three faculty members won Course Development Grants from the Teaching and Learning Center:



- **Nate Plageman:** "African Expressive Culture as History"
- **Sue Rupp,** "History of European Jewry: from Middle Ages to the Present"
- **Emily Wakild,** "History of Nature Conservation"

**Jeff Lerner and Simone Caron**

will attend a national teaching workshop in Colorado from July 11 through July 18, 2009.

## **Rais Rahman's Unique Teaching Experience**



We all engage with the internet, albeit with different levels of intensity. Teaching by way of cyberspace came to me as the next best alternative to classroom experience in

in spring 2009. As I was in limbo waiting on my visa in New Delhi, India, I began teaching my classes from a distance over seven thousand miles and ten and a half hours ahead of us.

My classes began with Virtual Classroom on Blackboard. This web interface allows the instructor and the enrolled students to sign on to a chat room and IM each other. The excitement of meeting everyone virtually and being able to interact was overwhelming. Although the pleasure of delivering or attending lectures was missing, some students greatly enjoyed getting straight notes that came out typed. What really amazed me was the high level of participation during each "lecture," often forcing one's eyes to wiggle through the little chat window in order to keep track. One single question triggered a dozen responses. I thoroughly enjoyed such an interaction, particularly when one did not know what to expect. In order to make online teaching effective, I posted lecture notes or outlines on Blackboard before each class, started threads of discussion on the Discussion Board, and ensured students' participation around key questions during virtual classes. Students had to submit questions and comments on assigned readings while also responding to other's discussion threads or questions.

Since all of us hoped for my return soon, we considered teaching through Blackboard's virtual classes an *ad hoc* arrangement. But with no end in sight, I was encouraged and supported to begin

teaching through videoconferencing. Thanks to Simone Caron, Laura Gammons, Jing Wei, and student volunteers, this possibility became a reality. While students continued to work with Blackboard, the classroom became more "real" or should I say,

human. Instead of students logging on from anywhere, now the classes started meeting physically in their allotted rooms in Tribble Hall. With the help of Skype, multimedia-equipped classrooms projected me on to the screen above the chalkboard. Unbelievably, we all could see each other speaking and this arrangement ensured even better interaction, though not always free from technological glitches.

As I reflect now, I realize that the teacher-scholar ideal of Wake Forest and its values are important to maintain despite barriers and constraints that can interfere with the pedagogical process. Distance, time difference, logistical challenges, resource constraints, and emotional stress had to be ignored in order to ensure the imparting of knowledge. I believe Nelson Mandela once said that "it always seems impossible until it's done." Classroom experience cannot be substituted. My joy knew no bounds as I returned in April to catch up with the rest of the semester. No more virtuality. No more virtual office hours. But thanks to technology and the help I received, I was able to teach, as they say in India, from "across the seven seas." I am humbled to have learned from my experience.

Mohammad Raisur Rahman  
Assistant Professor

## New Tenure-Track Faculty in History

### **Lisa Blee**

will join us in July 2009 with a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Her specialty is the US West.

### **Nathan Plageman**

joined us in 2008 with a Ph.D. from the University of Indiana. His specialty is African History.

### **Rais Rahman**

joined us in 2008 with a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. His specialty is South Asian History.

### **Theresa Ventura**

will join us in July 2009 with a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Her specialty is US as a World Power.

### **Qiong Zhang**

joined us in 2008 with a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Her specialty is Chinese History.

## Student News Past and Present

### **Phi Alpha Theta Awards Banquet**

Dr. **Monique O'Connell** was the keynote speaker at the April 29, 2009 Phi Alpha Theta History Department Awards Dinner. The department selected **Andrew Britt** to be the recipient of The Forrest W. Clonts Award for Excellence in History. Britt was also the Phi Alpha Theta president for 2008-09.

### **Student Paper Prizes**

#### **David W. Hadley Prize for Historical Writing**

##### **Benjamin Morrow**

"The Opportunities of British Imperialism and Rising to the Top."

Written for Prof. Gloria Fitzgibbon in HST 102

#### **Richard Worden Griffin Research Prize in Asian, African, or Latin American History**

##### **Matthew Irvine**

"Jerusalem, Saladin, and the Islamic Counter Crusade."

Advisors: Charles Wilkins and Monique O'Connell

#### **W.J. Cash Award for Studies in Southern History**

##### **Andrew Britt**

"Creating the 'Moderate King': Social Values and Collective Memory in the United States Congress."

Advisor: Michele Gillespie

**Christine Cooluris**

"The Evolution of Involuntary Sterilization  
Practices in North Carolina 1933-1974."



## NEWS FROM THE FRONT

### **Rebecca Hooper '05**

My name is Rebecca Hooper and I graduated from Wake Forest with a degree in History in 2005.... Just a quick note about my current situation as it may help other history majors considering careers. Dr. Hughes was my adviser and perhaps he would like this as well. I originally wanted to go to graduate school in history and become an historian. I double majored in history and poli sci. People always asked me if I was going to law school but that never seemed like a fit for me. Grad school didn't pan out my senior year. After a long road of working as a Park Ranger and teaching in Japan, I considered Library Science and may pursue that field at some point.

Now I am working for the IRS and have been since October 2008. Oh boy is it fun telling people my degree is in history. I work in a walk-in office where people come and ask me questions about tax law, account issues etc. Now my degree in history has given me an excellent set of skills to succeed in this job. My classes at Wake Forest taught me how to research, how to ask questions incessantly, and how to find information quick. In my job, taxpayers can come in asking all sorts of questions and while I don't need to know and in no way could I know the answer to every question, I have to know where to look in a timely fashion. I also have to take IRS jargon from publications and explain it in such a way that the taxpayer understands, hence interpreting and presenting facts and laws in a knowledgeable yet understandable manner. Education is a key component of my job. I educate the taxpayer about tax law, the proper way to fill out forms, withholding, and the list goes on and on. Never did I think that my degree would relate to a job at the IRS but in this position it has in so many ways and I am already ahead of many of my colleagues because of my skills learned at Wake Forest.

Thus I advise the professors to have students think outside the history/teaching/law field and pursue jobs that they would never think of. In this economy, it's going to be hard finding a job but the Government and the IRS are hiring. Tell them to get their resume on [usajobs.gov](http://usajobs.gov) and start clicking. I have amazing benefits and a really supportive work environment. If anyone would like more information, I am more than willing to give it. [hooprm1@gmail.com](mailto:hooprm1@gmail.com)

Thank you for your time.  
Rebecca Hooper

**Kristin Celello '98**

Kristin Celello, an Assistant Professor of History at Queens College, City University of New York, has a new book published entitled *Making Marriage Work: A History of Marriage and Divorce in the Twentieth-Century United States* (UNC Press, 2009).