Letter from the Chair

Professor Edward Gray

As the recently elected chair of the FSU History Department, let me thank my colleagues for conferring so weighty an honor upon me. Let me also thank my predecessor, Professor Jonathan Grant, for his three years of dedicated service. The Department benefited greatly from Dr. Grant’s leadership, and will continue to benefit from his presence as one of its most dynamic scholars and teachers.

There has also been a change of leadership in our graduate program. After many years as Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Michael Creswell stepped down to devote more time to his research and teaching. Professor Suzanne Sinke is our new Director of Graduate Studies. She will be overseeing a graduate program in flux, as we look for ways to adapt to a rapidly changing educational landscape.

I should also acknowledge how enormously privileged I’ve been to assume the role of department chair in what has been a particularly propitious year. For this was the year our longest-serving colleague decided to hang up the cleats, as it were. After 57 years in the FSU History Department, Professor Jim Jones has decided to retire. To say that Jim’s run here has been extraordinary barely begins to capture the full majesty of his achievement. Jim is an institution here at FSU. His classes on the history of the American Civil War and World War II are legendary. He has received countless teaching prizes; his followers among our alums are legion and transcend generations. For years, Jim would learn that many of his students’ parents had taken his classes. In recent years, he has also begun to hear of grandparents whom he had in class. Few of us can claim such generation-spanning influence.

And then there are Jim’s many accomplished graduate students, at both the MA and PhD levels. They hold positions at colleges, universities, and other institutions across the country. Carrying just a little of Jim’s infectious enthusiasm with them, we can only hope that the students recognize just how fortunate they are to be touched by such a great historian, teacher, and colleague.

As part of our efforts to commemorate Jim’s retirement, this past March the Department hosted a distinguished lecture in Jim’s honor. The lecturer was one of Jim’s dearest friends, and his former colleague here at FSU, Professor Philip D. Morgan, the Harry C. Black Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University. Professor Morgan’s lecture on Caribbean Slavery attracted an audience of more than a hundred, many of them Jim’s friends and former students.

In his new emeritus status, Professor Jones will continue to be a part of what we do here, as he remains a member of many graduate committees. He’ll also be teaching his legendary Civil War Course to FSU Undergraduates next spring.

New Faculty Members

Dr. Katherine Mooney received her Ph.D. in 2012 from Yale University and comes to our department this fall from Washington University in St. Louis where she was a Postdoctoral Fellow in American Culture Studies. She will be teaching Civil War and U.S. Slavery. Her book Race Horse Men: How Slavery and Freedom Were Made at the Racetrack was published by Harvard University Press in May. She also co-edited Ruined by This Miserable War, published by University of Tennessee Press, 2013.

Dr. Laurie Wood received her Ph.D. in 2013 from the University of Texas at Austin and joins our department this fall teaching Atlantic World and Early Modern Europe. She comes to us from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School where she was a Law & Society Postdoctoral Fellow. She is working on Archipelago of Justice: Law in France’s Early Modern Empire, a book manuscript in preparation.
After thirty-three years, our colleague Professor Peter Garretson has also elected to join the ranks of the Department’s emeriti. Professor Garretson came to FSU in 1981, and since that time has shared with thousands of students his passion for the history of North Africa and the Middle East. Professor Garretson’s courses were consistently among the Department’s most sought-after. His commitment to the subject of his teaching and research was reflected in his role as founder of the University’s Middle East Studies Center, which he directed from 2002 until his retirement.

In honor of Professor Garretson, this past March the Middle East Studies Center hosted a symposium entitled “New Directions in World History: Essays in Honor of Peter P. Garretson.” The symposium drew together students past and present of Dr. Garretson’s for a day of lively discussion and vigorous debate. It was a great tribute to a great member of this department. I would also like to acknowledge the Department’s debt to Professor Will Hanley for doing so much to organize the symposium in honor of Professor Garretson.

Among the other momentous changes we’ve experienced this year, we find ourselves in the very privileged position of being able to welcome two new colleagues to the Department. Professors Katherine Mooney and Laurie Wood will begin teaching here at FSU this fall. Professor Mooney, a scholar of African American and Nineteenth-Century US History, comes to us from a post-doctoral position at Washington University in St. Louis. Professor Wood, a legal historian who works on the French Atlantic World, has been a Law and Society Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

**Condolences To Our Newest Ph.D.s!!**

**Christopher Day – Fall 2013** “Civiliter Mortuss: Florida Supreme Court and the Civil Rights Movement, 1845-1896”

**Timothy Fitzpatrick – Fall 2013** “Waterloo in Myth and Memory: The Battles of Waterloo, 1815-1915”

**Abraham Gibson – Fall 2013** “Born to be Feral: the Evolutionary History of Domestic Animals in the American South”

**Joseph Horan – Fall 2013** “Fibers of Empire: Cotton Cultivation in France and Italy during the Age of Napoleon”

**Timothy Best – Spring 2014** “Creating France: The Pope, German Princes, Péage and Privilege, 1789-1791”

**Colleen Boyett – Spring 2014** “Parameters of British Power: The Quandry of Yemen Between the World Wars”

**Cindy Ermus – Spring 2014** “Pestilence and Politics: A Global History of the Marseille Plague”

**Shane Hockin – Spring 2014** “The French Revolution and the Invention of Modern Atheism”

**Maureen MacLeod – Spring 2014** “A Society in Flux: Female Education and Societal Transition in Early Nineteenth Century France, 1799-1830”


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**Sad News**

by Dr. Edward Gray

The Department of History has lost one of its most cherished benefactors. On April 15th, Dan Walbolt passed away after a short illness. Dan and Sylvia, his wife of almost 50 years, endowed three fellowships that allow FSU history graduate students to pursue their thesis research. Dan received his Bachelor of Science in history from F.S.U. in 1962, having studied with, among others, Dr. Jim Jones. In 1965, Dan received his law degree from NYU, and after practicing law for several years he began a career in academic administration at the University of South Florida. In 1995, Dan and his son Dan Walbolt Jr. founded the company Best Evidence.

I had the pleasure of meeting Dan a few months ago, during his annual trip to Tallahassee, when he came to deliver a check. It was very important to Dan that he do this in person. Sending an anonymous check to an anonymous foundation bureaucracy made no sense to him. He wanted to know the people his generosity benefitted, not because he was concerned about the way his gifts were being used (in fact, he repeatedly praised the department for what he regarded as an incredibly generous decision to use the funds to support graduate education), but because he wanted to share his deep enthusiasm for and commitment to what we do every day. His and Sylvia’s generosity has immeasurably helped the department advance its goals of serving the University, its students, and the history profession. He will be missed.
Alumni News

Gerie Bledsoe, who received his Ph.D. in 1972 under the direction of Earl Beck, has returned to the classroom after an absence of 39 years working for the American Association of University Professors, the National Education Association, Michigan State University, and the California Teachers Association. He is now teaching at the Allende Institute Life Long Learning program in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where he and his wife live. He teaches classes in Hernán Cortés and the Conquest of the Aztec Empire, 1519-1521 and the U.S. Invasion of Mexico, 1846-1848. He also enjoys racing cars in Mexican rallies.

Phillip R. Cuccia, who received an M.A. and Ph.D. in military and European history from FSU, published *Napoleon in Italy: The Sieges of Mantua, 1796-1799* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2014.)

Abe Gibson, who received his Ph.D. in 2013 under the direction of Fritz Davis, received a postdoctoral fellowship from the Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science. The fellowship is for use of the center's resources and the rich consortium of affiliated institutions dedicated to the history of science and medicine in the Philadelphia area.

Rebecca K. Hayes, who received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Early Modern British History at FSU, has been promoted to full professor at Northern Virginia Community College (Annandale Campus), where she is Assistant Dean for Social Sciences & Honors. She was also voted onto the Executive Council for the Southern Conference on British Studies.

Jason Jewell, who received his Ph.D. from FSU, has been promoted to full professor at Faulkner University where he is the chair of the Department of Humanities and supervises the history track in the Ph.D. program.

Alexander Mikaberidze, who received his Ph.D. in 2003 under the direction of Donald Horward, published *The Burning of Moscow: Napoleon’s Trial by Fire 1812* (Pen and Sword, 2014).

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Musteen, who received his Ph.D. in 2005 under the direction of Donald Horward, was selected as an Academy Professor at the US Military Academy at West Point last year while he was in Iraq and he assumed his new post at the Chief of Military History at West Point in August 2013.

Donald Stoker, Professor of Strategy and Policy at the US Naval War College, Monterey Program, Naval Postgraduate School, who received his Ph.D. in 1997 from FSU, was featured on C-SPAN in September 2013 and his book *Clausewitz: His Life and Work* (Oxford University Press, 2014) will be available in November.

Kevin Witherspoon, who received his Ph.D. in 2003 under the direction of Jim Jones, has been named the 2014 Lander Distinguished Professor of the Year at Lander University.

Faculty Accomplishments

Rafe Blaufarb has been busy working on articles, a monograph, a “graphic history” on the abolition of the slave trade, a collection of essays by his doctoral advisor which will be published as a book, and a special issue of the French history journal “Economies, Societies, Civilisations,” all to be published in the near future. He also gave the keynote address to the annual meeting of the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era in March.

Michael Creswell participated in “The History of Political Economy,” a National Endowment for the Humanities 2013 summer seminar held at Duke University. He served as a guest editor for a special issue of the journal *Societies* and continues to serve as editor for the journal *History: Reviews of New Books*. In December he published “Neo-Realism, Liberalism, or Constructivism? Explaining West Germany’s Arms Strategy, 1955-1972” in the *Journal of Cold War Studies*.

Annika Culver published a paperback version of her book, a book chapter, a peer-reviewed article, two book reviews, and conference proceedings. She gave a talk at Duke University, a book talk at Temple University Japan in Tokyo, and a new project talk at the Association for Asian Studies Japan in Tokyo. In June she attended the last meeting of the US-Japan Network for the Future in DC. Dr. Culver received a First Year Assistant Professor Grant of $20,000 and a Faculty Research Library Materials Grant of $10,600. She is also curating the Oliver L. Austin Slide Collection website and digital archive of US-Occupation Era slides of postwar Tokyo, now available online at [http://digital-collections.ww2.fsu.edu/omeka/](http://digital-collections.ww2.fsu.edu/omeka/).
News from the Department’s Institutes & Programs

Historical Administration and Public History
from Dr. Jennifer Koslow, Director

In the past year, five students have graduated with a Master’s in History with a Major in Public History: Eric Case, Kim Stansell Weismantle, Andrew Thompson, Monica Davenport, and Corie Smith. Eric created a docent guide for the Grove, where he had interned while in Tallahassee. Kim completed a curriculum guide for the Old Davie School Historical Museum in Davie, Florida where she is now the Education Director. Andrew worked on creating a process for managing the archival collections of Goodwood Museum and Gardens here in Tallahassee. Monica created a website working with the Strozier Library’s Special Collections to interpret Florida State University’s student activities during the Sixties. Corie created materials both virtual and physical for the Monticello Jail as they move forward with public programming. She is currently employed by the Museum of Florida History as an Education Representative. We wish all of our graduates continuing success!

In the Spring of 2012, Dr. Koslow became a member of a citizen committee charged to advise Blueprint 2000 on ways in which to commemorate the Smokey Hollow community, an African American community which originally stood where portions of Cascades Park is today. Students in the Fall 2012 Public History Theory and Methods participated in researching this community in preparation for an Historic American Landscapes Survey. They conducted oral histories, searched through the State Archives of Florida, and found numerous newspaper clippings. The research is now complete and the Historic Narrative is approximately 80 pages in length. The National Park Service will submit the final project to the Library of Congress in September where it will then be accessible to the public.

Dr. Koslow’s work on two community projects have come to completion. As part of a citizen’s committee, she helped to create the Tallahassee-Leon County Civil Rights Heritage Walk, which is a commemorative sidewalk designed by the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department, funded by the Tallahassee-Leon County Community Redevelopment Agency, and fabricated by the FSU-Master Craftsman Studio. Fifteen sidewalk terrazzo panels tell the history of the Tallahassee Bus Boycott and the Lunch Counter Sit-Ins. The city unveiled the Tallahassee Civil Rights Heritage Walk on September 30, 2013. The memorial begins at the corner of Jefferson Street and Monroe Street.

HGSA Update - Joshua Meeks

The Graduate Reading Room received a considerable face lift thanks in part to Logan Edwards and several others. A digital and physical teaching library has been started in the Reading Room with resources for graduate student teachers.

The new HGSA officers for the 2014-2015 school year are Sarah Patterson, Secretary; Amy Drewel, Treasurer; Bill Clift, Vice-President; and Joshua Meeks, President. New officers will be sworn in at the next HGSA meeting in September.
In 2013-2014 was a banner year for the Napoleon Institute grad students. Five received their Ph.D. degree and two received their M.A. degree. With their graduation, there are now eleven continuing graduate students in the Institute. In addition, five new students will be joining us in the upcoming year: Joseph Harmon, Khali Navarro, Zachary Stolzfus, Alexander Rowney, and Thomas Thomas. All of these students received funding thanks to your generosity, through the Ben Weider Endowment, through competitive university-wide fellowships, and through the History Department.

This year’s crop of Ph.D. and M.A. students had good success in a very tight academic job market. Timothy Best was hired as an Assistant Professor at Gordon State College in Georgia, Cindy Ermus was hired as Professor of History at Florida Southwestern State, Tim Fitzpatrick is lecturing for the Naval War College and teaching at Tallahassee Community College, and Joseph Horan continues teaching at the Colorado College of Mines.

In May the Institute lost one of its pillars when Jack Sigler passed away at the age of 80. He came to the Institute after not one but two full careers: first in the army, then in the foreign service. He received his Ph.D. in 2006 under the supervision of Dr. Don Horward. A resident of Tallahassee, he remained active in the activities of the Institute and did many interviews for the Reichelt Oral History Program. He will be sorely missed.

Donald D. Horward Graduate Fellowship in Napoleonic Military History
This past year’s recipient of the fellowship, Caleb Greinke, successfully defended his M.A. thesis and is now attending the University of Oxford to pursue his doctoral studies in British naval history.

This fund is still accepting new gifts. Anyone interested in contributing to this award, which honors Dr. Horward while advancing historical inquiry, can contact Jeffrey Ereckson at jereckson@foundation.fsu.edu.

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The past year has been a time of tremendous momentum at the Institute. New collections have been added related to nearly every theater of the war. One of the most significant collections added was the Oliver L. Austin Photographic Collection. Dr. Austin served in the occupation government of Japan in the Natural Resources Section. During his nearly four years in Japan, Austin produced almost 1000 color photographic slides of postwar Japan under reconstruction. The images include rare photographs of Crown Prince Akihito as a child, ordinary Japanese families in Tokyo and the countryside, and Japanese veterans purveying street entertainments.

Dr. Piehler was awarded a summer stipend from the Office of Undergraduate Research to develop a new course, “The American GI in War and Peace.”

The Ringling Museum of Art mounted an exhibit “Witness to War” that drew heavily upon the Institute’s extensive holdings of photography. This exhibit featured the works of six official combat photographers and ran June 21 - October 27, 2013.

The Institute is planning an exhibit at the FSU Museum of Fine Arts to open February 13, 2015 and run through the end of March 2015.

The Institute hosted three lectures on campus. Dr. Scott Bennett of Georgian Court University delivered the annual fall lecture. Dr. Bennett holds a master’s in history from Florida State University and is a past president of the Peace History Society. During Dr. Bennett’s visit he made a presentation to Professor Piehler’s graduate research seminar and also spoke to a special seminar of undergraduates. Dr. Serge Durflinger of the University of Ottawa delivered the spring lecture. As part of Dr. Durflinger’s visit, he spoke to special seminars for both undergraduate and graduate students. In April 2014 Dr. Barak Kushner of the University of Cambridge delivered a special guest lecture.

The Institute’s annual Veterans Day Program was held in New York City in conjunction with Fordham University Press, featuring presentations by Judy Barrett Litoff of Bryant University (Rhode Island) and Peter Dunbar. Professor Litoff described her efforts to uncover the story of women’s experiences in World War II through personal correspondence. Mr. Dunbar spoke of his effort to uncover his father’s World War II service with the U.S. Marines and his experiences writing They Were the Black Sheep: Marine Fighting Squadron VMF-214 and the Battle of the Solomon Islands (University Press of Florida).

The 2013 Pearl Harbor Day program in Sarasota, Florida featured the award winning historian Dr. John Whiteclay Chambers II of Rutgers University.
The retirement of Professor Peter Garretson, who taught in the History Department for more than thirty years. Professor Garretson grew up in Ethiopia, and his academic work focused on that nation, as well as its broader African and Middle Eastern contexts. He earned his doctorate at the University of London in 1974, and taught at the University of Khartoum and Swarthmore before coming to FSU in 1981. He published two books: *A History of Addis Ababa, 1880s to 1910* (2000) and *A Victorian Gentleman and Ethiopian Nationalist: The Life and Times of Hakim Wärqenäh, Dr Charles Martin* (2012).

Peter made many contributions as an administrator. He was FSU’s Associate Vice President for International Programs from 1987 to 1994, and the history department’s director of graduate studies for five years. In 2002, he established the Middle East major degree at FSU, and he served as director of the Middle East Center for twelve years. Outside of the university, he was a founding member of the Sudan Studies Association and has been involved with the establishment of the American University of Iraq–Sulaimania. He was a driving force behind the Global Peace Exchange.

On March 21, the annual symposium of the Middle East Center celebrated Professor Garretson by inviting his former students to read papers in his honor. It is a testament to his many services to the University that so many offices, departments, and programs agreed to support the event: the Office of the Provost, the Center for Global Engagement, the Deans of Arts & Sciences and Social Sciences, the Department of Modern Languages, the International Affairs Program, the Broad Lecture Series, the William A. Kerr Intercultural Education & Dialogue Initiative, the Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies, and the Office of National Fellowships.

The event was planned and hosted by Victoria Hightower (University of North Georgia) and John Dunn (Valdosta State University). Papers were contributed by Rebecca Hayes (Northern Virginia Community College), Jeanne Marie Warzeski (North Carolina Museum of History), Travis Ritt (Palomar College), Brian Parkinson (Georgia Southwestern State University), Jose Alvarez (University of Houston—Downtown), Colleen Boyett (who completed her PhD this spring), Joanna Neilson and Wayne Harden (Lincoln Memorial University), and Stephanie Laffer (Miami International University of Art & Design), and David Crist. A special surprise was the attendance of Dr. Kinde Mihretie, who travelled from Addis Ababa. Other former students came from around the country and the world to attend the event. The evening was capped off with a wonderful dinner prepared by the Ethiopian community of Tallahassee. The next day, a smaller group of students gathered at the home of Professor Garretson and his wife, Engineering Professor Rufina Alamo.

Although Professor Garretson will continue to travel to Spain, Turkey, Iraq, Ethiopia, and elsewhere, we look forward to his continued presence, as emeritus professor, at the Middle East Center and the history department.

The Reichelt Oral History Program’s collection has been moved to Special Collections in Strozier Library. Katie McCormick will be managing the collection. She can be reached at kmccormick@fsu.edu.

"New Directions in World History: Essays in Honor of Peter P. Garretson" from Dr. Will Hanley
Kyle Bracken, Chris Juergens, Sean Klimek, and Lauren Thompson all received Ridgeway Military History Research Grants. Kyle also received a Russell F. Weigley Graduate Student Award from the Society for Military History and Chris received the Jacob Price Fellowship from the Clements Library, Ann Arbor to fund research there, as well as a research fellowship at the David Library, Valley Forge. Corey Gray was inducted into Iron Arrow, the University of Miami’s oldest tradition and highest honor society. Chris Gunn has accepted a tenure-track position in Middle Eastern history at Coastal Carolina University. Benjamin Harper was awarded the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA) international research grant. Thanks to Julie Sawnor’s capstone research project, nomination of the Jefferson County Jail to the National Register of Historic Places (A National Park Service Program), the jail has been officially listed in the Registrar! In addition, she has secured a position as an education intern (a paid position) with the Presidio Trust for the next year. Dallas Scoutron-Johnson received an International Dissertation Research Semester Fellowship from the University and Allyson Staton won the Bernard M. Rosoff Memorial Master’s Thesis Fellowship from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The Walbolt Dissertation Fellowship was awarded to Scott Craig for Spring 2014 and Arad Gigi for Fall 2014.

Faculty Accomplishments continued from page 3...

Ron Doel co-edited a special volume of the Journal of Historical Geography for which he served as Project Leader. He was keynote speaker at a Cold War History workshop at Leiden University (The Netherlands), and he taught for the first time a new undergraduate lecture course “Environmental Policy: Twentieth Century and Beyond,” intended for majors in the Earth, Oceans, and Atmospheric Sciences department as well as History students.


Jennifer Koslow received FSU’s Award for Excellence in Online Course Design for developing HIS 4163 Digital History.

Darrin McMahon received a Distinguished Research Professor Award of $10,000.

Denise Spivey joined the History faculty as a Visiting Lecturer in Fall 2013. She has enjoyed the opportunity to explore new material and curriculum, especially Reacting to the Past historical simulations.


Edward Wynot is beginning his 45th year at FSU! He presented a paper at the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies and his book The Polish Orthodox Church in the 20th Century and Beyond: Prisoner of History (Lexington Books, 2014) will be released in September.

You Can Support the Department of History

The Department is currently raising funds for two endowed fellowships. The James P. Jones Fellowship for Teaching Excellence supports graduate students teaching American History at FSU. The Joe M. Richardson Fellowship supports graduate study for outstanding African American Students.

Please send contributions to: The FSU Foundation
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113 Collegiate Loop
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Any noteworthy news for the Department of History?

Please send updates to Julie via email at jdbarrett@fsu.edu or to the return address above.

For additional information on any of the Department of History's many Institutes and Programs please visit our website.

WWW.HISTORY.FSU.EDU