A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from Hardin Hall. This is our second annual report on life in the Department of History and Geography. Once again, the department had a big year and we are eager to share our news. We’ll be hosting an alumni event on Friday, Sept. 8, here in Hardin Hall from 4:30-6:00 p.m., and would love to see as many of our alumni as possible. If you can make it, please contact me at burnsj@clemson.edu.

Sincerely,
James Burns

STUDENT AND FACULTY TRAVELS

Faculty and students alike fanned out across the nation and the globe this past year to conduct research and present their scholarship. James Burns took the freshman cohort of the National Scholars on a ten day trip to South Africa, which featured hiking in the snow-capped Drakensberg Mountains and swimming in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. Steve Marks just returned in late May from leading a study-abroad trip to Amsterdam. Rod Andrew will bring his first group of students to Normandy on a study abroad experience in June. Dr. Andrew will follow in the footsteps of American GIs from the shores of Omaha Beach to the war’s decisive battlefields in Belgium and Germany. Faculty presented original scholarship at conferences in Hamburg (Meng), Paris (Barczewski) Copenhagen (Marks), London (Silvestri), Morey (Sweden), while Vernon Burton did a speaking tour of the United Kingdom in the fall from London to Edinburgh and Abel Bartley traveled to China to teach summer school.
Professor Elizabeth Carney will be retiring this December after 44 years at Clemson. Beth arrived at Clemson in 1973 as an ABD from Duke University (Ph.D., 1975). When she arrived she was the first female to be hired in a tenure-track position. She will retire as one of our most distinguished, well-published and beloved faculty. During her long career, she has produced four books and innumerable articles. Among her many accolades, she is the Carol Brown Professor of Humanities. She has also taught ancient history and Western Civilization to literally thousands of undergraduates. Of all her accomplishments, perhaps none is more impressive than the countless number of students she helped to graduate in her extended term as the head of undergraduate advising. We will recognize Beth’s truly remarkable contributions to Clemson at our department alumni event on Sept. 8.

Your former professors have had an extremely busy and productive year. In addition to countless book chapters, articles and reviews, the faculty published a remarkable number of books on an array of topics. Steve Marks’, *The Information Nexus: Global Capitalism from the Renaissance to the Present* (Cambridge), came out in fall 2016. Rod Andrew’s biography of Andrew Pickens (UNC Press), appeared in spring 2017, as did Tom Kuehn’s *Gender and Family in Renaissance Italy* (Cambridge), and Roger Grant co-authored, *Rails to the Front: The Role of Railways in Wartime* (Karwansaray Press). For those of you keeping score, that brings Roger Grant’s total number of books to an incredible 33. Look for the following from our faculty later this year: Ed Moise’s, *The Myths of Tet - the Most Misunderstood Event of the Vietnam War* (University Press of Kansas), Amit Bein’s, *Kemalist Turkey and the Middle East: International Relations in the Inter-war Period* (Cambridge), and a collection of essays edited by Caroline Dunn and Elizabeth Carney based on the successful ‘Kings and Queens’ conference they organized in Greenville, S.C. last year. Though he didn’t publish a monograph this year, special mention to professor Michael Meng who will publish four articles in 2017. After publishing three books last year, Stephanie Barczewski found time to produce one book chapter, four conference presentations and an essay in the Times Literary Supplement.

This year, the department says goodbye to Professor Lance Howard, our senior lecturer in Geography. Lance came to Clemson from UCLA more than 20 years ago, and since arriving he has probably taught more undergraduates than any other faculty member in the department. Lance will be well remembered by his students and colleagues alike as an innovative thinker and teacher who believed deeply in the role of community outreach in education. Though he will be retired from the University, you can still find Lance working with the Clemson Area Food Exchange.
GOOD LUCK GRADUATE STUDENTS

Lauren Hamblen (Anderson) is going to the doctoral program at Notre Dame to work on modern American and religious history. Ben Parten (Burton) is headed to the doctoral program at Yale University to work on slavery, race and emancipation. Katrina Moore (Carney) is off to the doctoral program at the City University of New York to study ancient history.

STUDENT AWARDS

It was a big year for our students, as many qualified for prestigious awards.

Phi Beta Kappa Society: Corrine Foster, Polly Goss, Joseph Litts, Sarah Marshall & Madeline Reilly

Carl Lafayette Epting History Essay Award: William Still

William Shannon Morrison Prize (as outstanding senior): Shiva Mohan

R. Glen Ayers, Sr. Award (as best rising senior): Melissa Lin Knapp

Silver Bowl Award by SC State Society of the Daughters of American Colonists: Glenn Bertram

Rand-McNally Geography Prize: Mary Melton

Alan Schaffer Student Award for African American Studies: Shatari Dunmore

SPECIAL HONORS

Jeannette Carter, our fabulous administrative specialist, was named as the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities Dean’s Team Player. This will come as no surprise to anyone who has had the pleasure of working with Jeannette over the past two years.

“History is not a burden on the memory but an illumination of the soul.”

-LORD ACTON

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Steirer (1936-2015) was one of the Department of History’s greatest teachers (and greatest characters).

Professor Paul Anderson has written an essay about Bill that you can read on our department webpage here: http://www.clemson.edu/caah/departments/history.
Joe Peterson '10 won Yale University's John Addison Porter dissertation prize, one of two dissertation prizes given by the university annually. Robyn Adams '13 is a curator at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, S.C. Robert Elder ('02, '04) is an Assistant Professor of History at Valparaiso University (and will be giving a talk about his research on campus on Sept. 6,) Liz Devos '13 is an attorney at Nelson Mullins in Greenville, S.C. Rebecca Williams '07 is an attorney at the Harris Family Law firm in Denver. Joshua McJunkins '04 teaches social studies at Clover High School. Ellen Kennedy '12 is the director of education at the Museum of the Great Lakes. Here on campus, Anne MacMahan Grant '01 is the history specialist in the Cooper Library, while Laura Foxworth '08 is an instructor in the Women's Leadership program and will be teaching in the public history program this fall.

Please send us your news so we can let your former professors and classmates know what you are up to http://www.clemson.edu/caah/departments/history/alumni/index.html

The department needs support for student scholarships and faculty research. If you would like to make a donation, you can contribute through our website. Be sure to indicate that you want your contribution to go to the Department of History and Geography.

http://www.clemson.edu/caah/departments/history/alumni/index.html

You can also mail a contribution to the Clemson University Foundation at PO Box 1889, Clemson, SC 29633. Again, make sure you specify that your check is for the History Foundation Account. If you have a particular initiative you’d like to support (e.g., student travel abroad, South Carolina history research projects, supporting the return of the basement vending machine, etc.), please send a note to James Burns, and he will make sure it is used accordingly. If you’d like to discuss opportunities for giving in person, contact the chair and we’ll set up a meeting the next time you are in Hardin Hall.

Please consider making a contribution to the Department of History and Geography. Even a small amount will go a very long way. Please designate your preference for how your donation should be used. Thank you!

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