

Oakland University

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER Spring 2006

VIEW FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

By **Carl R. Osthaus**

Some years are good years, some years are awful, and others are merely periods of marking time and getting by. The past year would appear to have been a very good year for our department. Of course, we won't for one moment forget the annoyances of an increasingly omnipresent bureaucracy or the presence of headstrong faculty committees ignorant of departmental standards; nevertheless, we take pride in recounting the achievements of individual historians and the department as a whole this past year. Many of these accomplishments are mentioned below in news from our faculty, but I choose to highlight some of them now as collective evidence of a strong department working diligently and successfully in the classroom and archives.

In the area of teaching, our instructors continue to receive rave reviews on their student course evaluations. Whether we focus on tenure-track historians or adjunct staff, from top to bottom the history department showcases outstanding teachers. And it is with great pleasure that

finally we can announce that we are expanding our permanent staff (as opposed to replacing retirees). For the first time since the early 1980s, the number of full-time historians will increase, from fourteen to fifteen, with the addition of an historian of science and technology. Our newest historian, Professor **Craig Martin**, will join us this fall.

As always, the department contributed faculty to panels discussing current topics of interest and sent out historians to speak at many different community venues. Our own lecture series continued to set records for attendance, and it now enters its third year with even greater community support. Alpha Zeta Upsilon, our student honors society, has continued to raise the profile of history (both the department and discipline) by recruiting a new class of inductees numbering over thirty, sponsoring talks and workshops, and sending several members to present their research at the Michigan Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. The department joined with Alpha Zeta Upsilon to bring distinguished labor historian and OU alumnus **Michael Honey** to campus for a President's Day talk, and also sponsored the Broyles Family in Concert in a

celebration of the music and career of Paul Robeson. Both of these programs were part of the department's contribution to African American History Celebration 2006.

The scholarly activities of historians are featured in the Recent Faculty News section, but several items should receive additional notice. At the Eleventh Annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon on Founders' Day 2006, **Todd Estes** was honored for research achievement over the past year—especially for the publication of his book on early American politics, *The Jay Treaty Debate, Public Opinion, and the Evolution of Early American Political Culture* (University of Massachusetts Press). **Matthew Sutton** joined Todd Estes as a winner of an OU Research Fellowship for 2006. Todd's work will focus on the political culture of the ratification debate on the Constitution, while Matt will devote his time to the final research for his forthcoming book on sensational evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson. The Organization of American Historians has selected an article by **Carl Osthaus** titled "The Work Ethic of the Plain Folk: Labor and Religion in the Old South" for inclusion in *The Best American History Essays 2006* (Palgrave/Macmillan), the first

volume of a new series celebrating the best examples of research and writing in American history during the previous year. Finally, the close of the year brought news of recognition to another historian; Professor **Sara Chapman** has been chosen to deliver the President's Colloquium Address on October 24. Her talk is titled "Founding the French Fort at Detroit: Empire and the Great Lakes Frontier."

The department never has sufficient money for all of its needs and projects, but it is important to emphasize that we use well what we have. For example, when the Department of History became the recipient of a College of Arts and Sciences discretionary fund allocation of almost \$4,000 last fall (money given in recognition of the community outreach success of "History Comes Alive" and other initiatives and successes), it promptly designated this fund for research fellowships for its newest faculty. The result will be to reduce travel barriers and other problems that delay research, writing, and publication on the part of our talented junior faculty. Another example of productive use of our funds is currently reaching fruition even as the Newsletter goes to press. The department is arranging to transfer funds it has carefully husbanded in its History Gift Account to bolster and expand the George T. Matthews Scholarship in History (see Money Matters).

All of the above—achievements in research and writing in history and the encouragement of additional scholarship, the expansion of the history staff, and the myriad activities of faculty and staff, to say nothing of the growth of a supportive community that has responded to our history talks—provides evidence that history is alive and well at Oakland University.

I would like to end on a personal note. On August 15 I will no longer be chair of the department. I am proud of the fact that as the department engaged in the process of creating a procedure for selecting a new chair, we approached the potentially volatile task in a thoughtful, deliberative manner. **Linda Benson** drafted a very good set of procedures, which were promptly put into effect, and **Todd Estes** drafted a comprehensive summary and explanation of the department's unanimous recommendation to the administration. All of which is a somewhat long-winded way of saying that the department functions well.

Finally, I leave under something of a burden—one imposed by our last retiring chair, **Ron Finucane**. As he wandered down the hallway to his little office after leaving the Big Office, he emphasized that he was not going into semi-retirement. His words to me at that time, and on numerous occasions since, when things got a bit hectic, were: "How can I help." As I respond to our new chair, I hope I can live up to those words as well as Ron did.

KAREN MILLER TO BE NEXT HISTORY CHAIR

Come August 15 the Department of History's chairperson will be **Karen Miller**. Professor Miller received her PhD from Columbia University and joined the department in 1993. At Oakland she has taught a great variety of courses in American history—courses in twentieth-century political history and public policy, foreign policy, business history, and American women's history in addition to the introductory general education survey course in American history since 1877, and the required seminars for majors. Her scholarly interests

focus on Republican factionalism, US foreign policy, and farm policy in the 1910s and 1920s. She is the author of *Populist Nationalism: Republican Insurgency and American Foreign Policy Making* (Greenwood Publishing Group, 1999). Professor Miller brings to the history chairmanship a strong record of academic leadership. She has served in the College Assembly and University Senate and chaired important College and University committees, including the College Committee on Instruction and most recently the College Committee on Appointments and Promotions. For years she has been a mainstay of the department, chairing tenure and promotion review committees, search committees, and the assessment committee in addition to co-authoring the department's undergraduate self-study and serving as one of the two department advisors. With great enthusiasm, the department recommended her appointment as chair, knowing that she will bring skill and dedication as well as energy and laughter in addressing the many problems and opportunities that the department will face in the near future.

HISTORIAN OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JOINS STAFF

Craig Martin, who received his PhD from Harvard University in 2002, has agreed to join the department as an assistant professor of history. His specialty is the history of science. Since earning his degree at Harvard, Professor Martin has taught at the University of Oklahoma for one year and held three postdoctoral fellowships—at Oklahoma, the Harvard University Center for Italian

Renaissance Studies in Florence, and the De Wulf-Mansion Centre, Institute of Philosophy, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. Professor Martin has taught courses on the History of Ancient Science, History of Science until the Age of Newton, and History of Science since the Seventeenth Century, and this fall at Oakland he will offer a special topics course on the Occult Sciences and Witchcraft in addition to Introduction to European History since 1715. Professor Martin has published five articles and has a sixth under review.

RECENT FACULTY NEWS

In his second year at Oakland University, Professor **Getnet Bekele** has been working on a couple of research projects connected to development, power, and conflict in African history. Last summer he finished an article entitled "Appropriating Development: The Place of Agriculture in Building the Postwar Ethiopian State," now accepted for publication in the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. His ongoing research is provisionally titled "Back to the Future: Hydrology and Social Mobility as Missing Links in Ethiopia's Agricultural Development."

During the academic year, Getnet also spoke on a variety of topics at several venues. In October he gave a talk about the state of contemporary African societies to fourth- and eighth-grade students at Upland Hills School, and in November he spoke at the department's Phi Alpha Theta lecture focusing on the general theme of the interface between property rights and rural social transformation in contemporary Ethiopian history. In April he spoke at Oakland Community College about "The

Bumpy Road to 'Hotel Rwanda:' Reflections on a Late-Twentieth Century African Genocide."

This academic year has been a busy one for Professor **Linda Benson**, the department's historian of China and Inner Asia. After teaching three cross-listed courses in the fall term, she embarked on a semester's developmental leave, a major goal of which was to prepare a new course on Eurasia's Silk Road. Activities included taking a geography course at Wayne State, reading extensively on Silk Road history and cultures, and locating materials for classroom use, particularly music, art and scholarly websites.

Linda also continued with her research and publishing. In February she submitted her completed book manuscript, *Across China's Gobi*, which will be published by EastBridge Press in 2007. She also began writing projects scheduled for completion in early spring of 2006, including a 3,000-word essay on Christianity in Central Asia, an article for publication in the French Asian studies journal, *Etude Orientales*, and a book review. In April she was invited to speak at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's East Asian Studies Center. She discussed the circumstances of China's Kazakh population, comparing it with that of Kazakhs living across the border in western Mongolia, a region she visited in 2004. During the winter term she also spoke to a variety of groups and organizations in Birmingham, Farmington Hills, at the Wayne State Center, the OCC Orchard Ridge campus, and at the Rochester Hills Museum. In June Linda will become the Director of the CAS's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) program and divide her time between History and MALS. Her summer plans include attending a conference in Edinburgh,

Scotland and research at the British Library in London.

Professor **Sara Chapman** completed research in archives in France and in Quebec in the summer of 2005, thanks to an OU Summer Faculty Research Grant. This research will be the basis for a new book project on the French colonial settlements in the Great Lakes region from 1600 until 1765. Sara will present her research at the 2006-2007 President's Colloquium Series. Her talk, "Founding the French Fort at Detroit: Empire and the Great Lakes Frontier," will be at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.

Sara has also been working with Pearson/Prentice Hall on several textbook projects. This year she completed the content and copy for an instructional CD-ROM, "How to Read Primary Sources," which will be distributed with most of the introductory European and world history textbooks published by Pearson/Prentice Hall. She also served as editor for a collection of over 150 primary sources on a CD-ROM which will be distributed with the next edition of the best-selling history text for introductory European history courses by Kagan, Ozment, Turner, *The Western Heritage*. She has recently signed a contract to write volume 2 of a primary source reader and text for Prentice Hall for European history survey courses and will work on that project this summer.

Professor **Dan Clark** worked on his oral history project with retired auto workers during a productive winter semester sabbatical. He spent countless hours transcribing and copyediting interview tapes and plotting out chapters—so many hours that he developed an Achilles tendon injury from

excessive use of the transcribing machine's foot pedal. Few people appreciate the health risks historians face while conducting historical research.

;-) Certainly not the folks at the *Detroit News*, who recently exposed that professors on sabbatical get paid not to teach! Next they will tell us that books need not be researched, but rather appear out of thin air every few months.

During the fall Dan stayed busy with classes, book reviews, encyclopedia entries, a panel presentation at the North American Labor History Conference, and an unexpected week of jury duty. As the jury foreman, he led a nine-hour "discussion," during which he realized why professors don't demand that students all feel the same way about course readings before class can be dismissed. Dan's older son, Cameron, graduated from high school this spring and will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall. His younger son, Darren, played ninth-grade football, ran track, and constantly updated his MySpace website with his most recent video creations.

When not laid up with history injuries, Dan still likes to run trails, bike, and work in his garden. He is also looking forward to monitoring the various road construction projects between Ann Arbor and Rochester.

Professor **Todd Estes** has had a busy and productive year. His book, *The Jay Treaty Debate, Public Opinion, and the Evolution of Early American Political Culture* was published in January by the University of Massachusetts Press. Todd was delighted to see the book in print and thankful to all who provided support along the way, especially his colleagues in the department and his wife, Kathy Pfeiffer. In

addition to the book, Professor Estes published two articles this year. "The Unpopularity of Popular History in the Academy: An Academic's Thoughts on David McCullough's Visit to Campus" appeared in the Winter 2006 issue of the *Oakland Journal*. "Where the Votes Are: The Electoral Geography of the Coming Democratic Majority" was published in the online journal *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research in Contemporary Politics*. He also published several book reviews including a review essay, "Power, War, Empire, and the Creation of the American State," in *XVIII: New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century*, which considers three important recent works about the American founding.

Todd was the invited director of a colloquium on the early histories of the American Revolution written by David Ramsay and Mercy Otis Warren last August in Boston, and was an invited discussant for a colloquium on "The Pacificus-Helvidius Debates as the Completion of the American Founding" in May in Indianapolis. Todd presented a paper for a panel at the January meeting of the American Historical Association in Philadelphia entitled "Constructing the Syllabus: A Framework for Helping Students Learn to Think Like Historians." Both the panel and Todd's paper were featured in an article in the online journal *InsideHigherEd.com*. Closer to home, he gave a presentation at OU for Constitution Day and will speak at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library on "Alexander Hamilton: Man, Myth, and Symbol of Controversy in His Time and Ours," in conjunction with the library's hosting of the touring Hamilton exhibit from the New York Historical Society.

Finally, Todd earned his third OU Summer Research Fellowship for

spring and summer 2006 and is already at work on his next research project, a book manuscript tentatively titled "The Campaign for the Constitution: Political Culture and the Ratification Debate." Todd was pleased to have taught a course on "Luck, Chance, and Hard Work in American Culture" last spring as an offering in OU's American Studies program. He also takes great pride in the achievement of a former graduate student, Melly Scofield (see Alumni News). At home, Todd's daughter Elizabeth (age 9) loves third grade, particularly science and math, and her brother Brian (age 3) has been taught by someone to say, "Oh, come on, Dad" whenever his father launches into another improbable tale.

Professor **Ron Finucane** has continued attempting to convey the joys of historiographical theory to HST 300 students, as well as coaching them in the fine art of writing papers according to Madam Turabian. In addition, he's managed to produce another course in the Italian Renaissance, and the Reformation, without encouraging more than the usual numbers of withdrawals from both classes. Apart from that, he's still advising history majors and wanna-be history majors (!), and this past academic year he chaired a fruitful search for a new historian for the department. In his spare time, Ron's been working on the last 15% of a new book on "The Last Medieval Saints," documenting the how and why of official canonizations in the late 15th and early 16th centuries (following up yet another trip to the Vatican archives). He also published a chapter on a case of medieval parental negligence as well as several shorter encyclopedia entries. To round out the academic year, the Dumbarton Oaks Institute flew him to

Washington, DC to present a paper comparing medieval European and Byzantine childhood.

Professor **Derek Hastings** continues to make good progress on his book manuscript on the religious identity of the early Nazi movement, which will be completed and sent off to the publisher during the upcoming academic year. As the recipient of an OU Faculty Research Fellowship, Derek spent most of the summer of 2005 in Munich (mainly researching in the archives, he notes, but also managing to spend ample time in Munich's beer gardens). His article "Fears of a Feminized Church: Catholicism, Clerical Celibacy, and the Crisis of Masculinity in Wilhelmine Germany" is forthcoming in the journal *European History Quarterly*, and he has completed five book reviews over the past year for such journals as *German Studies Review*, the *German Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Modern History*. Over the past year, Derek has also served as an outside peer reviewer for five separate textbook projects to be published by Prentice Hall, Thomson/Wadsworth, and W. W. Norton. As an inter-cultural consulting expert, he has made nearly four dozen presentations on the history and culture of Germany to American executives relocating to the German offices of several major Fortune 500 corporations. Derek continues to enjoy teaching classes on European history at OU, and was pleased to be able to deliver such public lectures as "Municipal Memory: Negotiating the Legacy of the Holocaust in Postwar West Germany" (as part of the "History Comes Alive" series) and "Baseball and the Bible, or Why I Became a Historian" (at the Phi Alpha Theta induction dinner). In addition to his book manuscript, Derek continues to work on a number of

article-length projects, and will spend part of the upcoming summer in Germany and Italy.

Professor **Mary Karasch** was on sabbatical and unpaid leave in 2005. Her objective was to complete a draft of her book manuscript on frontier life in Central Brazil, a topic that she spoke about in the "History Comes Alive" lecture series in February 2006. She now has ten chapters in draft. In the midst of writing, Mary took time to prepare a keynote lecture on recent research on slave identity in Brazil, which she delivered at Northwestern University in April 2006. She completed the final editing for an essay, "Mujeres y Trabajo Esclavo en Brasil, Siglo XIX," which is to appear in *Historia de las Mujeres en Espana y America Latina* in Madrid in 2006. Mary used the material gathered for this essay to give two talks in Brazil on "Black Women and Work," one at the annual meeting of the Sociedade Brasileira de Pesquisa Histórica in Rio de Janeiro in July 2005 and another to a graduate class at the University of Campinas in Campinas, São Paulo in August 2005. She also participated at the annual historical meeting of ANPUH in Londrina, Paraná in which she gave a paper, "Indigenous Warfare and Inter-ethnic Alliances in the captaincy of Goiás, 1775-1835," which will be a part of her future book. Also drawing on her book, she spoke on "Quality, Nation, and Color in Central Brazil, 1775-1835" at Brown University in April 2006. Mary is currently planning another trip to Brazil in July and August 2006.

Professor **Don Matthews** has completed his book, *Confronting an Empire: Constructing a Nation: Arab Nationalists and Popular Politics in Mandate Palestine*. It will be published

this summer by I. B. Tauris. Last November, Don presented a paper, "Race and Nation, Time and History: An Arab Conception in 1924," at the conference of the Middle East Studies Association in Washington, DC. The paper considers the cross-cultural transmission of ideas of race, nation, and historical progress, and focuses on the encounter of two Lebanese Druze intellectuals with American racial theory. Don is developing the paper as a journal article. He also continues his research on Palestinian nationalism and US involvement in the Arab world during the Cold War. In June he will be a guest of Tel Aviv University for a twelve-day workshop on the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Most of Professor **Karen Miller's** academic energies have been spent this year on pulling together two long-term projects—her book on the Republican Party in the 1920s and a reader on World War II. Professor Miller writes, "These both seem to have become endless tasks, which seems to be why I enjoy them so much. What I can't figure out is the force of attraction. It may be that I am attracted to complicated things that can't be resolved quickly. Alternatively, I may have simply resigned myself to liking them because they will not go away—sort of like amiable, but doddering house guests who can't find the front door."

In my idle moments this year I have been contemplating my grandmother's dictum 'What goes around, comes around.' Since I am writing my newsletter copy at the last possible moment, my grandmother's words have particular resonance. Next year I will be chair and I will suddenly find I am responsible for making others meet deadlines. Forgive me, Carl, for all the nagging I've forced on you."

Professor **Carl Osthaus** reports that he will be delighted to surrender the chair's duties and return full time to the classroom. Prior to his chairmanship he was a department advisor with a reduced teaching load, so it's been many years since he has taught three courses in one semester, which is his destiny this fall before heading off for a winter sabbatical with Ms. Wendy (beaches around Charleston and Savannah?). Regarding the chairmanship, if you catch him in a certain mood, he'll say "I've done it and it was okay, but I don't want to do it again." He fondly recalls the support and good humor of most of his colleagues, the department's secretaries, his fellow College chairs, and the good folks in the Dean's office in the College of Arts and Sciences. He says he'll miss long afternoon naps in the Big Office where the door was fiercely guarded by Janet and Debbie, and he'll also miss his annual opportunity to speak after dinner with a drink in hand about "whatever" at the department's year-end gala, an event regarded by Ms. Wendy as the scariest night of the year. Because paper-pushing and meetings seemed to require inordinate amounts of time and energy this past year, he was especially happy to revisit his reflections on the puzzle of Grant the general and president when in October he delivered the George M. Blackburn Lecture on the Civil War and Reconstruction at Central Michigan University. Best of all in the area of scholarship, his *Journal of Southern History* article, "The Work Ethic of the Plain Folk: Labor and Religion in the Old South," was re-published by the Organization of American Historians and Palgrave/Macmillan in *The Best American History Essays 2006*, the first volume in a new series that will annually celebrate the best examples of research and

writing in American history during the previous year.

Professor **Matthew Sutton** has had a busy first year at OU. He is in the last stages of revising his dissertation on charismatic and controversial evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson (1890-1944), which is scheduled to be published by Harvard University Press in the fall of 2007. The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has bought the documentary rights to the manuscript and is turning it into a one-hour documentary. The show will be part of PBS's award-winning "American Experience" series. Matt is serving as the primary historical consultant and least eloquent talking head. The show will broadcast simultaneously with the book release (which means Matt has to do something that he has never seen a historian accomplish—finish a book on schedule). Matt was awarded an OU Faculty Research Fellowship, which will allow him to tie up loose ends for the book project this summer.

His article, "Clutching to 'Christian' America: Aimee Semple McPherson, the Great Depression and the Origins of Pentecostal Political Activism," appeared in the *Journal of Policy History* last summer and he presented parts of his research this year at the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, and the Oakland-Wayne State-Dearborn colloquium.

Matt and his wife Kristen are the proud new parents of Jackson Avery Sutton, born January 14.

IN MEMORIAM

We give our sincere condolences to Professor **De Witt Dykes**, whose dear wife, **Marie Draper Dykes**, passed away on May 26,

2006. Marie was an Assistant Professor of Nursing and later the Associate Provost for Academic Programs at Wayne State University.

We are saddened by the deaths of Professor Emeritus **Robert Howes** and his wife, **Ruth**. Professor Howes passed away on May 6, 2006, preceding his wife in death by four days. Bob taught Russian history and language at Oakland from 1962 until 1985. As a scholar he was known for a translation of *The Tale of the Campaign of Igor; a Russian Epic Poem of the Twelfth Century* (NY: W. W. Norton, 1973), and for a translation and commentary on *The Testament of the Grand Princes of Moscow* (NY: Cornell University Press, 1967). Ruth received her MA in history from Oakland University and retired from teaching in 1997 from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

EMERITI NEWS

Professor **Jack Barnard** resides with his wife Joan (a wonderful party giver) on Cape Cod, about two miles from one of the Cape's great beaches. His book, *American Vanguard: The United Auto Workers During the Reuther Years, 1935-1970* (Wayne State University Press) is now in a second printing, a paperback edition. The Library of Michigan selected *American Vanguard* as a 2005 Michigan Notable Book, and at a ceremony in Ann Arbor last year the Historical Society of Michigan selected it as "an outstanding Michigan historical publication."

Professor **Leo Gerulaitis** sends cheery greetings to the department and to all of his former students. Despite health problems and a serious illness recently, he has taught a course

on Dante's *Commedia* during the last three semesters for Learning in Retirement and is currently teaching "Science and Religion." He has found great joy in reflecting upon modes of knowing with "lifelong learners" who have already accomplished a great deal and are not reticent to voice their views. He adds that he enjoys the amenities of the Ann Arbor area—restaurants, concerts, movies, etc.

Professor **Jim Graham**, who retired after teaching African history from 1969-2003, has been discovering (paraphrasing Thoreau) how to "travel much" at his home in Rochester. He's embraced retirement as a "coming of age," a unique opportunity to devote himself wholeheartedly to his favorite pursuits—reading, writing, walking, and meditating. Following two earlier drafts ("Religion and Philosophy in Roman Egypt" and "Urban Music and National Culture in Modern South Africa"), he has now drafted a third ("Philosophical Vitalism in Post-Colonial West Africa") for his projected collection of essays on *Excursions in Africa's Cultural History*. After circulating the "Vitalism" essay among friends and family, Jim realized that it was far too dense for non-academics to enjoy and, because he wanted to engage a broader range of readers, decided to search for a more accessible, informal "voice." By way of doing so, he's been writing for the past few months outside his chosen field, developing a more personalized memoir-style narrative tentatively titled "Time-Traveling through our Midwest: Prehistoric Earthworks as Sacred Space." This exercise involved developing new avenues of research (fishing beneath the surface of Algonquian history) as well as a different writing style (currently surfacing as "creative non-fiction"). He's enjoying the

challenges of this project not only because it deepens his "sense of place" here in Michigan, but also because it provides him an opportunity to strip away some of his more stilted professorial prose and liberate his inner voice—hopefully enough to write more naturally and lucidly about selected African historical "excursions."

Professor **Bernie Thomas** sends greetings to all. He and Evelyn have settled in Edgewater, New Jersey, to be near their three children. Their apartment faces the Hudson River and the Manhattan skyline and offers many services, amenities, and cultural activities. We are cheered that Bernie reports that they are in reasonably good health.

From Hawaii Professor **Dick Tucker** reports that he spends time landscaping and writing. He and Lia are in excellent health and absorbed in the many-faceted life of the Big Island. Dick is working on an abridged and updated edition of *Insatiable Appetite*, which Rowman and Littlefield will publish in a New World History series. Dick just missed the department's annual dinner; he was back in the states, stopping in Ann Arbor, visiting St. Paul for this year's environmental history conference, and then off to Argentina to see family before returning to Ann Arbor for half of May and all of June—which is why we sometimes referred to Dick as holding a mythical chair as Northwest Airlines Professor of World History. The department is proud to include in our publication archives a copy of *Nature's Enemy, Nature's Ally: Toward an Environmental History of War*. Dick co-edited this volume and contributed two of its chapters.

"HISTORY COMES ALIVE"—YET AGAIN!

The department's lecture series, "History Comes Alive," completed its second year to considerable applause and praise. The quality of the talks was first rate, and the audiences, averaging 75 people per talk, again revealed their inquisitive nature and enthusiastic support. The 2005-2006 series opened with Professor **Sara Chapman's** talk on "French Colonies and the Fur Trade: The Founding of Detroit in 1701." Five additional talks rounded out the season; the other OU historians and their talks were: **Karen Miller**, "Worshipping St. Republican: Architecture, Urban Space and Republican Politics in the 1920s"; **Daniel Clark**, "Old Truths, New Truths and Untruths: Revisiting the Origins of the Cold War"; **Derek Hastings**, "Municipal Memory: Negotiating the Legacy of the Holocaust in Postwar West Germany"; **Mary Karasch**, "Frontier Life in Central Brazil before 1835"; and **Jace Crouch**, "Lord of the Rings, Narnia and the Middle Ages: Medievalism in J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis." This lecture series has had, once again, the generous financial support of Annette and John Carter, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Oakland University.

Plans for the 2006-2007 series are being finalized. As always, the chair was delighted to discover that he had more volunteer speakers than opportunities for talks. The first lecture is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19. Professor **Todd Estes** will open the series with a talk titled "If James Madison Was the Father of the Constitution, Why Was He Such a Reluctant Parent?" He will be followed on October 18 by **Ron Finucane**, "How to Execute a Corpse: The

'Trial' of St. Thomas Becket." Other speakers and topics for the 2006-2007 series are: **Matt Sutton**, "Sex and God in the City of Angels: The Kidnapping of Aimee Semple McPherson" on November 15; **Carl R. Osthaus**, "They Love a Man in the Country: Dixie Demagogues and Southern Politics, 1900-1950" (rated R—language, sexual situations, general raunchiness) on January 23, 2007; **Don Matthews**, "The Historical Origins of the Modern Jihadist Movement," on February 21, 2007; and **Bruce Zellers**, "Marking the Primrose Path to the Future: Harry Truman, Presidential Power, and the Limited War in Korea," on March 20, 2007.

If anyone would like to be added to the history mailing list to receive announcements about this lecture series, please write the department or phone 248-370-3510.

PHI ALPHA THETA

Phi Alpha Theta enjoyed another great year, inducting over thirty new members and hosting a variety of events. President **Sarah Bauer** deserves special thanks for her energy and dedication. PAT sponsored a fall lecture by Professor **Getnet Bekele** and hosted the department's holiday party at the home of **Beatriz Blanca**. The third annual "Careers in History" panel provided authentic hope and inspiration for current and prospective majors. PAT's annual President's Day lecture was presented by OU alum and prize-winning historian **Michael Honey**, who spoke about "Martin Luther King's Unfinished Agenda." Mike also met separately with students to discuss his ongoing research (see below). Five PAT members, **Sarah Bauer, Nancy Segar, Margaret Ricker, Marie Lobbezoo, and Kaitlin Scardo**, presented research papers at the

Regional Conference at Northern Michigan University. Professor **Jace Crouch** offered moral support at the conference and plenty of stories afterwards! **Sara Fenwick** organized the Induction Luncheon, and **Julie Zell, David Van Slembrouck** and **Adam Fuhrman** provided invaluable help throughout the year. David will serve as PAT President during the 2006-07 school year.

PERSPECTIVE ON OAKLAND

OU alumnus **Michael Honey** (BA 1969), an Organization of American Historians' Distinguished Lecturer who holds the University of Washington system's Harry Bridges Chair of Labor Studies, published a flattering account of his visit to OU in the May 2006 issue of the *OAH Newsletter*. In recounting his return to Oakland, he praised Professor **Dan Clark** for his book *Like Night and Day: Unionization in a Southern Mill Town*, and also noted that Dan's students (many of them Phi Alpha Theta members) "made my visit a special treat, due to their interest in labor and community history." What also made his trip especially memorable, he wrote, was being joined by old classmates as well as by "one of the great lecturers of our time at Oakland, **Roy Kotynek**, an intellectual historian who has lost none of his sharpness and wit." Somewhat ironically, Professor Honey reviewed the phenomenal growth of Oakland County and Oakland University since his departure thirty-seven years ago, juxtaposing this growth with the contemporary hurricane-like destruction of Michigan auto jobs. Honey closed his article by recommending OAH lectures to his colleagues because of the importance of getting in touch with history students and professors at other institutions,

especially if it means reacquainting oneself with a long-lost alma mater.

STUDENTS OF NOTE

It is a pleasure to announce that **Elizabeth R. Graham** has won the George T. Matthews Scholarship in History and **Joshua James Miller** is one of the College's recipients of a Werner Holzbock Humanities Scholarship. Both are outstanding history students. Before returning to her home state of Michigan, Elizabeth lived in California, where she attended junior college and worked part time as a clerk in an emergency room. She also began an eight-year career as an airborne traffic and news reporter, for which she won an award for best traffic reporting in 1999. At Oakland she will prepare for a career in secondary education. After high school Joshua put his college career on hold for two years as he worked in a movie theater, advancing very rapidly to part-time management. At Oakland he found opportunities to participate in Student Congress and serve as president of a student organization, the Gay/Straight Alliance. Currently Joshua is preparing for a career in law.

ALUMNI NEWS

Josh Foeller (BA 2004) has entered the PhD program to study military history at The Ohio State University. He accepted a position as a graduate associate, which means that in addition to a tuition waiver for his own classes and a living stipend, he will lead discussions and do the grading for two sections of history classes.

Thea Glicksman (MA 1976) retired from her teaching position in the Okemos Public Schools in June 2005 in order to devote more time to caring for her

parents. She continues to mentor young faculty in the school district and fondly remembers her studies at OU, especially the program's emphasis on tutorials and seminars and personalized instruction from very able professors. She specifically mentioned **Charles Akers, Jack Barnard, Anne Tripp, and Carl Osthaus**. It was good to hear from Thea and learn that she still is an historian and a teacher.

Attorney **Steve Lehto** (BA 1989) is in the process of publishing his third book, *Death's Door: The Truth Behind the Italian Hall Tragedy*. His previous books were on Bobby Isaac, a legendary NASCAR champion, and on Chrysler's experimental turbine car that was powered by a jet engine that could run on a variety of fuels—kerosene, diesel, jet fuel, and even perfume and liquor. The law, racing champions and experimental car engines, and now the Christmas Eve fire that claimed the lives of some six dozen people in the mining community of Calumet, Michigan in 1911—what subject will Steve tackle next?

After Oakland, **Colleen Murphy** (BA 1997) earned an MA in history from the University of Kentucky. Then the former OU swimmer returned to the water, serving as an assistant swim coach at the University of Iowa and Penn State University before being named head swim coach at Truman State University in Missouri. She led her teams to consecutive Division II national championships. Having conquered the coaching world, Colleen this past year returned to classroom teaching, accepting an appointment as history teacher and athletic director at Chandler Prep, a high school in the greater Phoenix area, where she teaches both ancient and American history. Colleen and husband Joe are expecting their first child this summer (a boy to be named

Brayden Alan). Future plans may include pursuit of a PhD in history at Arizona State University.

Merry Ellen (Melly) Scofield (MA 2002) will have an article published this fall in the *Journal of the Early Republic*, one of the leading scholarly journals of American history. Her article is an outgrowth of her MA thesis, "The Favor of His Company—Political Implications Behind the Dinner Parties of President Thomas Jefferson," completed under the direction of Professors **Todd Estes** and **Roy Kotynek**. Melly and her daughter Allison were guests of the department at the annual history department dinner this past April.

Occasionally **John Stoll** (BA 2000) passes through campus pursuing his many projects as the Detroit reporter for the Dow Jones Newswires and as a writer for the *Wall Street Journal*. He and his wife, Kimberly, reside in Birmingham and raise puppies for Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Nancy Zimmelman (BA 1983) has been appointed Chief of the California State Archives. Not only are the California State Archives among the most influential in the country, but Nancy is the first woman in California's history to head up the state archives. We are happy to quote verbatim the news release announcing Nancy's promotion: "Nancy is an experienced professional who is respected by her colleagues in California and across the United States," said Secretary of State Bruce McPherson. 'She will make certain that California's past is preserved for our citizens today and our present is preserved for our future. She will be an archivist for California's 21st Century.' Zimmelman has served as an archivist with the California State Archives since 1987. . . . Zimmelman earned a Master of Arts degree in History

with a Graduate Certificate in Archival Administration from Wayne State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Zimmelman is a resident of Sacramento."

MONEY MATTERS

We are happy to recognize once more the generosity of our alumni, friends of the department, emeriti, and current faculty. Your donations help us to bring featured speakers and events to campus, recruit new faculty, purchase computer equipment for faculty research, support small faculty and student research grants, and secure the occasional reference book or collection of documents to keep here in the department for faculty and student consultation. Apart from tax benefits and the gratification that meaningful giving provides, you have our thanks for helping to support so many varied academic "extras" which make OU the excellent institution that it is.

The department guards wisely the expenditure of money accumulated in the history gift account. Because we have proceeded with caution, the department is now able to transfer \$8,000 to \$10,000 to the **George T. Matthews Scholarship** endowment to increase the annual history scholarship and move us closer to the goal of establishing a second scholarship.

We hope that the generous support of our alumni, friends, emeriti and faculty will continue and that others will join the ranks of our honored donors. We apologize if there are errors or omissions in the following list of donors. Please let us know if we have erred in any way. Thank you.

**With Special Thanks to the
May 2005 - April 2006 Donors**

V. John Barnard, Mary E. Boll,
John W. Carter, Lee A. Casey,
Steven Dunker, Ford Motor
Company, Thea Glicksman, Jean
A. Martinez, Beatrice Moss,
Gerald Oehmke, Carl R.
Osthaus, Robert L. Pizzi, Michael
F. Ruddy, Robert Ryder, Cara
Shelly, Beverly Smith, Karen
Stahl, Sheryl Wragg.

**FUTURE COURSE
OFFERINGS**

Advising Memos for Spring,
Summer and Fall 2006 are
currently available in the History
Department, 378 O'Dowd Hall.

**FULL-TIME FACULTY
2006-07**

Bekele, Getnet (PhD Michigan
State 2004; asst. prof.) Africa
bekele@oakland.edu

Benson, Linda (PhD, Leeds, UK
1986; prof.) Modern China
benson@oakland.edu

Chapman, Sara E. (PhD,
Georgetown 1997; assoc. prof.)
Early Modern Europe, France
chapman@oakland.edu

Clark, Daniel J. (PhD, Duke
1989; assoc. prof.) US Labor
djclark@oakland.edu

Dykes, De Witt S. (MA, Michigan
1961; assoc. prof.) African
American, US Urban, Family and
Gender
dykes@oakland.edu

Estes, Todd A. (PhD, Kentucky
1995; assoc. prof.) Early National
US, Colonial and Revolutionary
US, Political Culture
estes@oakland.edu

Finucane, Ronald C. (PhD,
Stanford 1972; prof.) Medieval,
Renaissance, Reformation
Europe
finucane@oakland.edu

Hastings, Derek K. (PhD,
Chicago 2003; asst. prof.)
Modern Germany
hastings@oakland.edu

Karasch, Mary C. (PhD,
Wisconsin at Madison 1972;
prof.) Latin America, Brazil,
Comparative Slavery
karasch@oakland.edu

Martin, Craig (PhD, Harvard
2002; asst. prof.)
Science and Technology

Matthews, Weldon C. (PhD,
Chicago 1998; asst. prof.)
Modern Middle East
matthews@oakland.edu

Miller, Karen A. J. (PhD,
Columbia 1992; assoc. prof.) US
1877-present, Diplomatic,
Political
kjmiller@oakland.edu

Moran, Seán Farrell (PhD,
American 1989; assoc. prof.)
Modern Britain, Ireland, 19th- and
20th-century European
Intellectual
moran@oakland.edu

Osthaus, Carl R. (PhD, Chicago
1971; prof. and chair) Civil War,
Reconstruction, US South
osthaus@oakland.edu

Sutton, Matthew (PhD,
California at Santa Barbara 2005;
asst. prof.) US
Intellectual/Cultural

**PART-TIME FACULTY
2006-07**

Crouch, Jace T. (PhD, Michigan
State 1997; lect.) Europe
crouch@oakland.edu

Holland, Robert M. (MA, Wayne
State 1972; lect.) US

Miles, Mary Jo (MA, Oakland
University 1992; lect.) US

Prentiss, Dale (PhD, Stanford
1990; lect.) US

Shelly, Cara L. (MA, Michigan
1990; lect.) US
shelly@oakland.edu

Zellers, Bruce L. (MA, Clark
1978; lect.) US
zellers@oakland.edu

