View from the Chair

Since our last newsletter in the spring of 1995, the department has continued to prosper and grow, and to be honored by the achievements of its faculty. The 1995-96 academic year began with a magnificent conference organized by Neil McMillen. It dealt with the role of African-Americans in World War II, and it was the culmination of Neil’s two-year tenure as Moorman Professor of the Humanities, the College of Liberal Arts’ most prestigious award. The year ended with three of our faculty members receiving distinguished awards: Dr. Scarborough was named Moorman Professor of the Humanities, Dr. Wheeler received one of four research awards granted annually by the university, and Dr. West won an excellence in teaching award. During the year, Dr. Bond had a book published by the Louisiana University Press and Drs. Mackaman and Sensbach received very favorable reviews of their manuscripts which, following minor revisions, will be published by the University of Chicago Press and the North Carolina University Press respectively. These are merely some of the more notable accomplishments you will be able to read about in the “faculty news” section of this newsletter.

The year was noteworthy for a number of other reasons. We expanded and revised substantially the department’s course offerings to reflect the growth and diversity of our faculty; we increased our participation in study abroad programs with course offerings in China, France, and Jamaica taught by Drs. Sun, Mackaman, and Sensbach respectively; and, through the leadership of the Oral History Program, we have launched an exciting new vehicle for the discovery of Mississippi culture and history, the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage. Its goal is the study of people and culture of Mississippi south of Highway 80, as well as that of the Pine Hills area that stretches from Georgia to East Texas.

The department also agreed to take the lead in coordinating, along with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Mississippi Historical Society, two major conferences in 1998 and 1999 (the bicentennial anniversary of the creation of the Natchez Territory and the tricentennial anniversary of the establishment of the first French settlement in Mississippi). Dr. Guice is in charge of the first and Dr. Bond of the second. These conferences may well come to rank among the most important cultural/intellectual events in the history of our state. We will tell you a great deal more about them in future newsletters.

With the approval of Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas we have established the Aubrey K. Lucas Local History Fellowship. It will fund a graduate student interested in writing a thesis or dissertation on a local Mississippi topic. Dr. Lucas has an undergraduate degree in history and has always been supportive of our department. Finally, I am pleased to announce that the size of our departmental family has grown with the birth of Owen Mackaman in April and of Zoe Bond in June. Congratulations to the proud parents.

I am very happy that so many of you let us know what you are doing. Please continue to stay in touch with us and, through us, with your old friends and classmates.

Orazio A. Ciccovilli

The Pine Hills Culture Program

The Pine Hills area of the South is rich in cultural tradition yet suffering from scholarly neglect and much in need of a coordinated effort to bring public attention to its heritage. Recognizing this need, the Pine Hills Culture Program was launched in 1996 by grants from the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Mississippi Humanities Council as an initiative to document the traditions and folk culture of the U.S. South’s pine hills (or piney woods) region. The program is designed to help community members and groups document their own traditions and then develop educational or public programs to showcase local culture. The program will also serve as a regional archive, as a place for exhibits, and as an information clearinghouse pointing to other resources.

USM recently signed a ten-year lease with the Walthall School Foundation to provide space for this new program at the Walthall School, located in the Hattiesburg Historic District and currently under renovation. The first undertaking of the Pine Hills Culture Program is currently underway: a Community Scholars Program, which has brought interested community members—educators, artists, musicians, librarians, amateur historians, and others—from the Mississippi pine hill region to Hattiesburg this summer for a series of training sessions on how to document local culture and how to use that information to benefit their communities. An exhibit will be created based on the research efforts of these community scholars, and this exhibit will travel around nine communities of south Mississippi beginning in January 1997 before returning in October 1997 for a grand opening of the Pine Hills Culture Program at the Walthall School. For more information, contact Carolyn Ware, coordinator, Pine Hills Culture Program, at (601) 266-6357.
Mississippi History Day

The History Department hosted the Mississippi History Day competition on March 2, 1996. Over 250 students (grades 6-12) attended; first and second place winners in each category (projects, performances, essays, and media presentations) advanced to the National History Day competition at College Park, MD, in June.

History Endowments

The Jay Washam Memorial Fund

This endowment honors a history graduate student who died in a highway accident in 1994. The funds raised will be used to assist graduate students conducting research on theses and dissertations.

The John E. Gonzales Endowment

This endowment honors Dr. Gonzales fifty-year teaching career at USM and will provide money for graduate and undergraduate fellowships in history and assist research efforts of graduate students.

CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE SENT TO
USM FOUNDATION
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HATTIESBURG, MS 39406-0026

The Mississippi Oral History Program

Over the past twelve months, the Mississippi Oral History Program has been extremely busy. We have helped a variety of people (USM faculty and staff, USM students, and individuals from the local community) collect and preserve oral memoirs. Among the projects we have been working on are Mississippi WWII veterans, previously all-black schools in Hattiesburg, Yalobusha County, USM Sports Hall of Fame members, Mississippi's 1964 Freedom schools, the civil rights movement in Hattiesburg and McComb, the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, and Great Society-era, anti-poverty programs in Mississippi.

During 1995, we also completed a detailed 220-page subject index to our collection. As a number of libraries nationwide have purchased copies of the index, our collection has become both more accessible and more visible. As a result, the number of research requests from scholars and others across the country about the material in our collection continues to grow. During the past year, we handled research requests from scholars at Wisconsin, Emory, and Michigan, to name just a few of the more prominent universities, as well as from ABC News. Our interview Collection related to the civil rights movement in Mississippi continues to draw more research inquiries than any other.

Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Alpha Theta has been active this year. In the fall the organization sponsored three brown bag lunches. In September Sean Farrell, Assistant Director of the Hattiesburg Public Library, spoke on USM's dual history/library science master's program. In October Jerry Nuckols from Academic Computing answered questions about the Internet. He covered topics from obtaining an Internet account to what Internet has to offer History majors. The speaker in November was Chris Harvey from Stennis Space Center. Ms. Harvey explained the USM-Stennis connection. One of the highlights of the fall semester was the traditional Phi Alpha Theta picnic at Paul B. Johnson Park. Attendance was great. Everyone was awesome on the volleyball court. A good time was had by all.

The spring semester was equally busy. Phi Alpha Theta worked hard planning the regional conference, which was held on Saturday, April 13, in the USM Student Union. Events were kicked off with a barbecue at Dr. Wheeler's house on Friday evening. The following day eighteen graduate and undergraduate papers from USM, Ole Miss, Mississippi State University, Mississippi College, and LSU were presented in two morning sessions. Dr. Marjorie Wheeler was the keynote speaker at the luncheon held in the Charcoal Room. After lunch, Dr. Bolton led a round table discussion about the collection of African-American archival materials.

Phi Alpha Theta's spring initiation was held on Tuesday, April 23, at Ponderosa Steak House. More than twenty new members were initiated.
Study Abroad Program

The modern world is fast becoming a global community. Employers and graduate schools are looking with increasing favor upon those applicants with international experience. USM has long been a national leader in international education and is ranked fourth among Ph.D. granting institutions in number of students who study abroad. The History Department works closely with the College of International and Continuing Education to offer history classes in many different parts of the world. Such classes offer our students an opportunity to broaden their cultural horizons and become more competitive in the marketplace.

USM history courses abroad include: Caribbean Studies (Jamaica), coordinated by Dr. Jon Sentsbach; provides students with the opportunity to experience the developing world and to study Afro-Jamaican culture. Protestantism and Politics, a course based in Edinburgh, Scotland, focuses on the relationship between the church and the state in Scotland from 1600-1800. Austrian Studies, coordinated by Dr. Glenn T. Harper and centered in Vienna, introduces students to the history of Austria in the twentieth century. China Studies, coordinated by Dr. Youli Sun, gives students, based in Beijing, an introduction to the study of China’s relationship with the West in the twentieth century. French Studies, coordinated by Dr. Doug Mackaman, is based in Paris and explores modern French culture. Students have the opportunity to visit such sites as the Louvre and the Palace of Versailles. British Studies (History) is coordinated by Dr. Andrew Wiest. Students are based in London and study World War II. British lecturers give students a different viewpoint on this popular topic. Students visit sites from Parliament to the D-Day landing beaches in Normandy.

History on the Coast

Growth is the big story for 1995-96 for the history program at USM Gulf Coast. Since 1991 history course enrollments at USM Gulf Coast have more than doubled, pointing to a growth rate that has far exceeded the overall general growth rates for USM Gulf Coast as a whole. Junior-senior-graduate level history enrollments on the Coast hit 129 in January of 1995; a figure sufficient to justify hiring a second full-time professor for the branch campus program. Dr. James “Pat” Smith, the Gulf Coast History Coordinator notes increases in undergraduate non-teaching history majors, a trend which seems to reflect a growing recognition of the career value of the leadership, human relations, research, and writing skills our majors develop, which make them employable in a variety of management and sales positions including the Coast’s growing tourism sector. Dr. Skates and Dr. McCarty have taught regularly on the Coast for the past several years and their talents along with careful scheduling and vigorous recruitment have greatly assisted the program growth there.

For the fourth consecutive year, professors teaching on the coast have chosen an outstanding senior history major to receive the John E. Wallace Award. This year’s Wallace Award winner is D. Brett Spencer of Long Beach. With a special interest in military history, Brett Spencer expects to go on to graduate school in January. Beyond academics, Brett Spencer further livened things up this past Christmas, when he invited his classmates to his wedding to Ms. Robin Daniel Jackson (now Spencer), a junior history major who is rapidly proving to be Brett’s academic equal.

In addition, the Coast history department arranged and promoted two well-attended evening public lectures at Gulf Park. In the Fall, Member of Parliament Tony Banks spoke to a crowd of 150 about the future of the British monarchy, and in the Spring Dr. James Flanagan spoke to an equal number using Irish folk music to illustrate Ireland’s stormy and tragic history. Coast administrators expressed a measure of surprise at the ability of these history related public lecture programs to draw sizable crowds from the off-campus community-at-large.

Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage

The Mississippi Oral History Program recently changed its name to the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage to reflect the fact that during 1996 we expanded our mission to include the documentation and preservation of folk culture in the southern Pine Hills region. The Center has two primary programs: the Mississippi Oral History Program and the Pine Hills Culture Program.

BRADLEY BOND (Ph.D., Louisiana State University, 1993) published his dissertation entitled Political Culture of the Nineteenth-Century South: Mississippi, 1830-1900 (LSU Press, 1995), and presented a paper, "Herdsmen, Farmers, and Markets on the Inner Frontier: The Mississippi Piney Woods, 1850-1860," at the Plain Folk of the South Symposium at Southeastern Louisiana University.

RICHARD H. BOWERS (Ph.D., Mississippi State University, 1965) completed revisions of the source readings book for History 101, Exploring the Sources of World Civilization, and continues to edit the Department Newsletter.

ORAZIO CICCARELLI (Ph.D., University of Florida, 1969) is continuing to serve as chair of the History department, a task he seems to really enjoy, and is still revising a manuscript on Italy, the Italian community in Peru, and Peruvian society and politics from the early 1800s to the post World War II period. He has begun research on his next project—a study of fascist Italy's relations with Latin America.

KATHRYN EDWARDS (Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 1993) received three grants for research in France during 1994-95. These grants, awarded by the NEH, AHA and the French government, allowed her to spend the summer of 1995 in Burgundy. There she completed work on a book-length study of the effect of war and political division on Burgundian Families in the sixteenth century. At the same time she completed the research necessary for her next book, A Spirit Among Us, a translation of, "an account of the haunting of a small French town and, in a second work, will analyze the haunting and provide its historical background. During the past year she presented papers on this work at the Western Society for French History and the Southern Historical conferences, and at the Folger Institute in Washington, DC. She participated in the Renaissance Society of America conference this past spring and has been invited to read at the International Conference on Family History this fall.

THEODORE FELDMAN (Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 1983) is continuing work on his research project tentatively titled "The Idea of Climate in the Age of Enlightenment."

MARY BETH FARRELL (M.A., University of Southern Mississippi, 1986) continues to supervise student teachers in social studies. She also organized an Advisory Council for Student Teaching in Social Studies, consisting of social studies teachers, school administrators, and history department faculty, and coordinated the Mississippi History Day program. Assisted by a grant from the OAH (Organization of American Historians), she organized a one-day seminar on the National Standards in United States History, and conducted a one-day seminar, "Taking a Stand in History: A History Day Seminar."

JOHN E. GONZALES, Emeritus (Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1959) wants to thank everyone who contributed to the Endowment in his name. The goal of $150,000 was reached in the fall of 1995. It is impossible for him to write all the contributors personally, but he wants you to know how much he appreciates your generosity. He retired May 31, 1995, but this past academic year he taught a section of His 101 and 341 in both the fall and spring semesters. Next year, however, he will only teach 341 (Mississippi History). He plans to remain active in MS Historical Society and will continue to do some book reviewing for Journal of Mississippi History and Louisiana History. He is still in his same office in College Hall (112 C), and invites all former students and friends to come by and see him when they are on campus.


GEOFFREY JENSEN (Ph.D., Yale University, 1995) read a paper entitled, "Reactive Modernism in Spanish Military Culture, 1988-1936," at the annual meeting of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies (SSPHS) which met in Tucson on April 26. This summer he is revising his dissertation for publication.

DOUG MACKAMAN (Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 1991) completed a second draft of his manuscript (Doctoring on Vacation: Medicine, Culture and Class at the Spas of Modern France), delivered conference papers at the annual meetings of the Western Society for French History and the American Historical Association, co-founded a faculty and graduate symposia in the College of Liberal Arts at USM (the Institute for the Study of Modern Life) and created a summer program for USM students to study in Paris.

KENNETH G. McCARTY (Ph.D., Duke University, 1970) continues to enjoy teaching after thirty-six years in the classroom and this year becomes the senior faculty member at USM. For the past several years, he has served as the Director of the International Studies Program, an interdisciplinary major in Liberal Arts designed to provide students with the background necessary for careers with an international dimension in government, commerce, the media, international organizations, research, and teaching. In 1995-96, Professor McCarty served as a member of the
State Advisory Commission on Local Government Records which made its recommendations to the State Legislature in January resulting in the passage of a law to require better preservation and archival storage of local records. He also continues to edit the Journal of Mississippi History.

NEIL R. MCMILLEN (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 1969) held the Charles W. Moorman Professorship for 1993-95. He is presently editing the proceedings of the NSMS Symposium: “World War II and the America South,” and writing a book on the black Mississippian experiences with the Great Depression and WWII.

WILLIAM K. SCARBOROUGH (Ph.D., University of North Carolina 1962) is working on a book-length manuscript on the elite slaveholders of the mid-nineteenth century South. His research has yielded two recent papers: “What Manner of Men? Some Reflections on the Mid-Nineteenth Century Slaveholding Elite,” presented at the annual meeting of the St. George Tucker Society at Emory University in June, 1995; and “Not Quite Southern: The Natchez Elite and the Sectional Crisis,” delivered at the Second Biennial Historic Natchez Conference, January, 1996; and at the Center for American History, University of Texas-Austin, in April, 1996. Scarbrough has been named Charles W. Moorman Distinguished Alumni Professor in the Humanities for the two-year period, 1996-98.


He also received the R.D.W. Connor Award from the North Carolina Historical Society for the best article published in the North Carolina Historical Review. He is presently preparing several new courses for next year, including “The Colonial South;” a team-taught course called “Racial Thought in the Modern World;” and “Topics in Jamaican History” in conjunction with the Caribbean Studies Program in Jamaica in May 1996.

JAMES PATTERSON SMITH (Ph.D. Vanderbilt University, 1984) continues to serve as our Program Coordinator for USM Gulf Coast.

He spent part of last summer in London teaching in the British Studies program and researching in the British Public Record Office on the colonial policy of Gladstone’s first government. Dr. Smith also published articles in The Journal of Canadian Studies and Albion, and presented a paper entitled “Native Women as Agents of Social Order” at the Northwest Conference on British Studies meeting in Spokane, Washington, in the Fall. Drawing from surviving journals and diaries, Dr. Smith has also worked up and made several local presentations of a Chautauqua-style one man show entitled “Pierre Le Moyne D’Iberville, the Catalan El Cid.” Iberville was the founder of French Biloxi in 1699.

YOULI SUN (Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1988) spent two months in China last summer collecting materials for his research on Chinese urban women which will culminate in an article, treating the equality of men and women from an unconventional perspective. His trip to China also laid the groundwork for a China Studies Program. After some planning and advertising, the program has attracted a sufficient number of students to go forward. Dr. Sun has also begun planning a two-week China Studies Program oriented toward business leaders in the South. The two-week China Studies Program will combine studies of Chinese culture with business contacts for our area. The Program should also provide internship opportunities for international studies majors which could, in turn, lead to careers in international business.

MARJORIE SPRUILL WHEELER (Ph.D., University of Virginia, 1990) During the past year, Associate Professor Marjorie Spruill Wheeler published two edited books related to the woman suffrage movement, One Woman, One Vote: Rediscovering the Woman Suffrage Movement. One Woman, One Vote, is the companion volume to the PBS documentary “One Woman, One Vote.” Wheeler’s other new book, Votes For Women! The Woman Suffrage Movement In Tennessee, the South, and the Nation, published by the University of Tennessee Press, celebrates Tennessee’s key role in the enfranchisement of American Women. She also participated in many of the events celebrating the 75th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. During the 75th anniversary ceremonies, Wheeler also gave an address in a symposium at the Smithsonian’s Museum of American History. C-Span broadcast the lecture live and aired it again several times during the Fall of 1995. In addition, Dr. Wheeler was featured in interviews on National Public Radio’s program “Talk of the Nation” and on a BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) program, and in the Atlanta Journal. She was also featured on Mississippi ETV in a program on the woman suffrage in Mississippi. In November 1995, Professor Spruill Wheeler began her term as president of the Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH). In May 1996 she received one of the four university-wide research awards given at the spring convocation.

ANDREW WUEST (Ph.D., University of Illinois-Chicago, 1990) published a book, Patshendoaale and the Royal Navy, and was awarded one of the annual excellence in teaching awards. He will spend the fall semester teaching at Sandhurst, England, as part of a faculty exchange program the History Department has initiated with that school.

The Graduate Program

The graduate program in history continues to grow. For academic year 1995-1996, fifty-six students were enrolled in the various graduate degree programs offered by the department, including twenty-three students enrolled in the Ph.D. program.

Although the accomplishments of our graduate students are too numerous to list here, a few achievements deserve brief notice. The winner of the annual Phi Alpha Theta Graduate History Award for 1995 was Homer Hill, who completed his MA degree last August and is now enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Duke University, and the winner of the 1996 award was Tom Ward, who is in our doctoral program. Karen Cox, one of our doctoral candidates, presented a paper at last fall’s annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association. Another of our doctoral candidates, Glenn Robins, presented a paper this spring at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association.

The department continues to seek internship opportunities for students enrolled in the graduate program. For the last several years, a number of students in our Dual Masters Program in History and Library Science have worked at the John C. Stennis Space Center History Archives. Beginning in the summer of 1996, we will have students working in Natchez as interns for the Historic Natchez Foundation, helping that organization preserve and catalog a large collection of Adams County records. The interns for this summer are Wendy Clark and Lawrence Kight.
NORMAN BRENT JACKSON (B.S., 1969)—10575 Wildcat Road, Collinsville, MS 39025: Director of Support Services, East Mississippi State Hospital, Meridian, MS.

BILL MARTIN (M.A., 1967, Ph.D., 1982)—11901 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32246: Instructional Dean and administrator for Florida Community College at Jacksonville where he is Instructional Dean and Administrator for the College’s Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (the Center received a Hesburgh award in 1995).

JIM MCLAIN (M.A., 1956)—Sports writer on the sport staff of the Shreveport (LA) Times. He was recently selected to the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and has served as secretary, chairman of the selection committee, and president of the Sports Hall of Fame.

LINDA MURPHY (B.A. and M.A.)—1961 River Road, College Station, TX 77845: Geography instructor at Blinn College. Currently working on Ph.D. in Historical Geography at Texas A & M.

WILLIAM V. MYERS (B.A., 1956, M.A., 1957)—6661 Eldridge Street, San Diego, CA 92120: Retired from San Diego Unified School District. Taught history and geography in junior high school for twenty-seven years. Will take part in the Korean War Veterans re-visit program and continue on to mainland China.


PAUL REUTER (M.A., 1969, Ph.D. 1979)—870 Dunwoody Lane, Birmingham, AL: History Instructor, Jefferson State Community College, Birmingham, AL since 1971 and is coordinator of the Senior Adult Scholarship Program. Selected the 1995 “Outstanding Faculty Member” at Jefferson State.

REV. CECIL O. SEWELL, SR. (B.S., 1951)—2112 Holiday Inn Drive, Clanton, AL 35046: Retired from the active ministry (Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Clanton, AL) at the age of 84.

RICHARD C. SPENCER, JR. (B.A., 1977)—1307 Drake Drive, Minden, LA 71055: Pastor, First Baptist Church of Minden, LA. Currently doing personal research concerning the battle of Gettysburg as well as speaking to local historical groups about the battle.

NANCY SULLIVAN (B.A., 1961)—303 Timber Ridge Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

JOHN TUEPKER (M.A., 1993)—7 Boggs Drive, Long Beach, MS: History and Geography teacher at Long Beach High School.

B. J. VAN ARSDALL (B.A., 1962)—1326 13 Tr., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418: Has taught for thirty-two years in the Broward County Public Schools, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Currently Assistant Director of Staffing.

COLONEL THOMAS P. WATTS (B.A., 1971)—U.S. Mission to NATO, PSC 81 Box 143 APO AE 090724. Is in his twenty-fourth year of military service and is Logistics Advisor to the U.S. Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) located in Brussels, Belgium.

HAZEL RAMSAY WHITE (B.A., 1949)—Retired Junior High Librarian, Ocean Springs School. She has written a small book on growing up in the Great Depression (unpublished) and several articles for the History of Jackson County. She has also contributed material for the Ramsay and Bilbo family histories.
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