LONGTIME PROFESSOR JOHN GONZALES DONATES MORE THAN $800,000 FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Professor

John Edmond Gonzales,
a member of the Southern Miss Department of History for more than 50 years,
donated his life savings of more than $800,000 to the department in February 2001.

The funds will be used to augment the John E. Gonzales Endowment in History, established in 1994 to provide scholarships for history graduate and undergraduate students at Southern Miss. Gonzales' donation represents the largest-ever to the university by a former faculty member.

John Gonzales came to Southern Miss in 1945 with a M.A. degree in history from Louisiana State University. He later received a Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He taught until 1999, educating an estimated 20,000 students.

WASHAM FAMILY DONATES HISTORIC CAR TO JAY WASHAM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE FUND

In 1994, Jay Washam, an Iowa student on his way to enroll in the Southern Miss History graduate program, was killed in a car accident near Seminary, Mississippi. In the aftermath of that tragedy, Jay's family, including his father, Dr. Clinton J. Washam; his mother, Sandra; and his sisters, Kimberly and Tami; established the Jay Washam Award for Excellence. Since that time, the department has given the Jay Washam Award annually to the doctoral student in History who produces the best dissertation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOURTEEN

Dr. Clinton J. Washam, right, presents the title to a 1923 Hudson Super 6 to Charles Bolton, Department of History chair. Looking on are Tim Ryan, executive director, Southern Miss Office of Development, and Maureen Ryan, associate provost.

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN
I assumed the position of department chair in August 2000, but I have spent a good part of my life in association with the Southern Miss Department of History.

American history position. We also were able to employ a second Latin American historian in 2000, Michael Polushin, whose research interests lie in the history of colonial Mexico. To help with our growing history education program, we hired Deanne Nuwer. And because of the expansion at the Gulf Coast campus, a third historian, Eric Nelson, who specializes in early-modern Europe, joined the faculty on that campus. This fall, Doug Bristol joined the History faculty at the Gulf Coast campus, to replace Louis Kyriakoudes, who has moved to the Hattiesburg campus. We were also able to hire Douglas Chambers in 2001, an African historian who had been at Southern Miss the previous two years, thanks to a Department of Education African Studies Grant that Geoff Jensen landed for the department.

Despite all the personnel changes, the Department continues to be one of the strongest in the College of Arts and Letters, and indeed, throughout the university. We currently have about 275 undergraduate majors and 60 graduate students. The faculty continues to provide quality instruction at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, conduct important research, and perform valuable public service. Although the department continues to prosper in many ways, it has been affected by the multi year budget cuts that have plagued higher education in Mississippi. Most critically, because of the budget woes, we have not been able to fill all our staffing needs. For instance, we have not been able to fill our Asian history position, vacated when Youli Sun decided to return to China full time.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can find information about what has been happening in the department and about some of the accomplishments of the department’s faculty and students. There is also an alumni survey in the newsletter. If you could take a moment to fill out this survey, the information will be

continued on page fourteen
Now in its 32nd year of operation, the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage continues its primary mission of recording and preserving the stories of Mississippian. Recently, however, the center has also been involved in setting up community oral history projects and developing resources to make its oral history collection more accessible to a wide array of users.

The center has recently developed a variety of resources to highlight its collection of oral memoirs. For instance, in 2000, the center produced an interactive timeline of the Civil Rights Movement. This CD-ROM, titled “Ordinary People Living Extraordinary Lives: The Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi,” includes text, images, and audio clips from the period. The CD has been placed on the Internet and can be accessed at http://www.usm.edu/crdp/html/cd/start.htm. In keeping with this format, the center also developed a compact disk to aid teachers in presenting Mississippi history through the use of oral sources. A number of teachers received the CD at a statewide oral history conference the center sponsored at the Old Capitol Museum in March 2002. Copies of the CD are available for educators upon request.

The center has also made a major effort to highlight the contributions of Mississippi’s veterans to the state and nation. As part of this effort, the center created “Democracy’s Soldiers: Mississippian and War in the Twentieth Century,” a CD-ROM with audio excerpts and an accompanying booklet in narrative form. Free copies of “Democracy’s Soldiers” are available to educators upon request. The center also helped create another CD-ROM, titled “Waking Up to War,” which tells the story of how Southerners responded to the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, utilizing the oral history collections of the center, LSU’s T. Harry Williams Oral History Center, and the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. This CD is available for purchase from the center or from the National D-Day Museum for $9.95. The center also produced a six-part radio series that aired on Public Radio of Mississippi (PRM) in November 2002. The series, “The Veterans’ Experience,” focused on the war experiences of Mississippi veterans.

In 2003, the Center received a fifth year of legislative funding for the Mississippi
GRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE HELD AT GULF COAST CAMPUS

As part of our commitment to advanced research and graduate education, on April 25-26, 2003, the Department of History's Center for the Study of the Gulf South held In and Around the Gulf of Mexico: A Graduate Research Conference at the Southern Miss Gulf Park Conference Center in Long Beach, Mississippi. The conference was also made possible by support from Tim Hudson, Southern Miss provost, and funding from the Mississippi Humanities Council.

The program received a special 30th anniversary award designation from the MHC and was distinguished further by the involvement of participants from 20 different archives, research libraries, and universities located throughout the Gulf states, Georgia, Tennessee, and Massachusetts. While the meeting provided an opportunity for recent doctoral and graduate students to present their work, established history faculty acted as panel chairs and discussants. The general session on the first day included a presentation by Curtis Austin on the Southern Miss Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage and a panel devoted to new research on Colonial Mexico and Louisiana. Jane Landers, the keynote speaker of the conference, finished the afternoon session with her extremely inspiring talk, titled "Spanish Sources for Subaltern Studies from Around the Gulf of Mexico." Conference participants were then treated to a reception at Provost Hudson's residence, followed by a crawfish boil generously hosted by Deanne and Dave Nuner. The following day consisted of 11 panels featuring papers characterized by their impressive scholarship and presentation. In this regard, the several Southern Miss graduate students who presented did a superb job. This exceptionally worthwhile conference was closed out with an exceedingly fun "bonfire on the beach" on Saturday night.
The MA/MS Program

The master’s program in History currently enrolls about 40 students, of whom about 15 are on graduate assistantships. The students include those seeking the degree so they can enroll in a doctoral program; local people (army officers, ministers, others) who want to pursue the degree for their own career advancement or knowledge; and public school teachers, many of whom enroll through the Southern Miss summer graduate program.

The program continues to be a quality one. Graduates of the program are well placed in a variety of occupations: market sector analysts, public school teachers, and especially community college teachers. In fact, a majority of history instructors at community and junior colleges in south Mississippi (from Jackson to the Coast) have received master’s degrees at Southern Miss. Many other recipients of the M.A. degree have gone on to pursue advanced degrees at other institutions. In recent years, Southern Miss M.A. graduates have been placed in Ph.D. programs at Berkeley, Chicago, Duke, Tennessee, LSU, and Florida. Two of our most recent M.A. graduates began Ph.D. work at prestigious universities in the fall of 2003 after winning five-year doctoral assistantships: Richard Conway, who will be going to Tulane University to obtain a Ph.D. in Latin American History; and Martin Loiçano, who received a Sage Fellowship from Cornell University’s Asian Studies Program.

The Ph.D. Program

The Ph.D. program in History currently enrolls about 20 students; about half of these have graduate assistantships. We are currently graduating about two doctoral students each academic year. The program is primarily designed to prepare college and university-level teachers. The quality of the program and the scholarly reputation of our faculty have established that our Ph.D. recipients hold a degree that prepares them well to engage in scholarly activities such as teaching and research.

A measure of the success of the Ph.D. program is that many of our recent graduates have found good jobs at liberal arts colleges or state universities. For example, our two most recent graduates both secured tenure-track jobs for this fall: Scott Catino at the University of South Carolina-Aiken, and Jonathan Sarnoff at Limestone College. After a two-year postdoc at Yale University, Kathy Barbier (1998) began teaching at Mississippi State University this fall; Tom Ward (1999), who has a book out this fall from the University of Arkansas Press, teaches at Rockhurst University, a liberal arts college in Kansas City; Glenn M. Robins (1999) is an assistant professor of History at Georgia Southwestern University. Karen Cox (1997), after stints working for National History Day and the History Factory in Washington, D.C., became director of the public history program at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, in the fall of 2002. (For more information about Dr. Cox, see the Alumni Profile section on page thirteen).
HISTORY DEPARTMENT RECEIVES $850,000 GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Southern Miss Department of History and its partner, the Hattiesburg Public School District, were awarded a U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History grant in September 2002.

The grant provides $858,139 to fund a series of colloquia and summer seminars for selected eighth- and eleventh-grade American history teachers. The Teaching American History Grant Program is the brainchild of Senator Robert Byrd of Virginia, an outspoken advocate for the improvement of history and civics education. The purpose of the grant program is to strengthen the content knowledge of American history for classroom teachers and to introduce them to engaging teaching methods and resources. Other partners in the program include the National Council for History Education, the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience, the Camp Shelby Armed Forces Museum, and the Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi. The Department of History is developing, coordinating, and running the colloquia and summer institutes, led by grant co-project directors, Mary Beth Farrell, the department’s social studies education coordinator, and Charles Bolton, American historian and department chair.

The consortium of districts in the program include Forrest County, Perry County, Columbia, McComb, Pascagoula, Lauderdale County, Lafayette County, Quitman, Water Valley, Holmes County, and Madison County. Participating teachers are receiving a wide range of teaching resources and interacting with university historians, archivists, and master teachers as they increase their knowledge of U.S. history. Participants are also sharing their knowledge with colleagues by presenting in-service programs at their schools and by contributing lesson plans to the program’s Website, http://www.usm.edu/msamericanhistoryscholars/.

The first of the program’s three two-week summer institutes was held in Jackson this past summer in late July. The topic of the institute was “Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.” Participants heard presentations from Southern Miss historians Curtis Austin, Bill Scarborough, Brad Bond, and Brian O’Neil, as well as from Mississippi State University Civil War scholar Michael Ballard and Pulitzer-Prize winning Berkeley historian, Leon Litwack. The teachers also took field trips to Vicksburg and New Orleans to view Civil War and Reconstruction sites and spent time in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History searching for historical documents to create primary source-based lesson plans. Next summer, the teachers will spend two weeks in Hattiesburg studying “The Great Depression and the New Deal.”

The purpose of the grant program is to strengthen the content knowledge of American history for classroom teachers and to introduce them to engaging teaching methods and resources.
The Vietnam Studies Program

Now in its fifth year, the Vietnam Studies Program has garnered national attention for Southern Miss and the History Department.

Co-directed by department members Andrew Wiest and Brian O’Neil, the Vietnam Studies Program investigates the Vietnam War on the very battlefields on which the war was waged. The three-week program takes students from across the United States on an unforgettable study trip across the length and breadth of Vietnam, from the battlefields of the steamy Mekong Delta in the south, to primitive hill tribe villages in central Vietnam, to the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” prison in the north. During the journey, students learn about both the war and Vietnam today—with visits spanning from former battle sites and museums to Buddhist temples and rice paddies.

While in Vietnam, students engage in discussions led by acclaimed experts of and participants in the Vietnam War. Past speakers have ranged from U.S. Ambassador Pete Peterson, who was held prisoner in the Hanoi Hilton for seven years, to General Than, who helped lead the Viet Cong attack on Saigon during the Tet Offensive. Most important, the Vietnam Studies Program takes two American veterans along as resource personnel. The U.S. veterans visit the site of their most memorable battle, often meeting Vietnamese veterans who had been their adversaries. The mix of veterans and students on the Vietnam Studies Program is unique and powerful. The veterans return to Vietnam to confront their most powerful memories, and take the students through the tribulations of combat on the very ground on which their battles were waged. The students provide the veterans with a close-knit support group for this powerful and emotional learning experience. By the journey’s end, the students and veterans have learned much from each other. All return home changed. All return home with a much more thorough and unforgettable understanding of the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Studies Program has received national acclaim for its cutting-edge content and innovative structure. After receiving an Association for

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN

For further information, please contact
Andrew Wiest (601)266-5076 or Brian O’Neil (601)266-6494.
Also see the trip itinerary at http://www.vietnamstudiesabroad.com/.
Curtis Austin,
Assistant Professor of History and Co-Director,
Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage

Curtis Austin is nearing completion of his book about the Black Panther Party. The manuscript will be published in late 2004 or early 2005 by the University of Arkansas Press. Dr. Austin has also created an interactive CD-ROM, titled “Ordinary People Living Extraordinary Lives: The Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi.” The CD can be accessed online at http://www.usm.edu/crdp/html/cd/start.htm. In recognition of his growing reputation as a scholar of the black movement, Professor Austin was invited to attend the Association of Third World Studies’ annual meeting in Taiwan in December 2002. In addition to running the Oral History Center, conducting his research, and teaching classes in both Hattiesburg and Jamaica, Dr. Austin also serves as faculty advisor for two Southern Miss student organizations: the Black Graduate Student Organization and Omega Psi Phi. (For more information on Dr. Austin, see the Alumni Profile on page thirteen).

L. Margaret Barnett,
Professor of History

Margaret Barnett continues to teach both undergraduate and graduate course in British history and the history of medicine. She also regularly teaches History 300, a research seminar required of all History majors. Professor Barnett was on sabbatical during spring semester of 2002; she spent the time conducting research for a study of the 1914 outbreak of bubonic plague in New Orleans. Dr. Barnett also helped found the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, which has had very successful conferences the last two years in New Orleans and Durham, North Carolina.

Charles C. Bolton,
Professor and Chair of History and Co-Director, Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage

In addition to his administrative duties, Charles Bolton has recently published a new edition of Mississippi: An Illustrated History and has just completed work on another book manuscript, “Separate Schooling: Race and Public Education in Mississippi, 1870-1980.” Dr. Bolton and Mary Beth Farrell secured the Teaching American History grant.

Bradley G. Bond,
Associate Professor of History and Associate Provost

The University Press of Mississippi recently published Bradley Bond’s edited volume, Mississippi: A Documentary History. Another edited volume, French Colonial Louisiana: Atlantic World Perspectives, will be published by Louisiana State University Press in 2005. Professor Bond also continues work on his monograph about Southern intellectuals in the age of the Civil War. In addition to his many other service duties, Dr. Bond was named associate provost in July 2003.

Doug Bristol,
Assistant Professor of History

Doug Bristol joined the faculty this fall; he will be based at the Gulf Coast campus. He received his Ph.D. degree in 2002 from the University of Maryland, after earning BA and MA degrees at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His dissertation was a social history of black barbers between 1750 and 1915. He previously worked as a lecturer at Coppin State College in Baltimore, Maryland.

Doug Chambers,
Assistant Professor of History

In the past several years, Doug Chambers has published several articles and completed a study of Jamaican fugitive slave advertisements, 1718 - 1817. He has also served as a consultant for a PBS documentary and for the International Museum of Muslim Culture, which is planning a museum in Jackson, Mississippi. In 2003, Professor Chambers was elected vice-chair of the Association of African Studies Programs, the professional association of some 250 African Studies programs in the United States and Canada. Since 2000, Dr. Chambers has been awarded five grants, two from Southern Miss: a University Research Council Summer Faculty Research Grant, and an Aubrey K. and Ella Ginn Lucas Endowment for Faculty Excellence Grant.
Elizabeth Drummond,  
Assistant Professor of History

During the course of the past year, Elizabeth Drummond has presented and published aspects of her research on the German-Polish national conflict in the province of Poznania before World War I. Her article “To Build a Strong Dam Against the Polish Flood: Culture and Nature in German Ostmarkendiskurs, 1886-1914” appeared in the edited volume, Die nationale Identität der Deutschen: Philosophische Imaginationen und historische Mentalitäten (Frankfurt: Peter Lang Verlag, 2002). She was also invited to present a paper, “From verloren gehen to verloren bleiben: Changing German Discourses on Nation and Nationalism in Poznania,” at the Canadian Center for Austrian and Central European Studies’ conference on “Germans and the East” in September 2003; the conference proceedings will be published by Purdue University Press. In addition to her work on the German-Polish national conflict, Drummond also contributed an article on the history of Dresden and Saxony for a publication associated with the “Glory of Baroque Dresden Exhibit,” which will open in Jackson in March 2004 and run until September 2004.

Mary Beth Farrell,  
Instructor of History

Mary Beth Farrell continues to supervise student teachers and to teach survey-level history courses for the department. She also continues to run the successful Mississippi History Day program that the department sponsors. In addition, Farrell wrote the proposal that resulted in the three-year, $850,000 U.S. Department of Education grant that the department received in September 2002, and she has been busy organizing the various seminars and summer institutes for teachers that this grant funds. (For further details, see the story on this grant elsewhere in this newsletter). Farrell is also busy making sure the department is prepared for the upcoming NCATE accreditation process.

Hayley Froysland,  
Assistant Professor of History

Hayley Froysland, who has just completed her first year at Southern Miss, has been working on revisions of her study of the social dimensions of the nation-building process, specifically public health, charity, and the creation of a moral order in Bogota, Colombia, 1850-1936. In the past year, Froysland presented papers based on her research at various conferences, including the Urban History Association, the American Historical Association, the Latin American Studies Association, and the 51st International Congress of Americanists held in Santiago, Chile. In addition, Froysland will have an article in a forthcoming volume on Public Health in Latin American History, to be published by Scholarly Resources in the Jaguar Series.

John D. W. Guice,  
Professor Emeritus of History

Although John Guice has retired from full-time teaching, he continues to teach two classes for the department during the spring semester. For the past two summers, he has taught a course on the Southern Frontier at Pepperdine University, in Malibu, California. As part of this summer job, Dr. Guice reportedly has had a beautiful view from his oceanside office.

Glenn T. Harper,  
Professor of History

After serving for 20 years as dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Glenn Harper rejoined the department as a full-time faculty member in the fall of 2003. He is teaching World Civilization surveys, as well as a number of his popular upper-division classes, on topics ranging from the French Revolution and Napoleon to Nazi Germany. Harper also is continuing his annual study-abroad class in Vienna, held each June.

James G. Hollandsworth,  
Lecturer in History

James Hollandsworth, who has a dual appointment in History and Psychology, has taught Mississippi History and the Research Seminar for the department. He also continues to conduct research on the history of the Civil War and Reconstruction era. His most recent book, An Absolute Massacre (2001), explored the Reconstruction riot of 1866 in New Orleans. In July 2003, Dr. Hollandsworth led a group of teachers from the Teaching American History grant program on a tour of the sites surrounding the bloody events of 1866. Hollandsworth was recognized for his body of work on Louisiana history through his selection as an on-camera scholar in the forthcoming “Louisiana: A History,” produced by Louisiana Public Broadcasting. Dr. Hollandsworth retired from Southern Miss at the end of the Fall 2003 semester.
R. Geoffrey Jensen,
Associate Professor of History

Geoffrey Jensen has two recently-published books: *Irrational Triumph: Cultural Despair, Military Nationalism, and the Ideological Origins of Franco’s Spain* (2002), and *War in the Age of Technology* (2001), co-edited with Andrew Wiest. Currently, Jensen is completing a military biography of Generalismo Francisco Franco. During the 2002-2003 academic year, Professor Jensen was on sabbatical in Spain and Morocco, conducting research for a forthcoming book on cultural relations and military affairs in Spanish Morocco.

Phyllis Justice,
Associate Professor of History

Phyllis Justice published the *Encyclopedia of Irish Spirituality* (2001) and is reaching the final stage of editing another encyclopedia, a three-volume work on holy people in the world religions traditions (to be published by ABC-Clio in 2004). Justice has also published two translations: Whalen Lai and Michael von Bruck, *Christianity and Buddhism* (2001), and *Otto III*, by Gerd Althoff (2003). She is also continuing research for a monograph about the “humanizing” of the image of Jesus in European Christianity early in the second millennium. Justice has also recently introduced several new courses on the premodern world. The past two summers she has taught a new course on ancient and medieval warfare; one of the highlights of this course was a catapult-building contest among the students. Finally, no account of Dr. Justice’s recent news would be complete without mentioning that she recently acquired a harpsichord.

Louis M. Kyriakoudes,
Associate Professor of History

Louis Kyriakoudes has returned to service in the department after a two-year leave as a postdoctoral fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill’s Carolina Population Center. While on leave, Kyriakoudes completed his book, *The Social Origins of the Urban South* (2003), and began two new studies, one on the demography of the internal slave trade, and the other on the disintegration of the southern sharecropping system. Originally based at the Gulf Coast campus, he now teaches full time in Hattiesburg.

Douglas P. Mackaman,
Associate Professor of History and International Education

As part of his appointment as associate professor of International Education, Douglas Mackaman was named director of the European American Center for International Education in the fall of 2001. Since that time, Dr. Mackaman has garnered more than $1 million in support of the Southern Miss Eur-Am Center initiative. Developed with 13 U.S. and European universities as its supporting consortium, The Eur-Am Center is based at a one thousand-year-old abbey in the heart of the French Loire Valley in the village of Pontlevoy. Dr. Mackaman teaches full time at the abbey, where he directs the Eur-Am Center and its study-abroad program in the humanities. During its first year of operation in the 2002-2003 academic year, more than 600 students from Southern Miss and its partner universities studied in Pontlevoy, taught by more than 25 faculty members and artists. For more information on the Eur-Am Center and its humanities program, visit www.theabbey.usm.edu.

Kenneth G.
McCarty,
Professor Emeritus of History

Kenneth McCarty continues to teach occasionally for the department, primarily either Mississippi History or his U.S. – East Asian relations class. He also still works as editor of the *Journal of Mississippi History*. For the 2003-2004 year, Professor McCarty is serving as president of the Mississippi Historical Society.

Neil R. McMillen,
Professor Emeritus of History

Neil McMillen continues to teach during the spring semester for the department. He offers courses on African-American history and civil rights and also helps out with the graduate teaching practicum. Spending part of each year in his native Michigan, McMillen continues work on the sequel to his award-winning *Dark Journey*; the sequel will detail the story of black Mississippians during the 1930s and 1940s.
Eric Nelson,  
Assistant Professor of History

Since his arrival at The University of Southern Mississippi, Eric Nelson has focused upon completing his monograph, The Monarchy and the Jesuits: Political Authority and Catholic Renewal in France 1590-1620, which is currently scheduled to be published by Ashgate Press in the coming year. He has also presented a series of conference papers and published pieces in the English Historical Review, the Archivum Historicum Societas Iesu, and a collection of essays, Faith and Practice: The Development of Protestant Superstition (2002) on aspects of his research specialty in late 16th - and early - 17th century French political and religious history. In the coming year, he looks forward to starting his next research project, which will focus upon the relationship between Catholic renewal and local communities in Italy during the second half of the 16th century.

Deanne Nuwer,  
Assistant Professor of History

Deanne Nuwer continues to work on completing her monograph on Mississippi’s yellow fever epidemic of 1878. She also has forthcoming essays in three books: Resorting to Casinos: How the Mississippi Casino/Resort Industry Was Made, The Uniting States: The Story of Statehood for the Fifty United States, and Race and Ethnicity in Maritime America, Biloxi: The Third Coast. Dr. Nuwer also continues to teach the social studies method course required of all students in the History (Social Studies Licensure) program. During the spring 2004 semester, Nuwer will be teaching at The Abbey In Pontlevoy, France.

Greg O'Brien,  
Associate Professor of History


Brian O'Neil,  
Assistant Professor of History

Brian O'Neil is completing the final revisions of his book manuscript, Pan-American Visions: Hollywood's Good Neighbor Policy and U.S.-Latin American Relations, 1938-1946, which is projected to be published by the University of California Press in 2004. In fall 2001 he was named director of the International Studies Program, an interdisciplinary undergraduate major aimed at training students interested in global affairs. Since spring 2002, O'Neil has served as Co-Director (with Andrew Wiest) of the award-winning Vietnam Studies Program. This past spring (May 12-June 1, 2003) he led a group of 13 students and three American veterans to Vietnam and will lead the program again in spring 2004. In addition to his research and teaching activities, O'Neil has been busy facilitating public fora on the war in Iraq and helping organize the Southern Miss Annual International Film Festival. On June 24-28, 2003, O'Neil earned his stripes in repelling, water ops, and high ropes as a participant in the Army's ROTC Leadership Training Course at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. On off days, O'Neil trades his keyboard for a hammer and serves as the faculty adviser for the Southern Miss Habitat for Humanity chapter, which completed a new home in spring 2003.

Assistant Professor of History Brian O'Neil participates in the Army ROTC's Leadership Training Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, during the summer of 2003.
Michael Polushin,
Assistant Professor of History

Since arriving in 2000, Michael Polushin has published *Expanding Empires* (co-edited with Wendy Kasinec). He is also nearing completion of his book manuscript, *Mapping a Socio-Political Landscape: Chiapas 1780-1832*, and on an advanced research primer he is developing with Dr. Nuwer. Professor Polushin has also taken the lead in developing the department-produced World Civilization reader and has spearheaded the department's efforts to develop a long-range plan and assessment procedures. Finally, in the spring of 2003, Dr. Polushin organized a very successful graduate research conference held at the Southern Miss Gulf Coast campus. (Further details about this event can be found elsewhere in this newsletter).

William Scarborough,
Professor of History

Bill Scarborough continues to be an extremely active scholar. His long-anticipated book, *Masters of the Big House*, was published in October 2003 by Louisiana State University Press. The book has already won the Jules and Frances Landry Award of LSU Press for 2003; Professor Scarborough is only the fourth author in the 35 year history of the award to have won it twice. In addition, Scarborough will receive the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence from the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration in February 2004. In other news, Dr. Scarborough served a two-year term (2002-2003) as president of the St. George Tucker Society. He also was the Southern Miss AAUP chapter president for academic year 2002-2003 and vice president of the Mississippi AAUP Conference for 2002. In recognition of his long service to Southern Miss and his many contributions as a scholar and teacher, the Southern Miss Faculty Senate chose him in 2003 as the recipient of the university's first Grand Marshall Award.

Stephen Sloan,
Assistant Professor of History and
Assistant Director, Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage

Stephen Sloan joined the History faculty this fall; he will also serve as assistant director at the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage. Professor Sloan received a doctorate in public history from Arizona State University in 2003. His dissertation was “Negotiating a Sense of Place in Modern Phoenix: Urbanites and the Desert.” He will be teaching classes in U.S. History and in Public History.

James Pat Smith,
Professor of History

James Pat Smith was recently elected to the board of the Brown Condor Historical Association of Mississippi. This group is devoted to researching and celebrating the life and times of black Mississippi pioneering aviator John C. Robinson of Gulfport. Robinson was instrumental in helping create the flight training school at Tuskegee and became a hero of Ethiopian resistance to Italian facism. In Ethiopia, aviator John C. Robinson is celebrated as an important national hero. The association sponsored a major public program on Robinson's life at the Gulf Coast campus in March 2002, which drew about 250 people from the community. The Brown Condor Association is collecting oral histories from senior citizens who remember the life and times of this Coast hero. Their aim is to eventually create a museum devoted to aviation history and to documenting the life of the community that produced Col. John C. Robinson.

Andrew Wiest,
Professor of History

Andrew Wiest has published a number of books since 2001: *War in the Age of Technology* (co-edited with Geoffrey Jensen), *The Illustrated History of World War I*, *The Pacific War* (co-authored with Gregory Mattson), *The Vietnam War, 1959-1975*, and *Infantry Warfare*. Professor Wiest is currently at work on two additional books, a biography of General Sir Douglas Haig, the commander of the British Expeditionary Force in World War I; and a study of the South Vietnamese Army at war during the Vietnam War. In addition to his prolific scholarship, Dr. Wiest continues to receive recognition for his outstanding work in the classroom. In 2002, he received both a Mississippi Humanities Council Teacher of the Year award and an Excellence in Teaching award from Southern Miss.
Curtis Austin

Curtis Austin is a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi. After graduating from high school in 1987, Austin attended The University of Southern Mississippi, where he majored in history and Spanish. He also completed his master's degree at Southern Miss, concentrating in United States and Latin American history. In effect, Austin came of age in Hattiesburg and at Southern Miss. It was there that he learned the importance of history. Curtis says that at Southern Miss he “received guidance and nurture from some of the best minds in the field of American history, and I grew to love the discipline of history.” In 1993, Austin went to Mississippi State University to work on his doctorate in history. After completing the degree, he moved to Orlando, Florida, and began work on a book, titled The Black Panther Party and Revolution in America. The book is scheduled for release in 2004. He is also the author of several articles and book reviews covering topics in black history. Dr. Austin is currently an assistant professor of history and co-director of the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Karen Cox

Since graduating with a doctorate in history from Southern Miss in 1997, Karen Cox has taught at Murray State University, Mississippi University for Women, and George Mason University. She also lived in Washington, D.C., for a few years, where she worked for National History Day and for a company called The History Factory, which sent Cox to conduct research in Germany and Poland for a special project. In fall 2002, Cox began a tenure-track position as the director of Public History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (www.uncc.edu/public_history). After several bumps in the road, Cox’s manuscript on the United Daughters of the Confederacy (based on her Southern Miss dissertation) was published by the University Press of Florida in the spring of 2003 under the title Dixie’s Daughters: The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Preservation of Confederate Culture. In October 2002, Cox was invited to present a lecture at Vanderbilt University, where she spoke about the UDC’s educational mission. Karen has also published, or has forthcoming, essays in books about Confederate monuments, Southern women’s organizations, and Mississippi women. She also is the new associate editor of public history for the Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. Karen says, “I am proud to be a graduate of the Southern Miss doctoral program. I always look forward to visits to Hattiesburg, where I made lifelong friends.”

Edwin L. Pittman

Edwin L. Pittman received a bachelor’s degree in history and government from The University of Southern Mississippi in 1957. After earning his law degree, Pittman practiced law for 16 years in Hattiesburg. He served in the Mississippi State Senate from 1964 to 1972; as state treasurer from 1976 to 1980; as secretary of state from 1980 to 1984; and as attorney general from 1984 to 1988. He was originally elected to the State Supreme Court for a term beginning January 1989. He was reelected to the Supreme Court for a term beginning January 1997. He served as presiding justice from January 1998 until January 2001, when he became chief justice. As chief Justice, Pittman has before led efforts to revise the Code of Judicial Conduct and to implement voluntary time standards for trial courts. He has made the courts more open and accessible to the public by implementing rules that place the appellate courts’ oral arguments on the Internet and allow camera coverage of trial court and appellate court proceedings.
Oral History Project, a statewide oral history effort done in conjunction with the Mississippi Humanities Council. As part of this project, center staff members conduct workshops for local community groups that are participating in the project, and the center processes and archives all the interviews collected as part of the project. More than 60 local projects have been launched since 1999. Two recent programs, the Brown Condor project on the Gulf Coast and the oral history of the Mardi Gras Museum, both on the Gulf Coast, garnered “Best Project” awards from the Mississippi Humanities Council in 2003. The Mississippi Oral History Project has its own Web site http://www.usm.edu/msoralhistory/. This interactive site includes more than 120 full text transcripts, audio clips, oral history resources for teachers, and other items.

The center also continues to produce its twice-yearly live radio show, Roots Reunion, in November and March. The show is aired live on WUSM and rebroadcast on MPB. The variety show, which continues to attract a large audience, showcases south Mississippi musicians and celebrates music that has its roots in the communities of southern Mississippi. Blues, gospel, bluegrass, Celtic, and many other genres of music regularly appear on the show.

Work continues on the center’s Preservation and Access grant, awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2002. This grant created a consortium of the oral history archives at Southern Miss, Tougaloo College, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Sound archivist Marie O’Connell was hired to work at these three archives preserving the oral history recordings of the civil rights era.

For more information about the center and its projects, contact the center staff at Box 5175, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5047 or at (601) 266-4574.

WASHAM FAMILY DONATES HISTORIC CAR TO JAY WASHAM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE FUND

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

In June 2003 the Washams donated a 1923 Hudson Super 6 auto to the Southern Miss Foundation to augment the Jay Washam Award. The car was to have been a gift to Jay when he received his doctoral degree. The Foundation and the department will sell the Hudson and use the proceeds to endow the Jay Washam Award.

This particular Hudson has an interesting history. The vehicle supposedly once belonged to a New York bootlegger, Bugsie Mortiarity. The car was also hidden for three decades in a Chicago warehouse. It was discovered in 1959. The Hudson still runs and has most of its original parts, paint, and interior intact.

This generous gift from the Washam family will benefit graduate students in History at Southern Miss for generations to come. It seems fitting that this interesting historical artifact will both serve to honor the memory of a young man whose potential as a historian was tragically cut short and assist future generations of aspiring professional historians reach the goal of obtaining graduate degrees in History.

If you would like to contribute to the Jay Washam Award for Excellence Fund, please contact the Southern Miss Foundation at Box 10026, Hattiesburg, MS 39406, or the Southern Miss Department of History, Box 5047, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5047.
Alumni Survey

Thank you for completing this survey. Since current students are often interested in what someone can "do" with a history degree, the information provided in Part III will give us a better idea of the variety of careers our majors have pursued.

I. Demographic Information

Name

Maiden Name

Current Address

Phone

e-mail

Family

II. Academic Information

Year Graduated

Minor or second major

List advanced degrees, certification/licenses, etc, obtained since graduation:

III. Employment

Current employment

Former employment

Please clip and return to The University of Southern Mississippi, Department of History, Box 5047, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5047.

The Vietnam Studies Program
CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN
Continuing Higher Education Distinguished Program Award in April 2002, the program received an Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education in January 2003. Vietnam Studies was also the recent focus of a feature article, "An Innovative Vietnam Study Abroad Course with History Students and Veterans," in the September 2003 issue of Frontiers: the Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad.

This past spring, from May 12 to June 1, Dr. O'Neil led a group of 13 students and three veterans to Vietnam. Each of the three veterans—John Young (Army), George Graves (Army), and Jerry Tiersmith (Navy Seal)—shared his own unique insights on the war experience. The student contingent, which hailed from Southern Miss, UAB, Wake Forest, and UNO, included four Department of History graduate students: Drew Walker, Jason Stewart, Ryan Walters, and Candice Schmidt. "This program changed me forever," Stewart said upon returning to the United States. O'Neil is currently making preparations to lead the spring 2004 trip.

Letter From the Chair
CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO
helpful to the department for planning purposes and helpful to the many students who often inquire about what people have done with their Southern Miss History degrees. For additional information about the department, also take a look at our new department Web site (www.usm.edu/history). Please check in with the site from time to time for updates on what is happening in the department.

I want to close by saying thank you to our alumni and other friends of the Southern Miss Department of History who provide us with support. We welcome any contributions, especially your financial assistance, to the department. And if you find yourself in Hattiesburg, please stop by and visit; we would love to hear more about what our graduates have done with their lives after graduation.

Charles C. Bolton
LONGTIME PROFESSOR JOHN GONZALES DONATES MORE THAN $800,000 FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Southern Miss students, often several generations of the same family. His 54-year tenure as a professor at Southern Miss represents the longest service of any faculty member in the history of the university. In June 2000, Southern Miss recognized John’s many years of service to the university by naming the auditorium in the Liberal Arts Building the John E. Gonzales Auditorium.

During his years as a member of the Department of History, John had a reputation among the students he taught, not only as an outstanding teacher, but also as a caring, civil gentleman. He supervised and participated in the training of numerous graduate students who went on to make their contributions to the history profession. In fact, several former students are still members of the department. In addition, John was a charter member of the Theta-Kappa chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the Southern Miss chapter of the history honorary society. Besides his many contributions to the Department of History, John Gonzales was also a driving force behind the success of the Mississippi Historical Society for half a century. He was a leader in the organization for more than 45 years and served as its president in 1975. In addition, John ably edited the Journal of Mississippi History for 30 years. Professor Gonzales still resides in Hattiesburg.

If you would like to contribute to the John E. Gonzales Endowment in History, please contact the Southern Miss Foundation at Box 10026, Hattiesburg, MS 39406, or the Southern Miss Department of History, Box 5047, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5047.