Early survey results: History grads are doing lots of things and doing them well

Hearty greetings from the ISU Department of History! The time has come to reconnect with alumni, emeriti, and friends, share updates and accomplishments, and wish everyone well. It has been an eventful year, and we have much to tell.

One of the real joys of serving as Chair is meeting with potential students and their families. These are great fun, combining the excitement of a campus visit with dreams for the future. I learned early on, however, that while students might have History on the mind from the outset, their families sometimes need a little reassurance. Indeed, it was my very first such meeting three years ago that brought into focus the importance of being able to give a clear account of how our graduates are doing. The short answer is that they are doing very well. The longer historian-type answer is that our plan to survey alumni over a period of three years is coming right along, with the third round slated for this fall. I look forward to sharing an in-depth analysis of our findings in next year’s newsletter, but I can already tell you that the results so far are truly inspiring. What stands out most is the sheer range of pursuits undertaken by our alumni (including teachers, administrators, attorneys, executives, archivists, managers, journalists, archaeologists, and even a medical doctor), and the impressive ways they draw upon their analytical skills to understand and solve complex challenges.

In addition to bringing a lot of these great stories to the fore (most notably through the “Careers in History” panels we host each year, as described below), this outreach has also made it possible to put our students in touch with alumni mentors working in various fields of interest. Their advice is golden, and greatly appreciated.

Our faculty continues to earn recognition, both on and off campus, for pedagogical innovation, research acumen, and dedicated service at all levels. Indeed, seven faculty members were mentioned specifically by students as having “played a significant role in their career development” on the ISU Career Center’s “First Destination” survey. Is that southern Germany or southern Indiana? Montel Yarbrough, Matthew Garrett, Ivy Capehart, Lauren James, David Vickers, and Wyatt Dittmar, enrolled in Dr. Stofferah’s class on early medieval Europe, visit the church at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in April.

Continued on Page 2

Greetings from the Chair

Ruth Fairbanks near Aandalsnes, Norway

Serendipity takes the wheel in Fairbanks’s Fulbright trip to Norway

Once I got on the wrong bus in Trondheim. The bus was going where I wanted to go—the airport. It was just stopping a lot on the way. I had plenty of time, the bus was empty (everyone else, apparently, took the direct bus) and I sat right in front, anxious not to miss my stop. In the pitch black of a November afternoon, the driver asked what brought me to this Norwegian city in the off season. I told him about my Fulbright Fellowship teaching American Studies. He mentioned that he had graduated from a university in history from the University of Bergen. We talked about his classes and what a history major is like in Norway. I asked how he became a bus driver.

He told me about transportation trade schools in Norway, how they differ in tuition structure from universities, and that bus driving, a portable job, is that southern Germany or southern Indiana? Montel Yarbrough, Matthew Garrett, Ivy Capehart, Lauren James, David Vickers, and Wyatt Dittmar, enrolled in Dr. Stofferah’s class on early medieval Europe, visit the church at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in April.

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Women's History Month

This year, the Women's History Month Colloquium was on March 11-14, with most events hosted by the ISU Cunningham Memorial Library. Four days of diverse programming included speakers, presentations, exhibits, tours, and meet to highlight women throughout history. Most daytime sessions were sponsored by the Departments of History, Gender Studies, Sociology, English, Philosophy, Political Science, and Communications, as well as University College and the African and African American Studies Program. Movies included the new feature film, “On the Basis of Sex” about Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s early career. Over 860 students, faculty, and community members attended the colloquium, and community partnerships with the Eugene V. Debs Museum, the Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence, and CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center enabled us to add several new events. The Colloquium will next be held on March 16-19, 2020, and all are welcome.

-- Daniel A. Clark
SSE Coordinator

As reported last year, the SSE program continues its healthy rebound from following the fallout from the Great Recession. It has taken a few years for the low enrolled classes to work through the program. Our overall numbers in the program have stabilized above 80. This past year’s graduating cohort proved quite strong. In fact, Jeffrey Darnold (our Outstanding Graduating Senior) won the highly competitive Student Teaching Award from the Bayh College of Education this past spring. Also we have a very robust cohort of sophomores moving through the pipeline, with more honors students in the SSE program than I can ever recall. And, in an interesting twist, the ratio of female to male students in the spring methods course (SS 305) dipped the usual script with only 5 men out of a class of 17—and this was the second high enrolled methods class in a row.

I am happy to report that the ISU SSE program won full national accreditation from the National Council for Social Studies after submitting the necessary assessment reports through CAEP. It was a long process of tedious reporting, but it seems to have paid off. As some of you may be aware, the Indiana state legislature passed some educator licensing reforms that may deal with the licensing test fiasco since Pearson took over these tests. Let us keep our fingers crossed that next year I will be reporting on a new licensing exam provider.

Finally, we had the opportunity to see one of our alumni in action this past spring. Lynn Norris (B.S. 2005), now teaching at Sullivan High School and known for her innovative approaches in the classroom, brought a great group of students to campus in April to visit the Library’s Special Collections and to talk with several current ISU students about college. Then in May, a few ISU faculty members and students returned the favor, serving as judges for Sullivan High School’s History Fair. Impressive work, Lynn! It was a great exchange, and we would be happy to partner with other schools in the future; just let us know.

-- Daniel A. Clark
SSE Coordinator

AFRI honors Gary Daily

AFRI students honor Emeritus Gary Daily for his many years of service to the program.
Faculty publications and activities

Andrea Arrington-Sirois launched her next research project by spending a few weeks in Zambian villages. She is researching high-risk pregnancy and maternal and child health, and visited several hospitals and clinics to meet with medical practitioners to learn more about the resources available for women and newborns. Her co-authored chapter entitled “African Women Organizing in a Plural World” is forthcoming in Holding the World Together: African Women in Changing Perspective (University of Wisconsin, 2019). Dr. Arrington presented a talk at the African Feminist Histories conference hosted by the African Feminist Initiative at Penn State University in April 2019. She was awarded tenure and promotion in the spring of 2019 and was named the Faculty Fellow for a second term at the ISU Women’s Center for Women’s History. She also served on the PhD committee for Ann Short Chirhart’s dissertation.

Ann Short Chirhart continues to work on her biography on Mary McLeod Bethune, a national reformer and civil rights activist. Her paper on Befune and the 1920 Florida elections was recently accepted for the Organization of American Historians Conference in Washington, D.C. in 2020.

Terry Clark continues to serve as the primary academic advisor for African and African American Studies majors and minors. On April 29th, he was happy to host alumn Verlain Betoe in his AFR 113 and 212 classes. Mr. Betoe, a coach and mentor deeply committed to the young people of his hometown community, spoke to his students about his experiences attending a non-profit organization geared toward connecting talented athletes with academic opportunities.

In 2017-18, Ruth Fairbanks, Instructor in Multidisciplinary Studies who also teaches for the Department of History, had a Fulbright Roving Fellowship in Norway. Rovers teach workshops in American studies for students and teachers in Norwegian secondary schools. In 135 days of teaching, Dr. Fairbanks taught 8,881 students at over 80 videregående skoler all over Norway, from Oslo in the south to Trondheim and Narvik in the north, as well as to places like Hurtigruten in the Norwegian fjords, and to young people in the far north. During the 2018-19 academic year, Dr. Fairbanks was a part of a team of scholars who spent three weeks in Europe preparing to teach a series of courses entitled “Women Working in the Norwegian Trade in Central Asia during the Nineteenth Century.”

Dr. Fairbanks attended the World History Association’s annual conference this past year in Berlin and applied to be a part of the next World History Association’s conference in 2021. She reports that the writing was hampered last year owing to the necessity of completing not one but two national accreditation reports. Dr. Fairbanks also wrote a double book review covering works on 700 years of Norwegian History for the Norwegian Review. On the teaching front, he taught his first online course (and his first completely for graduate students); it proved a wonderful experience. The graduate students were fully engaged and stimulating, and the support from the college, ISU Tech, and the tech staff at ISU made the development process painless.

The 2018-19 academic year witnessed the completion of a number of research projects for Barry Hawkins, Professor of Latin American History. In addition to his regular schedule of Latin-American offerings, Dr. Hawkins introduced a new course in the annual conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies. On the teaching front, this year, in addition to his regular schedule of Latin-American offerings, Dr. Hawkins will serve as chair and academic advisor for the International Studies program at ISU. Dr. Hawkins has two new articles coming out, one on environmental crises in 17th-century Iran (co-authored with Dr. Jim Speer, EES), and the other on the henna trade in 19th-century Central Asia. His work on the annual Conference on Undergraduate Research in the Humanities is due to be published by the University of Cincinnati Press. This year, Dr. Fairbanks has had a sustained role-playing game (“Utopia on the Wabash,” about Robert Owen New Harmony, Indiana community in 1825), which she wrote with ISU professor Richard Nichols, listed in the BLR-UK (Big List of Racing Games) for “Reacting to the Past.”

Christopher Fischer continues his work as an Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. As Associate Dean, he works on issues related to career readiness, recruiting, alumni development, and developing curricula. To continue working on projects related to Race, Science, and the First World War, he presented on this research in two separate sessions at the World History for Faculty conference. He also served as a faculty mentor for the ISU Honors Undergraduate Research program.

This year, Anne Foster published one article, “The Philippines, the United States and the Origins of Global Narcotics Prohibition,” in Social History of Alcohol and Drugs (April 2019), and had another accepted as part of an edited book project being published by Duke University Press in 2020. She also was selected to continue as part of the editorial team for the journal Diplomatic History for the next five years, and will serve as co-editor of the journal. She gave a talk at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University, and then recorded an episode (“From Medicine to Drug-Border-Crossing Oupun”) for their podcast Southeast Asia Crossroads, which is available on Southeast Asia Crossroads.

Pamela Land’s contribution to an edited volume on “The Philippines and the Philippines,” in Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy. This year, Dr. Fairbanks has had a sustained role-playing game (“Utopia on the Wabash,” about Robert Owen New Harmony, Indiana community in 1825), which she wrote with ISU professor Richard Nichols, listed in the BLR-UK (Big List of Racing Games) for “Reacting to the Past.”

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Michaela Coots was recently accepted for the Organization of American Historians Conference in Washington, D.C. in 2020. Her research on Latin America and the Caribbean has been published in the Encyclopedia of Latin American History.

Terry Clark’s publication in the Wabash, “about Robert Owen’s New Harmony, Indiana community in 1825,” which she wrote with ISU professor Richard Nichols, listed in the BLR-UK (Big List of Racing Games) for “Reacting to the Past.”

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Donor support: Three ways to make a big difference

Just as the faculty strives to do its best to help our students succeed, more and more alumni and friends are asking what they can do, too. Serving as an alumni mentor is a wonderful way to facilitate a student's transition into the workforce, and we hope you will consider learning more about the program ([www.indstate.edu/cas/mentors](http://www.indstate.edu/cas/mentors)). Becoming a donor—or renewing past support—also provides much-needed resources on a number of fronts. We try to make it easy for philanthropists, so gifts may now be made through our website ([www.indstate.edu/cas/history/giving](http://www.indstate.edu/cas/history/giving)) or by check (see the back cover of the newsletter). Here are three great ways you can help:

### 1. The Department of History Fund: Fostering Inspiration and Inclusiveness

This fund allows us to support a wide range of events throughout the year, always with the goal of creating an inspiring and inclusive environment for students, scholars, and community partners. Guest speakers, field trips, conferences, workshops, films, and other special activities present opportunities for professional growth, provide important forums for stakeholders to get to know each other better, and foster a sense of belonging. Highlights from the past year include Stephen Ferry's presentation on the history of gold mining in Columbia; African music workshops and performances hosted by Colleen Haas and co-sponsored by the International Music & Culture Festival; a showing of the Czech film "Listopad" with a follow-up Q&A & its director; interactive lectures by visiting faculty from Croatia; a celebration of Tim Hawkins’ new book; a featured speaker on the Black Death; as well as the many events organized by the History Club. It all helps make the History Department a very dynamic place.

### 2. Scholarships: Recognizing Need, Rewarding Achievement

Thanks to the generosity of donors past and present, we have a strong array of departmental scholarships available. College is expensive, so this support plays an absolutely vital role in keeping students on track to graduate. The Muyumba, Lyda, Hart, Gemmecchi, DAR, Spann, Roll, and Vukasich Scholarships all have an honored place in the department, and it is so heartening to witness the positive impact they have on students' lives.

New scholarships are naturally always welcome, and indeed, we are very pleased to announce one! Designed to recognize an undergraduate History major or minor in good academic standing who has demonstrated excellence in historical analysis and effective communication, the Steven D. Zink Excellence in History Award will also encourage the use of innovative methods and emerging technologies in achieving these aims. The award has been endowed by alumnus Steven D. Zink, who earned his B.S. in History at ISU in 1974, followed by a M.A. in History at Wisconsin, a M.S.L.S. at Louisiana State, and a Ph.D. in Information Systems at Nova Southeastern University. He is the author of four books and more than a hundred articles, has served in a number of faculty and administrative capacities at the University of Nevada at Reno, and was Vice Chancellor for Information Technology for the Nevada System of Higher Education from 2011-2016.

Thinking back on how the study of history has shaped and enriched his professional life, Steve notes, "It's not a stretch to say that while I moved into information systems by the end of the 1970s, my world view, critical analysis, and research methods remained rooted in some version of the historical method. Perhaps more importantly, in dealing in matters of information policy in my positions and in my consulting and advising (including to the U.S. Congress and other governments), my historical perspective was paramount in a broader understanding of the appropriate context of issues. My historical perspective was critical to having a rather unique professional niche in the field of information systems." Steve has received numerous honors, recognition, and awards, and is a frequent speaker on information technology management and national information policy. He is currently a consultant and Senior Fellow at the Center for Digital Government. He and his wife, Lois (also an ISU alumn) now split their time between residences in Las Vegas and Reno/Lake Tahoe. Thanks very much, Steve!

### 3. The Career Development Fund: Finding Paths to the Future

This new fund will support undergraduates in good academic standing who undertake career-building experiences during their course of study. Often our students manage to find exciting professionalizing opportunities, but then have to decline due to financial limitations. Our goal is to assist worthy applicants in a meaningful way, with one-time grants of up to $2000 geared toward facilitating internships, training in new technologies, intensive language study, conferences, travel abroad, or other compelling experiences. Any History, African and African American Studies, or Social Studies Education major or minor will be able to apply; awards will give reimbursements at the completion of their proposed activities. Drawing upon present resources, we plan to make two of these awards next spring, which is very exciting. But of course, the more assistance we can offer our students, the better, so we would certainly welcome additional support.

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**History Club features field trips, special events, and fun**

Ruth Fairbanks spends Fulbright year in Norway

It was another exciting year for the History Club (founded as the “History Students Association”), filled with field trips, special events, and camaraderie. Blylyn Ellis served as President, Kirsten Campbell as Vice President, Lane Sullivan as Secretary, and Christian Little as Treasurer, with Kirsten moving into the role of President and Samantha Lawrence coming on board as Vice President following Blylyn’s graduation in December. On most afternoons, one could hear spirited conversation and laughter coming from Stalker Hall 103A, the group's office and welcoming hangout for any interested students. The year began with a trip to the Indiana Military Museum's WWII Commemoration in Vincennes, complete with a battle re-enactment and plenty of pyrotechnics. This also provided a welcome opportunity to reconnect with alumnus Jason Collins (M.S. 2013), a National Parks Ranger at the George Rogers Clark National Memorial. In addition to enjoying some movie nights and featured speakers, the History Club likewise had the chance to host acclaimed author Candice Millard for an afternoon Q&A prior to her ISU Speakers Series appearance in January. The highlight of the spring semester was hosting the Phi Alpha Theta (T93) Spring Conclave, which attracted participants from six universities, and included presentations by our own students Maci Batts-Ford, Wyatt Dittmar, Tony Baker, and Joe Worthington, as well as a plenary address on careers in history by Dr. Michelle Marino, Deputy Director of the Indiana Historical Bureau. We’re looking forward to a similarly full agenda next year!

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**History Club tackles tanks and talks**

Special events are also an important part of our experience at ISU. Above, History Club members observe a tank battle re-enactment at Vincennes’ Indiana Military Museum WWII commemoration in September. At right, Maci Batts-Ford presents her research at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference in April. Continued from Page 2
Alumni share their stories with students

On April 29th, students, faculty, family, and friends had the opportunity to welcome back to campus four distinguished alumni, who shared stories about finding fulfilling careers in law, journalism, marketing, and consulting, and how they continue to draw upon the skills they learned as history students every day. Tammy Ayer (M.A. 2003), journalist in Yakima, Washington; Verlain Betofe (B.S. 2011), consultant and CEO in San Diego, California; Weston Bohall (B.S. 2006), tax attorney in Denver, Colorado; and Melissa Woods (B.S. 2011), enterprise account executive in Portland, Oregon all recounted their career paths, shared tips about the job search, and provided one-on-one consultations with students. Interviews of each are now available on our website at www.indstate.edu/cas/history/alumni. It was a great event, and we look forward to hosting another group of alumni next spring.

Graduate Program

The department's graduate program is doing quite well. It draws students from across the country to both its on-campus and online programs. Faculty members who teach online have committed to ensuring that the online experience closely resembles the traditional on-campus experience as possible. They all hold class weekly via Blackboard's Collaborate (akin to Skype) and interact with students on a regular basis.

One student, having just finished his first year in the program, wrote, unsolicited: "My courses have exceeded my expectations; I have been impressed by all my professors' commitment to the class and to us students. It's been a pleasure to be immersed in the subject matter and, once class begins, it doesn't feel different from an in-person class (in a good way)."

Several of the first cohort of online students have successfully defended their Master's projects. The program continues, both on campus and online, to attract working teachers and students who intend to pursue a PhD.

--Lisa Phillips
Graduate Committee Chair & Graduate Program Coordinator

AFRI continues student, community engagement in busy year

The African and African American Studies Program (AFRI) kept busy over the 2018/19 Academic Year. Our faculty continued in their tradition of active engagement with our students and community. We started the school year with an event honoring Professor Gary Daily for his dedicated work in helping to build the African and African American Studies Program. Professor Daily's former colleagues and students came together with current faculty and students to share memories and celebrate his legacy on campus, with Professor Daily himself sharing his own stories about his time at ISU. Special thanks to Dr. Crystal Reynolds for her hard work organizing the event for her former professor and for the touching tribute she shared with the audience. Dr. Colleen Haas and her African Music class once again amazed audiences with their end of semester recital, one of our best-attended events of the year.

Dr. Andrea Arrington's African Cultural Traditions class participated in a Children's Literacy event, spending a Saturday morning reading African children's literature and running different arts and crafts projects for the dozens of elementary school aged children attending the event. Dr. Kimberly Stanley presented two papers at academic conferences, demonstrating her interdisciplinary scholarship and expansive body of expertise. She, AFRI student Jonathan Rice, and Dr. Steve Stofferahn all attended the Thornbrough Lecture at Butler University in November. AFRI is grateful to Mr. Valerie Hart-Craig for stepping in to teach a section of AFRI 212 this spring; her students offered rave reviews for the class! We also want to recognize the work of the AFRI Executive Committee members who organize programming, advise students, and continue to offer core and elective courses for our students. Thank you to Rev. Terry Clark, Dr. Haas, Dr. Stanley, Dr. Samory Rashid, and Dr. Keith Byerman for your continued commitment to the program and its students.

We welcomed back Jordan Johnson, one of our illustrious alum to share her advice on navigating the job market after graduation. Students enjoyed her lively presentation and several joined her for dinner after the event. Verlain Betofe, an AFRI and Department of History graduate also returned to campus to take part in the "Careers in History" event, regaling AFRI and HIST students with his insights and experiences as an ISU alum. He visited Rev. Clark's and Dr. Arrington's classes in addition to participating in the "Careers in History" panel. Following tradition, AFRI faculty and students attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Dinner on campus and participated in several events around ISU during Black History Month. AFRI hosted Dr. Irvin Hunt, III, a faculty member at the University of Illinois—Champaign Urbana as our Black History Month speaker. Dr. Hunt's talk on economic cooperatives as part of W.E.B. DuBois's work allowed ISU students and faculty to learn about a lesser-known aspect of DuBois's work. AFRI faculty were excited and proud to see the publication of AFRI major Kayla Rognan's article, "Black students navigate mental health and race on a majority white campus," which can be found at www.medium.com. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the academic year was watching four AFRI majors graduate this year. We are so proud of the hard work of Jasmine Finley, Kayla Rognan, Kamac Sutton, and Melissa Woods and wish them the best of luck. Stalker Hall won't feel the same without them around! If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the AFRI program, please contact me (Andrea.Arrington@indstate.edu); I would love to hear from you.

--Andrea Arrington-Sirois
AFRI Program Chair
***Faculty publications and professional activities***

**Continued from Page 8**

“Discipline” for the forthcoming Routledge Handbook on Oceanic Space. He is looking forward to his sabbatical in Spring 2020, which will enable him to step away from smaller projects for a while and refocus on his unfinished book manuscripts.

**Don Maxwell** continued to work on his book on Vietnam War-era émigrés in Canada. He conducted research at the Mennonite Archives of Ontario at Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo, Ontario, and the American Friends Service Committee archives and the Collection at Swarthmore College in the Philadelphia area. He created two new topics course for the History Department: “The United States in the Americas” for undergraduates and “1968: A Global History” for graduate students. In the fall he will teach “The North in the American Imagination” for the Honors College. Maxwell is Vice Chair of the Monroe County [Indiana] Historic Preservation Board of Review.

**David Nichols** received ISU’s 2019 Theodore Dreiser Distinguished Research and Creativity Award. The honor, he says, belongs to the entire department, which has created so convivial an environment for scholarship and professional development. He recorded two podcasts discussing his new book, *Peoples of the Inland Sea*, one with BYU Radio’s “Top of Mind” with Julie Rose (July 2018), and the other with “New Books in Native American Studies” (March 2019). He gave papers or presentations to the Indiana Chapter of the Jamestowne Society, the Buckeye Book Fair in Wooster, Ohio, the George Rogers Clark National Historical Monument, and the Organization of American Historians’ annual conference. Last, and most importantly, David and his wife Dr. Susan Livingston welcomed their daughter, Clio, on August 28, 2018. She’s a lot of fun.

**Christopher Olsen** continues to serve as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In the past year he presented “‘The Woman Reputed to Be His Mother’: Race and Suffrage in Antebellum America,” at the British American Nineteenth-Century Historians annual conference at Cambridge University, and was part of a panel for “The New History: Revising General Education Strategically” at the A&ACU in San Francisco. Dr. Olsen continues to write book reviews and review manuscripts, helped lead a student trip to London in May-June, and will be teaching “World Slavery” and “The United States Civil War” in the coming academic year.

**Lisa Phillips** is still at work on her Disney book. At the moment she’s finishing a chapter on Disney’s use of Hawaiian labor, including children, to manufacture t-shirts and other Disney merchandise in the otherwise phenomenal—for Disney—Eisner era. Dr. Phillips chaired the department’s Graduate Committee, stepped in for Barbara Skinner as Graduate Program Coordinator, chaired the University’s Academic Affairs Committee, and served as Co-Coordinator of the Gender Studies Program with Ruth Fairbanks. She developed two new classes for Foundation Studies and was recently nominated by students for a Foundation Studies teaching award. Dr. Phillips is in her second year as member of the Board the Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA), an elected position, representing labor history nationally. In August she will be traveling to Tampere, Finland to give a presentation at the Finnish Labour Museum Werstas.


**Barbara Skinner** spent much of the 2018-19 academic year in treatment for breast cancer, but she is now in remission and on the mend. Between chemotherapy and surgery, she spent two weeks in early March in Minsk, Belarus on a Center for Global Engagement grant for faculty-led research. She and graduate student James Miller worked in the National Historical Archive of Belarus and other collections there. Barbara was especially active on the conference circuit this year, presenting “Conversion Reconsidered: Changes of Heart at Crow Creek,” at the Phi Alpha Theta National Congress in Denver, and “Language: What Is It Good for?” In this paper, Dr. Stanley explored black women’s fiction as a site of black feminist epistemology in gear and attended The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) conference, where she presented “Books, Bookends, and Bookworms: Exploring Medieval Manuscripts with Children.”

**Kimberly Stanley** attended several conferences, including the Association of for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) in October, where she presented on her interdisciplinary passion in gear and attended The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) conference, where she presented “Language: What Is It Good for?” In this paper, Dr. Stanley explored black women’s fiction as a site of black feminist epistemology. The paper was well received, and the Literature scholars were delighted to welcome a historian to their midst.

**Steve Stofferahn** was especially active on the conference circuit this year, presenting “Convention Reconsidered: Changes of Heart at Crow Creek, 1887-1935” at the Western History Association in San Antonio; “Newly Discovered Neumes in the Binding of a 1562 Calepinus Dictionary” (with Tom Johnson) at the International Congress on Medieval Archives in Kalamanor; “Books, Bookends, and the Medieval Manuscripts with Students in and out of the Classroom” at the Medieval Association of the Midwest in Kalamazoo; as well as “Collaboration Opportunities between Institutional Research and Academic Departments” (with Maggie Dalrymple) at the Association for Institutional Research International Conference in Denver. Thanks to grant support from the Center for Community Engagement, he and his students enhanced this classroom project, with field trips to the Parthenon (the replica in Nashville) and Saint Meinrad Archabbey. Dr. Stofferahn continues to serve as departmental Chair, Faculty Senator, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, Board Member of the Vigo County Historical Society, and President of the Indiana Association of Historians.

**Ruth Fairbanks** continued from Page 1

profession, let him get a job wherever he wanted to live. Then I asked him if he felt that he had wasted his time studying history in college. He said no, saying it firmly and I asked him a silly question. He said that there was a lot more to his life than he ever thought. He said that studying history made all the other parts of his life better. I understood the news and politics better. He enjoyed his recreation more because he liked read- ing books about history, and he and his wife could plan their vacation travel around historic locations and museums that they both appreciated more because he had studied history. They moved to Trondheim because of its medieval sites. His English was perfect, but he was practically speaking a foreign language about college. I almost missed my stop, and after an absorbing conversation, bolted from the bus trailing luggage and winter weather gear. I wish, in retrospect, I had a way to stay in touch with that driver. I looked for him every time I went back to Trondheim and I would gladly have taken the wrong bus again had I seen him. I think about our discussion a lot, especially how it reflects on the tuition structures of American versus Norwegian universities. Maybe he could feel that way because it cost more to become a bus driver than to complete divorce college learning from occupation. To stu- dents, colleagues, acquain- tances, and people around the Thanksgiving table, I must admit, History and Gender Studies both build soft skills and critical thinking that are too American to so completely divorce college learning from occupation. To stu- dents, colleagues, acquain- tances, and people around the Thanksgiving table, I must admit, History and Gender Studies both build soft skills and critical thinking that are too American to so

**Continued from Page 1**

this year. And, as you may have heard, our own Dave Nichols won this year’s Theodore Dreiser Distinguished Research and Creativity Award. (Way to go, Dave!) We are also pleased to welcome Taylor Klassen to the faculty as a new Assistant Professor of History, starting this fall. Taylor earned his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, and comes to us with several years of teaching experience. He is an expert on the history of Thailand, and will be offering a wide array of courses on Asian and global history. Plenty of other highlights, including videos, are readily available on our website (www.indstate.edu/cas/history) and Facebook page, too.

As always, on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the Department, I wish to thank you for your continued interest in what we do. Lots of good things are happening here, and we know that it is very much thanks to your support that we are able to do them all well. Please remember that we are always eager to hear from you, so feel free to drop me a line (Steven.Stofferahn@indstate.edu), or stop by Stalker Hall the next time you’re back on campus.

Best regards,

Steve Stofferahn  
Chair, Department of History

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**Past & Prologue • ISU Department of History • Page 2 • Summer 2019**

Greetings from the Chair

**History education outside the classroom**

Field trips are an important part of our experience at ISU. Above, students in HIST 351 (Ancient World) visit the Parthenon replica in Nashville in October. On the left, National Park Service Ranger Jason Collins (M.S. 2013) showcases American history education outside the classroom
Past & Prologue
The newsletter of the Department of History at Indiana State University

- Student achievements and awards
- Alumni visits
- Faculty accomplishments
- History Club and Phi Alpha Theta activities
- Social Studies Education update
- AFRI year in review
- Graduate program developments
- 2018-2019 graduates
- Steven D. Zink Excellence in History Award
- Donor support in action

Featured in this issue...
Eric Gubelman, (MS 2012), Editor

Giving

If you would like to support the work of the Department of History, several great options are available. The Department of History Fund makes possible a range of activities throughout the year, including field trips, guest speakers, movie nights, career forums, student research presentations at local and national conferences, and panel discussions of current events—all aimed at recruiting and retaining majors, as well as promoting a wider appreciation of history. The Career Development in History Fund provides much-needed support to current students undertaking career-building activities, including summer internships, intensive language training, and workshops on emerging technology. Please contact the Department of History (history@indstate.edu) for more information. Donations may be made online at www.indstate.edu/cas/history/giving or by check (payable to the ISU Foundation, attn: Department of History Fund or Career Development in History Fund) sent to:
Department of History, Indiana State University, 621 Chestnut St., Terre Haute, IN 47809.

We would love to hear your story!
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The newsletter is sent out at the end of each calendar year. Thank you for your support!