Spring 2006

Time Lines Spring 2006

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Welcome to a new Time Lines with more exciting news about a banner year for the Department of History.

This spring history majors presented papers nationally, regionally and locally. Their writing brought an unprecedented sweep of both the undergraduate and graduate divisions of the annual Celebration of Writing (adjudicated outside the College).

Our alums, as well, have done us proud in their success and their appreciation to the Department. The generosity of Chicago attorney Melinda Kleehamer and Brockport history and women’s studies professor Dr. Jennifer Lloyd helped us realize a long-term department dream: a room of our own just for seminars.

Once again we reluctantly bade good-bye to a valued colleague, Dr. John Killigrew, who retired after 43 years at Brockport. Happily, visiting alums can find Dr. Killigrew in his new Drake Library office. Two new professors enhance our classrooms this fall, Dr. Takashi Nishiyama, a specialist in East Asia, and Dr. Carl Davila, BA ’98, who is one of Brockport’s first Presidential Fellows and a specialist in Arabic Studies.

On the morning of our annual History Department Recognition of Graduates, I received an email from a 2005 graduate who had been “reminiscing about school.” Now a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Army, 2nd Infantry Division, and awaiting deployment to Iraq, Luke Pereira wrote: “Hope the past school year was a good one at good ’ol SUNY B.” Indeed, Luke, and made better still by hearing from you and other history alums. You take care, too; keep in touch and visit when you can.

Please join us for our annual Synnestvedt Lecture

Jonathan Zimmerman, PhD
Director, History of Education Program, NYU
“Race and Religion in American Public Schools”
September 14, 7.30pm, New York Room, Cooper Hall
In Memoriam — Terry Gore

by Kathleen Kutolowski

Adjunct Instructor Terry Lee Gore, MA ’89, passed away October 2, 2005 after a 10-month struggle with cancer. Mr. Gore graced our classrooms for just three semesters and one summer, but he made an enormous impact on students in his Modern World courses.

After some 20 years in the music business, Gore pursued his passion for teaching and history in what he called a “change of life career.” A scholar who already had published a number of articles and a book (Neglected Heroes: Leadership and War in the Early Medieval Period, Praeger, 1995), Gore proved a natural in the classroom. The disenchanted or reluctant among his largely General Education students met their match and I soon heard how Gore “made history come alive.” A transfer student from the University at Albany enthused, “This is the first time that I’ve ever been interested in history.”

Gore’s classes resonated with four essentials of effective teaching: deep knowledge of the course material, passion for the subject, organization and clarity of presentation, and concern for each student’s success. Students returned the concern when they learned of Gore’s illness and their emails and cards helped to sustain him.

Terry Gore called teaching “the most rewarding experience of my life.” We at Brockport were fortunate to share that experience with him. Contributions may be made to the Terry Lee Gore History Fund (in care of Institutional Advancement, SUNY Brockport), established by the Gore family to honor his memory.

Graduate News

There are currently 56 active graduate students, the largest number in many years. Ten students graduated in January: Chris Arnold, Chad Dow, Bill Fisher, Brian Glass, Michael Hendrick, Amber Humphrey, Wendy Kirby, Tim Lloyd, Chris Powers and Carrie van Etten. Fourteen students graduated in May: Erin Bastedo, Samuel Boss, James Byrne, Andrew Cook, Katie Dedrick, Andrea Defilippi, Maura Gilsinan, Ryan Johnson, Howard Krug, Timothy Padden, Diane Palmer, Shannon Reed Symonds, Peter Rulison and Marc Seigfred.

John Stegeman (August ’05) has been accepted into the PhD program at Syracuse University. He is currently teaching Ancient World for the Department of History, and Amber Humphrey is teaching in the Department of Women and Gender Studies.

We welcome back Donald Powell after a tour of duty in Iraq and Eric Wheeler after 18 months training NCOs at Fort Dix.

Congratulations

Department Award Winners

Jack Crandall Award: Michael Fickess
Department Scholar: Jenna Bower
Robert Griswold Award: Michael Piano
Arthur Lee Award: Jason La Due
Kempes Schnell Award: Melanie Larsen
Wayne Dedman Award: Tricia Peone and Jonathan Peone (cousins)
Queen Essay Award: Jedediah Twichell and Amber Humphrey
Kleeheimer Seminar Prize: Jenna Bower
Student Success

Two history majors presented their History 390 research on the Salem witch crisis at the April 2006 National Council on Undergraduate Research conference in Asheville, NC. Josh Baker and Tricia Peone. Lizzie Sharp was accepted but could not attend.

Jenna Bower was awarded the Senior Seminar Prize for her HST 491 paper, “One Nation Under Nationalism: Killing a People,” which was presented on Scholars Day. She also presented an art history paper at the University of Oregon’s Undergraduate Art History Symposium (which is highly competitive) and Vassar College’s 14th Women and Society Conference. Her work was on the photographic series “Closed Contact” by Jenny Saville.

Allison Miller presented a paper at the Western New York Phi Alpha Theta conference, held this year at SUNY Geneseo on Saturday, April 8. She spoke on “Hildegard of Bingen: Prophecy and Politics in the 12th Century Church.”

Jeremy Prince received a $20,000 scholarship to study for a second bachelor’s degree in Italian Studies at the American University of Rome. Jeremy traveled to Washington, D.C. to accept his scholarship from the Sons of Italy.

Two history majors, Josh Baker and Thom Jennings, both honors students, presented their senior honors theses as part of the Inauguration of President John Halstead on April 4, 2006. Josh’s paper compared student unrest and protest at Brockport and SUNY Buffalo, while Thom's concentrated on the Brockport campus demonstrations in May 1970 (including a takeover of Hartwell Hall and suspension of exams).

History major Melanie Larson won the Brockport Idol title with her rendition of “Natural Woman.” She is raising funds in hopes of auditioning for “American Idol” this summer.

Celebration of Writing Awards

History students won all three prizes in both the undergraduate and graduate categories in Scholarly/Critical Writing. Entries are judged by an outside evaluator.
Cash awards: 1st, $250; 2nd, $100; 3rd, $50.
Graduate:
1st--Christopher Pearl (Paul Moyer)
2nd--Amber Humphrey (Alison Parker)
3rd--Tricia Peone (Jenny Lloyd)
Undergraduate:
1st--Danni Leonne (Wanda Wakefield)
2nd--Scott Hassall (Jenny Lloyd)
3rd--Anthony DiPonzio (Anne Macpherson)

Phi Alpha Theta Inductees

Carrie A. Barkley
Seth Corona
Stephanie Grakowsky
Scott G. Hassall
Adam Hendel
Angela Henlyshyn
Thomas L. Jennings
George N. Mantzidis
Allison M. Miller
Dannielle Montagne
Michelle A. Panepento
Jeremy Prince
Jacob Solt
Frank Sykes
Thomas P. Vigneri
Tara Wade
David R. Walker

Dr. John Daly and Adam Hendel at the Phi Alpha Theta Reception.
Faculty News

Katherine Clark presented a paper at the 2006 Medieval Academy Meeting in Boston. Her paper, “Clothed in the Garments of Widowhood: Benediction Ceremonies Consecrating Widows to Chastity in the High and Later Middle Ages” dealt with a portion of her dissertation on how the piety of lay widows in the Middle Ages engages broader questions of lay-clerical relationships and pastoral care in the later Middle Ages. She also spent some time in the Bavarian State Library in Munich, Germany over Winter Break delving into the mysteries of benediction ceremonies for widows and the role of widows in the preaching of the famous (notorious?) fifteenth-century reformer and witch-craft specialist John Nider.

Kathleen Kutolowski spoke about Freemasonry’s role in the Early Republic and the origins of the Antimasonic Party at the Valley of Rochester (Scottish Rite) College of Freemasonry. Her review of Gouverneur Morris: An Independent Life (William Howard Adams, Yale U. Press) appeared in the Winter 2006 issue of New York History. She looks forward to two months of writing, grateful that John Daly will serve as summer chair of the department.

Bruce Leslie has twice lectured on the complex and often ironic historical relationship of American and British higher education. He presented “‘Is More Still Worse?’ America as Devil and Darling in Britain’s Rush to Mass Higher Education” at the History of Education Annual meeting. In January he presented “Lost in Translation” at Brunel University in London. He completed the second annual faculty lecture exchange with the National University of Ireland at Maynooth. The lecture examined the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian and the Irish Catholic involvement in American colleges and universities from the 1720s to the present to delineate the characteristics of American higher education – a unique system that is poorly understood across the Atlantic.

Jenny Lloyd presented a paper, “Women’s Roles in Methodist Sects in Early Nineteenth-Century Britain,” at the conferences of the New York State European Historians and the Northeast Conference on British Studies. Her request for sabbatical leave for Fall 2006 was approved by President Halstead.

Anne Macpherson’s book on gender and politics in 20th Century Belize is moving slowly through the copyediting process at the University of Nebraska Press. She will present a paper on women in early colonial Puerto Rico and Cuba in October at the New England Council on Latin American Studies conference in Vermont.

Morag Martin published two articles this past year, one in Medical History entitled “Doctoring Beauty: The Medical Control of Women’s Toilettes in France, 1750-1820” and the other in The Proceedings of the Western Society for French History entitled “French Harems: Images of the Orient in Cosmetic Advertisements, 1750-1815.” She is glad to be back from leave and in charge of the newsletter again. She is excited to be putting together a new syllabus for the fall on the history of consumerism, which is the focus of her own work. In the fall she will travel to Long Beach, California for a conference and to get a little sun before the winter arrives.

Paul Moyer presented “Stumbling Toward War: Americans, the British, and the Road to Revolution” at this year’s Strong Museum AP History Conference and attended the 2006 National Conference on Undergraduate Research where two of his students presented papers. His article, “‘A Dangerous Combination of Villains’: Pennsylvania’s Wild Yankees and the Social Context of Agrarian Resistance in Early America,” came out in the Winter 2006 issue of Pennsylvania History and another article, “The Most Dreadful Accounts of Disorder”: Pennsylvania’s Wyoming Controversy and Agrarian Violence in Early America,” is currently under review by the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. Dr. Moyer is also working on the final revisions of his book, Wild Yankees: The Struggle for Independence along Pennsylvania’s Revolutionary Frontier, 1750-1810, which is to be released by Cornell University Press in 2007.

Alison Parker helped plan the Susan B. Anthony Conference on Nineteenth-Century U.S. Women’s history which was held at the University of Rochester in April. She also presented a paper entitled “Christian Affiliation’ or ‘Christless Prejudices’?: Frances Harper and the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union.” She also gave a talk at the Advanced Placement History Conference for high school students, held at Nazareth College, entitled “Gaining the Vote Together? Black Suffrage and Woman Suffrage After the Civil War.” In the fall, she was the chair and commentator for a session on “Women’s Progressive Era Activism,” at the Researching New York Conference in Albany.

Lynn Parsons, professor emeritus, has contracted with Oxford University Press to contribute to its “Pivotal Moments in American History” series, edited by James McPherson and David Hackett Fischer. His book, to be completed next year, will deal with the presidential election of 1828 and the election of Andrew Jackson. He and his wife Anne currently live in the town of Castine, Maine, where both were elected as delegates to the Maine State Democratic Convention in June. Dr. Parsons was also appointed to the town’s Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Meredith Roman presented ‘Keepin’ It Real: African Americans in Moscow’s International Lenin School and the Demands that the Promises of Soviet ‘Racelessness’ be Fulfilled, 1931-1932” at the International Conference of

Wanda Wakefield has been invited to serve on the editorial board for the International Journal of the History of Sport.

Alumni News

Sara Bennett, BS ’00, MA ’04 is researching her PhD thesis at Oxford University, focusing on the interaction between medical theory and pornographic writings in seventeenth century France and England, under the supervision of Robin Briggs. She writes “I negotiated my first research jaunt to Paris last August (and finally got to see Versailles!). The Bibliotheque Nationale was hair-raising to say the least. My spoken French is odd, as all I really know is from what I’ve read and that’s seventeenth century. In the end, I emerged relatively unscathed.”

Denise Bequette, BS ’90, MSEd ’00 is the coordinator for Adult Education at Oakhill Youth Center, a maximum security juvenile facility in Washington D.C. She is in charge of the GED high school equivalency program. Since taking over the program, the pass rate has risen from 6% to 28%. Through a grant she has created a distance learning program in which students can gain college credits. In 2005 she was named Adult Educator of the Year by the Washington D.C. public schools.

Wasa Bouphavong, BS ’05 will be attending the Warner School at the University of Rochester to get his masters in education and be able to continue teaching in the Rochester city school district.

George Clark, BS ’78 retired from the US Army in April 2005, with 24 years of service. During his time in the military, he served in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He continued his education and received his MBA in 2004. He is currently working at Lyman Ward Military Academy as the Senior Army Instructor for the Junior Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Program. He is married with two children and his wife of 24 years is currently employed as a teacher at Spring Hill Elementary School in Fayetteville, GA.

Dr. Martin Drozdoff, BA ’69, now retired, recently traveled to New Zealand and Hawaii to enjoy the sunshine. Last November he unsuccessfully ran as a candidate for the state legislature in Arizona.

Diane Fulkerson, BS ’79, MA ’04 completed her MLS at the University at Buffalo in September 2005. During her program she became a member of Beta Phi Mu, the honor society for library science students. In November of 2005 she accepted a tenure track position with the University of West Georgia as an Instruction Services/Special Collections Librarian. She is also reviewing books for Library Journal and Georgia Library Quarterly.

Jim Gravelle, BS ’73 is currently a maintenance worker at Hancock Air Base in Syracuse in the division of Military and Naval Affairs, a position he has held for 30 years. He is planning on retiring in January 2008.

Michael Huggins, BS ’91 obtained a masters degree at SUNY Stonybrook, and recently completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan with the New York Air National Guard. He is currently teaching history at Sayville High School, New York.

David M. Hughes, MA ’01 was awarded a Hotchkiss Fellowship from Syracuse University where he is a PhD student.

Carrie Janes, BS ’04 just “celebrated” her two-year anniversary with the Department of Corrections. She is still a cook but just took a transfer to the Rochester Correctional Facility for a daytime shift. She is finding that even though she is not a teacher, the skills she learned at Brockport have come in handy in dealing with inmates. She allows inmates to “vent” to her and they appreciate her time. She is looking forward for an opportunity to advance her career further.

Matthew Moore, MA ’96 is an assistant professor of history at Roberts Wesleyan.

Jane Oakes, MA ’03 tells us that the Avon Opera House she studied in her thesis has been accepted into the NYS Register of Historical Places and will soon be accepted for the National Register. She is proud that her thesis was used to make the case to save the opera house.

Troy Pearley, BS ’92 spent six years with Ralston Purina, three years with Pepperidge Farm and one year with Coca-Cola. His is currently working for the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company of California and is the Eastern Regional Manager responsible for managing business from Maine to Florida. It is an exciting position that requires frequent travel. He has two boys, Shane, 8 and
Dhane, 22 months. His wife of almost 9 years is currently completing her master’s in teaching.

Luke Pereira, BS ’95 went from Brockport to an Infantry Officer Basic Course. Immediately following that he attended and graduated from Ranger School. He says it was probably the most difficult thing he would do in his life. He also went to the Mechanized Infantry Leader’s Course. These schools, all at Fort Benning, GA, took nearly a year to complete. He is now stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado with 2nd Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3-61 Cavalry. He is waiting for a platoon leader position to open up and is gearing up for deployment to Iraq in October. He is looking forward to it.

Brad Peterson, BS ’05 recently accepted a full-time teaching position at Jamestown High School, where he teaches Global I and II. After traveling in Europe this summer and becoming fascinated particularly with Central European history and culture, Brad decided to postpone graduate work and seek a teaching post. He is incredibly excited about this new position and looks forward to jumping into classroom activities.

Verdis Robinson, BS ’02, MA ’05 recently was admitted to the University of Buffalo graduate program in American Studies. Verdis has been working as a social insurance specialist for the Social Security Administration in Baltimore and looks forward to returning to school.

Barbara Tomasso, MA ’87 currently works in Spencerport as the BOCES 2 supervisor of Instruction Support. She was honored with the “Established Leader” award in the area of curriculum by the Genesee Valley Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. She has been involved in education for over 20 years, and was previously a social studies teacher and department chair at Hilton High School.

Susan D. Ville, BA ’55, is currently an antique dealer and is active in the Brockport History Club. She has an interest in genealogy and is an avid reader of biography and history. She lives in the Houston Tavern in Brockport, the former Stagecoach Inn and a possible stop along the Underground Railroad.

Teresa Wallingford, BA ’04 is currently enjoying her position as a manager at Home Depot. She has two children currently enrolled in college. She plans to move out West in the coming years, either to Washington or Colorado, where she hopes to find a position teaching history.

Patrick R. Weisend, BS ’98 is the director of the Holland Land Office Museum in Batavia. He presented a lecture entitled “Joseph Ellicott and the Holland Land Company” at the Westfield Lincoln Festival.

National Conference on Undergraduate Research

By Paul Moyer

Early this April I accompanied history students Josh Baker and Tricia Peone to the Twentieth National Conference on Undergraduate Research held in Asheville, North Carolina. At the conference, Josh presented his paper, “Providentialism, the Devil, and the Salem Witch Crisis: Religion and Witchcraft in Seventeenth-Century New England,” and Tricia presented her paper, “Witches, Familiars, and the Devil: The Dark Side of Puritan Culture.” Both talks were based on Scholars Day presentations Josh and Tricia had given the previous spring which, in turn, were based on papers they wrote for a research methods course taken in the spring of 2004.

Josh and Tricia did an excellent job with their presentations and skillfully fielded a number of questions from the audience. They also did a great job of representing both our department and SUNY Brockport at a national conference that serves as a venue for top undergraduates across the country to present their research. I should also add that we were part of a much larger Brockport contingent (around 40 students and faculty) who attended the conference. In fact, Brockport sent one of the largest contingents to the conference and certainly the largest from New York.

When not giving or attending presentations, Josh, Tricia, and I were able to experience the wonderful sites (and even more wonderful weather) of Asheville, North Carolina in the spring. Asheville is a small city tucked in the scenic mountains of western North Carolina and is noted for its large community of artists, its Art-Deco architecture, and its proximity to the Vanderbilts’ Biltmore Estate. All in all, attending the conference was a valuable intellectual and cultural experience. The history department hopes to build upon this experience by encouraging more of our majors to present at future NCUR conferences.
History Forum Visiting Lecture: Wesley Wark
“The Brave New World of Post 9/11 Intelligence”

By Krysten Collier

On Wednesday, April 19, 2006, the History Forum presented Dr. Wesley Wark from the University of Toronto. Dr. Wark gave a lecture entitled “The Brave New World of Post-9/11 Intelligence”, in which he spoke about the past, present and possible future of espionage.

To begin with, he spoke about Canada’s inability to understand and predict the United States’ response to 9/11 and his role in attempting to create a broader understanding in the context of the media. After this he went on to discuss the evolution of espionage.

Wark argued that though there are references to espionage throughout historical text, espionage as we know it today and as it is useful, was only really invented in the 20th century. Though the British Secret Service came into existence in 1909, espionage really didn’t take off until World War I, when an attempt was made to use it as a tool to gain advantage in conflict. At this point, despite the development of aerial espionage, intelligence did not deliver the results that were hoped for and then intelligence, which was viewed as a wartime tool, was pushed aside when the League of Nations was created. Espionage only returned when World War II began and, some would argue, it was because of intelligence that the Allied Forces won the war. After World War II, intelligence services continued and were an instrumental part of the Cold War. It was during the Cold War that intelligence was equated to power and was used to determine strengths and weaknesses and to prevent conflict, a prime example being the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Wark further explained that after the Cold War ended in 1991, intelligence was subject to change and had to search out new issues to embrace and thus was trying various new missions to find a new rationale. Thus intelligence was spread awfully thin during the Post Cold War period from 1991-2001 and in the US this allowed for a failure to fully appreciate the threat of Al Qaeda. Another intelligence failure followed closely after this when in 2003 intelligence was used to measure the threat of Iraq and then as a justification to the public for war.

What links the past, present, and future of intelligence, Wark explained, is the Intelligence Cycle Model, involving the steps of looking at information, analyzing the information, and the use of the information to make decisions. The means of collecting the information has changed through time and has more recently become about weeding out valuable information from the overabundance of information that is collected. Analysis also is based on principles similar to the ones it has always had, these being judging capabilities and intentions of other nations. Recently, the US has seemingly had a massive failure judging Iraqi intentions. The third element, using the information to make decisions, must always be present or else there would be no use for intelligence. However, the decisions brought about by the intelligence are no longer kept private as they once were and are used to influence the public sentiment, as in the case of beginning the war with Iraq. Wark believes that the trend started in this instance will continue and the public will want to be allowed access to such information.

Wark’s talk was well received and garnered several questions following the lecture. The highly relevant lecture drew a large number of students and faculty members.
How do you say good-by to a Brockport legend whose more than four decades of teaching inspired thousands of students, whose research continues to grace scholarly journals, and whose passion for the life of the mind is exceeded by none? Respectfully, even reverently, and most of all reluctantly.

Professor John W. Killigrew retired at the end of the fall 2005 semester, ending a Brockport career that began in 1963. Born in Indiana, Killigrew (as everyone knows him) earned the Silver Star in combat at Anzio in 1944, completed a BA at DePaul University, and then took MA and PhD degrees at Indiana University. Next stop: Washington, where he spent five years with the CIA as an intelligence analyst and another three with the Special Operations Research Office. Two years at Columbia (1965-67) provided the language foundation for his research career in Chinese history.

At Brockport, Killigrew earned the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching (1980), guiding students through Ancient and Modern China, Japan, World War II in Asia and the Pacific, American foreign relations, and World History, one of the most central and demanding missions of the Department of History. A steady stream of publications includes a book (Garland Publishing) and numerous articles in Chinese history (three in the last four years alone!), each of which required translation of original documents. Killigrew served on the Governance Committee (history) and the Faculty Senate, chaired the former Social Science Division’s commencements, and worked tirelessly to establish ROTC on campus. He crafted timely “Speaking Out” pieces for the Democrat and Chronicle and took students to Toronto for Asian art exhibits (and dinner in Chinatown). Research found him in Taiwan, Nepal, and several universities in the People's Republic of China, one of the first SUNY Exchange Scholars in 1980-81 (Beijing University).

Killigrew’s passion for China proved contagious for students, several of whom went to China to study the language. As a colleague remarked, “To motivate Brockport undergraduates to travel halfway around the world to live and study is the finest testament to Dr. Killigrew’s teaching effectiveness.” Following the philosophy that to be a teacher is not to assume an honor but to accept a charge, Killigrew communicated his passion for East Asian history by example. His book-filled office housed lively discussions, and as one former student remembered fondly, Killigrew not only suggested books that the student might read but noted pertinent pages from memory. Now a professor himself, Dr. Jack Sarles says: “I have had many Asian History professors, but John Killigrew always stood out above the rest.” Ever the student himself, Killigrew attended numerous summer seminars, including three by the NEH.

How will we remember Professor John W. Killigrew? Riding his bicycle across campus in all kinds of weather? Hitting the weight room at 6 a.m.? Writing in Chinese on the chalkboard? Addressing “my dear students,” always “Mr.” or “Ms.” to their professor? Excitedly entering a colleague’s office, news clip or academic journal in hand? Laughing uproariously (at full pitch, almost a giggle!) in the halls of FOB? As the consummate scholar-teacher whose passion for his subject, work ethic, and integrity never wanes? Whatever your image, no doubt it is unforgettable. Happy next adventure, Professor Killigrew!

Saying Goodbye to a Brockport Legend
By Thom Jennings
Excerpted from an article which appeared in The Stylus, December 7, 2005.

He is a cross between Charlie Chan and James Bond and if he addresses you by name it is your last, usually with a Mr. or Ms. preceeding it… Those of you “dear students” that have had the pleasure to be in his class know him simply as “Killigrew.”...

Dr. John Killigrew, a history lover’s dream and a librarian’s nightmare. Dr. Kiligrew holds the record for the most books on reserve at Drake, approximately 3,000, and it is rumored they built an extension onto the library in the 1960s to house all of them...

What will Brockport be like without Killigrew? He was
An Alumnus Pays Tribute
by Jack Sarles, BA ‘69

I am a retired educator, but still teach World, U.S., Chinese, and Russian History courses at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. “Retired” is the key word; I am not looking for a job.

I am writing because I notice John Killigrew’s name has finally disappeared from the department listings. I say “finally” because the last time I talked with John was three years ago when I called to ask him to recommend a text for a course I was planning to teach. At that time John said he was contemplating retirement at the end of that semester, 2003-2004. Beginning of the next semester I noticed he was still active.

I was a history major at Brockport from the mid to late 60’s graduating in 1969 and then straight into the military and Vietnam. While at Brockport I took every course that I could in Africa and Asia, which meant I was pretty much in Dr. Griswold’s or Dr. Killigrew’s classroom every semester or in their joint office talking with one or the other. I still managed to find time to take classes with Drs. Crandall, Burke, Queen, Manno, Abbott, Schnell, Dedman, and even two classes with John Kutolowski.

While in college I never could make up my mind which I preferred, Africa or Asia. Killigrew would send my mind and spirit to China and then fifteen minutes later Griswold would send it rocketing in the other direction to the Congo. The military finally helped me decide. Eighteen years of living in Asia along with many courses in Chinese and Russian history and Asian history won out.

I have had many Asian history professors but John Killigrew always stood out above the rest, and not just because he was my first Asian history professor. I loved his classes and I loved what went on in them. He would talk while writing on the board in Chinese. Students would slowly copy. Later I would ask if they could read Chinese. The answer “No.” “Then why are you copying it?” “It may be testable.” No matter how many courses I took with Dr. Killigrew, he would always write in Chinese and students would always copy it and in two years I never met one student who knew what they were copying, “but it might be testable.”

Dr. Killigrew’s office was filled with books, at least hundreds, and probably more. The first time I walked in and asked him a question, he rose from his desk, walked around, pulled 15 books from shelves and then proceeded to tell me the page numbers in each book where I could find information pertaining to my question. Over the years my office has become filled with books. I sometimes sit here thinking to myself “These are my books and I have trouble even finding a book, let alone page numbers. If Killigrew were here he would not only find 15 books in about 20 seconds, he would also tell me what pages to look on.” Instead I tell my students, “If my old professor were here he would get up, hand you 20 books and tell you what pages to look on in each of the 20 books. Unfortunately for you he is not here, so I am going to tell you that the books to the left are China, the ones to the right are Russia. You are welcome to look through them.”

Looking back now I am most amazed at Dr. Killigrew’s staying power. He was my professor in 1967. By 2004 I was retired and John Killigrew was still somebody’s professor in 2005. I assume he is going to be about as “retired” as I am. (I actually teach more classes per semester now as a retired part-timer than I did when I worked full-time. No research or committee work to eat up my time.)

Whatever he is going to do, please tell him I welcome him into retirement and I hope he has as much fun as I am having.
History Students and Faculty Invade Ireland

by W. Bruce Leslie

The Department of History’s relationship with the National University of Ireland at Maynooth keeps growing. For the second year our students are studying there and faculty from Brockport and Maynooth have exchanged “home and away” lectures.

In Spring, 2006 Emily Lamphear, ’06 is studying at Maynooth. After I arrived to give this year’s lecture, Emily gave me an enthusiastic two-hour tour of the beautiful campus, beginning with a thirteenth-century castle that guards the entrance. The use of ‘we’ and ‘our’ in her descriptions was striking – the reception has been so friendly that she feels very much a part of the university. Emily affirms the accuracy of the stereotype of the friendly Irish.

On breaks and weekends, Emily has traveled to every corner of Ireland. The International Student Society (serving foreign students from a number of countries, especially Germany and France, and about 70 Americans) organizes Saturday night movies and trips for foreign students. So far Emily has accompanied them to Donegal, Waterford (picking up some of its crystal), and Galway, and plans to travel to ‘the Continent’ with them before returning home. She reports that Irish pubs are welcoming to visitors and highly recommends the Irish Youth hostels.

The size of her courses in Irish and European history run the same gamut as at Brockport – from large lecture to small seminar. But the work pattern is different. Instead of the American “continuous assessment,” courses in Maynooth are graded primarily in terms of one large final exam or paper. Her American habit of steady work seems strange to her Irish colleagues who lope through the middle of the term and then race frantically toward the final hurdle.

Outside of the classroom, there are very active sports clubs: water polo, fencing, archery, rugby, skiing, horseback riding – almost everyone joins. These provide exercise as well as a perfect opportunity to make friends. There are also “charity clubs” such as one which raises money for a village in South Africa.

Maynooth is an “estate village,” about the size of Brockport, whose main street runs from the castle at the front gate of the university to the Duke of Leinster’s estate. The shops and pubs lining it serve almost every need. There is easy access to Dublin, an exciting city whose revival showcases Ireland’s new prosperity - the “Celtic economic boom.” From the train station by the campus it costs only 5 Euro (c.$6) train for the half-hour ride to Dublin.

Emily summed up her time at Maynooth with the comment that it is a “great experience” that has opened her eyes to cultural differences and taught her to appreciate both what she has in the States and what Ireland offers.

How strange it felt to lecture with Emily in the audience; the last time she heard me lecture was 3,000+ miles to the west in Brockport. My lecture “From the ‘Log College’ to ‘Touchdown Jesus’: Understanding American Higher Education through the Irish Experience,” sought to explain our strange mélangé of colleges and universities that so baffles European audiences. The “Log College” was the forerunner of Princeton, founded by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians from Ulster. The week before my talk some Ulstermen had been stoned in the streets of Dublin when they audaciously demanded the right to parade in the Republic’s capital. I escaped such a fate, perhaps because I prefaced my accounts of Ulster achievements with the story of “Touchdown Jesus,” the mosaic that peers over Notre Dame’s football stadium seemingly signaling a touchdown. As the Notre Dame football team has played in Dublin, how could I resist using the “Fighting Irish” as a segue into the lecture?

Our connection with Maynooth adds a vibrant new dimension to the Department. In addition to the on-going undergraduate semester at Maynooth, we are looking into the possibility of MA students taking courses and of offering summer courses in 2007 when Maynooth launches a new summer school.

And students should remember that an anonymous donor has offered $500 scholarships for history majors who go to Maynooth. What are you waiting for?
Department Graduation Ceremony, May 12, 2006

John Daly commemorating Peter Rulison

Steve Ireland, John Daly, Katherine Clark, Arden Bucholz

Wanda Wakefield introducing Lisa Pickard

Arden Bucholz and Tara Wade

(Cut Here)
Alumni News
Attention History Alumni! We’d like to hear from you. To make it easier, please fill out, clip and mail this form to: Newsletter, Department of History, SUNY College at Brockport, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420-2956. Or reach us by e-mail: trombaut@brockport.edu. You can also fax us: (585) 395-2620.
Check us out on the web at www.brockport.edu/history. Many thanks!

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________________________
Date of Graduation: _______________________________________________________________________
Degree: _________________________________________________________________________________
Current Position: __________________________________________________________________________
Any news that you’d like to share (career, hobbies, travel, family, etc.) _______________________________
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