The History Office

We are lucky to have kept Sue Voelker ('85). Although she has her own outside business, she decided to remain as program assistant in the mornings for one department and chose us.

Her work center is more the computer than the desk, and we are all now computerized and on the Net. You will notice the computer generated logo on our label.

Since her exciting trip to Ireland, we have more pictures and music from the Green Isle. We have therewith an Irish ambiance to the office.

We have lost resident computer/TV/Xena/Hercules expert Tom Baxter to student teaching for the Spring. Not only will this change his life, but he and Anna Bauer have announced their wedding for next October.

Having also lost Kelly Laitala, Sue was able to recruit a whole company of willing and able Work Study assistants, to handle the office when she can’t be there.

South Hall

In early February we learned that the University should get the millions necessary to build the replacement for Ames, and Dale Braun’s hopes of getting the funds for remodeling the third floor for classrooms will be a reality. (My first draft of the Newsletter said that it had been cancelled for lack of funds.)

The lovely front room by the stairs on the second floor is now the large (50 chairs) classroom in the building. (It was the original library back in 1898.)

Practically all rooms are busy, including the rooms in the basement, that some would remember as piano practice rooms.

The years of financial straining and limitation on enrollment seem to be ending, and a frequent problem is finding rooms of sufficient size. I have two classes in Ames, which some of you would remember as the Lab School science classroom.

Alumni Donations

We wish to thank the following for their recent contributions to this fund, which continues the increased support to deserving History majors.

George & Phyllis Garlid Scholarship
David B. & Pat Owen Peterson
Michael W. Higgins
Susan E. Renstrom

Special Projects Fund
Douglas L. Patin
Gordon O. Hendrickson
Charlotte H. Farago
Kristi J. Fogtman
Ronald L. Payton
A. Pesetski
David M. & Ruth M. Weiby
Lowell V. Ueland
Wayne L. Funk
matched by Ford Motor Co.

All donations go to students, who are perhaps as deserving as you were.

Faculty News

Ed Peterson ('54) doesn’t know when to quit. He thinks because students can be so exciting that he would miss them. As Pat Owen wrote her song, “He’s got plenty of students and that is plenty for him.”

Yes, he spends a lot of time on his computer, working on the book on the Soviet Occupation of Germany, and another on the secret police reports before the Wall came down in 1989, but he still prefers getting up early to make a class, and bringing papers back to grade on the kitchen table.

His vacation from teaching is flying off to Frankfurt, driving to Berlin, to research during the day and computerize it all evening.

Ursula, the true historian, is teaching River Falls history to 12 classes of Third Graders, and doing detective work with some 7th Grade honor students at the Area Research Center on RF history in an enrichment program.

She has mixed feelings about the hundreds of hours worked renovating the Pierce County History Center at Bay City. The nicest part was working with Patricia Peterson Jones, neighbor, alumna, and former Biology teacher at Glenwood City, who was the design consultant and paint stippler. Those many hours meant that reporting on her family history research in Germany was delayed to Christmas.
The other concern is the 15 year old, battle-scarred cat Papageno. A free tour of South Hall to anyone who can figure out why we gave him his cultural name, Papageno.

John J. Buschen ('66) has had an exciting year, avoiding part of the very harsh winter by spending vacations in Florida. His joy in life was impaired by a very painful condition in neck and back. Then he found the right surgeon at the UM hospital, who with a flick of the knife removed the bone spur and removed all pain. That also removed any impediment to his taking another tour, the first to Morocco, filled with beautiful hotels and meals. You should get on his mailing list for the many jokes that he collects. You may want to avoid the long puns.

He creates the Home Page on the Net and the Today in History information, as posted outside the History Office.

Herb Cederberg ('66) & Alice. I accused Herb of being too modest to report on his achievements, so he sent me: "Alice and I went to the Dominican Republic, not so much because of its connection with Columbus and Hispaniola, but because it is an island paradise with white sandy beaches, a warming and soothing sun, a bird sanctuary and lighted jungle on the hotel property, as well as free tennis day and night.

"As for my Washington D.C. connection last March, I was invited to appear on a panel with the Chief Economist of the Bureau of Labor AT THE WATERGATE HOTEL on the subject of 'living wages,' a concept I have been working with as a member of the Board of Advisors to the JOBS NOW Coalition in the cities. Apparently my work has been satisfactory since I was, just this month, elected to the post of Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the coalition. Modesty prevents me from saying more."

He has told me that Alice remains a wonderful 5th Grade teacher, but is continuing despite the extra burden of so many children coming from problem homes.

Stephen Feinstein ('69) is on two-year leave as Acting Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota. The center is designed as a resource for the five state area, especially for University and pre-college curriculum. He published: "The Other Side of Memory: Art After Auschwitz," in RESPONSE (New York, Fall, 1997-Winter, 1998 issue) and "Mediiums of Memory: Art of the Second Generation," in Efrain Sicher (ed), BREAKING CRYSTAL (University of Illinois Press, 1997). He is also curator for the 5000 square foot exhibition, "Witness and Legacy: Contemporary Art About the Holocaust," which is scheduled to open at Knoxville Museum of Art on April 24; Tampa Bay Holocaust Museum, September, 1998. Sites are scheduled through the end of the year 2000.

He was a speaker at an international conference in Brussels during December, 1997 sponsored by the Foundation Auschwitz, and also gave a paper at the annual meeting of the Association of Jewish Studies in Boston, December, 1997. He will be giving a paper on "Artistic Representations of Genocide" at the Scholars Conference on the Holocaust in Seattle in March, and will chair a session at an international conference at University of Notre Dame in April. Feinstein has been asked to speak at various sites in conjunction with a major exhibition by the French artist, Christian Boltanski. World wide web site for the Center for Holocaust Studies is under construction. Contact: feins001@maroon.tc.umn.edu.

Kurt Leichtle ('86) (still pronounced "Likely") remains very much involved in a wide variety of purposes, now our chair who has much to do to improve the status of the department, achieving some success. He advises most of our students, all those going into teaching. He is active in his scholarship, reading papers around the country, particularly on the subject of farm women. He is active as a Boy Scout leader with son Kyle. He is most active with distance learning and with contacts with area teachers. He guest lectured in Vienna, Austria, last spring.

Karen has a variety of assignments for UW-RF, the most publicized, "College for Kids," every summer. Sons Kyle and Kee are fine.

Betty Bergland ('90) is on sabbatical during the 1997-1998 academic year, doing research on her project exploring relationships between Norwegian immigrants and Native Americans. After spending the fall researching archives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, she is now in Norway with sponsorship from the Fulbright Foundation. Her archival research takes her to Oslo, Hamar and Telemark, while she is also networking with Nordic scholars engaged in related research. She is surviving the darkness and sends regards to all from the land of Edvard Munch. She has an interesting interpretation of his famous painting "Scream."

Ayesha Shariff ('97) As replacement for Betty, we were delighted to have found Dr. Shariff, whose father from northwest India gave her this beautiful Arabic name, and whose mother from Chicago gave her the love for the
Chicago Cubs and baseball. In addition to her Amer. Civ courses, she offers a course on Sports in America this spring. I can testify that she is well informed on both.

Li Li (’97) For the Feinstein slot, we were able to get Dr. Li, born in Shanghai, and whose intelligentsia parents suffered exile during Mao’s Cultural Revolution. His dissertation and paper to the American Historical Association Convention concern the work of Christian missionaries in China 100 years ago.

Arie Zmora (’97) In the other piece of the Feinstein position, we are pleased to have Dr. Zmora, from Israel, an expert on the Renaissance, and who will offer this spring a course on 18th century Absolutism and the Enlightenment.

Notice how international we have become.

**Faculty Emeriti**

**Walker Wyman** (’32) & **Helen** still have the record for years of service to UW-RF, 46, plus the years of service in retirement, including the Wyman Lecture and Concert Series, UW-RF’s most important offerings to the cultural life of the community. They are both still going strong, including south for the winter.

**Clyde Curry Smith** (’65) & **Ellen**, have not only the two grandchildren from Karen, who is teaching math at UW-RF, but one from son Harold, who is in banking in Boston. C.C. is particularly pleased to hear from students and provided us a goodly number of alumni reports.

He is considering selling his house across the street from me. Perhaps we’re too noisy.

**Noble Stockton** (’66) wrote from 209 19th St., Pacific Grove, CA, 93950, about the academic career of senior son Paul, who is a Prof. at the Naval Postgraduate School, in Monterey, and heads a thing called The Center for Civil Military Relations, which has more contemporary interest than his specialty in Cruise Missiles (he liked) and Star Wars (he despised). Paul sends delegations to visit “emerging democracies” as the Czech Republic, El Salvador and Cambodia to discuss models for civil-military cooperation. He loses more sleep to a son born last July.

Noble and Ronnie visited the Maori in New Zealand and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Then a month’s art tour of China. His real interest is in an ancestor Helmele from Karlsruhe, who fled after the 1848 revolution to Illinois, where the family became connected with J. Paul Getty, his third wife.

**Charles Graham: Pol Sci (1954-63) & Bonnie** described two 4-5 year old grandsons beginning school, one at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis and the other at the Falcons in London. The grandparents’ scholarly travel was to Greece with Educational Opportunities. “At long last we are filing in some large gaps in our knowledge of Greek history, mythology and legend and of the Journeys of the Apostle Paul...The Greek roots of our civilization came alive and visiting the sites of some of the earliest events in Christian history has enabled us to touch the inspirational wellsprings of our faith.”

Since the injury incurred by Chuck’s being struck by a car was not mentioned, I’m assuming it has been completely overcome.

**Blanche Davis (’46) & Maurice Frick**, “Last year at this time we reported that we thought we were happy. We are still happy, but we are also wiser. Like the blue herons that visit our ponds from time to time we are learning to move s-l-o-w-i-y and cautiously.” Maurie had two knees replaced. Blanche fell twice and then found a lump which did not belong. Late in November a mastectomy removed all of the cancer. Next day she began a remarkable recovery, “We now are both expecting to resume our various projects...We realized the old adage that A Merrie Heart Doeth Good Like a Medicine.”

**Stephanie Zeman (’88)** director of the ARC is now in law school and after a tough first semester is enjoying it. Her replacement,

**Susan Watson** (’97) seems to be clearly in the great tradition of the ARC. Very helpful as is her staff. It’s where the Little theater used to be.

**Maurine & Dick Brynildsen** escaped from their paradise in Sedona, Arizona, to visit Puerto Peñasco on the Sea of Cortez. In their “year for Mexico” they visited fascinating ruins in Paquimé, Oaxaca, San Cristobal, Palenque, Merida, Teotihuacan, Mitla and Monte Alban. (The picture of helmeted and warm tourists there seemed familiar.)

The longest trip (“too long really”) was 5 weeks plus in April-May in Holland to Scotland. “Spring was late and cold and we endured a lot of rain, wind and chill. But we enjoyed a riot of tulips and other blooms in Holland, medieval buildings and modern chocolates in Belgium, and the brand new Old Globe Theater in London, and nostalgic meanderings around Edinburgh. Seeing our old abode in Dalkeith, was fun but those marble walls proved too darned cold, and we had to move on to a B&B.”
Alumni News

Leslie Klug Mercer ('69): Her note said how well she remembers classes with Buschen, Smith and Cederberg. She sent their Holiday Greetings meant relatives and friends. Put us on your Christmas Newsletter list.

Word from them reminded me of what an excellent student she was and what an excellent Coffee House husband. John ran for the Lutheran church. It was the best place ever for students and faculty to meet and discuss off campus. A great picture: "The Good Old Days".

Leslie begins with the academic success of older daughter Ashley, who graduated with distinction from UM-Morris. Daughter Hillary after a year at Randolph-Macon Women's College in Virginia, transferred to UM and found most of her classes there not too large and taught by "real" professors.

Leslie has become the Associate Vice-Chancellor for Policy and Planning at the Minnesota State College and University System, 34 institutions, 50 campuses and over 140,000.

John continues to work at the Department of Children, Families and Learning. Together they write a gardening column for a neighborhood newsletter. Their expanded garden is plagued by squirrels, whom she has come to regard as bushy tailed rats and public enemy #1.

David Olson ('68) Japan address is still: 2686 Minimihara Nakashidami Moriyama-Ku, Nagoya, 463. He sent a gorgeous card of a Japanese shrine and house, but didn't tell me if that was his abode, only that he had another superb year of teaching and travel in Japan, Korea, Indonesia and now Christmas and New Year in Hanoi, Hué and Ho Chi Minh.

Ron Swanson ('81) As part of "Ursula's Gang," the Tuesday gathering at the Family History Center at Oakdale, he is also helping other researchers, and Ursula in tracing back my Sjöbergs to Opmann. He is known as "lucky Ron," because he keeps finding such good things. He is now the Editor of the newsletter, Tidningen, of the Swedish Genealogy Group of Minnesota. With his computer graphic skills, they put out a cheery publication, invaluable to those with Swedish ancestry. He emailed me:

"I recently returned to my beloved Wyoming where I hiked to within view of Wyoming's highest point, Gannett Peak, in the Bridger Wilderness of the Wind River Mountains. This area also contains seven of the largest permanent glaciers in North America. I am finally starting on my book, "From Prussia to America," the story of my father's German ancestors, and I am, very thankful to Ursula for all the help in translating the old German records. Next travel will be Banff area in Canada next summer and possibly Germany in 1999."

Gary Brueggemann ('72,'81), when I saw his letter to the editor making an appeal to save the Mississippi river bank from commercial developers, I wrote him a congratulation and got a nice long letter in response. "I am happy to report that the factory in question will not be built on that scenic bluff, and instead the site will be reserved for a highly attractive and community supported housing development. Ursula is right. City Hall can be fought by grass roots democracy. Our neighborhood community organization, West Seventh Street Federation, mustered scores of residents to protest the plastic factory deal at a recent council meeting. I was one of the principal speakers and although I wasn't exactly Daniel Webster, I had just enough Andy Jackson in me to stir up the crowded chamber for our cause."

He teaches at both Inver Hills Community College and Century College - formerly Lakewood - which together amounts to a full time position. He credits Herb, George, Terry, Clyde, Noble, Steve for his very happy teaching career.

Judson Clifton ('64) "I am completing my 33 year and Betty is completing her 35 and 1/2 year. As we reflect back, we have had many wonderful challenging adventures and rewards, I estimate I have touched the lives of over 1,500 students and Betty has reached over 12,000."

A later letter: "After years of challenging classes, I am glad I have retired. I went into teaching because I really enjoy learning personally and working with kids. In the last few years a great deal of my time has been spent in managing behavior of more of the kids, so they all could learn in the room environment." Graduate study in Oregon "caused me to appreciate how much the RF staff cared...The difference was the administration and its machinery lacked the real interest in the individual I felt at RF."

He traced his family back to Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror and Charlemagne. "Looking through centuries of your own genealogical charts is much more interesting when you have some idea of the how and why people moved about the way they did."

He appeared as promised in September and we had a warm reunion. He was also here to see his old friend Roger Vanous ('64), who reported that his old friend Roy Giesecker works for Curative Rehabilitation Center, driving a van
to transport people to and from adult day care. "He likes the job and they like him."

**Sister Jane (Winkler, ‘72)** wrote from the Carmelite Monastery in Hudson: "I now have a collapsible walker with front wheels which I intersperse with my crutches and it has proved to be a great help to relieve some of the pressure and strain on my torn shoulder muscles. It is all so exciting and has helped conserve of my dwindling energy as well as make me more independent and a more active part of community, all of which means the world to me. God is so good to me and living is such a miraculous gift...I have come to treasure the dawn of each new day more than the last and fall more in love with the life it holds than ever before. We have only one chance to live any given moment and I have only one desire - to live each to the full with all the love I possess."

**David & Lani Madis** (‘61) wrote of happy family travel and growth. The letter was written in nervousness about the expected, but delayed, arrival of another grandchild. The letter was signed with "The birth of Gideon Isaac, mother frazzled, dad in shock." Dave still hasn’t given up his five trap teams but he did not shoot ATA which gave a few more rainy Sundays to fret about the fishing and get more work done. He still works August to March.

**Mike Dodge & Catherine** (‘59) sent a clipping from the Star-Tribune, signed as a Voice Actor, which begins, "As you have no doubt noticed, we are not living in a period of great artistic achievement." He blamed the critics who "keep sampling the thin artistic gruel of our time, smacking their lips and proclaiming it rich. Or at least edible. Then you and I, lured by their bland assurances, go forth to become ensnared in yet another witless, soulless, stupefying affront to the human spirit."

To save Western civilization he is working on a piece about the Republican Party, tentatively titled, ‘Courtesans in Pinstripes,’ in which I inquire as to how a political party whose sole purpose is to gratify the desires of the rich managed to take over the entire country." He was particularly distressed by the Princess DI Internationally Orchestrated Grief Fest. "My only sources of comfort were, of all people, George Will and Howard Stern."

**Diane (‘78) & Craig Zabel** (‘77) can send more news now that their Zach is nine, and active in baseball, basketball and Hockey. This may be unrelated to the fact that Diane is on a sabbatical from the Penn State library. Craig is in his second year as Interim Head of the Art History Department. With his home at Bloomington, MN, as starting point, they made a grand tour of Canada, and were able to attend the ceremony of the unveiling of the statue of Charles de Gaulle, which turned into a Quebec separatist rally.

"Katya, our Himalayan cat, has mixed feelings about her new brother, a Persian kitten named Aleksander." (No wonder since both have Russian names.)

**Karla Taylor** (‘79) claims to be the same as usual, but modestly adds that her Sherlock Holmes short story has appeared in The Formidable Scrapbook of Baker Street., a large hardcover published by Classic Specialties of Cincinnati. She recommended that I watch "Rhodes," which I did and found it fascinating. (Some were repelled by his resemblance to Hitler - no discredit to any Rhodes scholar)

She also recommends "Under the Sun," a series set in Kenya. She is also looking forward to more scenes from the medieval detective Brother Cadfael.

**Dave Peterson** (‘80/MA’91) & Pat Owen Pat’s e-mail address is pjo@csd.uwm.edu. She seems to get enormous numbers of messages from Dr. Buschen almost every day. Pat will be taking a class on campus spring semester, as an elective to transfer into her UW-Milwaukee MLS program. She hopes to finish up the degree by summer. At the MHS she developed a program for handling E-mail reference queries.

"Things continue on an even keel here at MHS. I’ve just finished a 38-box addition to the Gerald W. Heaney Papers, who since 1966 has been a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals (8th Circuit)." He has also processed the papers of Orville Freeman, and James J. Hill.

Eleanor, now almost as tall as Pat, has added the French horn to her piano and singing accomplishments.

**Michael P. Peterson** (‘76) & Kathy between his many trips still teaches cartography at Nebraska-Omaha. There’s scarcely a part of the world that he has not visited and next summer it will be a lectureship in Australia, and the following spring it will be Austria.

He is more proud of his two daughters, Sarah 15, with her piano, viola, dance, and prize winning essays, and of Amelia, called back for another year’s red-cheeked performance with the Nutcracker Suite.

**Jim DeMarco** (‘61) & **Virginia** sent us a clipping of son Karl being elected to the Missouri State Legislature, but will not seek reelection. He would run instead for the office of associate circuit judge and have more time with wife and three daughters. Jim and
HISTORY 371/689

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