Best Wishes in 2008 to History and Philosophy Alumni and Friends

Greetings to all of you from the History and Philosophy Department. This academic year has been one of change (to evoke the much used word of the current election season). With two sabbatical leaves (Imtiaz Moosa for one year and Kurt Leichtle for one semester) and one leave supported by a fellowship (Roark Atkinson), we are missing some colleagues and becoming acquainted with new ones. Dr. Bryan Bademan, with a specialty in American religious studies, is a visiting professor this year standing in for Professor Atkinson; Ms. Ayse Kucukkirca, a doctoral candidate from SUNY-Binghamton (formerly Istanbul), is teaching Professor Moosa’s classes. Filling in on U.S. courses during Dr. Leichtle’s sabbatical is Dr. Thomas White, former curator of the J.J. Hill Papers in St. Paul, who also served as an adjunct in the fall, teaching introductory U.S. history classes. In addition, Mr. Richard Horton and Mr. Matt Meyers offer sections of introductory philosophy courses, and our retired colleague Dave Peters continues to teach his favorite philosophy courses part-time. We welcome all the new colleagues and remain grateful for their dedication to our students. One other staffing change is noteworthy: the University of Wisconsin Regents approved the tenure and promotion of Professor Zhiguo Yang this summer. We all congratulate him.

A forthcoming change is one we currently prepare for—the evacuation of KFA this summer. The ventilation system in KFA will be replaced over the next two summers, and the third (and second) floor occupants must vacate offices in May. This means that everything in the book-lined history offices must all be packed up and stored for the summer. The administrators decided this was also the appropriate time to replace KFA furniture, so when we return in the fall, we will not only breathe better air (we trust), but we also will be seated on ergonomic chairs at new desks. Come and visit us!

Other changes in the department remain more invisible—budgets and assessment. The Department (along with all units across the campus) submitted its budget requests under the new university plan in November. The idea is to link budget priorities with program priorities across the university (referred to as the Program Prioritization Plan). The Department will see some increases this year, but this comes only after years of erosion in already lean budgets, resulting from cutbacks in state funding to public institutions. We remain hopeful that the new process will serve the university and students. Secondly, for the first time, history faculty used the new Assessment Plan to evaluate the History Program. In a three-hour January meeting, we had a productive discussion on representative seminar projects, the central measuring tool for evaluating the History Program. The Assessment Plan will be soon posted on the Department website. The new assessment strategy is partially a response to past external reviews and in anticipation of the upcoming (April) visit and review of the university by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The last change I will mention is also forthcoming: this is my last year as chair of the History and Philosophy Department. After five years (two as the Dean’s appointee, and three as the elected candidate) I have decided to step down. The years have been filled with joys and challenges, but especially excess loads as our ever-changing world with its bureaucratic complexities, technological innovations, and budgetary restraints make the work environment increasingly difficult. What the position has taught me and what I have come to appreciate, particularly, is the dedicated staffing throughout the university—the often-invisible workers in the many arenas on campus whose labors make teaching and learning possible. They and their labors have become more visible to me. What I have most enjoyed about the position is meeting the many students that faculty do not routinely meet—transfer students, prospective students, returning students, those contemplating the study of history or this university, among others. Conversations with these students have given me the opportunity to speak personally with them about the value of academic study, the discipline of history and the strengths of this university; these conversations have also given me insight into the concerns of students to-
day, the complexities of their lives, and their determination to receive a meaningful education. This gives me hope for the future. I have also enjoyed meeting and reconnecting with alumni and emeriti faculty. Thank you all for your continued interest in and support of the Department and the University—and for your parts in making this position enjoyable.

Best wishes to you all. We hope to see you at the Spring Banquet, Friday, April 18th. (Betty Bergland, Department Chair)

Stephen Feinstein (1943-2008)

With great sadness I report the death of Stephen Feinstein, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, on March 4, 2008.

Stephen joined the UWRF faculty in 1966, teaching courses on Russian and Soviet history, the Middle East and the Holocaust, until he left in 1997 to develop and direct the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota. He returned to campus in October 2007 to launch the Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series with his presentation, "When 'Never Again' is a Cliché: The Complicated Role of Rescuers of Genocide."

We join family and friends around the world in mourning the loss of our committed and generous colleague.

Please visit the following for details and to leave your condolences.
http://www.uwrf.edu/history/RememberingSF.html
http://www.uwrf.edu/history/E-FAC-Feinstein-mem.html
(Betty Bergland, Department Chair)

The Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series

The first annual Edward N. Peterson Lecture by all accounts was a success. Professor Emeritus Stephen Feinstein addressed the audience on October 2, 2007 in the Abbott Concert Hall on the topic “When ‘Never Again’ is a Cliché: The Complicated Role of Rescuers in Genocide.” His focus on rescuers from the Holocaust to the present led to a lively discussion period following the PowerPoint lecture. About ninety students, staff and community members were present (a good showing for the launching of a Series, we are told); the lecture was video-taped and subsequently shown on community cable for several weeks, thus expanding the audience. A DVD of the lecture is available in the Department office and staff are working on preparing excerpts to post on the History website.

Plans are still in process for the 2008 Lecture. As soon as details are available the information will be posted on our website.

To all of you who have contributed to the endowment fund--Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series--we thank you for your generosity that has made this Series possible. Contributions may be added to the fund over time. Any questions might be directed to Betty Bergland in the History Department office (715.425.3164) or Ann Schwebach in the UWRF Foundation office (715.425.3505). (Betty Bergland)

History and Philosophy Banquet Set for Friday, April 18th

Please see your invitation on page 13 of this newsletter. Our banquet will be held in the ballroom of the new University Center (south of Kleinpell Fine Arts). Reservations are due April 11th. We hope to see you there!

History and Philosophy Office Staff News

We are fortunate to have senior history major, Paul Borofka-Webb working in the office again. Our newest student staff include Ellen Dubbels, Tessa Dungan and Adam Knaeble. These four terrific staff members help keep the Department running smoothly!

After last spring we lost Josh Jordan to a transfer to UW-Eau Claire and Katy Sikorski graduated. Tiffany Turchany helped around the office during fall semester, but has now trotted off to Europe again with a bad case of the travel bug—her second semester with International Traveling Classroom. She writes, “I am spending my last semester traveling in Europe as part of the ITC program. Once back in May I will be graduating and entering the real world.”

Sue Voelker (1985). As of last spring, I began dividing my work day between the History and Philosophy Department and Journalism and Marketing Communications (where I do a fair amount of graphic design/event publicity). Spare time involves working on my independent Shaklee business as I have for the past 12 years as well as on home and landscape improvement projects. I am also known to play flute and Irish whistle.
My son Karl is in his third year of software engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology, NY and has completed two of four internship experiences. His entire journey at RIT (including internships and master’s program) is likely to last about 6 years. As a diversion from his heavy course load, he is a member of a curling team and is enrolled in billiards. He has just confirmed plans to rent an on-campus apartment with friends next year where he will enjoy being his own chef. We were pleased Karl could visit us during summer, fall and winter breaks and possibly again this summer.

Son Jack is doing well as a sophomore at RF High School, especially enjoying German, biology and history. He can often be found reading; he also enjoys video and PC games and debating/arguing. He will be behind the wheel soon.

Faculty News

Roark Atkinson (since 2005). During academic year 2007-2008, Roark Atkinson took a leave of absence from UWRF in order to accept a postdoctoral fellowship in New York City. The Bernard and Irene Schwartz Postdoctoral Fellowship, sponsored by The New York Historical Society and The New School for Social Research (NSSR), is allowing Atkinson to revise his doctoral dissertation for publication as a book. Under the fellowship, Atkinson spends part of the week at The New School (on 5th Ave., down the street from the Empire State Building) teaching one class each semester; the rest of the time is spent researching and writing at NYHS, located in Central Park West. Atkinson has also enjoyed taking in the sights and sounds of the city (especially the museums), and is particularly fond of his neighborhood in Brooklyn, which is close to the harbor and has views of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, the Statue of Liberty, and the Chrysler building (the most glorious of all of NYC’s skyscrapers). He and his wife Mara are often found taking long strolls through Manhattan in the evening (the Brooklyn Bridge is a favorite trek—with great ice cream on the East side!). He also learned a few things about pickles: the authentic Kosher pickle is not made with vinegar, but fermented in brine. He has also gotten rather attached to the bagels and pizza here (supposedly the oldest pizzeria in the United States is Lombardi’s in Little Italy; it is without doubt one of the best!). He has also sampled Nathan’s original Coney Island hotdogs, and even inspired Mara to ride the famous (infamous?) Cyclone roller coaster (“Hang on to your wigs and car keys.”). However, he misses his friends and family in Wisconsin, and looks forward to the end of book writing (for now, anyway!). Atkinson is set to return to River Falls in Fall of 2008.

Betty Bergland (since 1990). The last year has been exceptionally busy—teaching overloads while trying to sustain scholarship—yet the teaching remains enjoyable. The new sophomore-level course on U.S. history (History 215 & 216) was taught for the first time last year, and I was impressed with the students’ interest and work. Lizabeth Cohen’s book A Consumers’ Republic especially engaged students. The History of U.S. Foreign Policy also seems timely and relevant as students gain historical perspectives on the U.S. in the world, while African American history always helps students gain historical understanding of racism in the country. In many ways I look forward to stepping away from administrative work and concentrating more on teaching and scholarship.

Research and publication always goes slowly, as does mine. While my larger project on immigrants and Indians has been on hold this last year, two conference papers have been revised and will soon be published: the paper presented in Oxford on Indian missions is now part of an edited volume “Competing Kingdoms” to be published by Duke University Press; and a recent presentation in Norway on cultural memory is forthcoming from the Norwegian American Historical Association—Norway. A colleague and I are collaborating on an edited volume addressing issues of gender and migration and expect to submit a manuscript in June 2008. (We scheduled a working week on the North Shore last summer, a perfect setting for labor and inspiration!) Reviewing books also constitutes an enjoyable part of academic life, and I am currently reviewing Kathleen Stokker’s latest book, Remedies and Rituals: Folk Medicine in Norway and the New World.

I continue to serve as Secretary for the Immigration and Ethnic History Society (IEHS) and will do so for another year. One of the obligations as ‘record keeper’ involves attending its annual meeting, held in conjunction with that of the OAH (Organization of American Historians). Last spring the OAH met in Minneapolis, which was convenient, but this March the meetings are in New York, always an exciting place to visit. Given the difficult times in which we live, having meaningful work remains gratifying; teaching, research and service can be gratifying, and sometimes we “have to” go to New York.

Kurt Leichtle (since 1986). My life has maintained the usual hectic level. The Coles book inches its way toward publication. I am on sabbatical this spring and working on the new project concerning the Ridgely family of Maryland. The next newsletter will hopefully report about that progress. At this point, in addition to learning about slavery in Maryland, I am learning about iron foundries in the colonial and early national period. Fun?

I will be teaching a film course on the Civil War in the summer and have applied for a second Teaching
American History Grant. The first, History through the Heartland along the I-94 Corridor has finished and completed it goals. The experience was enjoyable though hard work.

To allow a number of you to feel old, Kyle graduated from college this fall. He has a BS in Digital Arts and Design and is looking forward to his first job. Kee will be a junior next year and is contemplating driving, dad is in denial.

Inttiaz Moosa (since 1991) is on sabbatical for the 2007-08 academic year. We look forward to his return in the fall.

Kiril Petkov (since 2004). 2007 was a busy-busy beat. I didn't even notice it. Any chance it may come back? It began with the usual Italian meringue, my J-Term Italy Study Tour, proceeded with "Silk & Spice" (& Silver"), the preps for my new HIST 333; and then went into an utterly disfunctional mode during summer, swinging wildly between Parisian croissants, Belgian chocolate (manuscript research on a new project), Turkish kadi-boda-budun kufe (a conference in Istanbul) Greek smoked turnip soup (I hit the Greek fires while leafing through mouldy manuscripts in a monastic cell on Mount Athos), and Egyptian kavarma (a short visit to Alexandria for another couple of moldy leaves). To shake off the heat I tried Hungarian gulash (attending a classroom improvement course in Budapest) but alas, it did not go well in summer. They say gulash is better the next day, perhaps I should try it again next year? By August I was so exhausted that I only made it to Camp 2 on a rock climbing expedition, sipping on Bulgarian yogurt (the #1 in the world!) and envying the guys & girls sooo high up above me on the mountain slope. To fortify myself in fall I dipped deep into Bulgarian guvetch (heavy meats and whatever veggies you have in the house, cooked in lard--mmm!): that is, completed my collection of miscellaneous "Voices of Medieval Bulgaria" due in spring 2008 by Brill Academic Publishers, diluting it with my lean & mean teaching fare of 101.203.402 (somehow left the 300s out, hope nobody noticed). The only thing that kept me going was that the ancients were waiting for me ... and since they've been waiting since 753 BC, I'd better get going. P.S.: I just took off actually, with 22 wonderful veterans from 1st Cohors Historiae Fluvis-Cadensis on the long road of HIST 320: Ancient Rome. Not to worry, all roads lead to Rome. Gaius Cyrilus Caesar, semper Augustus. Salvete.

Zhiguo Yang (since 2001). The year of 2008 is a year of rat in China. In ancient times, rat was regarded as a protector that could bring material prosperity to people. Well, just like everything in the world that is dialectical, this animal has also been associated with death, war, the occult, pestilence, and atrocities. Happy New Year and we surely hope that you will be able to maximize what rat positively symbolizes.

In August 2007, our son, Haisheng Yang, left home and began attending Carleton College. Unlike many other parents who have college-age children, we have been able to visit him quite regularly as Northfield is only 50 miles away from River Falls, despite his repeated reminder that we should not intrude into his campus life by visiting too often. Having a child in college has given me a new perspective on what I have been doing as an educator. I feel lucky to be able to contribute to the intellectual growth of our students who, just like my son, will have to deal with a world that will be so different than the one in which we grew up.

Besides teaching world, Asian, Chinese and Japanese history courses on campus, I also took a group of students to Japan in January 2008. I have been teaching Japanese history for many years, but it was a unique experience for me—for the students as well—to teach and learn feudal Japan in Himeji Castle, WWII history in where the first atomic bomb exploded in Hiroshima, and Japanese religion in Tokyo’s Meiji Shrine. Yes, as it is often said, we drove the lessons home. Japanese food is healthy, and the Japanese people eat quite moderately. In trying to adapt to their diet, I had been constantly hungry while in Japan. Still, the students and I had a wonderful time there (see the group picture taken in Mount Fuji park and a picture taken in front of Himeji Castle with our history major Bethany Leech in it).

Lastly, wish all of you good health and happiness in the year of rat!

Faculty Emeriti News

Herb Cederberg (at UWRF 33 years through 1999) and Alice. Retirement is good. One highlight of this past year was being invited to speak at the Spring History and Philosophy banquet. My address was much too long proving that I have not lost my talent for trying to jam much too much into every lecture. To my great delight, many of my former students showed up--not looking much older but inexpressively wiser. A related highlight, since it involved being remembered by my former students, was receiving the "Advisor of the Year" award--seven years after my retirement. According to Chancellor Betz this is the only time the recipient was not a current member of the faculty. Thank you guys!

I continue to teach one Art History course per semester at the Osher Institute at the University of Minnesota. Last semester my topic was "Images of the Virgin Mary: Two Thousand Years of Development." This
This past summer I competed in the Senior Olympics at Louisville, Kentucky. My doubles tennis partner and I won one match, lost two and did not place in the medals round. We thought we would do better since we had won the gold medal in the six state regional qualifying match but then, to tell the truth, our opponents at the nationals demolished us. Next year.

Between semesters, when winter blew in, Sweet Alice and I took off for two weeks in Hawaii, then two weeks in the Bahamas, and then four weeks in Florida. Retirement is good!

Stephen Feinstein (at UWRF 30 years through 1999). Stephen Feinstein was a plenary speaker at Northern Iowa University’s Program on the Holocaust at Jagellonian University in May 2007, speaking on “Polish Artistic Responses to the Holocaust.” In June he was part of a 5 member American team of scholars working with Polish scholars to teach 65 Polish teachers for a week on “Methodologies and Issues in Teaching the Holocaust,” also at Jagellonian University. This was supported by a grant from the Claims Conference. In July, he gave a paper on "From Terezin to Sarajevo: Jiri Sozansky's Artistic Confrontation with Genocide," at the International Association of Genocide Scholars in Sarajevo, Bosnia. In April 2007, he is scheduled to give a paper on "Christian Symbols in Post-Holocaust Jewish Art," at the Western Jewish Studies Association meeting in Los Angeles.

Feinstein also published the following articles at the end of 2006 and during 2007:


Article/Forward for Jeff Hill (ed) Primary Sourcebook Series, The Holocaust (Detroit, Omnigraphics, 2006)


Feinstein was also instrumental in securing a $98,000 grant for the University of Minnesota to support a visiting scholar in History from Israel, a $725,000 gift the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies for a graduate scholarship, matched by the University of Minnesota ($225,000) and the balance for endowment in CHGS. He was also involved in securing a $1.5 million donation to support the Amos Deinard chair in the History Department for Modern Jewish History.

In terms of teaching, Feinstein is teaching a popular course at the University of Minnesota, "History of the Holocaust," with an average enrollment of 160 students. He is also team teaching an ITV Course for the Mondale School of Law at the U of M on "Holocaust, Genocide and Law," with Whittier College of Law in California.

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies is the major sponsor of “DEADLY MEDICINE," a traveling exhibition from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum at the Science Museum of Minnesota, February 27-May 4, 2008. Docent led tours are available. See the web page of CHGS for more information: www.chgs.umn.edu

As far as the family is concerned: Susan Feinstein retired from audiology at Children's hospital and is busy taking free courses for those over 62 at the U of M.

Jeremy Feinstein has his own business in New York City--Human resource Management surveys.

Rebecca Feinstein is the mother of two children (Sarah 6 and Shammik 2) and is pursuing a PHD in Public Health at the University of Chicago. Her husband, Avi Winitzer, is an Assistant Professor of Ancient Near East Languages at Notre Dame University. They live in Hyde Park, Chicago and have Barack Obama as a neighbor.

Clyde Curry Smith (at UWRF 25 years through 1990) & Ellen. In contrast to 2006 no further treatments were required for either of us. Instead, the year dissipated with various check-ups timed irregularly. Thus we were able to get away from River Falls to see not only friends across this country, but more especially the two families of our son and daughter both on the East Coast. On the other hand, we remained in touch with each of them by phone with a relative frequency, and with many other friends by various means of correspondence.

I continue working with Kevin Caldwell, my long-term theological companion. We missed a few weeks over the year due to other circumstances, including his six-week long presence in China with his wife, Lynn Jermal, UWRF professor of art education, wherein they studied, filmed, and otherwise recorded in great detail a hand-crafted pottery industry located in a small mountainous region on the Tibetan frontier. He and I continue to make progress towards completion of his graduate theological degree program at St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota.
Ellen continues service as a plan commission member for the City of River Falls, while I function as board member and secretary of the River Falls Library Foundation. In a more “ministerial” capacity, I performed the requisite outdoor interment ceremony at Fort Snelling Military Cemetery for the father-in-law of Kurt Leichtle, and in late summer the wedding ceremony in River Falls for Wayne Funk’s daughter. The former had joy in the midst of grief; the latter was pure joy. I was elected for a three-year term (2008-2011) to the Alumni Council of the Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago—where I began my own doctoral studies more than 56 years ago, and to which I have retained strong attachment over the succeeding decades. I trust that aging and health will permit me to function appropriately on their behalf.

Though remaining “unwired,” I would nevertheless be pleased to be contacted consultatively by students interested in any aspect of “Ancient History and Religions,” or any time by those alumni who wish to maintain or renew connections, at my home address by mail: 2642 Golf View Drive, River Falls WI 54022. If necessary I could be reached by phone: 715-425-6383.

C. Noble Stockton (at UWRF 23 years through 1989). Ronnie and Noble are living quietly in a Menlo Park, CA retirement community. Our greatest delight is the time we spend -- babysitting is not the word -- with our two local grandsons while their mom works as an interior designer in San Jose and their dad is a senior scholar at Stanford. Last fall Noble repeated his "Great Religions of the World" course at a local senior center and at our own residence community, and on Feb. 12 he gave a talk "Abraham Lincoln: An Illinois Perspective." (Noble invites correspondence at cnstockton@sbcglobal.net.)

Banquet—Fri. April 18th
Reserve by Fri. April 11th

Please see your invitation on page 13 of this newsletter. We hope to see you there!

Mural Depicts Dr. Peterson in Action

If you haven’t yet had the opportunity to see the wonderful mural of Dr. Edward N. Peterson (dedicated November 28, 2006) in the Wyman Education Building, we encourage you to do so. It was beautifully painted by artist Garrett Bergemann as an example of teaching style. Images of the mural may also be seen at: http://www.uwrf.edu/pa/2006/0612/1204067.htm http://www.uwrf.edu/photo_archive/02006/061128mural/index.html

News from Other Former UWRF Colleagues

Chun-Shu Chang. Remaining in retirement in Ann Arbor, his major opus in two-volumes, The Rise of Imperial China, has been published by the University of Michigan Press. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Ruth Hale lives locally near Hager City. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Ursula Peterson continues her valuable work on various projects. At the moment she is hard at work on a book for Beldenville, Wisconsin. We hope to see her at our April 18th banquet. (From Sue Voelker.)

Gary Shellman, with wife Sally, lives downstate in Glendale. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Alumni News

Email us with your news at historynewsletter@uwrf.edu!

Amy Anderson is Professor of New Testament History and Literature at North Central University, St. Paul, MN. With her adopted daughter, Amy had additional educational and ministerial opportunities in Berlin, Germany during summer 2006 which led to planning more for January 2008. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Tom and Anna Baxter (1998). Anna and I are still living in Johnson Creek, within a mile of the big Outlet center there. Anna has recently taken a job with Dean Health System in Madison as a training instructor. I’m still contracting for the State of Wisconsin’s Department of Natural Resources. We just got back from a trip to Jamaica with family, what a wonderful place to visit. Deborah Brown-Hanson. All good things do come to those who wait! Spring was a season of many changes for me. In March I married a wonderful man, Steve Hanson, and have inherited five great children, too, ages 14-24. It also meant after living in Wisconsin all my life, but working in Minnesota for the past 20 years—a change of home, too, moving to Maplewood, Minnesota. And a move from Twin Cities Public Television, to Minnesota Public Radio|American Public Media where I am Director of Major Individual Gifts. Am loving all of these changes, and still enjoy keeping up with what’s happening at UW-RF.

Alice Cargo. Alice teaches enrichment classes to grades 4 through 8 and Junior High School Choir in Oscoda, MI, while husband Bill serves Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church in Grayling. They
toured Europe with the UWRF Alumni Choir in Summer 2007. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Mark Christopher. We visited frequently in the late autumn his and wife Sue's orchard southeast of Spring Valley, WI, to acquire fresh apples, home-baked pies, preserved jellies, honey and maple syrup! (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Tim Erickson (1972). Vallie and I moved from Milwaukee back to River Falls in mid-February [2007], staying only long enough to unpack and put things away. We then left for Arizona where we have a condo in the Phoenix area. We will remain here until mid-May.

I retired from fulltime teaching in May 2005, although I still teach an introductory course in archives administration as part of UW-Milwaukee's distance education program that is offered through the School of Information Studies. I also will be the primary instructor for the Georgia Archives Institute that is held in Atlanta in June. I also am working on a number of research and writing projects, especially the life and times of "Sam Tripp the Notorious Horse Thief," a research interest that dates back to the years when I was the university archivist at River Falls.

Wayne Funk (1970). Biggest news was the wedding of his and Pat's daughter, Kim. Wayne enjoys retirement by various golfing chores and games in the Burnsville, MN area. We had the pleasure of their company several additional times over the year both at their home and out here in River Falls, especially with the opening at UWRF of the new University Center. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Amber Gonske (2000). Things in Madison are going pretty well. I really love my job! We've been busy with the Conference Committee, wondering when the state budget will be completed. We started airing Supreme Court earlier in the month. Many more programming ideas on the horizon. Things have really been exciting. Be sure to take a look at some of the programs in our video archive. You might find something of interest. We're more than just what's going on under the Capitol dome. www.wiseye.org

Tripty Hanek (now Idzerdas). After last year's wedding, residence continues in Georgia, but with a reported magnificent visit to Paris, France, for their first anniversary. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Michael Higgins (1971). In his 37th year of grade school teaching in Rothschild, WI, he's considering the prospect of retirement at the end of this current year. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Philip Idsvoog. Retired from public school teaching and administration, he continues as chair of the Portage County WI Board of Supervisors, though serious surgery was a necessity in August. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn (1976). Daughter Sarah graduated from River Falls High in June with a party that brought together other former students, George Joyce and Bill Krieger. She continues at Prescott High; her husband Dick operates a very successful veterinary medicine clinic in River Falls. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Carol Kettner-Peter (1981). Fourth grade teaching remains her first love, with asides in Master Gardeners from which she started a Junior Master Gardener program. With John various incredible travel opportunities also opened over the year, including August in Germany. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Roxie Kringle-Waldraff remains effectively pastor of a Lutheran congregation in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Roger Lambert. Thought I'd say "hello", and say thank you for the great courses you taught while I attended UWRF from 1978-1983--they were some of my favorites. . . . I recently retired from the Army (I went back in after college) and moved back to MN. My oldest daughter currently attends UWRF, with my youngest daughter planning to attend there this fall. (From Stephen Feinstein.)

Mary Magnan (now D'Andrea) (1970). Highly proficient registrar for MNSCU travels often to share expertise within the profession; continues to live in Hudson with husband Mike at 3M, son Mike at college. Has begun a major website for materials derived from her MA thesis, related to the life of Leonard William King. She visited us at relatively regular intervals over the year. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Connor Martin (2007). I attended The Fund for American Studies at Georgetown University. I was specifically enrolled in the Engalitchef Institute on Comparative Political and Economic Systems (ICPES). In conjunction with the academic program, I interned at a small lobbying/consulting firm called The Charles Group (TCG).

The owner of the company is Robert B. Charles, a former State Department Undersecretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement. He served under Colin Powell before returning to head his company full-time. As an intern I was put in charge of doing all of the primary research on a new contract TCG negotiated with the Department of Defense. Once the summer program ended, TCG hired me full-time and I've continued work on the project since August. I currently live in Arlington and work about 2.5
blocks from Capitol Hill. Officially, my position at work is "Policy Analyst" but my area of analysis is more subject matter than policy.

What takes up most of my day is the year-long research and analysis project mentioned above. It focuses on transnational organized crime, international narcotics-trafficking and connections to global terror networks in Western Europe, the Balkans and parts of Africa. The work is not only cutting edge, real-time stuff but is fascinating and keeps me interested everyday. My interest and training in history come into play simply because to understand what is happening now, one must understand how it got to this point. Plus, making arguments in history has helped as well—essentially, we are trying to paint a picture for future policy-makers. I do a ton of reading and writing. Good practice for a dissertation. I intentionally use the footnotes in my reports to add historical tidbits that for deeper understanding and precedent.

For the most part, I do research and writing. Interestingly, my work allows me to pay attention to a ton of worldwide situations, which can be distracting at times. I don’t do much lobbying—although necessary, it’s not my cup of tea. Although I’ve spent a little time on ‘the hill’ for certain clients. Plus I really dislike politics (growing up in Wisconsin has instilled in me a profound distrust of politicians and a preference for de-centralized government).

I enjoy what I do immensely and am fortunate to have landed a job right out of college that not only rests in line with my interests but makes use of my studies and provides solid training for future work. My plan is to take the GRE sometime this spring and apply to a Georgetown University Graduate studies program in spring of 2009. . . . I’d like to try and swing a dual program; masters in security studies and PhD in history. . . . My plan is continue in the intelligence field for the next few years (federal agencies pay for school), finish grad school and eventually move back to Wisconsin and find a job as a COLLEGE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY! Imagine that! I am particularly interested in the Cold War, an area that will only grow in interest as time goes on and more interesting related pieces develop and emerge. (From Kurt Leichtle.)

Josiah Mast (2003). I have accepted a teaching position in Beijing China. I leave within the week [August 2007]. I will teach 7-10 grade social studies, and possibly coach basketball. (From Kurt Leichtle.)

Sarah Nelson (2002). In the 5 1/2 years (Yikes!) since UWRF, I have been through many changes. Many may remember me as Sarah Nolde, well things didn’t work out so I am now back to my maiden name of Nelson. When I left UWRF I became an educational paraprofessional at Greenwood Elementary School in River Falls, WI. After about a year, I moved to River Falls High School to become a Special Education paraprofessional. In January of 2005 I went back to school to get my teaching license in Special Education in the area of Learning Disabilities. I received my license in the spring of 2006 and was hired as a full time LD teacher at Shakopee, MN Senior High School. This school year marks my second year of teaching and I am enjoying it! I joined the high school volleyball staff and was a part of the coaching staff as the Shakopee Volleyball team won the first Volleyball state title in school history in their first trip to the state tournament. I finished my Master’s in September, 2007 and bought a townhome in Shakopee also in September. Hope all is well with everyone.

Curt Nyberg with wife Karen continues emphasis upon pottery in Deer Park, WI, but also finds involvement in comparative mythology as part of group therapy sessions which he leads as practicing psychologist. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Manley Olson (1959). Still keeping busy with church work with a lot of travel including a week in Mexico and time in New Orleans. I made 17 trips last year. Spent three weeks of vacation in Alaska going all the way up to the Arctic Ocean. Got to UWRF for the scholarship dinner but missed most other events. I have agreed to help organize the archives at Normandy College where I was dean for 30 years.

Liz Paone (2001). I am still working at an alternative high school in North Minneapolis. This is my fifth year and I have moved into a more administrative role. I really enjoy the interesting atmosphere and attitudes of my diverse student population. I would recommend urban teaching to anyone. It is an experience like no other!

Lois Parker (1992). Retiring once again from local Lutheran ministry, this time out of Harmony, MN, she and husband Keith anticipate resettling in the Twin Cities with prospects of some visits back to UWRF. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

David Peck (1966) continues working for Gannett Publishing, though approaching retirement age. With wife Kathy they have increased volunteer involvement in a science fiction convention as well as persisting with the Minnesota Renaissance Festival each summer. (From Clyde Curry Smith.)

Pat Owen Peterson (1981 and 1989). At the State Fair this year, I saw many people with buttons that read: “Is it 2008 yet?” I kept trying to buy one at the DFL booth, but they were always out of them. That sums up the year for me and for many others I know. It has been a most difficult year. Too many challenges and setbacks. Family and friends with serious medical problems. Many people experience a variety of losses. We were finally able to move from our "hostile" neighborhood but at great costs financially, emotionally and physic
cally. I am still trying to determine whether it was worth all the pain to escape.

I am thankful that Eleanor and Michael continue successfully on the path to adulthood. They are amazing! Smart and funny—they make me laugh! The joys of my life! I look forward to 2008 as a time to heal, a time to organize and a time to make plans for what might bring happiness to me.

**David Peterson (1980 and 1991).** The big thing this year—to the near exclusion of everything else—was building a new house and trying to sell the old one. Ground was broken on the new home in February, and we took possession of it at the end of July—but we were not able to get the old house sold until November, after 10 months on the market. Having two house payments is no fun.

I attended the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Minneapolis last Spring, and the Northern Great Plains History Conference in Duluth in October. I have also been singing in one of the adult choirs at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church (Mahtomedi, Minn.), which I particularly enjoy.

Daughter Eleanor continues as a Music Education major at UWRF, and is now in her junior year. She is starting to look at graduate schools—University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Son Michael has had a good year at Park High School (Cottage Grove, Minn.). He remains active in the band program, earning his high school letter last Spring. He’s a junior now—just one more year of school and he too will be off to college.

**Diane Raddatz (1969).** From her residence in Hartford, WI, the continuing burden of extensive work has its ameliorating elements in the care for her horses and the development of old and new style collections for her library. *(From Clyde Curry Smith.)*

**Jim Rapp (1971),** in retirement from high school teaching, continues effective ministerial functions as drama author and producer at their local church in Eau Claire. Wife Alice is involved with a chaplaincy program at the county jail especially for women. *(From Clyde Curry Smith.)*

**Katy Sikorski (2007)** reports that she really misses working in the History and Philosophy Department. After graduation, she became a billing coordinator for a Twin Cities company and hopes to pursue her masters degree. She is thoroughly enjoying her new kiwi green 2008 Ford Escape. *(From Sue Voelker)*

**Kevin Trafford.** Partial retirement from Britain’s National Health Service finds him still involved in occasional rigorous assignments involving mental health cases, and wife Pat full-time in comparable work near their home in Croydon, UK. *(From Clyde Curry Smith.)*

**Steve Yeska (2007).** Just thought you’d like to know I found a teaching job for this school year. I am teaching 6th Grade Social Studies and 7th Grade Life Science at Osceola Middle School. I also supervise four study halls. I was hired five days before school started. Also when assigning detention to 7th graders three out of three of them have cried. *(From Kurt Leichtle.)*

**Email us!** We invite you to email us with your news at historynewsletter@uwrf.edu so we can include your news in next year’s issue.

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**Banquet—Fri. April 18th**  
**Reserve by Fri. April 11th**

Please see your invitation on page 13 of this newsletter. We hope to see you there!
Scholarship Recipients
(Awarded March 2007 for 2007-08 academic year)

History Department Scholarship
Alex Halverson
Anthony Fox
Katie Haimer
Todd Mueske
Ashley Taylor
Heidi Vanderloop

Margaret & Col. H.G. Jones Memorial Scholarship
Kelsey Salstrom

Moeser Historical Scholarship
Tiffany Turchany

Dr. Edward N. Peterson Scholarship
Amber Dallager

Walker D. & Helen Bryant Wyman Scholarship
Suzanna Lee

2007 Contributors
We sincerely thank the following for their contributions to support history scholarships, the E. N. Peterson Lecture Series and/or the History Department Foundation:

Clark E. Anderson
Roger & Mary Bebie
Mary J. Boardman
Thom and Peggy Chuikel
Robert & Merrelyn Dawson
Michael & Catherine Dodge
John & Ann Dowden
Charlotte A. Farago
Stephen C. Feinstein
Kristi J. Fogtman
George M. Garlid
Francis G. Ginther
David & Nancy Grabarczyk
Thomas Grant & Melissa Zopp Grant
Douglas J. Griffith
Deborah G. Hanson
Thomas Hanson
Gordon O. Hendrickson
Nancy R. Herbison
Michael W. Higgins
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Steven C. Schulte
Jack & Ella Woodbury
John B. Wyman, MD
Mark & Eva Wyman
Paula J. Yager

Our continued thanks to Kristi J. Fogtman (’87) who still “maintains our special coffee supply from her vantage point in [Vermont].” (Ed Peterson, “2005 History and Philosophy Newsletter.”)
History Scholarships

**History Department Scholarship:** Awarded to outstanding History students.

**Margaret and Colonel H. G. Jones Memorial Scholarship:** Awarded to a student in History who has completed 22 credits of university work.

**Moeser Historical Scholarship:** Awarded to a history major who will be a junior or senior with a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA and is a resident of Wisconsin or Minnesota.

**Dr. Edward N. Peterson Scholarship:** Student must have attained freshman status, show aptitude and interest in continuing the study of history with consideration being given to applicants who are pursuing a degree with a major in History, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Demonstrated financial need may be a factor in the scholarship committee’s decision.

**Walker D. & Helen Bryant Wyman Scholarship:** Based upon academic excellence in the major, awarded to a student who has completed at least one full year of study at UW-RF. Potential for success and financial need may also be factors.

Foundation Funds

**Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series:** This endowed fund will be used for an annual lecture series on the UWRF campus (to begin spring 2007) to honor the memory, teaching and research of Ed Peterson. The lectures will focus on topics related to Dr. Peterson’s teaching and research: war and peace, abuses and limits of power, or the struggle for democracy in the twentieth century.

**History Department Fund:** Managed by the Alumni Foundation, this fund is referred to as “Special Projects,” Any undesignated contributions that the Foundation receives for the History Department goes into this Fund. From this substantial resource we transferred funds for the Peterson Lecture Series. We retained some funds, however, for “special projects” such as essay awards, underwriting banquet charges for students, or special needs of the department.

Please read on for China Study Tour and Banquet Invitation . . .
Dr. Yang’s Japan Study Tour
January 2008

Owakudani

Himeji Castle
Email us!

We invite you to let us know what is happening in your life by emailing us at historynewsletter@uwrf.edu. We will do our best to include your information in our next newsletter.

Newsletter compiled and edited by Sue Voelker

Ed said it best . . .

Partly because we in education must save money, whereas those in waging wars have money to burn, we have gone on the net with our Newsletter.

We will send a card to all alumni about the opportunity. Any one not on the Net would need only to tell us and we would send the printed copy. Further it will be available to anyone on the Net all during the year. Not the least of the reasons would be the savings of the postage and the staff needed to stuff envelopes.

Nearly all alumni will find us one way or the other.

(E. N. Peterson, 2005)

Reservations

Paid reservations must be received by Friday, April 11th.

Choose one:
□ Chicken Francesca
□ Burgundy Tenderloin Beef Tips

(If you have dietary restrictions, please call us at 715-425-3164.)

$12.00 students
$17.00 non-students

Please mail your check (payable to UW-River Falls) to: Sue Voelker, History & Philosophy, UW-River Falls, 410 South 3rd St, River Falls WI 54022.

Sorry, no telephone reservations.

History and Philosophy Banquet
Friday, April 18, 2008

University Center (south of Kleinpell Fine Arts)
Riverview Ballroom (upper level)

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Peter Rachleff, Professor of History, Macalester College

Topic: “Unpacking History”—Dr. Rachleff will open his historical suitcase to reveal a song which connects Count Basie, Richard Wright, Paul Robeson and the emergence of the Civil Rights Movement.

5:00 p.m. Appetizers and cash bar

6:00 p.m. Dinner and program
Your choice of entrée (Chicken Francesca or Burgundy Tenderloin Beef Tips) with mixed greens salad, dinner roll and lemonade or milk, coffee and almond cheesecake with caramel.