Greetings From the Chair

This year has been eventful on many levels. As a political historian the activities and events of state politics have intrigued me and frustrated me. The events have reminded me that the past does inform the present. Unfortunately, too often the world forgets what we all know as historians—that past is the prologue of the future.

You will see what the department members have been involved with and interested in as you read the individual updates. The faculty has maintained its tradition of activity on campus and off campus. All have participated in conferences in one form another. Several have publications coming out this year and others are moving toward that goal.

We have remembered our emeriti faculty with a new plaque listing their years of service with the department. The plaque can be found in our seminar room. The plaque reminds me that my tenure has reached the 25 year mark.

At the end of April you will have chance to add to my memories and your own. I would like to see all of you at the banquet on April 29th. We are happy to have Tom White give the presentation. Tom has taught with us for a number of years as teaching academic staff. Before he came to us he was the curator for the James J. Hill Collection at the James J. Hill Library.

I look forward to seeing you on the 29th or any time you can drop by.

Banquet Set for Friday, April 29

This year’s guest speaker is W. Thomas White, Ph.D. UWRF History and Philosophy Department. His topic is, “James J. Hill and the Presidents: When Big Money Comes to Politics.”

Full details and your personal invitation are on page 7.

The event will again be held in the ballroom of University Center (south of E. H. Kleinpell Fine Arts). Paid reservations are due by Friday, Apr. 22. We hope to see you there!

Send us your news!

We invite you to email your news to: history@uwrf.edu so we can include your news in next year’s issue!
Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 4

Be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011. Watch for further details in email, Facebook, Twitter and [www.uwrf/hist](http://www.uwrf/hist).

The purpose of the Series is to honor the memory of Ed Peterson and to address the vital issues of our time. The Series is held annually on the UWRF campus.

The lecturer is to be an established scholar or thinker addressing a topic related to arenas that were the focus of Dr. Peterson’s academic career: war and peace, abuses and limits of power, or the struggle for democracy in the twentieth century.

The funds establishing and maintaining the Series are generated by donations from students, alumni, faculty and friends.

Our sincere thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series Foundation fund and the History Department Special Project Fund. We are most grateful for your generosity in making this Series possible.

Office Staff News

Once again we have a great student support team who assist with maintaining smooth office operations. The team consists of returning students Ashley Cress and Stephanie Ladas and new students Megan Szymik and Xander Toftness.

Sue Voelker (1985). My time is still split between History and Philosophy and Journalism and I am busy planning, publicizing and coordinating events in addition to handling daily operations.

2010 was an exciting year for my family. We traveled to New York in May for Karl’s graduation from Rochester Institute of Technology (B.S., M.S. in Computer Science) and shortly thereafter celebrated Jack’s high school graduation. Then came the task of helping Karl find an apartment and move to Madison to pursue his Ph.D. while working as a research assistant. A few days after the move to Madison, we delivered Jack to Stearns Hall at St. Cloud State University where he is studying history.

I am adjusting to the quietude and am happily finding more time to work on creative projects.

Faculty News

Betty Bergland (since 1990). The major development for me this year is the completion of the book entitled *Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities and Identities*, published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. (I hoped for the title, “Gendering Norwegian American History,” but the Press preferred this one.) The work has been a labor of many years. A colleague at the Minnesota State University–Mankato (and co-editor), Lori Ann Lahlum, and I began discussing the project in 2003 while attending a conference in Norway and studying in Oslo. We assembled nine essays (including ours) from scholars on both sides of the Atlantic, representing interdisciplinary approaches and new research. The book is due out May 2011.

I now return to my other book project on immigrants and Indians. A third essay on this research came out last year in the edited volume, *Competing Kingdoms: Women Mission, Nation and the American Protestant Empire, 1812–1960*, published by Duke University Press, 2010—the only one on indigenous peoples.

Most of our time during the academic year, of course, is devoted to teaching. I have been in the process of putting twenty years of lecture notes and teaching materials on power point. Also a slow process—especially since most upper division courses are offered only every other year, coupled with the challenges of shifting technology. Yet the effort seems useful—to reorganize and rethink the presentation of twentieth century history (for the most part) and draw upon the new and rich resources on the web, including images from NASA and the National Security Archives digitization project at George Washington University that includes...
Faculty News (continued)

de-classified materials from the cold war.

And, I continue to be inspired by our students, especially the History majors and minors, as I watch them grow, mature, graduate and go on to teach, to jobs, or to continuing study on many areas. And I remain impressed by the new students coming to the University—by their energy, their engagement with learning and history.

As I write, however, I am distracted and dismayed by developments in our state capital. Although the presence of protesters challenging the Budget Repair Bill is heartening, the assault on teachers and civil servants in Wisconsin—and around the country—is frightening, raising fears about the future of education, public service, and the quality of life in the state.

Kurt Leichtle (since 1986).

Without question, the highlight of this year was a contract for my book on Edward Coles. So in June, Crusade Against Slavery: Edward Coles, Pioneer of Freedom will appear in print. Yes you can order an advance copy from Amazon. This event marks the last loose end of graduate school since the project was my dissertation. On to other things.

The other things include Kee’s graduation from high school. He worked the summer with an exploratory program and is now moving toward the first real job. Kyle has given up WalMart for the world of a freelance designer, he is the senior designer for MetroWoman magazine. He still games and is looking forward to GenCon in August again.

My research time has been divided between the Ridgely’s and Charles Sommers. For the first half of the year microfilm showed up regularly as I worked my way through part of the Ridgely papers. In October I did a small exhibit for the North Star Museum of Boy and Girl Scouting in North St. Paul, When Regions were Councils. From that research I met Charles Sommers a St. Paul business man who was the Chair of Region 10 of the Boy Scouts. He remained from 20 years and helped create and define major parts of the Boy Scout program. I plan to present a paper on him at the Northern Great Plains History Conference in September.

This summer I will be off to Louisville to score APUSH exams and then back to campus to teach a course on the Civil War. Who knows, after 25 years one’s mind begins to wander toward retirement.

Imtiaz Moosa (since 1989).

Life never ceases to rattle and shake me up. A few years ago, when all was proceeding slow and steady, just at the start of the Spring Break, for which I had made many plans, I woke up in the morning to find myself unable to see!

Now my dear mother, who all regarded fit and healthy, has cancer all over her body. I plan to spend quite a bit of time this summer in Toronto. Who knows if this is the last year she has to live? How I cherish this sweet and extraordinary lady! Except for the fact that she has a great grasp of English, and loves reading classics, she is a conventional Indian mother. And yet her strength and sureness of character, her love of humanity and faith in the goodness of others, her utter decency, and her serenity even in the most trying moments, radiates her being. I am bereft, almost as hurt as when I suffered four years ago from the catastrophic loss of vision.

But all is not dark and gloomy. I plan to go more than five hundred miles of canoeing this coming summer on the Yukon River, between Whitehorse and Dawson City in Canada. Here are the circumstances that have led to this: In my walks I meet a man of independent means, perhaps very wealthy, exactly my age (but unlike me married a couple of times, and once a CEO), who befriends me, and who wants to embark on this adventure with me. He is from South Africa, but then left for Australia, but was in River Falls (of all places) to visit with his girl friend and her mother who had a major stroke in the hospital here. Ruth, his partner, had run away from River Falls and gone abroad, when she was only 17. I came to know them, and they even attended a couple of my classes. What chances are there for a legally blind chap in River Falls to meet a wealthy man from Australia who offers to escort him on a grand canoe expedition in Yukon? As I said, life is strange!
Faculty News (continued)

Kirił Petkov (since 2004) is going virtual. I wish I could (as probably do other people), but for the moment being I will limit myself to offering an online course, HIST 333: Silk, Spice and Silver. That was, actually, the grand project of 2010 for me: facing the challenge of virtual education. Since I don’t do things halfway, I opted for a fully-online course. If I only knew what I am getting into! After several months of mulling over the virtues and vices of online instruction, I judged there is some merit to it, and plunged in full-force. It was a tremendous amount of work and learning on my part what the concept entails, and what didactical and technical expertise one needs to possess. Anyway, the course is practically completed and I will proudly offer it this coming summer of 2011. Other than that, 2010 was the usual grind: full load of teaching, editing a book collection on piety and politics in the fourteenth-century Mediterranean, and spending a hot summer in Barcelona and Venice, working on a comparative project of relics in society in the late medieval and Renaissance period. It all served me in good stead, since in Fall 2010 I delved in all things Renaissance with my students of HIST 322, and during J-Term offered a hands-on introduction to the same subject to a good group of intrepid travelers within my J-Term Italy Study Tour—both immensely rewarding experiences. Ciao, for now, and have a great 2011!

Zhiguo Yang (since 2003). In 2009, I was granted my first sabbatical since I began my teaching career at George Mason University in 1997, and I spent it during the Spring Semester of 2010 in China and in National Archives at College Park, Maryland. While in Maryland, I visited several senior scholars whose scholarship, generosity and friendship enormously benefited and inspired me as a graduate student at University of Maryland, College Park. One of them is Dr. E. B. Smith, a renowned historian of antebellum America, Civil War and Reconstruction.

I first met Dr. Smith in 1983, when he came to Peking University, China as a Fulbright scholar. He stayed there for one semester, teaching us—a group of young Chinese graduate students whose proficiency in English language was, at best, quite questionable—US history. Thanks to Dr. Smith, I was able to approach the study of history from perspectives rather than that of Marxist historical materialism; read the first American history monograph in English (actually, Dr. Smith is the author) entitled Francis Preston Blair: A Biography; learn that America was not exactly what Godfather, an extremely popular film in China at the time, represented to the rest of the world; and eat the first hamburger in my lifetime in a joint-venture hotel in Beijing. (Four years after Dr. Smith left China, Kentucky Fried Chicken Company opened its first franchise in China, which was situated in downtown Beijing, not too far away from the Tiananmen Square. As the first American fast food restaurant in China, KFC Beijing became the most profitable KFC franchise in the whole world in less than two years after it introduced a new kind of food—fried chicken breast, a bowl of creamy coleslaw and a cup of soda—to its first Chinese customers.)

Dr. Smith always claims that he is a Marxist because he was born on May 1, a day that was designated as the International Labor’s Day by the First International led by Karl Marx. On May 1, 2010, he turned 90 years old and I went to his Chesapeake Bay home to visit him two days after his birthday that he celebrated by going to an Orioles baseball game. He looked physically weak, but his mind was as sharp as it was when I last saw him in 1996. Sitting twenty yards away from the Chesapeake Bay, we chatted for over two hours, reminiscing about the people we all knew and the things we experienced together. When I was about to leave this man I so much respected and his small but lovely bay house, Dr. Smith said something that deeply moved me at the time and has inspired me ever since: “I am proud of what you have done.”

I have not done that much and I have not achieved that much, at least in comparison to what my lifetime teacher Dr. E. B. Smith has done and achieved. But I also know that when he said that to me, he meant as much to praise as to encourage. Now that I am back to classroom, I will continue to do to my students what Dr. Smith has been doing to me: Through his personal example, he has set a high standard of generosity, integrity and tireless pursuit of knowledge for me and for his other students. I don’t know if I could ever reach that standard, but I will persist in getting closer to it.
Faculty Emeriti News

Clyde Curry Smith (at UWRF 25 years through 1990) and Ellen. We were not away from River Falls during the entire year. We did however see and gather without erstwhile neighbors from West Maple Street, and former University Physics colleague, Wayne and wife Carol Sukow, while they were present in the area. We were visited by former students Mary D’Andrea and Wayne Funk on several occasions. We remained in touch with each of our families by phone with a relative frequency and with many other friends mainly by old-fashioned snail mail! We attended the fiftieth wedding anniversary celebration (held in the University Center) of former psychology professor Don and wife Jan Charpentier.

I was pleased to have been included among other present and former University faculty at a gathering in St. Paul at the apartment of Betty Bergland to welcome a visit by and birthday celebration for our former colleague John Buschen. Herb and wife Alice Cederberg were among those in attendance, and we all had lengthy moments of reminiscing departmental days of yore! Christmas greetings also came in from our former colleague Chun-Shu and wife Shelly Chang, of Ann Arbor, MI, as did a post-season letter from Noble and wife Ronnie Stockton, now of Arlington, VA.

I continued working on Greek language and related subjects with Kevin Caldwell my long-term theological companion, until the end of August, when he and wife Lynn Jermal of the University Art department left for supervision of the Semester Abroad Program. I was pleased to learn that Kevin had passed his Greek language examination at St. John’s before their departure. In July I was asked and pleased to provide for my first graduate student in history, Jim Rapp, of Eau Claire, an “Afterword” for the publication of his meditative poetry on the Abrahamic material in the Book of Genesis: Sandals (Eau Claire: EC Printing, July 2010). Subsequently Ellen and I had the great pleasure of joining for a Sunday brunch with Jim and his wife Alice, as well as two other of my former Greek language students, Jeff Rapp, of Osceola, and Amy Anderson, of St. Paul, MN. My statement “On Assumptions” was included in a volume Meaning of Life edited by Hap Lyda (Fort Worth, TX: 21st Century Press, November 2010).

Ellen continues service as plan commission member for the City of River Falls, while I function as board member and secretary of the River Falls Library Foundation. I maintain duties as treasurer for the Greenridge Homeowners Association wherein we have completed nearly thirteen years of enjoyable retirement life.

Cards and greetings also came in from these other former students:

- Cargo Alice Young and husband Dick, of Oscomo, MI.
- Christopher, Mark and wife Sue, near Spring Valley
- Higgins, Michael, of Rothschild.
- Idsvoog, Philip and wife Elaine, of Plover.
- Jones (~Witthuhn), Bonnie and husband Dick, of rural RF.
- Kettner (~Peter), Carol and husband John, of Rice Lake.
- Nyberg, Curt and wife Karen, of Deer Park.
- Olson, David, of Spring Valley.
- Parker, Lois and husband Keith, of Columbia Heights, MN.
- Poff, Janet, of Lake Elmo, MN.
- Raddatz, Diane, of Hartford.
- Trafford, Kevin and wife Pat, of Shirley, Croydon, England.

“I continued working on Greek language and related subjects...”
—Clyde Curry Smith
2010 Contributors

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And our continued thanks to Kristi J. Fogtman ('87) who kindly “maintains our special coffee supply from her vantage point in [Vermont].” (Ed Peterson, 2005)

History Scholarships

Dr. Stephen C. Feinstein Memorial Scholarship. Must have attained freshman status; Must 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; Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher; Preference given to a student with financial need; Preference given to students, who like Dr. Feinstein, had an interest in WWII Holocaust study and Russian history. Based on the criteria, applicants must write an essay detailing qualifications for the scholarship.

History Scholarship. Awarded to outstanding History students. This award was created as a memorial to George and Phyllis Garlid.

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 UWRF. Potential for success and financial need may also be factors.

Foundation Funds

The Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series

The purpose of the Lecture Series is in the Memorandum of Endowment Purpose: “. . . to provide a sum of money annually to be used for a history lecture for the University community to honor the memory, teaching and research of Edward N. Peterson.” To all of you who have contributed to the History Department Special Project Funds over the last years, we thank you for your generosity that has made this Series possible. Contributions may be added to the fund over time.

History and Philosophy Department Foundation

Contributions to this account may be used to help fund events, correspondence and activities for History and Philosophy alumni.
Selected notes from grateful 2010 scholarship recipients

“I would like to thank the history department for selecting me for this award. I am both honored and grateful to have been chosen. And to all of you who help contribute to this scholarship, I sincerely appreciate your generosity. Thank you so much!”

—Brian Ritchie

“Thank you very much for selecting me as a recipient of a scholarship. It is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to putting it to use by learning as much as I possibly can in my time here at UWRF.”

—Jay Plemon
In Ed's words (2005)

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. Anyone 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