



University of Arkansas at Little Rock History Department Newsletter

November 6, 2011—Editor, Edward M. Anson

**History Department Plays a Prominent Role in Supporting the University's
New Institute on Race and Ethnicity**

In July 2011, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in its determination to create a fresh agenda on the subject of race aimed at dismantling the historical, cultural, and institutional structures that prevent racial and ethnic justice, established its Institute on Race and Ethnicity, with Dr. Adjoa Aiyetoro as its founding director. “The mission of the Institute is to seek racial and ethnic justice in Arkansas by remembering and understanding the past, informing and engaging the present, and shaping and defining the future.”



Freedom Rider bus outside the Capital Hotel

Freedom Rides Symposium

On Saturday July 9, the History Department organized a symposium titled, "Sit-Ins, Freedom Rides, and Beyond: Direct Action and Civil Rights in Arkansas in the 1960s." Held at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, the symposium commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the Freedom Rides and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Arkansas. The symposium featured panels on civil rights activism in Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and Gould, and brought together 20 participants from Little Rock, Arkansas, the South, and the United States, as well as international speakers from as far afield as the United Kingdom, Hungary, and Nigeria. Over 300 people attended the symposium. C-SPAN broadcast the event and sections can still be viewed on its website archive at: <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/300407-1>

New Minor in Race and Ethnicity

The History Department has played a prominent role in supporting the new Institute including hosting a new Minor in Race and Ethnicity, which will officially be launched in the Fall of 2012, but which is already beginning to attract interest from students. The minor is taught in conjunction with the Institute and Dr. John Kirk, the Chair of the History Department, is one of its two coordinators. The minor has two compulsory courses, the first, RACE 2301 Introduction to Race and Ethnicity is taught by Institute director Dr. Adjoa Aiyetoro, the second, HIST/RACE 4356/5356 History of Race and Ethnicity in the United States by Dr. Kirk. Other approved courses from across campus, in which history classes feature prominently, will make up the electives for the minor. More details about the minor can be found on the History Department website at: <http://ualr.edu/history/index.php/home/programs/minor-in-race-and-ethnicity/>

Mabel and Santo Formica Endowment Inaugural Lecture

On November 30, 2011, the History Department will host the inaugural Mabel and Santo Formica Endowed Lecture. Mabel and Santo Formica, who were members of the University History Institute, endowed an annual lecture series in their name. The first lecture will feature a talk and screening by New York documentary film maker Sharon La Cruise on her film *Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock* which charts the life of the nationally recognized Arkansas civil rights leader. The department is proud to host what will be the world premier screening of the documentary, which will be later aired nationally February 2, 2012, in PBS's Independent Lens series. The screening is at UALR's Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall at 7 pm, with La Cruise in attendance, in an event that is free and open to the public.

Arkansas Moments

Beginning in April 2011, Dr. John Kirk began to broadcast a series of “Arkansas Moments” with the campus-based local NPR radio station FM 89.1 KUAR that feature the African American experience in Arkansas. Topics have included everything from Freedom Rides, to desegregation, to airline pilots, to Daisy Bates. The one-minute vignettes are played throughout the day on NPR and three new recordings are featured each month. Arkansas Moments now has its own micro site on the KUAR website featuring transcripts of the programs, audio recordings, photographs, and weblinks to more information on African Arkansan history. The website can be found at: <http://www.kuar.org/arkansasmoments/index.1.html>

The University History Institute



Consul Andres Chao with Dean
Deborah Baldwin and Institute president
Jack Lavey

The University History Institute had a successful 2010-2011 year, with the usual six lectures for regular members. In addition, Fellows and Life Members shared two special occasions. On November 18, 2010, they attended a dinner at Acadia restaurant with Consul Adrés Chao of the Mexican Consulate who spoke on the challenges of Mexico's future in an after-dinner talk

On May 10, 2011, the Institute held the annual Fellows Reception at the Arkansas Studies Institute. Chancellor Joel Anderson addressed the group after dinner with a talk on the university's new Institute on Race and Ethnicity.

The Institute's 2011-2012 Evenings With History series is already underway. with the first three lectures marking the inauguration of the University's new Institute on Race and Ethnicity with their focus on the struggle of African Americans for civil rights in Arkansas. The first lecture was entitled "Freedom: Black Arkansans and the End of Slavery," delivered by Carl Moneyhon

of the department. The second, given by Story Matkin-Rawn of the University of Central Arkansas was "From Land Ownership to Legal Defense: the World War I Watershed in Black Arkansan Organizing." Future lectures include "A Movement is More than a Movement: Arkansas and the African American Civil rights Struggle since 1940," by John Kirk on December 6, "The Heavenly History of the Han, or How a Liberal Baptist form Green Forest, Arkansas, Taught Racial and Ethnic Nationalism to the Chinese, by Jeff Kyong-McClain on February 7, "A Brief History of Human Rights," by Charles Romney on March 6, and "Counter-Insurgency: The Lessons of Alexander the Great," by Edward Anson on April 3.

All talks are held at the Ottenheimer Auditorium in the Historic Arkansas Museum at 200 E. Third Street in Little Rock. Historic Arkansas's downtown location and the museum's adjacent parking lot at Third and Cumberland make the sessions convenient and pleasant to attend. Refreshments and an informal atmosphere encourage the interchange of ideas. Refreshments are served at 7:00 p.m., and the talk begins at 7:30 p.m.

To find out more about the series and how to become a member of the University History Institute, please contact Prof. Carl Moneyhon at chmoneyhon@ualr.edu

Public History

The Public History MA program welcomed eleven new students this fall. We have also increased funding for graduate study: we now offer ten Graduate Assistant positions (up from four), including a new GA position at the Clinton Presidential Library funded by the National Archives. Twelve MA students now receive either a Graduate Assistant position or a scholarship. Our MA students are also working on several significant projects in the community. Graduate students in Public History recently finished a \$6,000 project for Pulaski County creating public history markers for the River Trail and a \$10,500 project for the Sequoyah Research Center doing research on the historic Southwest trail. And the Public History program started a new digital history project on the "Law and Civil Rights in Arkansas" that received \$45,000 in initial funding from the UALR Graduate School, the Chancellor's Office, and the Center for Arkansas History and Culture. In addition to a website, several graduate students working on "Law and Civil Rights in Arkansas" are designing an exhibit, traveling for research, and planning a symposium next fall.

The History Department Works with the Public Schools

Teaching American History grant – since 2001 the History Department has provided professional development workshops through the history academy (led by Dr. James Ross), a monthly history book club (Dr. Ross), and a week-long summer institute (Dr. Ross, Dr. Kristin Mann) for teachers of U.S. History, at elementary and secondary levels. Part of the grant is also a co-teach, in which Dr. Ross and Dr. Mann plan a unit together with a high school U.S. history teacher or teachers, then co-teach the unit with the classroom teacher and students. This co-teach was done at McClellan High School in 2010, Hall High School in 2011, and will be at Fair High School in 2012.

National History Day – Dr. Kristin Mann is the coordinator for the National History Day competition, and UALR's History Department hosts the regional competition for central Arkansas, including LRSD. UALR History professors serve as judges for the LRSD district competition as well as the regional competition. As part of the outreach, Dr. Mann holds informational sessions and workshops for teachers and works with students in the classroom to show them how to begin researching a project topic.

Curriculum writing and development – Dr. Mann and Dr. Ross have worked with Laura Beth Arnold and Marie McNeal (prior to her retirement) and classroom teachers to develop curriculum maps in social studies and individual social studies subjects.

Local History Goes to School: Traveling the World with Mifflin W. Gibbs - This project, conducted from 2008-2009, involved Dr. Mann and the students and staff at Gibbs Magnet School. Students produced two books and a museum exhibit for the Arkansas Studies Institute that received coverage from local print and television news outlets. It was the featured Arkansas Humanities Council grant that was showcased for the site visit of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sue Cowan Williams Exhibit - This project was recently funded by the Arkansas Humanities Council. UALR's Public History program and graduate student Jennifer Pierce, working with professors Romney, Mann, Ross, and Kirk, will be working with students and social studies teachers at Dunbar Middle School to create an exhibit about the career of Susie Morris (Sue Cowan Williams), former English Department Chair at Dunbar High School, who successfully fought racial pay discrimination for African American teachers.

Winthrop Rockefeller Centennial Project - This project is part of a larger celebration of the centennial of Winthrop Rockefeller's birth. Dr. Mann and Public History graduate student Allison Yocum are working with teachers and students at Rockefeller Elementary to produce a museum exhibit, books, and artwork, and curriculum projects in science, media, technology, and literacy, about Governor Rockefeller. The exhibit will open in April 2012 at the Arkansas Studies Institute.

Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Alpha Theta President Sarah Dunlap received a Middle Eastern Studies Grant for 2011-2012. She used the grant to study the Arabic language for two months this Summer at the University of Jordan in Amman. Ms. Dunlap was also awarded the Best Study Abroad Picture Award from UALR. Phi Alpha Theta members helped organize the Annual History Department Picnic in October 2011 and volunteered at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center for the annual BOOseum, a Halloween Carnival for families in the Little Rock area. They also had a bowling outing for Phi Alpha Theta members during the Summer of 2011.

Faculty Activities

Ed Anson, Professor of Greek and Roman History, published "Why Study Ancient Macedonia?" in *A Companion to Ancient Macedonia* (Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World), ed. by Joseph Roisman and Ian Worthington (Wiley-Blackwell: Malden, MA, and Oxford, 2010) 3-20, and "Did Alexander the Great Voluntarily Curtail his Conquest of the East?" in *The Traditional Mediterranean: Essays from the Ancient to the Early Modern Era*, J. Che and N. C. J. Pappas, eds. (Athens Institute for Education and Research and Institute for Mediterranean Studies, Athens: 2011) 87-96, and he has the following either in press or under contract: "Discrimination and Eumenes of Cardia Revisited," in *The Age of the Successors*. Peeters Academic Publishers: Leuven, Belgium; "Alexander at the Beas," in *Alexander East and West: A Festschrift Honouring A. B. Bosworth*, Oxford University Press; co-editor, *After Alexander: The Time of the Successors (323-281 BC)*, Oxford University Press; sole author, *Alexander the Great: Themes and Issues*, Continuum Press (London and New York); sole author, *After Alexander: The Age of the Successors*, Wiley-Blackwell (Malden, MA and Oxford). He presented a paper, "Did Alexander the Great Voluntarily Curtail His Conquest of the East?" at the Southwestern Social Science Association, March 19, 2011, Las Vegas, Nevada. He also serves as Chair of the UALR Faculty Governance Committee which is reviewing every Department and College's governance document, serves on the Undergraduate Curriculum Revision Task Force, which is reviewing and preparing recommendations for possible revisions in UALR's undergraduate curriculum, and is currently a faculty senator.

Clea Bunch, Assistant Professor of History, received a summer fellowship from the S. Daniel Abraham Center of International Studies at Tel Aviv University. The Arab Spring has kept her very busy with numerous public lectures and an article for *Passport: the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations Review*. She is currently working on a book chapter about Ronald Reagan's Middle East policies for the collaborative project *A Companion to Ronald Reagan*.

Thomas E. Kaiser, Professor of History, has published a book *From Deficit to Deluge: The Origins of the French Revolution* (Stanford University Press, 2011), co-edited with Dale K. Van Kley, to which he contributed a chapter "From Fiscal Crisis to Revolution: The Court and French Foreign Policy, 1787-1789." He has two articles currently in press: "The Austrian Alliance, the Seven Years' War, and the Emergence of a French 'National' Foreign Policy, 1756-1790" in Julian Swann and Joël Félix, eds., *The Crisis of the Absolute Monarchy* (British Academy); and "The 'Public Sphere': In Search of the 'Shadowy Phantom,'" in William Doyle, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the Ancien Regime* (Oxford University Press); and one book chapter in press: "The 'Public Sphere': In Search of the 'Shadowy Phantom,'" in William Doyle, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the Ancien Regime* (Oxford University Press, 2011). In February, he delivered a paper entitled "Constructing the French Revolution, not a Different One, in 1787-1789" to the annual meeting of the Society for French Historical Studies, and next year will present "Abandoning 'Dynasticism' and Imagining Counter-Revolution: The Nootka Sound Affair and the Recasting of Foreign Policy in the Early French Revolution" at the 2012 meeting of the Society. He also published "Mozart, 'Murder,' and the Strange Case of the Unfinished Requiem" as program notes for a performance of the Mozart Requiem by the UALR Concert Choir and Community Choir in March, and a review of the film, "Beaumarchais, l'insolent," for the H-France list-serve, "Fiction and Film for French Historians, a Cultural Bulletin" in May. He

received a College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Summer Research Fellowship for 2012. But perhaps his proudest achievement was to have served as the faculty advisor of his undergraduate student Anitra van Prooyen, who was selected as a finalist in the 2011 Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Posters on the Hill Competition and exhibited a poster based on her research paper "Why Did the Trains Stop? The Suspension of Jewish Deportations from Slovakia during the Holocaust" in the Rayburn Building in Washington, D.C. at a meeting organized by the CUR in April.

John A. Kirk, Donaghey Professor of History and Department Chair, has had a busy year since his move from the University of London to UALR in the summer of 2010. He continued to publish, including: (co-edited with Jennifer Jensen Wallach) *Arsnick: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Arkansas*, Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2011; "A Southern Road Less Travelled: The 1966 Arkansas Gubernatorial Election and (Winthrop) Rockefeller Republicanism in Dixie," in *Painting Dixie Red: When, Where, Why, and How the South Became Republican*, edited by Glenn Feldman, University Press of Florida, 2011: 172-197; "When the Freedom Riders Came to Little Rock: A 50th anniversary look back at a forgotten Civil Rights stand," *Arkansas Times*, July 6, 2011, 1, 10-12; "Battle Cry of Freedom: Little Rock, Arkansas, and the Freedom Rides at Fifty," *Arkansas Review*, forthcoming fall 2011; "Not Quite Black and White: School Desegregation in Arkansas, 1954-1966," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, forthcoming winter 2011. He also wrote three entries for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture on "Sit-Ins," "Freedom Rides," and "Desegregation of Van Buren Schools." In addition, from May he began a series of "Arkansas Moments," one-minute vignettes on Arkansas history broadcast by University of Arkansas at Little Rock NPR station KUAR. In July, he helped organize the launch event for UALR's new Institute on Race and Ethnicity, including a symposium on, "Sit-Ins, Freedom Rides and Beyond: Civil Rights and Direct Action in 1960s Arkansas," which brought back one former Freedom Rider and nineteen former members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to Arkansas to reflect on their experiences in the state. The symposium, attended by over 300 people, is currently being broadcast by C-SPAN and can be accessed online at <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Movementin1>. The same weekend saw the launch of a new Arkansas Civil Rights Heritage Trail with ten markers laid in honor of Sit-In participants and Freedom Riders on the sidewalk outside the Old State House Museum in Little Rock. A plaque commemorating the Freedom Rides was also dedicated across the road on the former site of the Trailways bus station. Ten new markers dedicated to those who fought for civil rights and racial justice in Arkansas will be added along West Markham and President Clinton Boulevard each summer. Kirk also gave academic conference papers in Seattle, San Francisco, and Hattiesburg, as well as giving keynote talks at the Southern States Communication Association 81st annual conference in Little Rock and at the Arkansas Delta Symposium at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro. He also spent two weeks at the State Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin, looking at the Arkansas SNCC and Congress on Racial Equality Papers with the help of a grant from the Friends of University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. Meanwhile, he taught graduate and undergraduate classes, acted as advisor on Public History MA and History BA honors theses, served on the search committee for the inaugural director of the UALR Institute on Race and Ethnicity, and chaired the history department.

Jeff Kyong-McClain, Assistant Professor of Chinese history, published two articles in 2011: "Drumming Up Support: Chicago's Chinese Children's Rhythm Band and Aid for Wartime China" in *Chinese America: History and Perspectives*, and "David Crockett Graham in Chinese Intellectual History: Foreigner as Nation Builder," co-authored with anthropologist Geng Jing, in Stevan Harrell, ed., *Explorers and Scientists in China's Borderlands, 1880-1950* (University of Washington Press). He wrote book reviews for the *Journal of World History*, *Church History* and *Frontiers of History in China*. In February, Jeff and his co-organizer, Yongtao Du of Oklahoma State University, hosted the "Chinese History in Geographical Perspective Conference" at UALR, which featured keynotes by Peter Bol of Harvard University and Laura Hostetler of the University of Illinois, Chicago. Jeff and Yongtao are now editing the conference volume, to be published next year by Lexington Books. Finally, Jeff spent one month in China over the summer, leading a teacher tour, visiting UALR's partner school, Southwest University of Science and Technology in Mianyang, Sichuan, and conducting research in and around Chengdu.

Moira Maguire, Associate Professor of History, spent half of the Fall 2010 semester conducting research in Ireland for a new project on marital breakdown in pre-divorce Ireland. This project should, if all goes according to plan, result in a book that examines how people coped with unhappy or dysfunctional marriages in the period before divorce was an option (divorce only became legal in Ireland with legislation passed in 1995 and implemented in 1997). Meanwhile she is working on articles on the Irish Society for the Prevention of Children's role in Ireland's industrial school system, and she is working with an Irish colleague on a co-edited volume on Irish mother and baby homes. And she was thrilled that the first reviews of her book, *Precarious Childhood in Post-Independence Ireland*, published in December 2009 by Manchester University Press, were stellar reviews. In terms of teaching, Maguire is excited to be teaching a historical methods to a new crop of eager History majors, and she serves as the Department's advising coordinator. Moira also walked in the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure and raised \$700 for the cause.

Kristin Dutcher Mann, Associate Professor of Latin American History, continues as coordinator of the social studies education program at UALR, and serves as the newsletter editor for the Arkansas Council for the Social Studies and District 7 History Day Coordinator. In 2011, she began work on two children's books about Mifflin W. Gibbs, an African American politician and businessman in late 19th-century Arkansas. She presented a paper on Corpus Christi, Easter, and Christmas rituals in the missions of Northern New Spain at an international symposium on Franciscan evangelization at Flagler College last spring, and is currently writing a book chapter on the same subject. Kristin taught professional development workshops for teachers throughout the year, and is currently working on a grant project with teachers and students at Rockefeller Elementary in Little Rock.

Carl Moneyhon, Professor of US History, spent much of the past year with various projects related to the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. He filmed an audio-visual component for the Old State House Museum's "The Enduring Union" exhibit, consulted with Lion Television for an upcoming episode on "Black Confederates" for History Detectives, served as an advisor for Historic Arkansas Museum's "'Gone with the Wind': Reel to Real," exhibit and Old State House Museum's "Wall of Fire: The Civil War in Arkansas," and gave Civil War lectures to various

school and public audiences. His last book, *Edmund J. Davis*, continued to receive favorable reviews and won second place in the scholarly book category for the Texas Institute of Letters best book award. He presented "Chronology and Geography: Pathways to Moving Forward a Discussion of Reconstruction Violence in Texas" at the Texas State Historical Association and "The Boys of '61: Arkansas Goes to War" at the Arkansas Historical Association. He is finishing work on a new book, "Origins of Bi-Racial Politics in Texas: The Union League," and continuing work on the never ending "Making Johnny Reb" project.

Jess C. Porter, Assistant Professor of Geography in the Department of History, continues research on paleoecology, human-environment interaction in arid and semiarid lands and geospatial technology education. In 2011, his work on the Dust Bowl was featured on The Weather Channel's *Worst Weather Disasters*. He authored *Encounter Human Geography* (Pearson 2011) to provide a guide for integrating Google Earth into Human Geography curriculum. This follows up his *Encounter World Regional Geography* (Pearson 2010) text. Dr. Porter presented papers at the Association for American Geographers annual meeting in Seattle and regional academic conferences in Little Rock and Tahlequah, OK. His current writing projects include creating and maintaining original web content for the Encounter series of books, developing a proposal for the third text in the Encounter series, *Encounter Physical Geography*, and submitting more Dust Bowl related materials to scientific journals. Additionally, he is pursuing an interdisciplinary initiative aimed at studying the evolution of landscapes on the Great Plains from the late Pleistocene to the present and examining the historical evolution of geographic patterns of race in Little Rock.

Charles Romney, Assistant Professor of History and Coordinator of the Public History Masters Program, continues to teach classes on Africa, US history, public history, and digital history. In August, he delivered a paper on legal rights in Hawai'i at the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association meeting in Seattle. In March of next year, Dr. Romney will give a talk in the "Evenings with History" series on human rights, and in April he will deliver an invited lecture on the American colonial state at Boston University. Later in the spring Dr. Romney will present a paper on "public history online" to the joint annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians and the National Council for Public History. Dr. Romney is working on a book manuscript on the legal history of the New Deal state. In 2011, he published a peer-reviewed article in the journal *World History Connected* on Habeas Corpus in colonial Hawai'i.

Frances Ross, Assistant Professor, submitted a multi-authored collection of biographical essays on United States District Judges from Arkansas, 1836-1960, that has been accepted by the University of Arkansas Press for publication. She presented "On the Trail of William Story: United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, 1871-1874" to the annual convention of the Arkansas Bar Association in Hot Springs in June of 2011. Ross continues to serve as Chair of the Historic Arkansas Museum Commission, as President of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, as a board member of the Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society, and as Vice President of the Eighth Circuit Historical Society.

James D. Ross, Assistant Professor of Arkansas and Southern History, teaches U.S. and Arkansas history and is assistant coordinator of the History/Secondary Education program.

Laura Smoller, Professor of Medieval History, taught her usual round of weird courses in 2010-11 (Magic, Science, and the Occult from Antiquity to Newton; Apocalypse Now . . . and Then; Disease and Society from Antiquity to the Present), as well as both halves of world civ. and a survey of medieval Europe. In December, her article "From Authentic Miracles to a Rhetoric of Authenticity: Examples from the Canonization and Cult of St. Vincent Ferrer" will appear in *Church History*. She is continuing work on her book on the canonization and cult of St. Vincent Ferrer (tentatively titled *The Saint and the Chopped-Up Baby*) and will spend this academic year on sabbatical completing and revising the manuscript. She gave several papers: "Astrology and the Sibyls: The Medieval Roots of Natural Theology," at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in March 2011; "How the Holy Grail Came to Valencia: Sacred History in Poast-Tridentine Aragon," at the American Historical Association in January 2011 (part of a session she organized on Creating a Sacred History for Aragon in the Medieval and Early Modern Period); and "A Case of Demonic Possession in Medieval Brittany," for the venerable group the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, in October 2010. This summer, thanks to a research fellowship from the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at UALR, she researched and wrote a chapter entitled "'Popular' religious cultures" for *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Christianity*. She is also slated to speak at a conference on "Astronomy, Chronology, and History" in Strasbourg in October (which also affords a nice chance to go visit her older son, who is living in Lyon this year) and one on canonization records at the Finnish Academy in Rome in May 2012.

Vincent A. Vinikas, Professor of History, teaches U.S. history and is coordinator of the Phi Alpha Theta history honors society. Dr. Vinikas is currently on leave.