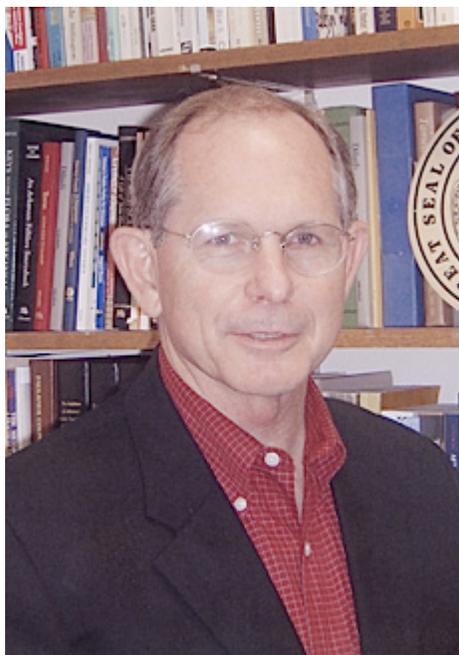




Two Senior Faculty Members Retire



Fred Williams to Retire at the End of the Semester

C. Fred Williams, Professor of History, joined the UALR History faculty in 1969. He was selected as Department Head in 1973 and became Chairperson in 1974, the latter position he held until 1980. During his term as Chair, Dr. Williams oversaw the greatest growth in the size of the department, hiring ten faculty members, most of whom either completed their academic careers at UALR or are still in the department.

At UALR, Dr. Williams has worn many hats – Professor, as noted, head and chair of the History Department, Associate Dean of the then College of Liberal Arts, Associate Vice Chancellor for Educational Programs, President of the University Assembly and Senate, and even acting chair of the Department of International and Second Language Studies. He has long been one of the state's leading advocates for Arkansas history, and is currently the Director of the University's Center for Arkansas Studies and Editor of the Ledbetter Monograph Series on Arkansas Culture. It has been thanks to his support and encouragement that our department has been at the forefront of the study of the history of our state. Dr. Williams, along with colleagues like now retired **S. Charles Bolton** and current faculty **Carl Moneyhon** and **John Kirk**, have in their

monographs brought much of our state's history from the archives and personal remembrances to the community at large.

Outside of the university he has likewise occupied important leadership positions, including being the secretary-treasurer of the Agricultural History Society, and is past president of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, the Little Rock Volunteers in Public Schools, and the West Little Rock Rotary Club,

Professor Williams has received many honors in his career, including the Arkansas Historical Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's and the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences' Faculty Excellence Awards for Service, and was designated Humanist of the Year by the Arkansas Humanities Council. In so many different ways Fred has made himself a resource for the community. He is always available to speak to school or community groups and in particular has written or co-written teaching grants benefitting local public schools totalling more than two and half million dollars.



Leroy T. Williams Retires

L.T. Williams, Associate Professor, joined the department in 1977, winning the university's first Excellence in Teaching Award in 1996 and the college award in 2007. He has received awards in teaching from UALR's Black Student Body and from the Organization for Students with Disabilities, and was nominated for the William Cherry "Great Teachers Award," Baylor University, Texas. Williams was the campus Director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action from 1980 to 1984 and was Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in 1992-1993. He served three tours of duty in South Vietnam, with Mobile Construction Ten (U.S. Navy), in support of the Third Marine Division.

We will miss our departing colleagues.

History Department Awards Scholarships

Jim Stallings, a double major in History and Journalism, who is on the Forum staff, and who will graduate with History Honors, and **Daniela Vial**, another double major in History and International Business and a member of the UALR women's golf team, were selected by the Department as this year's Dr. Edward

Madden and Lucy Dorothy Anson III Award winners. This award is given to the History Department's most outstanding graduate, in this case graduates, and in addition to the recognition carries a cash prize. It was created to honor the parents of current History faculty member Edward M. Anson IV. Professor Anson's late father taught economics and finance and was an academic administrator at a number of institutions, worked for the Federal Reserve System, and was prior to his death president of a bank consulting firm. Both he and Mrs. Anson were veterans of World War II and both were purple heart recipients. Mrs. Anson currently lives in Texas. **Sarah Dunlap**, a History major with a Middle Eastern Studies minor and a 4.00 GPA, was awarded the Craig Powell Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was established in memory of Craig Powell, a student at UALR who died tragically in a motorcycle accident. **Anitra Van Prooyen**, History major and secondary education minor, received the David O. Demuth Scholarship. Mr. Demuth, a successful businessman and civic leader in the city of Benton, was an enthusiastic supporter of the History Department prior to his death. **Jeffery Stewart**, undergraduate History major, was awarded the Richard B. Dixon Undergraduate Scholarship. This scholarship was established by the former students of Richard Dixon, an emeritus member of the Department. It is a testimony to Mr. Dixon's abilities as a teacher that so many of his students wished to thank him in this way for what he had done for them. As one of those who organized the scholarship in his name expressed, "Mr. Dixon was not just a teacher he was an educator." **Crystal Shurley**, undergraduate History major, and **Dorothy Reason**, undergraduate History major and Anthropology minor, jointly received the Booker Worthen Scholarship. William Booker Worthen was the grandson of the founder of the former Worthen Bank and Trust Company and husband of History Institute Life Member Mary Worthen and father of Bill Worthen, the Director of the Historic Arkansas Museum.

The following graduate students have received Jack Freshour scholarships: **Jennifer Boykin**, who holds a BA in Art History from the University of Arkansas at Monticello, and currently a Graduate Assistant at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies; **Jennifer Pierce**, BA in History from UALR, and Education Assistant at the Clinton Library; **Kimberly Wessels**, BA in History from UALR, and Graduate Assistant at the UALR Archives at the Arkansas Studies Institute; **Amanda Whitley**, BA in History from the University of Central Arkansas, and a Graduate Assistant at the UALR Archives at the Arkansas Studies Institute. Jack Freshour was a successful highway contractor and board member of the University's History Institute, who presented the Department with gifts totaling \$100,000 to finance graduate scholarships. A long-time supporter of UALR and its History Department, he attended class at UALR and particularly remembered a Civilization class he took from Mrs. **Frances Ross**, described by a colleague as "a UALR legend and the University's most senior tenured teacher."

The Iota Zeta Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the Honorary Society for Students of History, Announces New Members

The following students have been selected for membership in this national History Honorary Society: **Jeremy Wayne Green, Carla Y. Nelson, Edwin Brian Mitchell, Jeffery Stewart, Nicole Brewer, Rani Steven Hugo, David G. Steward, Steven Kenneth Unger, Richard Steven Hibbs, Jr., Nancy Ward, Vicki Hinkson, Katie Works, Philip McGarry, Janet Fisher, Stephen Arnett.** This year's initiation will be at Cajun's Wharf, in Little Rock, Saturday, April 30. Phi Alpha Theta is "a professional society whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians." To be eligible for membership undergraduate students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours (4 courses) in History, achieve a minimum GPA of 3.1 in History and a GPA of 3.0 or better overall. Membership is not limited to History majors.

The UALR Public History Program Celebrates its 30th Anniversary

The Public History Program will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary with a reception at the Arkansas Studies Institute, in downtown Little Rock, across from the River Market. We have been lucky to have a long

list of distinguished graduates of the graduate program. Please contact the History Department if you would like to attend. The reception will be Saturday, May 21, from 1 to 4PM.

Faculty News

Ed Anson, Professor, edited two book chapters for OxBow Press's *The Time of the Successors (323-281 BC)*, chaired a session and gave a paper, "Did Alexander the Great Voluntarily Curtail His Conquest of the East?" at the Southwestern Social Science meeting, March 16-19, Las Vegas, Nevada, continues work on two monographs, *After Alexander: The Age of the Successors*, Wiley-Blackwell (Malden, MA and Oxford), and *Alexander the Great: Themes and Issues*, Continuum Press (London and New York), gave a paper at the Department's work in progress session (WIMP), February 18, chairs the Faculty Senate's Faculty Governance Committee, serves on the Undergraduate Curriculum Review Task Force and the University Scholars Policy Advisory Council, and completed the Little Rock Half Marathon, March 6, finishing with a PR (personal record) and in the top half of his age division (do not be the top half of all finishers, just the old fogies).

Clea Bunch, Assistant Professor and Chair of the Middle East Studies Program, in the past month, has given five public talks on Egypt (a UALR forum, Farm Bureau, Stephens Inc., Arkansas Committee on Foreign Relations and St. Marks), two radio interviews, on interview for the Democrat Gazette and one for Channel 7. I spoke to the Arkansas Committee on foreign relations on February 7 (Jim Guy Tucker and the Arkansas Secretary of State were there taking notes). There was just a small blurb in the newspaper interview and the same for television; they interview for 15 minutes and put in 10 seconds!

John A. Kirk (Chair and Donaghey Professor of History) gave a talk to the Pulaski County Historical Association on Sunday, February 13, at the Central High Visitors Center. Titled "Battle Cry of Freedom: Little Rock, Arkansas, and the Freedom Rides at Fifty" the talk commemorated Black History Month and the fiftieth anniversary of the Freedom Rides this year. Kirk looked at the larger national and regional story of the freedom rides and at Little Rock's and Arkansas's place in that story. An article based on the talk will appear in the August 2011 edition of the Arkansas Review. Kirk's new co-edited book *Arsnick: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Arkansas* will be published by the University of Arkansas Press this summer.

Jeff Kyong-McClain, Assistant Professor, on Saturday, February 19th, gathered twenty China scholars from nineteen universities in eleven states and five countries at the Arkansas Studies Institute in downtown Little Rock to participate in the Chinese History in Geographical Perspective conference. The scholars came to Little Rock to present their latest research on Chinese history, religion and culture and show how it was informed by taking geographical considerations into account. The event was bookended with keynote addresses by two of the leading historians of China in the United States: Laura Hostetler, Professor of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Peter Bol, Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and Director of the Center for Geographical Analysis at Harvard University. The event was free and open to the public, and over the course of the day, about sixty people attended. On Sunday morning, conference participants attended a workshop on using GIS technology in the study of Chinese history, taught by Peter Bol, with assistance provided by UALR's geographer Jess Porter and the director of the Institute for Economic Advancement's GIS lab, Sunny Farmahan. A published volume, composed of many of the papers, is in the works, and will be edited by the conference co-organizers Dr. Kyong-McClain and Professor Yongtao Du (History, Oklahoma State). The conference was supported by many units from within and without UALR: College of Business, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Office of Research and Graduate Studies, Department of History, Office of the Provost, Arkansas Humanities Council, and the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies.

Kristin Mann, Associate Professor, and Brad Minnick of the UALR English Department won a student success grant for the Social Studies and English Education programs at the university. This grant will provide netbooks for student teaching interns to communicate with each other and UALR professors. The netbooks will

also be used to prepare PowerPoint and visual materials for middle and high school classroom use. In addition, this student success grant funded the Professional Development Partnership, a series of workshops for UALR social studies & English education students and teachers in central Arkansas schools. Forty-five teachers attended the first PDP meeting in February. The Professional Development Partnership March meeting will be held at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center on March 30 from 4:30-6:30. Participants will learn about using dramatics in the classroom and the literature and history of the Harlem Renaissance.

Frances Mitchell Ross, Assistant Professor, has completed compiling and editing a collection of biographical essays of United States District Judges of Arkansas who received commissions between statehood in 1836 and 1960. The biographies have been prepared by historians, lawyers and judges and focus on the lives of judges of both the eastern and western districts of the state. This is a project of Arkansas's Eighth Circuit Historical Society and will compliment the emphasis on developing district histories encouraged by the larger multi-state Historical Society of the Eighth Circuit. Ross is also the 2011 President of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, the only statewide private non-profit preservation advocacy organization, which celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year. Ross continues as Chair of the Historic Arkansas Museum Commission.

Laura Smoller, Professor, delivered a paper (for a panel she organized), "How the Holy Grail Came to Valencia: Sacred History in Post-Tridentine Aragon", at the American Historical Association's annual meeting, Boston, Mass., January 7, 2011. She continues as medieval Europe section editor for *History Compass*, and participated in online editorial board meeting, January 25.

Department Hosts History Day

The UALR History Department hosted the Arkansas District 7 National History Day competition for students around central Arkansas from 8:30AM-2:00PM, on Saturday, February 19, in the Donaghey Student Center. Over 250 students in grades 4-12 competed. This year's theme is Diplomacy and Debate in History: Successes, Failures, and Consequences. Students prepared research papers, websites, performances, documentaries, or exhibits related to a topic of their choice and this year's theme. Sample project topics included the decision to drop the atomic bomb, Ping-Pong diplomacy, the Dayton Peace Accords, Chinese relations with Tibet, and the careers of individuals such as Mohandas Gandhi and Margaret Thatcher. The History Department, Clinton Presidential Library, Arkansas History Commission, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, Department of Arkansas Heritage, University History Institute, and Central High National Historic Site, as well as local schools, provided the 60 judges necessary to run the competition. Students who placed first, second, and third in their categories advanced to the state competition in Conway on April 16.

Students Activities

Kaiser Coaches Students to Academic University and National Awards

Two history majors advised by Professor **Thomas E. Kaiser** won awards in the UALR Undergraduate Research Exposition in April, 2010. **Anitra van Prooyen** won first place in the Humanities Division for her project "Why Did the Trains Stop? The Suspension of Jewish Deportations from Slovakia during the Holocaust," and **Jessica Jent** won third place in the Humanities Division for her project "The Nootka Sound Crisis: British Motivations for Pursuing War with Spain," which she researched and wrote while on an independent study with Dr. Kaiser. For winning first place in her division, Ms. Prooyen was chosen as the UALR Nominee to the Arts and Humanities section of the Curriculum on Undergraduate Research Posters-on-the-Hill Competition of 2011, and in February, Ms. van Prooyen was selected as one of only 74 winners nationally (out of nearly 700 applicants) by the Committee on Undergraduate Research to display her research

poster in the U. S. Capitol in connection with CUR's Posters-on-the-Hill Competition. She and Dr. Kaiser attended a luncheon and dinner sponsored by the CUR in Washington, D. C., April 13, to honor the winners.

Other Student Awards

History major **Sarah Dunlap** won the award for Outstanding Undergraduate Paper-Runner Up at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference. MA student **Lauren Jarvis**, advised by **Laura Smoller**, gave a paper, "Drastic Measures: Quarantine and Spanish Influenza in Arkansas," at the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science annual conference, held in Memphis on March 4-5, 2011.

Public History News

Charles Romney, Coordinator of the Public History Program and Assistant Professor, reports that the UALR Public History Program and its partners inside and outside the university have enjoyed some good fortune during the Fall 2010 semester. The Program received a Technology Grant for \$3,700 from the UALR College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The grant will let the Public History program buy digital audio recorders for graduate students working on projects in the Program's "Digital History" class and other graduate courses. The National Council for Public History selected the Public History Coordinator, Charles Romney, as a member of the 2010-2011 Working Group on "Using Centers to Teach Public History and Engage Community Partners." Romney plans to discuss the Public History Program's involvement in the "Arkansas Studies Institute," a partnership between UALR and the Butler Center for Arkansas History (a division of the Central Arkansas Library System). Finally, four graduate students in UALR's Public History Program will participate in the "Southeast Trails Project," a \$10,500 grant the Arkansas Humanities Council awarded to UALR's Sequoyah Research Center. These graduate students will earn stipends to help the Sequoyah Research Center develop a digital guide to Native American trails within Arkansas. The Public History Program's participation in the two grants and in the National Working Group point to the Program's expansion of its offerings in digital history and to the Program's extension of its ties with university and community partners.