Sad News to Report: Richard Dixon,
a founding member of the UALR History Department, has Passed Away

Richard B. Dixon, 86, professor of history passed away, Monday, October 29, 2012. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Eva Dixon of Little Rock. He began his teaching career at Little Rock Junior College in 1953, and continued teaching in the History Department for twenty-three additional years. After retiring he received the UALR Alumnus Association Faculty Emeritus Education Award, recognizing his twenty-four years of Excellence in Education. His teaching was so exemplary that in 1992, his former students created a fully-funded scholarship in his name for UALR history students. In lieu of flowers, his family requests that
memorials be made to: UALR- Richard B. Dixon Scholarship Fund, 2801 S. University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204.

New Minor in Race and Ethnicity

The History Department saw the launch of a new minor program in Race and Ethnicity in fall 2012. The minor is a joint initiative with the UALR Institute on Race and Ethnicity. To complete the minor, students must take RACE 2301 Introduction to Race and Ethnicity, taught by Institute director Dr. Adjoa Aiyetoro, HIST/RACE 4356/5356 History of Race and Ethnicity in the United States, taught by History Department Chair Dr. John Kirk, and twelve hours of electives. History classes in the program include HIST 3355 American Civil War and Reconstruction 1848-1876, HIST 3371 Colonial Latin America, HIST 3380 The Indian in American History, HIST 4327 Africa in World History, HIST 4328 South Africa in World History, HIST 4338 Holocaust, HIST 4358/5358 Civil Rights Movement Since 1954, HIST 4368 African American History to 1865, HIST 4369 African American History from 1865, HIST 4378 The History of U.S.-Latin America Relations.

Program Review

In fall 2012 and spring 2013, the History Department will for the first time be conducting a program review under the Arkansas Department of Education’s new rubric. The review is extensive, with around 100 pages in the main document, around 100 pages of individual faculty information, and around 600 pages of syllabi.
The review also includes surveys of current majors, alumni, and employers. The Department was very gratified to discover that all three constituencies viewed faculty members and their expertise as the Department’s greatest asset. The figures compiled for the review also revealed that the History Department teaches the largest number of students per full time faculty member of any department in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS). It is also a pioneer in the use of new technology. Each semester, the History Department offers twice as many online sections of classes than any other department in CAHSS. Given the system-wide push for the use of online technology across the University of Arkansas system under new president Dr. Donald Bobbitt, this puts the department in a strong position for the future. As its main goals and objective for the future, the Department identified the need to be more proactive in raising development funds in the face of declining state funding for higher education, the need for more new faculty hires to meet student demand for a wider range of classes, and the need for even greater efforts for student recruitment, retention and success in the face of the state’s commitment to double the number of graduates in Arkansas in the next fifteen years.

**Graduate Student Successes**

Three of our Public History M.A. students had papers accepted and participated in a panel at the Graduate Association for African American History 14th annual conference at the University of Memphis on November 1-2, 2012. Andrea Ringer presented on Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller’s commutation of the death sentences of fifteen men (thirteen of whom were African American) in 1970; Sara Riva presented on local litigation and legislation during the 1957 Little Rock School Crisis; and Allison Yocum presented on Arkansas’s response to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. All three papers were based on the thesis work of the students. Andrea and Allison will graduate from the program in fall 2012 and Sarah in summer 2013. Andrea, along with another Public History M.A. student, Donna Shelton (who is also a staff member at the UALR Institute on Race and Ethnicity), have had papers accepted for the Arkansas Historical Association annual conference at Helena, Arkansas, in April 2013. Donna will present on the topic of African Americans and Rosenwald Schools in Eastern Arkansas.

**Other Public History News**

The Public History MA program is on pace to have six graduates in 2012. Jennifer Knight, Sarita Riley, and Amanda Whitley received their MA degrees in May 2012. Allison Hiblong, Tony Rose, and Andrea Ringer plan to graduate in December 2012. Public History currently has nine Graduate Assistants placed at Public
History institutions in Little Rock. Three Graduate Assistants work at the Clinton Presidential Library (we received funding for two of these positions from the National Archives in Washington DC). Two Graduate Assistants work at the Arkansas Studies Institute, one with the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and two with the Center for Arkansas History and Culture (the UALR Archives). Our other Graduate Assistants work for the MacArthur Military Museum, UALR’s Institute on Race and Ethnicity, and the Preservation Program at the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

**News from Phi Alpha Theta**

Phi Alpha Theta is headed to the movies next week to screen *Lincoln*, the new Spielberg biography. A van of folks just took a trip through the autumn foliage to see Crystal Bridges museum; the park is as spectacular as the art collection. We hope to float the Caddo in the Spring. Mason Qualls, the president of our chapter, would be delighted to tell you more about what we're up to.

**History Department Technology Room Expansion**

Building on its successful pilot project to create a dedicated technology room in the department, with four computers open to student use, the History Department successfully applied for and was awarded an Integrated Department Technology Funding Grant from CAHSS of $8,763.79 to double the size of the space and add another four computers. The project will contribute to student success in several ways. Firstly, it will provide enhanced student access to the latest technology. Secondly, by expanding the current technology room, it will provide a usable teaching space for small group student and faculty technology training. Thirdly, it will specifically help History/Secondary Education majors who can take their Praxis tests in the department, and Geography minors who can use GIS technology software on the computers. Fourthly, it will provide an enhanced communal space for student interaction and allow the formation of more small-group learning communities in the department. Finally, it will provide a convenient drop-in point for students who are taking hybrid classes and/or a mixture of online and on campus classes to navigate between the two teaching modes.

**Historians Participate in the Donaghey Scholars Program**

Established in 1984, the Donaghey Scholars Program is the honors program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. With a generous financial package, interdisciplinary core curriculum, study abroad, and
supportive community, the Donaghey Scholars Program offers a distinctive learning environment for undergraduate studies. Within its curriculum are three classes taught primarily by members of the Department: The History of Ideas I, II, III. The original committee that created the program also included two historians: The late Harri Baker and Edward Anson; a number of members of the department, present and past, have served on the Program Council. Drs. Anson, Thomas Kaiser, Jeff Kyong-McClain, and Laura Smoller have and are teaching the History of Ideas courses. The program has long been a fruitful source for History majors.

Faculty News


Clea Bunch, Associate Professor of History, was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor and tenured this year.


February 1, 2012, 1, 14-17; “The Election that Changed Arkansas Politics: Winthrop Rockefeller’s Historic 1966 Victory,” cover story in the Arkansas Times, March 28, 2012, 13, 15-20, 22-23; thirty-six “Arkansas Moments,” one-minute vignettes on Arkansas history broadcast by University of Arkansas at Little Rock NPR Public Radio KUAR (the series has its own microsite on KUAR with transcripts and podcasts available here: http://www.kuar.org/arkansasmoments/index.1.html); nine “Rockefeller Moments,” one-minute vignettes on the life of former governor Winthrop Rockefeller to mark the centennial of his birth, broadcast by University of Arkansas at Little Rock NPR Public Radio station KUAR (the series has its own microsite on KUAR with transcripts and podcasts available here: http://www.kuar.org/rockefellermoments/index.1.html); authored monthly blogs in 2012 for UALR’s contribution to the Winthrop Rockefeller Centennial Celebration website http://www.livethelegacy.org/centennial-blog; interviewed for “UALR Kicks Off Black History Month,” Channel 4 Little Rock evening news, February 1, 2012, http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=505072; interviewed for “Federal court reviewing Arkansas desegregation funding case” http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/09/19/federal-court-reviewing-a_n_971021.html, a Reuters news piece on school desegregation litigation in Little Rock, which appeared in 17 publications and was cited in The Huffington Post. I also acted as consultant for a young reader’s book by Shelly Tougas, Little Rock Girl 1957: How a Photograph Changed the Fight for Integration (Compass Point Books, 2012) in the Captured History series. On February 2, 2012, Professor Kirk appeared on the small screen as an historical expert in Sharon LaCruise’s documentary Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock, about the life of the Arkansas civil rights leader, which aired as part of PBS’s Independent Lens series to an estimated 5 million people nationwide. The previous November UALR sponsored the world premiere screening of the documentary through its Mabel and Santo Formica Endowment. In addition he delivered papers to the Arkansas Association of College Teachers (AACHT) conference in Little Rock on “Battle Cry of Freedom: Little Rock, Arkansas, and the Freedom Rides at Fifty”; the annual Robert B. Walz Lecture in Arkansas and Regional History at the Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, on “Arsnick: the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Arkansas”; a talk as part of a panel on “Race and Politics in Arkansas” for the Political Animals monthly meeting at the Governor’s Mansion, in Little Rock; a presentation at the History Department’s Evenings with History annual series at the Historic Arkansas Museum, Little Rock, on “A Movement is more than a Moment: The African American Civil Rights Struggle in Arkansas since 1940”; a talk on “Winthrop Rockefeller’s Legacy to Arkansas Politics” at the Conference on Political Reform in Arkansas held at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Petit Jean Mountain, Morrilton; a paper on “Rockefeller, Race and Ethnicity” at the Race and Ethnicity in Arkansas: Perspectives on the African American and Latina/o Experience conference, Darragh Center, Public Library, Little Rock (which he
organized as part of the Rockefeller Centennial—look forward to an edited conference volume of top young scholars in the field appearing in the near future—more details on the conference here:
http://www.ualrexhibits.org/rockefeller/events/race-and-ethnicity-in-arkansas-perspectives-on-the-african-american-and-latino-experience/); and the paper “How Arkansas transformed from one of the most Democratic states to one of the most Republican, 1966-present,” at the Historians of the Twentieth Century United States annual conference, Roosevelt Studies Center, Middleburg, The Netherlands. Kirk continued to serve as a member of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly editorial board (completing my ninth year) and taught one of the core classes on UALR’s new Race and Ethnicity minor, which is housed in the History Department and for which he serves as coordinator and student advisor. He also taught a Public History MA Directed Study and one of the students on that class, Sarah Riva, won the Arkansas Historical Association’s Lucille Westbrook Award for the best manuscript article on a local Arkansas topic that deals with some phase of neighborhood, city, county, or regional Arkansas history or some person associated with local Arkansas history. Sarah’s article “Desegregating Downtown Little Rock: The Field Reports of SNCC worker William “Bill” Hansen, October through December 1962” will be published in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly this fall. Sarah, along with another Public History MA student, Dewey Dykes, also won first place in UALR’s Graduate Competition, Student Research and Creative Works Expo, Arts Category. Over Spring Break 2012, Kirk accompanied a Study Abroad trip to China with two other history department faculty, Jeff Kyong-McClain and Jess Porter, and 14 UALR students. The trip visited Chengdu, Xi’an and Beijing. They also visited UALR’s partner institution the Southwest University of Science and Technology (SWUST) in Mianyang where Kirk headed a UALR delegation that met with the university Chancellor and President and where he also gave a talk to a class of 80 students about Arkansas history. Further details of the trip can be found on the SWUST website here http://news.swust.edu.cn/s/108/t/570/a/29667/info.htm and on the UALR website here: http://ualr.edu/www/2012/03/27/ualr-group-tours-chinese-partner-school/.

Jeff Kyong-McClain, Assistant Professor of History, is teaching two sections of the second half of World Civ and a new course on Modern Korea this fall. Over the summer, he co-led a group of high school teachers on a tour of China and South Korea. He also presented his most recent research on early twentieth century Western attitudes about Tibet, at the annual meeting of the World History Association and at the Tibetan Studies Center of Sichuan University, as a part of their Li Anzhai Memorial Lecture Series. Recent book reviews appeared in the Journal of World History and Church History.
Moira Maguire, Associate Professor of History, had her book, Precarious Childhood in Post independence Ireland, released in paperback by Manchester University Press in July 2012. She recently was asked by Irish Senator Martin McAleese to contribute her expertise to an Irish government established committee investigating state involvement in the operation of Ireland’s magdalen asylums. She had book reviews published in the Journal of British Studies and The Historian, and she reviewed manuscripts for Cambridge University Press, Palgrave MacMillan, and Journal of the Social History of Medicine.

Kristin Mann, Professor of History, April 27, gave a talk, entitled “Música y danzas en las entradas y misiones del norte de la Nueva España, siglos XVII-XVIII,” via videoconferencing for the Seminario de Música en la Nueva España y el México Independiente at the National University of Mexico (UNAM) Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas. She also participated in the Winthrop Rockefeller Centennial Celebration program, working with Little Rock’s Rockefeller Elementary to produce an art exhibit on the former governor that was displayed in the Arkansas Studies Institute over the summer.

Johanna Miller Lewis, Professor of History, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, received two grants for the Stabilization and Restoration of the Japanese American War Relocation Cemetery at Rohwer, Arkansas. $250000 from the Japanese American Confinement Sites program for the National Park Service and $25000 from the Darragh Foundation, Little Rock, AR. Public History MA grad student Tamisha Cheatham wrote the grant to the Park Service and is assisting with the project.

Carl Moneyhon, Professor of History, continued his efforts at being scholarly productive despite his increasing post-modernist skepticism that has grown since his “Searching for Johnny Reb and a Usable History: A Historians Journey” given at last year’s AACHT meeting. A book chapter, The Democratic Party, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Politics of Fear,” appeared in Kenneth W. Howell’s Still the Arena of Civil War: Violence and Turmoil in Reconstruction Texas, 1865-1874. He also published book reviews in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly and Louisiana History. He made several presentations at scholarly venues, including “The Meaning of the Civil War in Its Immediate Aftermath:” for the Walter Prescott Webb Society in Texas and “The Struggle for Freedom: African-American Arkansans after Emancipation,” at the Rockefeller Conference on Race and Ethnicity. Scholarly/public presentations included “Reconstruction in the West: A Second Civil War,” at the National Parks Service symposium on the American Civil War West of the Mississippi River, “A House Divided: Political Dissent in Arkansas in 1862,” at the Old State House Symposium on the Civil War in Arkansas, and “Invasion or Liberation: Union Loyalty in Civil War Arkansas,” at the Central Arkansas Library’s Legacies at Lunch series. He was moderator for a panel
entitled “Did the Confederacy Ever Have a Chance? State of the Research and the Question” at the Mid-
America Conference on History. The public’s demand for all things Civil War brought about an interview
with Reuters News Service on the David O. Dodd phenomenon, a talking-head photo shoot for a proposed
feature film on Dodd, a similar appearance for the Old State House’s “Wall of Fire” exhibit, a noteworthy
interview on Little Rock’s NBC television affiliate on “Why Should We Remember Robert E. Lee’s
Birthday,” and numerous pod-casts on the Civil War for Arkansas Historic Preservation. He admits to
looking forward to continued activities through 2025 as we move from the celebration of the Civil War
sesquicentennial to the much-anticipated Reconstruction remembrance.

Jess Porter, Assistant Professor of Geography, published his second teaching text with Pearson in 2012.
“Encounter Human Geography” utilizes digital globes and multimedia content to teach concepts of human
geography. He also published “Lessons from The Dust Bowl: Human-Environment Education on the Great
Plains” in the Journal of Geography. He gave an invited lecture on the Great Plains environment to the
College of Engineering and Environmental Science at Southwest University of Science and Technology in
Miangyang, China and presented at the Southwest Association of American Geographers in Austin, Texas
on patterns of segregation in Little Rock. His Dust Bowl research was featured in a new program called
“Worst Weather Disasters” on The Weather Channel. Lately, Jess has been working on two proposals for
the National Endowment for the Humanities related to his Dust Bowl research.

Charles Romney, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Public History, recently gave invited talks at
Boston University and at Claremont Graduate University. He also presented a paper at the joint meeting of
the Organization of American Historians and the National Council on Public History. He gave a talk in the
“Evenings with History” series on human rights in March. In August the American Library Association,
Oklahoma State University, and Mount Holyoke College submitted a grant application to the National
Endowment for the Humanities for a traveling exhibit on the “Dust Bowl” with Charles and his colleague
Jess Porter as co-curators. Finally, in September Charles started service on UALR’s Digital Humanities
Collective, a group with a mission too secret to reveal to the wider world at present. Stay tuned.

Susannah Shaw Romney, Assistant Professor in History, joined the UALR History Department this fall,
after teaching as a Visiting Assistant Professor last year. She will teach Early American history. She
received her Ph.D. from Cornell University, where she worked with Prof. Mary Beth Norton, concentrating
on the colonial past in North America. Susannah’s research focuses on the seventeenth-century Dutch empire.
Her first book, under contract with the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture series at
UNC press, looked at social networks in the Hudson Valley and Amsterdam. Her current research investigates claims to space along cross-cultural frontiers throughout the Dutch world, from Manhattan to Cape Town to Jakarta. This fall she is teaching the US History Survey and a course on Frontiers in Early America. In the spring, she will also be offering a class on Colonial America.

**Frances Ross**, Assistant Professor of History, has completed preparing a volume of biographical essays of U. S. district judges of Arkansas. Individual essays were authored by attorneys, judges and historians. Ross is presently working on a study of Logan H. Roots, Arkansas businessman in the late 19th Century, and remains a member of the boards of several history related organizations.

**Laura Smoller**, Professor of History, spent the 2011-12 academic on sabbatical, during which time she completed her book *The Saint and the Chopped-Up Baby: The Cult of Vincent Ferrer and the Religious Life of Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. The book is slated to be published by Cornell University Press. She also completed a chapter on “Popular religious culture(s)” for *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Christianity*. In December 2011, she published “From Authentic Miracles to a Rhetoric of Authenticity: Examples from the Canonization and Cult of St. Vincent Ferrer,” *Church History* 80, no. 4 (2011): 773-97. June 2012 found her in Rome, the only American at a small, invitation-only workshop called “Approaches to Hagiographic Sources. Miracle Collections, 12th - 15th Centuries. Structures and Functions,” held at the Institutum Romanum Finlandiae (Villa Lante), where she presented the paper “Choosing Miracles for St. Vincent Ferrer.” And the end of the summer was devoted to revising an article to appear in Alison Frazier, ed., *The Saint from Manuscript to Print*, entitled “The Unstable Image of Vincent Ferrer in Manuscript and Print *Vitae*, 1455-1555.” Upcoming engagements include a public lecture and an appearance at Steven Livesey’s University of Oklahoma “dream course” on Medieval Science in November, the keynote address at the Barnard Medieval Conference in December, and a paper on “Lust, Demons, and the Dangers of the Bed: Constructions of Chastity in the Life of St. Vincent Ferrer” at the Medieval Academy in April.

**Vince Vinikas**, Professor of History, is working on a study of “The Propaganda of Total War,” examining techniques of mass persuasion employed by warring nations during World War II. Last fall, he also had the opportunity to explore archeological sites in Mayan Meso-America, including Palenque, Chicanna, Calukmul, Uxmal, Chitzen Itza, Becan, and Xpujil. His course on “The Indian in American History” was offered this summer.
UALR History Department Student Scholarships

The UALR History Department each spring semester awards a number of student scholarships provided by the generosity of donors. The department welcomes additions to these endowments that will allow us to make more awards and to help more of our students. We also welcome and encourage new endowed named scholarships. All contributions are tax deductible.

**Booker-Worthen Scholarship.** Awarded to a full-time or part-time UALR History major with a minimum of 80 credit hours. Academic accomplishment and financial need are considered.

**Craig Powell Memorial Scholarship.** Awarded to a History major with a minimum of 54 credit hours, the last 15 or more having been taken at UALR. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. The applicant must demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning.

**David O. Demuth Scholarship.** Awarded to a History major with a minimum of 54 credit hours, the last 15 hours or more having been taken at UALR. A minimum GPA of 3.5 is required. The applicant’s potential for further study in History is considered.

**Richard B. Dixon Scholarship.** Awarded to a History major with a minimum of 54 credit hours, the last 15 or more having been taken at UALR. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. The applicant must demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning.

**Jack Freshour Scholarship.** Awarded to a Public History M.A. student with a grade point average of 3.0 undergraduate or 3.25 graduate, taking a minimum of 9 hours per semester.

**Little Rock Nine Endowed Scholarship.** Awarded to a Public History M.A. student working in the area of race relations and community development. Academic accomplishment and financial need are considered.

**Mabel W. Formica and Santo D. Formica History Endowment.** Awarded to History students for scholarships and special projects. A portion of the fund also sponsors visiting external speakers in History.
I would like to contribute to the following scholarships:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship</th>
<th>$250</th>
<th>$500</th>
<th>$750</th>
<th>$1000</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booker-Worthen Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Powell Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David O. Demuth Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard B. Dixon Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Freshour Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Rock Nine Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mabel W. and Santo D. Formica History Endowment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please make checks out to UALR History Department followed by the relevant scholarship in brackets and mail to c/o Dr. John A. Kirk, History Department Chair, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2801 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-1099.