Dr. Vince Vinikas Retires

Vincent Vinikas joined the department in 1983 and holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University. He served for many years as the faculty advisor to Phi Alpha Theta and has served in the Faculty Senate. He has written on topics ranging from purported sightings of Elvis Presley to the function of American holidays to governmental contingency plans for nuclear war. *Soft Soap Hard Sell*, his book on the development of national advertising, tracks ways in which marketers in the 1920s convinced consumers to wash their hands, brush their teeth, apply deodorants, and use cosmetics. He has been a fellow at National Endowment for the Humanities Institutes on Teaching Public History. His contributions and presence in the department will be missed. The Department celebrated Vince at a retirement party at the home of Jess and Leslie Porter.
Visiting Scholar Joins Department

This semester the Department welcomed Dr. Marta Cieslak as a Visiting Assistant Professor of History. She has two Masters degrees from the University of Warsaw and received her Ph.D. from the State University of New York, Buffalo, in 2014. Her Dissertation was “From Peasants to Workers in the Aftermath of Emancipation: Class, Nation and Reform, 1865-1914. She is currently teaching History of Civilization II and 20th-Century History of Europe.

Another Departmental Contribution to Arkansas History as Dr. James Ross Publishes The Rise and Fall of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in Arkansas

Following in the footsteps of C. Fred Williams, Leroy Williams, S. Charles Bolton, Carl Moneyhon, Vince Vinikas, Johanna Miller Lewis, and John Kirk, the History Department has continued its tradition of documenting the history of our state. Department members have published more than twenty volumes on various aspects and periods of the History of Arkansas and have been major contributors to the Arkansas Encyclopedia of History and Culture. Dr. Ross’ new work documents the history of the Southern Tenant Farmers’ Union. Founded in eastern Arkansas during the Great Depression, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union (STFU) has long fascinated historians, who have emphasized its biracial membership and the socialist convictions of its leaders, while attributing its demise to external factors, such as the mechanization of agriculture, the repression of wealthy planters, and the indifference of New Dealers. However, as Ross notes in this compelling revisionist history, such accounts have largely ignored the perspective of the actual sharecroppers and other tenant farmers who made up the union’s rank and file.

Drawing on a rich trove of letters that STFU members wrote to union leaders, government officials, and others, Ross shows that internal divisions were just as significant—if not more so—as outside causes in the union’s ultimate failure. Most important, the STFU’s fatal flaw was the yawning gap between the worldviews of its leadership and those of its members. Ross describes how, early on, STFU secretary H. L. Mitchell promoted the union as one involving many voices—sometimes in harmony, sometimes in discord—but later pushed a more simplified narrative of a few people doing most of the union’s work. Struck by this significant change, Ross explores what the actual goals of the rank and file were and what union membership meant to them. “While the white leaders may have expressed a commitment to racial justice, white members often did not,” he writes. “While the union’s socialist and communist leaders may have hoped for cooperative land ownership, the members often did not.” Above all, the poor farmers who made up the membership wanted their immediate needs for food and shelter met, and they wanted to own their own land and thus determine their own futures. Moreover, while the leadership often took its inspiration from Marx, the membership’s worldview was shaped by fundamentalist, Pentecostal Christianity.

In portraying such tensions and how they factored into the union’s implosion, Ross not only offers a more nuanced view of the STFU, he also makes a powerful new contribution to our understanding of the Depression-era South.

Also, published on Arkansas history by Department members, Vince Vinikas, "Thirteen Dead at Saint Charles: Arkansas's Most Lethal Lynching and the Abrogation of Equal Protection," in Bullets and Fire: Lynching and Authority in Arkansas, 1840-1950, published by the University of Arkansas Press. His chapter describes the deadliest lynching in American history occurred here in Arkansas in 1904.

University of Arkansas, Little Rock, History Professor Receives Singular Honor

Professor Carl Moneyhon, a former recipient of the University Faculty Excellence in Research Award, was honored by one of his former UA Little Rock students and Yale University graduate Tod Kersten, now the managing director of DC Advisory Investment Banking in Warsaw, Poland, by the endowment of the Carl Moneyhon, Ph.D. Scholarship at Yale University. Moneyhon learned this fall that the first Moneyhon Scholar will be Washakie Tibbetts a graduate of the York School in Monterey, California.

Heyam Dannawi Receives Her Masters

Congratulations to Heyam Dannawi, the History Department’s Administrative Assistant. She will be awarded at this fall’s commencement her Masters in Higher Education: Student Affairs.

The Department Continues its Experimentation in Teaching and Learning

This semester in Kristin Mann’s teaching methods class her 18 face-to-face in-class students were joined by four students via webcam and Blackboard Collaborate from Batesville and Pine Bluff. She reports that it has been an interesting experiment which forced her to be very organized and intentional about her Classroom to have students submit assignments and revisions. She enjoyed the collaborative nature of Google Docs, and the students' ability to easily respond to her feedback and the feedback of peers.

Edward Anson continued his experimentation with his Civilization textbook, *A Brief History of Civilization*, since reacquiring the copyright from McGraw-Hill in 2015, he has continued to rewrite the text to suit the needs and abilities of our students. The text emphasizes primary sources, critical thinking, and writing. Sixty per cent of each student’s grade is based on their highest ten scores out of a possible nineteen one to three page papers answering questions based on the source readings. The text is made available to students for free on google docs soon after they enroll in the class. This semester he wrote a special edition of the text, *A Brief History of Western Civilization*, for his Donaghey Scholars class. Another of his texts, *A Civilization Primer*, has had its copyright reacquired from Cengage Learning and once updated will also be made available for free online.

Hollywood Achieves a Toehold in the History Department

Following up on a most successful limited engagement last Fall of “The Korean Fright Film Fest,” inspired by their trip to Korea, and the general enthusiasm among UA Little Rock students for Korean popular culture, the dynamic duo of Jeff Associated with the films were the following courses: History 4390 - Special Topics: Vietnam War, taught by Jim Ross; History 4390 / Geography 4300 - Special Topics: History and Geography of Vietnam, by Jeff Kyong-McClain and Jess Porter, in conjunction with their team taught course, A Seminar in the History and Geography of Vietnam.
Next spring, continuing in this fine new tradition, the Department once again in conjunction with a seminar, Alexander the Great, will be offering another festival roasting and toasting the individual whose military campaigns brought Greek culture to the East as far as the Indus River Valley. There will be two Hollywood versions of the great conqueror starring respectively Richard Burton and Colin Farrell. There will also be a History Channel version (unusual in that here he is not portrayed as a space alien), and the pièce de résistance a TV pilot, starring, William Shatner. Yes, you can see where Captain Kirk never went before or since. See you all in the spring.

Public History News

Two M.A. students are defending a thesis this fall:

Holly Stehle, “Historic Preservation of the John Barrow Neighborhood in Little Rock since 1980”

In other news:
Allison Hiblong (MA 2012), director of operations of the Inland Maritime Museum in North Little Rock, received the 2017 Distinguished Museum Professional of the Year Award from the Arkansas Museums Association.
Dr. Brian Mitchell’s American Urban History Class Indexes History

On November 30, 2017, Dr. Mitchell’s students in his American Urban History class submitted their final project, a digital index of Phillips County’s Death Certificates from 1917 to 1922, to the Arkansas History Commission as a donation to their collections. Dr. Mitchell noted that his students’ project “is an important addition to the commission’s collections as it is currently the sole record of African American deaths in the county for that time period.” Mitchell went on to note “the index would be helpful for future research on Public Health issues in the region, identifying many of the Elaine Massacre’s victims, and of vital importance to African American genealogy in the state. Dr. Mitchell would like to recognize all the students who participated in the project: John Anderson, Tarrie Boggs, Grant Burress, Mark Ford, Laura Fuentes, Corrie Green, Kevin Hill, Benny Mutoni, Ellis Thompson, Christian Weaver, Nicholson Weaver, and Domorion Williams.

Phi Alpha Theta Visits Memphis

Phi Alpha Theta kept busy this Fall. Co-presidents Kathryn Thompson and Nancy Tell-Hall organized three events: A trip to Memphis with visits to the National Civil Rights Museum, Stax Records and Beale Street, an afternoon of bowling at Professor Bowl, and a tour of the Daisy Bates house. Kathryn and Nancy are already busy planning for the Spring, which will include a trip to Hot Springs and the new member banquet.

Alumni News

Ashley Haning, class of 2017, is teaching AP U.S. History and government and economics, as well as coaching volleyball and softball, at Joe T. Robinson High School in the Pulaski County Special School District.
BJ Paschal, class of 2017, is teaching social studies and coaching football and track at DeWitt High School.

Graduates of the M.A. program have recently accepted the following positions:
Joseph Alley, Assistant Registrar, Historic Arkansas Museum
Cody Berry, Columnist, Saline Courier
History Institute News

The University History Institute, now in its twenty-seventh season, is a nonprofit Arkansas corporation, an organization of private citizens interested in history and in community support for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The officers and board of directors of the Institute represent a cross section of the Central Arkansas community. This fall beginning on October 3, the Evenings with History series presented our Chairperson, Jess Porter, in a talk entitled, Know Your American Energy Booms: A Brief History of the 21st Century Shale Revolution, followed on November 7, by John Kirk, Sixtieth Anniversary Reflections on the 1957 Desegregation of Little Rock’s Central High School. The last talk for the year will be presented on December 5 by Ed Anson, Manipulating the Word of God: The Use and Abuse of Greek Oracles. Next spring the series will begin on February 6, with Thomas Kaiser talk entitled, Running for the Border: The Royal Family Tries to Escape the French Revolution, followed on March 6 by the inaugural Anne Fulk Memorial Lecture, featuring Deborah Skok, Professor of History at Hendrix College, speaking on That Red-Headed Devil: Jane Hoey and Women’s Leadership in the New Deal. The series concludes on April 3, with Barclay Key’s talk on The 1967 Little Rock Crisis.

Faculty News

“Eumenes of Cardia,” “Epitropos,” “Ephemerides,” and “The Army Assembly,” in *The Lexicon of Argead Macedonia*; a chapter titled “Hellenistic Warfare,” for Wiley-Blackwell’s *Companion to Greek Warfare*. He gave papers at the Australasian Society for Classical Studies meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, February 1, and at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South/University of Waterloo Institute for Hellenistic Studies, Kitchener/Waterloo Canada, April 6. He has reviewed articles for publication for the *Classical Quarterly* and the *Ancient History Bulletin*. His textbook, *A Brief History of Civilization to 1600*, has been put online and made available for free to students. Additionally he created a Western Civilization version of *A Brief History* for an on-campus Scholars class. He will deliver a talk to the University History Institute titled “Manipulating the Word the God: The Use and Abuse of Oracles in Ancient Greece,” Tuesday, December 5, in the auditorium of the Arkansas Territorial Restoration. He currently serves on two departmental and five University committees. He continues as a faculty Senator.

**Marta Cieslak**, visiting Assistant Professor of History, joined the Department of History in the fall 2017 and is currently teaching History of Civilization II and 20th-Century History of Europe. In her first semester at the UALR, she has collaborated with Sarah Bost, Student Success Archivist at the Center for Arkansas History and Culture, to incorporate archival sources into the classroom. The students learned how local archives can be used to study not only Arkansas but also European and world history. They examined a series of primary sources related to World War I, exploring the subjects of historical analysis, inconsistencies in primary sources, and how historians formulate research questions. Marta has also received the Swastek Prize for her article “Crossing the Boundaries of Modernity: The Post-Abolition Journey of Polish Peasants to the United States.” The prize is awarded for the best article published during the previous year in a given volume of *Polish American Studies*, the journal of the Polish American Historical Association. She is now completing a paper on poverty and assimilation among Polish immigrants in Buffalo, New York, at the turn of the 20th century. The paper will be a chapter of an edited volume on the history of Buffalo, scheduled to be published by the Cornell University Press in 2018.


**Barclay Key**, Associate Professor of History, taught an online course for the first time in six years. The course, HIST 3357: The Age of Reform in the United States, gave students opportunities to explore online art exhibits of World War I propaganda and Works Progress Administration posters and compare the 1910 and 1920 censuses in Phillips County, Arkansas. He published an entry for basketball player and popular UA-Little Rock alumnus Derek Fisher in the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* and an essay about the legacies of the 1957 desegregation crisis at Little Rock’s Central High School for *Alternet*. In cooperation with organizers at the University of Central Arkansas, he gave tours of the Central High neighborhood on the weekend of commemorative activities in September, and students from his survey classes later took a field trip to Central High School. He also delivered a lecture on the 1960 bombing of Carlotta Walls’s home at the September meeting of the Pulaski County Historical Society, for whom he continues to serve as a board member.

**John Kirk**, George W. Donaghey Distinguished Professor of History and Director of UA Little Rock’s Joel E. Anderson Institute on Race and Ethnicity in fall 2017 taught the History Department’s senior seminar class on the 1957 Little Rock school crisis to coincide with the sixtieth anniversary of the event. He wrote and published “When Pine Bluff Jailed Dick Gregory: The comedian and civil rights activist was attempting to eat at a segregated diner in 1964,” *Arkansas Times*, September 14, 2017, 12-13, and “The many meanings of Little Rock: Sixty years later, the city’s schools remain an enduring symbol,” *Arkansas Times*, September 21, 2017, 14-15. He recorded a number of “Arkansas Moments” for KUAR; served as a consultant on Sonia Lowman’s Netflix documentary *Teach Us All* about the contemporary state of school desegregation in Little Rock and in the United States (he also organized and hosted the film launch screening featuring a panel including state senator Joyce Elliot followed by Q&A at Riverdale 10 VIP Cinema), on the Program

Jeff Kyong-McClain, Associate Professor of History, continued to use a grant from the Freeman Foundation for $15,900 to implement the work of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) in Arkansas. Dr. Kyong-McClain has received this grant every year since he took on the program in 2009. This year, he led a tour of China for high school teachers, visiting Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Hong Kong. Back in Arkansas, he co-led, with Dr. Paul Crutcher of UA Little Rock's English Department, all-day professional development sessions on the topic of "Asian Literature for the Classroom" at four Education Service Cooperatives around the state (in Plumerville, Farmington, Beebe and Gilham). This fall, he co-taught a new interdisciplinary course on the History and Geography of Vietnam, and laid the groundwork for a Spring Break 2018 travel course, co-taught with Dr. Porter, which will take students to Hong Kong, Hanoi, Halong Bay and Siem Reap.

Kristin Dutcher Mann, Professor of History, has largely spent the semester in area schools, with 7 secondary social studies education interns and 9 students in field placements. She made over 50 school visits this fall and enjoyed interacting with middle and high school students and their teachers. She has also continued as co-director of the UA Little Rock Academy of Teaching and Learning Excellence, which provides professional development for faculty and staff, and she led New Faculty Orientation at the start of the school year. Dr. Mann is working on a new research project on bells and the soundscape of Colonial Latin America. She presented a paper at an international conference at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C., this October, as part of that research project. In November, she facilitated a session on connecting local history and institutions to social studies teachers and students at the National Council for the Social Studies conference. In the spring semester, she will be on off-campus duty assignment, devoting her time to research and writing.

Brian Mitchell, Assistant Professor of History, presented on “Black Soldiers in the Jim Crow Age” at the Arkansas State Archives’ World War I Symposium in June of 2017. In June, he also served as a panelist on Butler Center for Arkansas Studies’ “Panel on the Elaine Race Massacre” and presented on “Exploring New Primary Sources of the Elaine Race Massacre” at the Elaine Legacy Center. In September, he was interviewed on Reconstruction in New Orleans and the pivotal role that Oscar James Dunn played in the city by Atlas Obscura and published “An Exploration of Race and Housing in Central Arkansas from the end of the 19th Century to the beginning of the 21st Century,” *Journal of Justice Studies* (Fall 2017) 95 – 117.

Carl Moneyhon, Professor of History, returned to teaching this fall after his sabbatical in the Spring. He continued his scholarly activity around David O. Dodd with a presentation at a symposium on Dodd's death at the MacArthur Museum of Military History in January. He presented a paper on the problem of Reconstruction at a symposium sponsored by the
Old State House Museum in August. He submitted his manuscript on the Loyal League in Reconstruction Texas to Texas A&M University Press in the spring. He is currently working on a biography of George T. Ruby, an African American state senator from Texas contracted with TCU Press and an essay for Oxford University Press on the military struggle for Arkansas in 1863 and the social and economic consequences of that fight.

**Jess Porter**, Chair of History, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Geography, is busy with all things History. He's excited to be working toward a potential hire in Middle Eastern History for the 2018-19 academic year. Jess has also been co-coordinating the second, even more hugely successful History Film Festival with Dr. Jeff Kyong-McClain. This time the topic was Vietnam War films. The film festival was paired with the duo's History and Geography of Vietnam course, which came on the heels of Dr. Ross' Vietnam War course and precedes Kyong-McClain and Porter's Southeast Asia Study Abroad course. The Spring Break trip will take students to Hong Kong, Cambodia, and Vietnam. In August, Dr. Porter presented a lecture to the Little Rock Realtor Association with John Kirk on housing segregation. He spoke on the oil and gas "shale revolution" to the University History Institute in October, and is working on a project to map historic locations of giant river cane in Arkansas with graduate student Patrick Solomon. The two will present the research at the American Association of Geographers meeting in New Orleans in the spring. Dr. Porter declares the UA Little Rock History and Geography Great Wall of Honor and Memory complete-ish (see photo below). He was unable to track down photos of Brandon Hunziker, David Paul Robinson, and William Speth. If you have a photo or contact information for any of these people or their immediate families, please pass it along to Dr. Porter!

**Charles Romney**, Associate Professor of History, continues to coordinate the M.A. program in public history. The National Archives Trust Fund Board renewed a grant for graduate assistants at the Clinton Presidential Library for this academic year. Two grants from the National Archives have given $77,595 to public history M.A. students since 2011. This fall his graduate class, “Natural Language Processing for the Humanities and Social Sciences,” included students from four programs: the M.A. in public history, the M.A. in interdisciplinary studies, the M.S. in information science, and the Ph.D. in computer science. In March he will speak at the 43rd Porter Fortune Symposium at the University of Mississippi.

**Vince Vinikas**, Professor of History, published “Thirteen Dead at Saint Charles: Arkansas's Most Lethal Lynching and the Abrogation of Equal Protection,” in *Bullets and Fire: Lynching and Authority in Arkansas, 1840-1950*, published by the University of Arkansas Press. His chapter describes the deadliest lynching in American history occurred here in Arkansas in 1904. Dr. Vinikas retires at the end of this semester. The Department will miss him.
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.

The **Ruby M. Duke Ancient History Award.** Awarded to a student "majoring in History with a demonstrated interest in Ancient History."

**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. Booker Worthen founded Worthen National Bank, which became the largest bank holding company in the state. The scholarship was created by his family to honor his memory.

**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. Craig Powell was a promising UALR student who was killed in a tragic accident. The scholarship was created in his name by his parents.

**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. David Demuth was a history major and a graduate of UALR, a prominent businessman, and civic leader.

**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. A professor in the History Department at UALR for twenty-three years, the scholarship was established in his name by his former students.

**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. Jack Freshour was a long time supporter of UALR and the History Department.

**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. Mabel and Santo Formica were a married couple who in their “golden years” returned to college and became both students in the History program and ardent supporters of the department.

**C. Fred Williams Endowed Scholarship in Public History.** Named in memory of C. Fred Williams a former chair and professor of History.

**Dr. Edward Madden and Lucy Dorothy Anson III Award.** Awarded to the outstanding graduating History major as selected by the faculty of the History Department. This award was established to honor the parents of a current history faculty member.

**Lee and Paula Johnson Travel Scholarship.** Awarded to assist students in the History Department to pursue a study abroad program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.
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Please make checks out to UALR History Department followed by the relevant scholarship in brackets and mail to c/o Dr. Jess Porter, History Department Chair, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2801 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-1099.