HISTORICALLY SPEAKING...

SUMMER & FALL PRE-REGISTRATION MARCH 17-24

Didn’t the semester just start?

If you are tired of those spring classes already, never fear! Start thinking about summer school and fall semester. As soon as you get back from Spring Break it will be time to work on a new schedule.

Timetables, pre-printed opscans, and all necessary information (course descriptions, advisors, etc) will be in the hall, outside 431 Major Williams (the main office) by Monday, March 16th. The opscan and course history information will be in individual manila envelopes with each student’s name on the front. Pick up a timetable, course description and manila envelope, then make an appointment with your advisor by signing your name on a sign-up sheet on his/her door. Dr. Howard’s advisees will meet with Dr. Thorp or Jan Francis again this time. Their sign-up sheets will be located on the bulletin board in the hall.

Before seeing your advisor do some research as to what you want to take and what you need to take. Go with a list for the advisor to look over. Always check the fall class schedule that is printed on the opscan to ensure that you are in the correct classes.

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CLUB NEWS

Phi Alpha Theta/History Club

To be eligible to join Phi Alpha Theta you must have a 3.1 in 12 hours of history and a 3.0 overall. Anyone with an interest in history can join the History Club. Please contact Jonathan Fisher at 951-9352.

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GRADUATION UPDATE

Commencement will be held on May 9th. The university program will be at 9:00 a.m. in Lane Stadium and the History commencement will be in Haymarket Theatre at 11:00 a.m. For the past two years the valedictorian of the senior class has been our main speaker, and we plan on doing that again this year.

Students completing in summer may walk through graduation in May. Contact the office in late March so you can be added to the Graduation Program.

The Provost’s Office will send out a flyer in April which will have detailed information about lodging, times, places, etc. The cap and gown can be purchased at the University Bookstore. The tassel should be white because you are receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree. Announcements can be ordered there also.

The History Department will be sending out a letter in March about scheduling an exit interview. This will be your opportunity to tell Dr. Thorp, the Associate Chair, what you think of your educational experience. We value your opinion as we continually look for ways to improve.

If you have questions or concerns regarding graduation or your DARs report please contact Jan Francis at 231-8382. We are already busy behind the scenes clearing up graduation problems.

Congratulations to the December graduates! The faculty and staff are proud of your accomplishment and wish you a happy life.
ALUMNI

Michael H. Taylor, class of ‘92, is teaching history and social studies at Turner Ashby in Rockingham County.

Maj. Douglas McGuire, USAF, class of ‘84, was awarded an Army MSM for his work as the AIA Exchange Officer to HQ U.S. Army INSCOM. He is stationed in Seoul, South Korea.

Lt. Cdr. Thomas P. Hekman, USN, class of ‘86, is aide-de-camp to the Commander in Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet in Newport News, Virginia.

Lt. John R. Dalrymple III, USN, class of ‘87 participated in the Navy’s “Fleet Week ’97” in New York City aboard the guided missile frigate USS Samuel F. Morison homeported in Mayport, Fla.

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UPDATE ON THE ROUND UP

The bi-annual round up for students interested in the Social Studies Education program was held on Feb. 11. The following quote came from Dr. Melanie Biermann:

“The thing for you to know is that I already have a full (actually bulging) cohort lined up for fall, 1998. So any graduating seniors, etc. will have to wait. Keep encouraging students to get in touch before their senior year.”

You may locate Dr. Biermann at 306 War Memorial Gym or telephone 231-5537.

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CORRECTION

In the last issue we reported that several History majors had participated in the reenactment of the march of the first student to register at Virginia Tech. Sophomore History major, Kevin McHugh, also participated in the reenactment. Congratulations Kevin!
FACULTY IN
THE NEWS

President Torgersen has announced that four members of our faculty are being recognized this spring for their years of service to the university: Thomas C. Howard, 30 years; Albert E. Moyer, 20 years; William L. Ochsenwald, 25 years; James I. Robertson Jr., 30 years.

If you have any of these professors in class, congratulate them on their dedication and ability to be long suffering.

James I. Robertson, Jr.'s Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend will shortly go into fifth printing. The biography has won "The Fletcher Pratt Literary Award" as the best Civil War book published in 1997. This is the second honor given to Stonewall Jackson.

Dr. Robertson has also written the foreword for Volume 10 of The Papers of Jefferson Davis and he continues to do filming for the A&E Network, the History Channel, and public television. His weekly Civil War vignettes for public radio are now in their fifth year.

Dr. William L. Ochsenwald continues as president of the Society for Gulf Arab Studies, a post which has resulted in his being interviewed by a number of media outlets concerning U.S.-Iraq and Arab-Israeli issues. In the last few months he was interviewed by ABC News, the Voice of America, and KPCC (Los Angeles).

Dr. Ochsenwald recently gave two presentations on campus to student groups: "Human Rights and the Arab-Israeli Dispute" to Amnesty International, and "That's Entertainment: Public Media and Culture in the Modern Middle East" to the International Club.

Joseph L. Wieczynski spent the spring semester of 1997 on research leave, working at libraries in Munich and Venice. His recent research deals with the significance of Russian national opera in studying the intellectual and cultural life of Russia. His article, "Russian Opera in the History Classroom," was published in The History Teacher in August, 1997.

His most recent book is, The Gorbachev Bibliography: Books and Articles in English on the Years of Perestroika in the USSR.

Mark V. Barrow, Jr., Kathleen W. Jones, and Daniel B. Thorp were recently awarded a grant to restructure the survey course, History of the United States (HIST 1115, 1116). The project is entitled "Putting American History Online: Computer-Based Interactive Learning in U.S. History Core Courses." They propose to develop a series of online problem-solving units in which students are presented with a compelling historical question (e.g., "Why was the atomic bomb dropped on Japan?"). Each unit will consist of a background discussion, a series of primary documents, and a methodology section providing guidance on how to "read" the historical evidence. They also plan to implement online discussion technologies that will help students to develop their ideas about the past and its relationship to today's world.

Glenn R. Bugh, still reeling from his triumphant appearance on the A&E series "Foot Soldiers," will next appear on March 2nd in A&E's Biography on "The Emperor Caligula." He is scheduled to do a Smithsonian Seminar on "Venice and Byzantium" on July 24th and 25th in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Bugh will be spending the fall semester in Venice doing research and signing autographs.

Peter Wallenstein has given talks this semester at Alumni Association meetings in Tappahannock, VA; Raleigh, NC; Charleston, SC; and Orlando, FL. Before the semester is out, he will have given talks for Civil War Weekend and International Week, for the Tech YMCA's 125th anniversary, and at meetings of the Friends of the University Libraries, the International Club, the Roanoke Valley Historical Society, and the Radford University History Club. He has also appeared on radio and TV about the Blacksburg Bicentennial.

Helpful Website: http://www.woodrow.org
(Fellowships and Foreign Service)