HISTORICALLY SPEAKING...

JOSEPH WIECZYNSKI TO RETIRE

After thirty-one years of distinguished service to the Department of History, Professor Joseph L. Wieczynski will retire at the end of spring semester. An award winning teacher and an internationally respected scholar, he steps down with the esteem and admiration of a generation of students and colleagues.

Professor Wieczynski joined the history faculty of Virginia Tech in 1968. Prior to receiving his doctorate at Georgetown University, he had graduated from St. Mary’s University in Baltimore and did graduate work at the University of Louvain, Belgium, then spent three years in the Army Security Agency, two years as an intelligence specialist and section chief for the US National Security Agency and a year on the staff of the US Library of Congress. He came to Blacksburg from Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin, where he had taught history for two years.

Throughout his career at Virginia Tech, he has taught Russian and Soviet history, the history of Europe, and numerous seminars and university honors courses on the Russian Empire and the USSR. Professor Wieczynski’s first book, *The Russian Frontier*, appeared in 1976, and was followed by nine other volumes, the most recent being *The Gorbachev Bibliography*, which appeared in 1997. He also has published 12 scholarly articles and more than 100 reviews and entries in various reference works. His published work spans the Russian past from the fifteenth century to Gorbachev’s day.

From 1976 to 1990, he was editor of *The Modern Encyclopedia of Russian and Soviet History*, 54 volumes of which appeared in print at that time. More than 450 scholars in the United States and several other nations have contributed to this work. For six years he was editor of the journal *Soviet Union*, later renamed *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review*, and saw that publication through the years of decline and disintegration of the Soviet state. He was visiting professor at the Tayloren Institute of Oxford University in 1976-77 and at the School of Slavonic Studies of the University of London in 1989, as well as at the Harvard Russian Research Center and the US State Department. He was president of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies in 1989 and at various times was vice president of the American Catholic Historical Association, a member of the board of governors of the American Renaissance Society and the awards committees of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Philosophical Society, and the Canada Council.

During the late 1980s, he created and chaired the National Speakers Forum at Virginia Tech, a program of eminent lecturers that brought to Blacksburg Speaker of the House Tip O’Neill, Andrew Young, Gennady Gerasimov, Mary Ann Settle, Georgie Ann Geyer, James Mitchener and other public figures.

He and his wife Jo will reside in Sarasota, Florida, where he intends to continue his work on Russia and teach an occasional course, while devoting much time to the local opera company and other cultural organizations. The couple also plans to use some of their new-found leisure for visits with their four children: Geoffrey, Daniel, Mary, and Alan. Former students and friends can reach Professor Emeritus Wieczynski in Sarasota at (941) 929-0123.

Albert E. Moyer
Chair

We don’t want to say goodbye so we’ll just say it won’t be the same round here without you.

DECEMBER 1998 GRADUATES

We would like to congratulate our December 1998 History Graduates and wish them a prosperous and happy life. Those receiving Bachelor of Arts diplomas were:

- Adrienne Leigh Allen
- Yolanda Latrice Avent
- William Ready Baird
- Jonathan Edward Ceaser
- Benjamin Joseph DiGuilian
- Debra Ann Draper***
- Stephanie Alexandra Kneip
- Kurt Frazier Madel*
- Michelle Christina Milan
- Robert Todd Perdue**
- Benjamin Allen Phelps

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MAY ’99 GRADUATION PLANS SET

As in the recent past, the History graduation will be held in Haymarket Theater, Squires Student Center, on **May 15, at 11:00 a.m.** Our commencement speaker will be the valedictorian of the class of ’99... who is yet to be named.

Entertainment will be provided by the Madrigal Singers, from Blacksburg High School. Wearing Renaissance garb and singing the distinctive lyric harmonies of Elizabethan England, the Madrigal Singers are the perfect group to salute our graduating historians. Students will be presented diplomas by Dr. Albert Moyer, Chair and Dr. Daniel Thorp, Associate Chair. There is no limit to the number of guests but we urge you to try to arrive between 10:30-10:40 a.m. because the theater always fills to capacity.

At this time, due to fire regulations in Squires Student Center, we will not be hosting the reception in the foyer outside Haymarket Theater. We are looking for an alternate site but space on graduation day is nearly impossible to find.

In March, graduating seniors (and those walking that plan to complete in summer school) will receive a letter from Dr. Thorp asking them to call the department to schedule an exit interview and to let us know who will be attending graduation.

Caps and gowns will go on sale March 29th at the University Bookstore for $16.95. Additional personalized announcements can also be ordered through the University Bookstore.

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Did you know?

Did you know that you may take no more than 50 credits of history courses within the 120 credits to graduate?

Did you know you cannot transfer in grades from another school...only credits?

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CLUB NEWS !!!

Induction for Phi Alpha Theta was held on December 3, 1998 in Squires Student Center. Keynote speaker was Dr. Peter Wallenstein who spoke on the history of the History Department at Virginia Tech. A reception was held after the induction ceremony.

We want to extend a warm congratulations to the new members of **Phi Alpha Theta**:

Brian Anderson, Douglas Apple, Daniel Beasley, Courtney Briggs, Joshua Brinkman, Heidi Burch, Jennifer Ferguson, Paul Fischer, Meredith Harris, Laura Johnson, Steven Lawrence, Mark Leach, Matthew Levi, Edward Maggio, Shayna McGinnis, Kevin McHugh, Farley Mennetti, Michelle Milan, Daniel Palmer, Robert Perdue, John Preston, Mark Rice, Margaret Sander, Jason Stewart, Gretchen Waagner, Holly Whiteman, and Blaine Wiltze.

To join Phi Alpha Theta a student must have 12 credits completed in history; a 3.1 QCA in history; and a 3.0 QCA in 2/3 of all other classes taken. A spring induction is tentatively planned. More details will follow at a later date.

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PRE-REGISTRATION SUMMER AND FALL
MARCH 23-30

Summer and Fall pre-registration will be a week after you return from spring break. Timetables will be made available to you by March 19. Follow the instructions below for a smooth registration:

1. Pick up the envelope (with your name and advisor assignment written on it) from a box in the hall outside 431 Major Williams.

2. Sign up for an appointment with your advisor. Appointment sheets will be on advisors’ doors.

3. Be prepared. Determine what classes you think you should take and want to take in spring semester and make a list before meeting with your advisor.

4. Return the completed opscan to 431 Major Williams before 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30.

Remember...your opscan MUST be signed by you and your advisor. Pre-registering for classes gives you a better chance to get the classes you want and need.
Dan Thorp published *Lewis and Clark: An American Journey* last fall. The College has just announced that Dr. Thorp has won a Certificate of Teaching Excellence. Congratulations for this much deserved honor.

The October 1998 issue of *Scientific American* features an article by department chair Bert Moyer. Titled "Simon Newcomb: Astronomer with an Attitude," the article sketches the career of one of the most acclaimed American scientists of the late 19th century. This spring, Professor Moyer will give guest lectures at two commemorative gatherings—the 150th anniversary of the Nautical Almanac division of the U.S. Naval Observatory (in Washington) and the 200th anniversary of the Royal Institute of Great Britain (in London). He will also soon begin a three-year term on the editorial board of *Isis*, the journal of the History of Science Society.

Fred Baumgartner was named "Fellow of Early Modern Studies" at the recent meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Toronto.

Mark Barrow received the book prize of the Forum for the History of Science in America at last semester's meeting of the History of Science Society in Kansas City.

Ann LaBerge’s co-edited book (with Caroline Hannaway), *Constructing Paris Medicine*, has just been published. This is a volume in the Wellcome Series in the History of Medicine.

Steve Soper (former visiting Assistant Professor) writes that the Society of Italian Historical Studies has awarded his dissertation, "A Context for Rule in Liberal Italy: Associations, Public Life, and Liberal Ideology in the Veneto, 1848-1900," the 1998 Marraro Prize for the best unpublished manuscript in Italian history. He received the award at the AHA conference in Washington, D.C. in January. Dr. Soper is residing with his wife Susan, and their dog and cat, in Chicago. We miss you Steve!

Young-TsuWong’s manuscript "A Paradise Lost: An Inquiry into the Imperial Garden Yuanning Yuan" is now under contract with the University of Hawaii Press.

Hayward Farrar and Peter Schmitthenner are candidates for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor. Results will be out in March. If they seem dazed in class this is why!

Some of the students making Dean’s List fall semester are Dan Beasley, Mira Brown, Benjamin Griffitts, Christopher Johnston, Chrystal Jones, Rex McIntosh, Patrick McSherry, Kathryn Muller, Daniel Palmer and Amy Van Middlesworth. Also, Amy has been accepted to Duke Law School.

Mike Marseglia submitted a paper, written last semester in one of Dr. Arnold's courses, to the Virginia Social Science Association.

Suzi Figlera has been selected as one of the 1998-1999 Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

Daniel Palmer has been nominated by the History Department for the Senior Award 1999.

Christopher Johnston has been accepted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, named a member of Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities, and inducted into the Mortar Board National Senior Honor Society.

Finally, to all students who made a 3.5 or above last semester (you were too many to name here). Congratulations!

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**ALUMNI NEWS**

We received an email from Ensign Anthony Hughes (class of '98) USNR, USS Vandegrift (FFG 48) Homeport Yokosuka, Japan, FPO AP 96682-1502. Anthony writes:

"Having been six months since my departure from Virginia Tech, I thought it best to write to all those to whom I owe my degree in history. I am now a serving officer in the US Navy stationed on a frigate in Japan and will be here for two years, at which time I will rotate back to the United States. My WWII/SS historical research is still very active and I have career plans to go for a Master's Degree in 2002 and a PhD at the close of my naval career.

I have much to owe to all my college professors, but perhaps the ones to which this message is addressed most of all: Doctors Arnold, Wallenstein, and Nurse. I would hope to keep in contact with my professors from the history community because I consider myself a historian first and foremost (interesting that the Navy is training me to be a engineer). I will hopefully be
returning to Virginia Tech once I am back in the country and will certainly make an effort to come by and see everyone.”

Matt Feret (class of '98) is living in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, working for "Heartland News"—KFVS-12 (CBS). It's the Cape Girardeau, MO/Paducah, KY market. Market size (ADI) #76. Matt is a general assignment, day-side reporter, fill-in anchor. Matt says he is enjoying life on the banks of the Mississippi. Good luck Matt! May you be the next Dan Rather.

Ben Bazak (class of '77), a history/math double major, was selected as one of eight regional Teachers of the Year statewide by the Virginia Department of Education. He teaches math at Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke.

ENJOY SPRING BREAK
MARCH 6-14

UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY COMPETITIONS

History Prize—any undergraduate may enter a paper on any historical topic.

Curtis Award—entrants must be history majors and the topic of the paper must be about the Civil War or Virginia, though there may be some latitude in defining these topics.

Web Page Prize—will be awarded for the best web page produced by an undergraduate from any major as part of her/his work in a history class.

Essays are to be turned into the History office by noon May 3 (Monday of the last week of classes). Details about formatting may be picked up in the box across from 431 Major Williams.