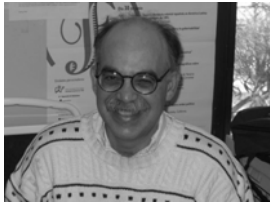




# History Newsletter

## Letter From Chair



Welcome to this year's History Department newsletter. I enjoy the opportunity to share news again with alumni, friends, students, and colleagues.

This year we highlight two aspects of recent news – generational shift, and good fortune despite hard times. Our center of generational gravity has shifted, and last year culminated the trend of recent years. New hires and new promotions to tenure have created a Department with excellent multi-generational balance. In a

wide variety of fields, we have a critical mass of superb scholar-teachers whose productive careers will likely stretch long into the future. If we prove fortunate enough to nurture and retain these scholars, while remembering to honor traditions of excellence, innovation and worldliness established by past professors, we will continue as a highly ranked History Department with a strong and self-confident identity.

Second, the Department enjoyed a year of good fortune that neutralized some of the effects of rough fiscal times. We hired terrific new scholars, and our faculty won quite an array of honors. At the same time, we remained dedicated to outstanding

teaching, and faculty and students benefited from new gifts that improve scholarship and learning while honoring the memory of beloved professors. Please note the news inside, for example, about the late Michael Petrovich.

You will find much other news, too, in this year's Newsletter. I am repeatedly amazed by the intellectual and human qualities one finds in our community of faculty, students, alumni, and friends. Read on, stay tuned, and keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Steve J. Stern

## A Feast of Honors: Profs Win Awards

History professors won a stunning array of highly competitive awards for scholarship during the past academic year. The award record reflected our special strengths. One such strength is generational balance. We have recruited superb scholars during the last ten years, and our tenured roster includes five impressive people newly promoted to associate professor in 2005: *Francine Hirsch* (Soviet Union/Russia), *William Powell Jones* (U.S., 20th-

century/post-1945), *Tony Michels* (U.S., Jewish history), *Paul Stephenson* (Byzantine history), and *Jeremi Suri* (U.S./international history). Another strength of the Department is worldliness. We have earned distinction in non-Western regions and histories as well as those of the U.S. and Europe. Professors of every generation and in a wide variety of fields participated in last year's feast of honors.

Here is a brief list of major research awards in campus competitions. *Rudy Koshar* (modern Germany/Europe) won a highly coveted WARF Named Professorship, and is now the *George Mosse Professor* of History. *Jean Lee* (U.S. revolution/early republic) and *David Morgan* (Persia/Middle East) won five-year appointments as Senior Fellows at the Institute for Research in the Humanities. *Mary Louise*

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### See Inside For:

- Mosse Program
- Remembering Michael Petrovich
- New Fellowships
- AND MORE

## Teaching on the Road: The Santa Fe Trail and the Multi-Racial West

*Editor's introduction: The following article, by Brian Mattmiller of University Communications, first appeared as an on-line news release by University Communications on 17 May 2005, and is reprinted with permission. It highlights a teaching trend that has gained traction in recent years – summer courses that teach history "in the field," via direct contact with people, places, and sources. History professors, students, and alumni have helped pioneer this innovative trend. For background on "teaching on the*

*road" experiments by Professors Stephen Kantrowitz, Jean Lee, Florencia Mallon, Maureen Mazzaoui, John Sharpless, Steve J. Stern, and Jeremi Suri, see the articles on "Profs and Alums" and "History Teaching and the Wisconsin Idea" in the 2003 and 2004 History Newsletters (reprinted at the Department web site), respectively.*

Madison - An unusual "traveling classroom" hitting the road this summer will have 36 University of Wisconsin-Madison students logging nearly 3,000

miles by bus, piecing together a cultural history tour of the sprawling American West.

The three-credit course, "The Santa Fe Trail: In Search of the Multiracial West," is being offered by the Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies Department and the College of Letters and Science. It will present a vivid, personal take on the region's racial diversity and civil rights history. The 15-day bus trip, which begins

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## A Feast of Honors

(Continued from page 1)

*Roberts* (European Women's history) and *Jeremi Suri* (U.S./international) received Vilas Associateship awards to advance new research projects, and *Susan Johnson* (U.S. West, 19th century) a Feminist Scholars Fellowship to complete her next book. *Florence Bernault* (modern Africa) and *Franzine Hirsch* (Soviet history) won Faculty Development Awards for projects that blend new research and new teaching.

Last but definitely not least, *James Donnelly* (Irish and British history) won the 2005 Hilldale Award in Arts and Humanities for distinguished career achievement on all fronts – scholarship, teaching, and service.

We also did well in prestigious external awards. The external recognition also reflected our strengths across fields and generations. Here is a sample of six awards – two each at the professor, associate professor, and assistant professor levels, respectively. *David Sorkin* (European/Jewish history) won a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship to advance his current book on religion and the Enlightenment, and *Thongchai Winichakul* (Southeast Asia) received the Grand Prize of the 16th Asian Pacific Awards in Tokyo for the wide and enduring intellectual impact of his 1994 book, *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-body of a Nation* (University of Hawaii Press). *Nan Enstad* (U.S. women's history) received an NEH Fellowship to advance her history of tobacco culture and labor, while *Tony Michels* (U.S. Jewish

history), as inaugural Fellow at NYU's Goldstein-Goren Center for the Study of American Jewish History, will research the history of Jews and Communism. *James Sweet* (African diaspora/Brazil) won the Wesley-Logan Prize of the American Historical Association for his book, *Recreating Africa: Culture, Kinship, and Religion in the African-Portuguese World, 1441-1770* (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2003), and *Neil Kodesh* (pre-colonial Africa) received the 2004-2005 Harold Perkins Prize, given to the best history doctoral dissertation at Northwestern University.

Eminent senior faculty also won honorary doctoral degrees for distinguished career achievement. *William Courtenay* (medieval Europe) received an honorary doctorate from the University of the South, and *Gerda Lerner* (U.S./Women's history, Emerita) received the honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, our sister institution thanks to the George Mosse Program.

Our Department values teaching as well as scholarship. Our outstanding scholars care about teaching and often achieve an admirable balance of achievement in research, teaching, and service. This is the larger meaning of Jim Donnelly's Hilldale Award, and of our recent Department-wide averages for overall teaching effectiveness: 4.40 and 4.37, in Fall 2004 and Spring 2005, respectively, on a 1-5 scale where 5 is best. Last year, the Department honored five of its finest teachers, many of them senior scholars who have demonstrated continuing passion for

excellent teaching. *John Cooper*, *Stanley Schultz*, and *John Sharpless* each won a Karen F. Johnson Teaching Award, while *Diane Lindstrom* and *Jeremi Suri* each won a Dorothy and Hsin-Nung Yao Teaching Award.

Last year, one of our outstanding scholars, *William Cronon*, received recognition of such balanced professional achievement when he won the Faculty Service Award from the University Continuing Education Association, the principal U.S. organization for continuing higher education. The award recognized his work as leader, for ten years, of the UW-Madison's Wisconsin Idea Seminar. The Seminar is an annual five-day bus tour designed to introduce new faculty to the state and the University's varied roles beyond the campus, and to nurture the ethos of community and public service long associated with the "Wisconsin Idea."

*Editor's note: While we don't place too much stock on "beauty rankings" by U.S. News and World Report, we were gratified to see that the magazine's Spring 2005 ranking of graduate history programs recognized our reputation of cosmopolitan, across-the-board strength. The report ranked major subfields within disciplines and UW-Madison History scored high: women's history (first), African history (second), Latin American history (second), cultural history (seventh), modern U.S. history (seventh), European history (tenth). Our Department's overall ranking (eleventh) was also high.*



Richard White, the 2004 Merle Curti Lecturer, at reception with Kathleen Kae (left) and Beverly Purrington.

### Correction

Our 2004 *Newsletter* included an article ("Once a Historian, Always a Historian?") on the ways our alums fold history into other walks of life and civic activity. The description of the award winning work of Clyde Toland contained two errors. Toland's public history work focused on Fred Funston, not Fred Boynston. He worked with the Allen County Historical Society, not the Kansas State Historical Society. We apologize and truly regret the errors.



## The Mosse Program: Making A Difference For Students

### by John Tortorice

The mission of the Mosse Program is to provide opportunities for students to work with faculty at both UW-Madison and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and to enhance the vibrant intellectual cultures of both schools. Since our start in 2000, twenty-eight students have participated in the exchange, and twenty-six UW-Madison students have benefited from a variety of graduate fellowships. In 2005-06, three students from the Hebrew University will exchange with three students from UW-Madison.

To enrich the academic environment for students and faculty, the Program also supports a faculty exchange – nine professors have thus far participated – and organizes international conferences and workshops, visiting faculty fellows, lectures, and a publication series at UW Press.

Here are a few highlights of the past academic year. They illustrate the variety of ways the Mosse Program contributes to the quality of education and intellectual life.

*Tamar Herzig*, the first Mosse Graduate Fellow, received her PhD from the Hebrew University. She writes, “My year in Madison allowed me to take graduate courses with leading experts in early modern history and in Italian studies and to conduct preliminary research for my dissertation, ‘Holy Women, Male Promoters, and Savonarolan Piety in Northern Italy, 1498-1545.’” She adds, “I greatly benefited from excellent teachers, and from Memorial Library’s truly wonderful collections. . . . The generous support of the Mosse Program also helped fund months of archival work in Italy . . .”

*Vanessa Walker* spent the last academic year at the Hebrew University taking classes and pursuing research. Her research studies the relationship between activists and diplomats in formulating and implementing human rights as a foreign policy objective during the Jimmy Carter years. In Israel, she studied the role of religious organizations and ideologies in providing a political framework for value centered policies. Her year in Israel enabled

her to compare how connections between religion, politics, and human rights unfold in Middle Eastern and Latin American contexts.

Undergraduate student *Rebecca Cornelius*, a double major in history and psychology, worked as an undergraduate peer advisor for History majors. (The peer-advising program is a supervised experimental initiative of the Department made possible by Mosse Program assistance.) The experience “was extremely beneficial for me because I plan to continue my education and become a school guidance counselor. I was given the opportunity to advise my peers on something I loved – history. I gained more experience in one year as an advisor than I had ever imagined possible.”

Rebecca found her calling. “I learned that to truly help a person, you have to first listen. I learned that even though UW-Madison is a massive university, if you are pro-active in your education and seek out help, UW-Madison does not seem

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Transitions and Events: Brief Notes

The year 2004-05 bore witness to generational transition in the Department. Two new assistant professors joined us. *James Sweet* and *Neil Kodesh*, whom we introduced in last year’s profile on African and African-diaspora history, bring us expertise on Brazil and the African-Portuguese world, and on pre-colonial Africa and Eastern/Southern Africa, respectively.

The Department made successful offers to three young scholars who join our rosters in 2005-06. We welcome *Cindy I-Fen Cheng*, appointed jointly in History and Asian American Studies. Her recently completed dissertation is a pioneering exploration of the ways suburbanization, anti-Communist rhetoric, and celebration of individual achievements shaped the entry of Chinese Americans into the mainstream of U.S. culture and imagination in the 1950s. We also welcome Japanese historian *Sarah Thal*, author of *Rearranging the Landscape of the Gods: The Politics of a Pilgrimage Site in Japan, 1573-1912* (University of Chicago Press, 2005). Her book is an imaginative study that uses such varied sources as miracle tales, votive plaques,

diaries, and newspapers to illuminate how people from all walks of life gave shape to Japanese religiosity, and how religiosity, in turn, shaped society, culture, and politics.

Last but not least, *William Powell Jones*, a scholar of 20th-century U.S. history, accepted our offer at the associate professor rank. His current research studies cross-racial interactions in labor politics and urban municipal politics after World War II. He grounds the project by focusing on people’s experiences in AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, the only national union movement that expanded in this era) in four major cities. Jones is also author of *The Tribe of Black Ulysses: African American Lumber Workers in the Jim Crow South* (University of Illinois Press, 2005), a book that insightfully challenges conventional wisdom about the history of African American men, labor, and community in the South.

We also saw the fruits of excellent junior faculty appointments in recent years. Four of our five new associate professors came up through the ranks. We congratulate the “gang of four”: *Francine Hirsch*, *Tony*

*Michels*, *Paul Stephenson*, and *Jeremi Suri*. We hope to publish a profile of the “gang of four” in the 2006 *Newsletter*. Stay tuned.

We built fruitful collaborations with Ethnic Studies programs. Our partnership with Asian American Studies yielded the shared appointment of *Cindy Cheng*, and good prospects for ongoing intellectual and collegial relationships. Several History professors have played major contributing roles in the Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Program, and *Camille Guerin-Gonzales* begins this year a shared appointment in both History and Chican@ & Latin@ Studies Program. A senior historian of Chicano/-a history and labor history, *Guerin-Gonzales* has led Chican@ and Latin@ Studies Program since 2003. She is author of *Mexican Workers and American Dreams: Immigration, Repatriation, and California Farm Labor, 1900-1939* (Rutgers University Press, 1994), and is completing a book on coal miners in Appalachia, South Wales, and the U.S. Southwest.

Three professors retired at the

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## The Mosse Program

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so big and intimidating. Now as I enter graduate school in counseling, I realize that one of the main reasons I chose to continue is my experience as an undergrad peer advisor."

*Daniel Deacon* won the 2005 George L. Mosse Undergraduate Prize for his seminar paper on "Willful and Malicious: Slave Personhood and the North Carolina Law of Slave Killing, 1741-1839." The Mosse Prize is given to a student who exhibits unusual creativity, passionate engagement, and independent critical analysis in any area of historical studies. The paper was written for Professor *Jean Lee*.

Five current and past Mosse Graduate Fellows participated in the Midwest Jewish Studies Conference in Madison, 18-19 September 2005. Organized by *Josh Shanes* (Mosse Fellow at the Hebrew University, 2000-2002), the conference included papers by Mosse Fellows *Sarah Wobick*, *Arik Dubnov*, *Adi Gordon*, and *Scott Ury*.

The Mosse Program also organized a conference at Schloss Elmau in

Germany on new directions in cultural and intellectual history. Conference papers considered what important topics and insights may have been sidelined by the embrace of the social historical method pervasive in the post-war years, especially in West Germany. Following the teaching example of George Mosse, the event offered opportunities for junior faculty and post-docs from American, European, and Israeli universities to present their current research with comment and discussion by senior scholars in the field. Mosse Fellows *Yotam Hotam*, *Adi Gordon*, and *Ofer Ashkenazi* presented papers.

The Mosse Program also enriches the intellectual life of the Hebrew University through lectures, conferences, visiting scholars, and courses. Jan Assmann of the University of Heidelberg gave the inaugural Mosse Lectures at the Hebrew University in December 2004, on "God and Gods: Egypt, Israel, and the Rise of Monotheism." The lectures connected the long and contentious debate on the origins of monotheism with contemporary religious and political developments, attracted an enthusiastic audience, and elicited a high level of discussion and engagement. In the current 2005-06

academic year, Fergus Millar of Oxford University will become the first Mosse Visiting Scholar at the Hebrew University.

The Program also sponsored a well attended conference on the current state of women's history in Israel. The conference coincided with the conferral of an honorary doctoral degree on Emerita Professor Gerda Lerner. In the current academic year, the Mosse Program is also sponsoring the first women's history course in the Department of History at the Hebrew University.

The Mosse Program has made an important difference in the lives of students and faculty in Jerusalem and Madison. Upcoming Mosse Program events, currently in the planning stage, include "Film into History: Film Makers as Historians of the 1960s," in collaboration with UW-Madison alumni who work in the film industry. Also in development is a conference on "Reckoning with the Past: Perpetrators, Accomplices and Victims in Post-Totalitarian Narratives and Politics." Scholars from around the world will discuss who and what are remembered – or not – in the wake of totalitarian times.

You may visit the Mosse Program website at <http://mosseprogram.wisc.edu>.

## Transitions and Events

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close of the last academic year. *Diane Lindstrom*, who joined the Department in 1971, has played a major role as senior scholar-teacher of U.S. economic and business history – in addition to generous service as Associate Chair of the Department, on the University Athletic Board, and in many other capacities. Her 1978 book, *Economic Development in the Philadelphia Region, 1810-1850* (Columbia University Press), won the Allan Nevins Prize for Economic History, and she has garnered exceptional student evaluations year after year – even when teaching subjects that may at first seem dry or intimidating to students!

Another colleague in U.S. history, *Stanley Schultz*, also retired. Schultz joined our community in 1967. His scholarly honors include the 1990 Abel Wolman Award in public works and urban history, and Honorable Mention for the 1973 Frederick Jackson Turner Prize. He has also

won major awards for his justly celebrated teaching, and for his leadership in creation and use of new instructional technology including video, television, and the World Wide Web. Student slang has it that the video version of his U.S. history survey (History 102) is "Schultz dead." They joke that "Schultz live" is even better than "Schultz dead."

*Stanley Payne*, who moved to UW-Madison from UCLA in 1968, also retired. Simply put, he built a scholarly career both indefatigable and distinguished. As author, co-author, or editor, Payne has produced some seventeen books in English and some eight in Spanish (his rate of productivity is such that it renders any fixed number misleading). He built up a serious research corpus on two of the most controversial and legendary themes of modern Spanish history: the Spanish Civil War, and the Franco regime. The University recognized exceptional achievement by naming him *Jaume Vicens Vives Professor* and *Hilldale Professor*, and

we honored Payne's career with a conference, organized by the Mosse Program and held in May 2004, on "Political Religions in the Modern Era."

We faced retention challenges. We won some and lost some. We bid warm farewell, with deep regret, to two professors who decided to explore new positions. *Andrew Wolpert* (Ancient Greece) has taken up a tenured position in Classics at the University of Florida at Gainesville, and *Alison Frank* (Eastern Europe) accepted an assistant professorship at Harvard University.

The Department's professors, students, and friends enjoyed stimulating intellectual engagement with a rich round of lectures and symposia. Highlights included the Fall 2004 Curti Lectures of Professor *Richard White*, "Misunderstanding, Lies, and Deception: An American History"; the Fall 2004 Department Retreat-Symposium, "Staged

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## Teaching on the Road

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June 2 after two days of classroom work, will combine the insights of four UW-Madison history, political science and ethnic studies faculty with visits to Indian reservations, border towns, historic black settlements, specialty museums, sugar plantations and other unique sites.

"In the American West, you will find a racial history that is very distinctive," says Susan Johnson, a professor of history and part of the traveling teaching team. "Other regions of the United States are becoming more multiracial, and that's certainly true of Wisconsin, but the West has been that way for a very, very long time and its history is relevant to virtually anywhere in the country."

What's especially compelling about the racial history of the West, Johnson says, is that it doesn't follow the same "black and white dichotomy" that defines race relations in much of America. The West blends together cultural influences of indigenous peoples, relocated American Indians, black migrants, Mexican and Asian immigrants, and Spanish settlements from colonial times.

"Our goal with this kind of experiential learning is to make history matter to the students and to get them to think critically about issues of race and ethnicity," Johnson says. "It's also an interesting topic for this generation of students, which has had less exposure to

Hollywood mythology about the West and more experience with multiracial communities."

While the western venues will be new, the idea for the class is a direct spinoff of a 2001 summer course called the "Freedom Ride," which looked at civil rights issues through a bus tour of the Deep South. Tyina Steptoe, who was part of the Freedom Ride as a master's student in Afro-American Studies, is now a doctoral student in history and a driving force behind this summer's American West trip. She and history doctoral student Michel Hogue came up with the idea for the course a year and a half ago and have been working on it ever since.

Steptoe says the focus on the West is an ideal fit for UW-Madison, which has long had an academic focus on the region through faculty in history and ethnic studies programs. The Freedom Ride had an extraordinary impact on participants, Steptoe says, and sparked some lasting connections between UW-Madison and tour stops such as the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma. She says the 2005 trip has the same potential while covering a lot more ground.

Some of the stops along the way will include: a visit to the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequa, Oklahoma, and a meeting with Chad Smith, chief of the Cherokee Nation; an evening concert and dinner with blues musician D.C. Minner at the Down Home Blues Club in

Rentiesville, Okla., a historically black town; a visit to the excavated site of the Levi Jordan sugar plantation outside Houston, a project that is chronicling the lives of slaves, tenant farmers and sharecroppers in the 19th-century settlement; a discussion of contemporary border issues between the United States and Mexico during a trip to El Paso; a meeting with Pueblo tribal leaders in Isleta, New Mexico to discuss water rights and conflicts over the use of sacred lands; a stop in Granada, Colo., where a project is under way to tell the story of a Japanese American internment camp based there during World War II.

Of course, there will be stops at some of the icons of the American West, such as the Alamo in San Antonio and the Santa Fe Trail itself, but Johnson says the goal is to balance "formal" historical sites such as museums with more "real people" interactions.

Aside from Johnson, other faculty participants include: Camille Guerin-Gonzales, a professor of history and director of the Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies program; Ben Marquez, a professor of political science; and Ned Blackhawk, a professor of history and American Indian Studies. All of the faculty have research and scholarship background on the American West, and will be giving lectures and leading discussions on the trip between formal stops.

## Transitions and Events: Brief Notes

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Emotions in History: From Medieval Law to the Age of Bill Clinton," which included a thought experiment on the ways future historians will study 9/11, and a roundtable on research by *Karl Shoemaker* on the role of tears in medieval law and culture; and an after-lunch talk by *Tom McCormick*, at our Spring 2004 Luncheon in Honor of Emeritus Faculty, on "What Would William Appleman Williams Say Now?"

History faculty also organized major conferences that stretched thinking in campus and History communities. Notable conferences included "Narrating Native Histories in the Americas" (organized by *Florencia Mallon* with *Ned Blackhawk*, and

in collaboration with American Indian Studies and the Institute for Research in the Humanities), which probed intellectual, practical, and ethical dilemmas related to the writing of indigenous history and ethnography; and "Pre-Colonial African History in a Post-Colonial Age: Wisconsin at 45" (organized by *Florence Bernault*, with colleagues in African Studies and History). The African history symposium's intellectual work focused on critical reconsideration of past and future directions in the fields of African and African-diaspora history. The symposium also served, however, to reunite many former students, to examine Wisconsin's tradition in African history and studies, and to celebrate the career of *Thomas Spear*, who retired in 2004.

We define our community inclusively, and we learn from all members of our community. Alums and emeritus professors, as well as current students and professors, attended and participated in a number of our intellectual events. At our Fall 2004 Retreat-Symposium, distinguished attorney and alum *Michael Spector* offered us an illuminating and timely after-lunch talk on the future of public education: "What I Learned about Schools and Politics While Serving on the Governor's Task Force." Spector, who had served as Chair of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle's Task Force on Educational Excellence, is now a member of the UW Board of Regents. We look forward to another stimulating year with diverse members of our community.

## Remembering Michael Petrovich: Alice Mortenson Creates Chair in Russian History

*Editor's introduction: The following article on the Alice D. Mortenson Petrovich Chair in Russian History is adapted, with permission, from the on-line news release by UW-Madison, 13 July 2005. The author was Chris DuPre of the UW Foundation. The first holder of the Chair (pending approval by UW System officials) will be Professor David McDonald, whose blend of scholarship and undergraduate teaching excellence is a fine tribute to Michael Petrovich. We are delighted to announce that last year's news also included professorship honors and gifts in memory of Fred Harvey Harrington and George Mosse. Rudy Koshar chose George Mosse to carry the name of his WARF Named Professorship. In addition, Esther Kaplan, a generous friend of the University and the Department, has made a gift bequest for a professorship in honor of Fred Harvey Harrington, the intellectual founder of the "Wisconsin School" of diplomatic history and a multi-faceted leader of the Department and the University.*

MADISON - Alice D. Mortenson, an alumna with a history degree, has established a chair in her "home department." The Alice D. Mortenson/

Petrovich Chair in Russian History also honors Michael B. Petrovich, an esteemed faculty member in the History Department.

"I wanted to do something for my university, of which I am very proud," says Mortenson, who lives in Minneapolis and is director of community relations for the M. A. Mortenson Co. "I wanted to recognize and support an excellent teacher."

The faculty member named to the chair must have a record of excellence in undergraduate teaching, a scholarly concentration in Russian history and devote at least 25 percent of his or her professional time to teaching Russian history to undergraduates.

"Alice Mortenson's generosity is a model of the difference professors can make in the lives of students and the difference alumni can make in the life of the university," says Professor Steve J. Stern, chair of the UW-Madison history department. "Her gift is also a wonderful tribute to Professor Michael Petrovich, a superb scholar who pioneered multimedia techniques in the teaching of history and whose dedication to teaching and students was legendary."

Of the professor who inspired her

studies, Mortenson says: "Dr. Petrovich wouldn't have known who I was from Adam. He was such a great teacher. I took every class he taught that I could as an undergraduate, although I couldn't imagine that he would have even known my name."

This latest commitment is one of many Mortenson has made in support of activities in UW-Madison's College of Letters and Science. "To me, the College of Letters and Science is really the foundation of the university," she says. "It's where everyone, even those heading for professional programs in areas like medicine and engineering, get their core education. It establishes the base of knowledge that makes a UW graduate well-rounded and aware of the world."

Emphasizing undergraduate education in the Russian history chair was important for Mortenson. "It's set up to reward a scholar with a track record of excellence in teaching, not just an excellent historian," she says. "Great teachers lead to future investigation of areas the student is interested in. I'm sure that all the Nobel Prize winners had a fabulous teacher who inspired them at some time to follow their passion."

## Courtenay, Kaplan, and Spear Help History Students

Last year, William Courtenay, Harold Kaplan, and Thomas Spear – a professor, an alumnus, and an emeritus professor, respectively – established gifts to help History students. The desire to build a strong future for History students at UW-Madison binds together many members of our community.

Professor Bill Courtenay has devoted his career of learning to European medieval history, while Professor Tom Spear has focused on African history. As senior scholars who have led Department programs at the graduate as well as undergraduate levels, they understand the value of recruiting and supporting top graduate students. We're pleased to announce that Courtenay and Spear have generously established new endowment funds to assist graduate students: the William J. Courtenay Fellowship Fund, for support in Ancient, Medieval, or Early Modern European History; and the Thomas

and Sheila Spear Fund for African History. This is an exciting development. Graduate students, as "great professors in the making," play a key role in the overlapping circles of learning and conversation that enrich faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students alike.

Harold Kaplan's initiative focuses on the professor-student connection at the undergraduate level. The Kaplan Family Fund will provide support, for a trial period followed by an evaluation, of six scholarships for History undergraduates who will work closely on research projects with faculty mentors. This assistance will enable students to experience directly the thrill of research in primary sources, and of projects designed to create original knowledge.

The experimental scholarship program reflects Kaplan's own experience. As a history student here in the 1970s, Harold Kaplan benefited from the

mentoring of Professor Stanley Kutler. The relationship blossomed into friendship. Harold and Stanley have remained close over the years. A distinguished attorney, Kaplan is today Chair of Gardner, Carton & Douglas, a leading Chicago law firm. He wants students to have an opportunity to experience what he experienced – close mentoring by an accomplished scholar-teacher of history.

The Department and its students are deeply grateful to Bill Courtenay, Harold Kaplan, and Tom Spear. We are fortunate that so many thoughtful people value their experience with the Department, and choose to help us, within their means. Gifts of all sizes make a difference in our ability to assist faculty and students, reward good teaching and learning, and enrich our intellectual environment. To all who care about us and who help improve the future for faculty and students, we offer a heartfelt "thank you."



**YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

Our sincere thanks to the many alumni and friends who have generously supported the UW Department of History. Private gifts are increasingly critical to ensuring that the Department maintains its stature as one of the nation's preeminent history programs. Your donations help us attract top faculty and graduate students, support promising undergraduate majors, and host a stimulating series of lectures, symposia and other scholarly activities. Gifts of any size are most welcome and gratefully received. **Thank you!**

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To browse other funds, go to our website and click on "Support Excellence."

If you would like to discuss creating a fund to benefit the History Department, or if you would like more information about supporting the Department with a life income or estate gift, please contact Anne Lucke at the University of Wisconsin Foundation (608.262.6242 or [anne.lucke@uwfoundation.wisc.edu](mailto:anne.lucke@uwfoundation.wisc.edu)).

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