

FROM THE CHAIR...



We are delighted to share with you our first edition of the Gordon history department newsletter. Each issue will bring you updates from department faculty, students, and alumni. As department chair, I am excited by the pursuits of my students, colleagues, and alumni. This fall I had the privilege of traveling with senior Emily Brunell to Oklahoma where she presented a paper on Syrian Christianity at the Conference on Faith and History. Last May I heard sophomore Daniel Bell speak on the Donation of Constantine at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Daniel is now studying Byzantine history at Oxford University.

The history department is preparing for a new history initiative at the Gordon-in-Orvieto program in Italy. During the spring semester of 2008, Tal and Agnes Howard and I will offer three courses there on Transitions in Christian history, with topics ranging from medieval spirituality to the modern day ecumenical movement. We hope many history majors will join us for this intellectual and cultural sojourn. This coming summer David Wick once again will travel with students to Greece and Turkey to explore the ancient and modern Aegean religious, cultural, and culinary experience. We are also pleased to announce a new addition to our full-time faculty: beloved adjunct professor David Goss joins as a full-time faculty member teaching public history (yes, he can now have official advisees!). We intend to launch a new concentration in public history and museum studies to make the most of the many regional opportunities open to our students and alumni.

Next fall I will be on sabbatical, working on my book *Cloud of Witnesses: Spiritual Parents from the Early and Medieval Church*. This book will bring the resources of Christian history to a popular lay audience, exploring the development of Christian doctrine in the early church and the wide range of medieval spirituality including Celtic missionaries, the role of art in worship, and Christian responses to Islam.

- Jennifer Hevelone-Harper



WHAT'S NEW IN THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

■ **"Retiring"** is not a word one usually associates with Richard Pierard, who for the past six years has been our Gordon Scholar in Residence in Modern European and African History. But Dick, who came to Gordon after a distinguished career at Indiana State University, did make the official transition last spring. We're glad to say that he will be back for an encore performance this coming spring, to do a seminar on German Christians and the Holocaust—a topic on which he has considerable expertise.



■ Dick and Tom Askew, an esteemed friend

and Gordon history professor, emeritus, recently co-authored *The American Church Experience: A Concise History* (Baker Books, '04).

■ **International Seminar: History of Ancient and Modern Greek Culture and Christianity in the Aegean World:** This intensive four-week summer course combines classroom study, site visits, and research facilities with travel in mainland Greece, the Aegean and Turkey. For more information, contact Professor David Wick, or go to: www.gordon.edu/geo/greece.

Junior Daniel Bell is currently studying at Oxford University.

■ **New course: "Religions of the Silk Road":** Dr. Todd Johnson, Research Fellow in Global Christianity and Director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, is currently teaching this unique course, one of only two in the country on its topic! The course covers several world religions and draws on a myriad of interdisciplinary sources: art, music, and cooking, as well as history and religious teachings.

■ **Program in Museum Studies and Public History:** We are in the process of adding a new program in Museum Studies and Public History, taught by Professor David Goss. David's long experience in this field lays the foundation for Gordon College to become a regional center for professional training of public historians. The department plans to introduce a concentration in this area, which would be reflected on a student's transcript and diploma.

■ **Alumni and Student News:** We would love to hear from you! Please send contributions to our new assistant Becky Lord at: rebecca.lord@gordon.edu.

Students traveling in Greece as a part of Professor Wick's seminar.



ALUMNI NEWS

Recent alumni in scholarly work:

- **Stephanie Trombley '00** recently completed her PhD in history at the University of New Hampshire and is now an Assistant Professor of History in the Global Security and Intelligence Studies Department at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Arizona.
- **Elizabeth Watts '01** is studying American history at the University of Connecticut.
- **Christine Lindner '02** is doing Islamic Studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.
- **Jennifer Monk '02**, a History and Political Studies major, received her degree this past spring from Pepperdine University Law School.
- **Nicholas Brooks '03** completed his master's degree at the University of Connecticut and began work on his PhD this fall at the University of Virginia--where Gordon mentor Tal Howard received his own doctorate.
- **Anne Sanders '03** is studying Medieval history at the Sorbonne, Paris.
- **Hiromu Nagahara '03** is studying Japanese history at Harvard University
- **Dan Smith '03** is studying early Christian history at the University of Notre Dame.
- **Lauren Whitnah '04 and Jennifer Fry '04** each received her masters degree in medieval studies "with distinction" from Oxford University.
- **Kirsten Heacock '04**, a History and Bible major, is studying Middle Eastern religions at Duke University Divinity School.
- **Laura Schweiger '05** is studying Byzantine history at Catholic University of America.



Emily with a friend from CFH at the Oklahoma History Center.

History in Oklahoma

by Emily Brunnell '07

I think when I look back on my college experience, one of the most important events will be my trip to the Conference on Faith and History. This September 21-23, I had the incredible opportunity to present a paper at the Biannual Meeting of the Conference on Faith and History at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma. CFH is made up of Christian scholars from across the country (largely university professors) who want to explore the way their faith interacts with their scholarship. I first heard about the Conference through Dr. Jennifer Hevelone-Harper, who serves on the Conference's board. She recommended that I submit my senior seminar paper to the student research conference at the end of the Spring 2006 semester.

Much to my delight, my paper "Creation as a Vehicle for the Redemption Truth in the Writings of Saint Ephrem the Syrian" was accepted to the student research conference for the panel "Reading Christianity in the Early Church". It was an honor to speak at a professional conference and answer questions from an academic audience. About forty other Christian students from across the country presented as well, and it was fascinating to see what other students are working on and where they see the history discipline taking them. There is nothing like sharing your passion for history with others who have the same passion and are making the same life decisions you are.

After the conclusion of the 15 panel student conference, I was able to attend the professional conference, along with about 200 other history

lovers. It was an amazing experience to hear professional historians discuss their current scholarship and experiences with academia. Everyone was very welcoming and I had some great conversations with established historians (Ron Wells, George Marsden and Don Yerxa) about their journeys, methods and struggles, especially in the realm of teaching. Over the 5 days that I was in Oklahoma I realized the depth and breadth of the historical profession which is not afforded to me within the isolation of Gordon.

I highly recommend CFH to all history majors and professors, both as an opportunity to present papers and to listen to the work of others. I made some incredible friendships while I was in Oklahoma and I look forward to the chance to return to a future conference. The 2008 Biannual Meeting and student conference will be at Bluffton University in Ohio.

"There is nothing like sharing your passion for history with others who have the same passion and are making the same life decisions you are."

- Emily Brunnell

Some Vital Statistics...

- We have 6 full-time faculty, plus several part-time faculty.
- We have 135 students currently majoring in history.
- 53% of the above have a double major, 32% in Education.
- 42% of our recent grads have earned a graduate or professional degree.
- Over the past 5 years 15 of our seniors have written honors theses and graduated with honors.