

Alumni news

Victor Hobbs (64) tells us that receiving the newsletter each year reminds him, "of the wonderful times I experienced at Berry College." He goes on to say that after leaving Berry, "Eventually, I earned three more degrees and have a honorary doctorate. Each of those experiences pale in comparison to those early shaping years at Berry. All of my teachers at Berry took special interest in me and in a real way are the ones who deserve any credit I might now enjoy, since it was their care, their listening, their touch that prompted me into a life of learning and teaching." After Berry, and before getting married, he traveled to France where he enrolled in an academy of art to learn to paint. With that experience under his belt, he reconsidered his path in life, returned home to reflect, and then got engaged. He and his wife have now been married nearly fifty years and have children and grandchildren. He is currently president of the John Milledge Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. In that role, he is always getting requests from history folks to present some aspect of the cause, the cost to the patriot, the fears of the Tories, and the divine connection implied in the Constitution. He laments the lack of attention paid to history in schools today and writes that he is "thoughtful and appreciative for all those who gave so much to my formation." He says that he is finally getting a chance to do a lot of things he always wanted to do, such as returning to art. He has enrolled in the Lamar Dodd School of Art at the University of Georgia, and apprenticed to an income-earning portrait painter for a couple of years. Being able to now enjoy the experience he's had in life and the time and ability to reflect on the world around him, he is painting and enjoying looking anew at the world.

Gene McNease (65) remains active in Rotary International Service Projects. He writes that he is both hopeful and

optimistic about the future and about Rotary International's "potential for dealing with the great issues of our time." He continues: "Whether it is the eradication of the polio virus from the face of the earth or the senseless slaughter of innocent citizens in Syria, we should not and cannot ignore the impact on human history, simply because it is on the other side of the world. We are all neighbors and we are, after all, occupants of the same planet and share in its past, present and future evolution."

S. Paul Raybon (86) writes that he completed his Doctor of Education degree at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte this spring. His dissertation, "An Evaluation of Best Practices in Online Continuing Theological Education," reflects his continuing interest in teaching and equipping church leaders for effective ministry. In the final weeks of work on his dissertation Dr. Raybon was grateful for the high standards of formal writing he honed in the Berry history and English departments. Raybon and his wife **Anne Selman Raybon (85)** reside in Asheville, N.C., where he serves as an associate pastor, leadership coach and consultant, and adjunct professor.

Laura Gilstrap Musselwhite (89), professor of history at Georgia Highlands College in Rome, Georgia, was promoted in fall 2011 to associate vice president for academic and student affairs.

Cassie Heine Jones (90) is the co-author of a new children's book *Ahoy! Titanic: A Child's Tour of the Great Ship*.

Britt Cottingham (91), who went on to get his master's in history from Georgia State in 1995, is currently teaching AP World History and AP European History at McEachern High School in Powder Springs, Georgia, where he has been teaching since 2001. In addition to his advanced degree and his teaching role in the classroom, he also has sponsored the McEachern High School History Club for the past four years and has served as a reader for the College Board AP World History exam. Beyond

the classroom he coaches the junior varsity girls' soccer team. He and his wife Makia, an attorney with the Fulton County Solicitor's Office, have one child, William (the Conqueror), age 5, and they are expecting their second child in May, a boy to be named Eli (as in Manning, not Whitney!).

Charity Rakestraw (03) has taken a full-time position at Western Governors University, a nonprofit university that focuses on helping nontraditional students receive a college education. Her book, *Ministers and Masters: Methodism, Manhood, and Honor in the Old South*, came out with Louisiana State University Press in November of 2011.

Neil Boggan (06) will graduate May 14 from Emory University with a Master of Theology (Th.M.). He is considering applying to enter a Ph.D. program, but for the moment he is fully concentrating on his thesis, which addresses St. Augustine's theology of memory in his Confessions.

Zac Greene (06), who is at the University of Iowa, writes that he and wife **Hollie McClintick-Greene (06)** both plan to defend their dissertations this summer. Zac has accepted a post-doctoral position at the University of Mannheim in Mannheim, Germany, where they will be moving in August.

Lori B. White (06) received her master's in history museum studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in 2008. Following graduation, she worked in the development department for the New York Transit Museum, the country's largest urban transportation museum, for two years. She currently serves as project coordinator for Grand Central Terminal's Centennial, which will take place in 2013 in New York, New York.

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Department news



Participants in the Department's Career Night, left to right: Dr. Christy Snider, Brad Roberts, David Beall, Allison Hughes Galloup, Sonya Miller, Dr. Craig Pascoe, and Sue Tarpley. Photo courtesy of Tray Patterson.

Department Chair **Christy Snider** organized a Career Night for History Majors on Feb. 29. Alumni **David Beall**, **Allison Hughes Galloup**, **Sonya Miller** and **Brad Roberts** returned to campus to speak to current history majors about their career experiences. They were joined by Professor Craig Pascoe of Georgia College, who spoke about pursuing a master's in history, and Sue Tarpley from the Berry College Career Center. The Career Night event was put together in order to indicate to current and potential history majors the diversity of careers for which a major in history can prepare you. Dr. Snider moderated the panel, and Beall, Galloup, Miller, and Roberts explained the various paths they had taken since graduating, leading them on to successful careers in fields as varied as banking, finance, law, archival work, and teaching.

In other department news, the Berry College chapter of the national history honors society Phi Alpha Theta held two induction ceremonies for new members this year, one in October and one this past March. At the fall ceremony, Phi Alpha Theta welcomed new members **Haley Fortune** and **Erin King**, and in the spring **Ben Auger**, **Avriel Glass**, **Nancy Lovas**, **Amanda Marbut**, **Maggie Trimble**, **Ryan James**, **Zachary Randolph**, and **Robert Tuttle** joined the chapter.



Senior history major Joel Keene (foreground) and other students await the start of the Department of History's Career Night. Photo courtesy of Tray Patterson.

The Department of History also handed out a number of awards to high-achieving students this year:

- Thanks to the generosity of the late Gordon Carper and his family, the Department of History continues to be able to support history majors by means of the N. Gordon Carper

Scholarship. This year's winners of the Carper scholarship were junior **Kaitlyn Pierce** and seniors **Anna (Nelson) Bennett** and **Bobby Tuttle**.



Sonya Miller, Craig Pascoe, and Sue Tarpley answer students' questions. Photo courtesy of Tray Patterson.

- There were two winners of the Department of History's inaugural History Alumni Book Award. Thanks to the generous support of Berry College history alumni, the department is able to grant this award to a deserving history major in order to pay for a significant part of that student's required textbooks for the semester. **Jessica Bryant** won the award in the fall semester, and **Amanda Marbut** won the award in the spring.
- The N. Gordon Carper and Noel and Todd Carper Awards are presented each year to the senior history major with the best academic record in American history and the junior history major with the best overall academic record in history, respectively. At this year's Honors Convocation the Department of History was pleased to award the N. Gordon Carper Award to graduating senior **Bobby Tuttle** and the Noel and Todd Carper Award to junior **Kaitlyn Pierce**.
- The Department presented this year's History Faculty Award to senior **Tray Patterson**. The History Faculty Award is given to an outstanding graduating senior history major who has demonstrated his or her commitment to and love of the discipline through their academic work and their service to the Department.

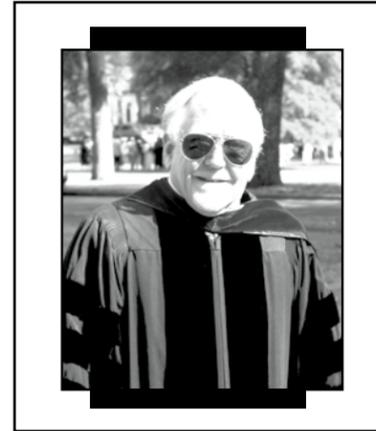


Phi Alpha Theta members and new inductees following the March 28 induction ceremony, with the 2012-13 chapter officers seated in the front row.

HISTORY ★ in the making

Department of History newsletter
Spring 2012, Volume 6

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR GORDON CARPER



The Berry College History Department lost one of its strongest advocates when **Dr. N. Gordon Carper** passed away on September 3, 2011, after a brief illness. Like so many others, I keenly felt his loss. Dr. Carper chaired the search committee that hired me in May 2000 and served as department coordinator during my first year at Berry. He made a special effort to ensure that I felt comfortable in the community, became engaged with campus life, and connected to the history majors. He served as a wonderful example of how to be both a teacher and a mentor to his students, who nicknamed him 'Doc' and flocked to his office hours. I've lost count of the number of times that, upon learning I taught in the History Department, Berry alumni launched into a story about Dr. Carper. They spoke of his booming presentation of the material, his passion and enthusiasm for American history, and his immense knowledge of the subject matter. He made a profound impression on those fortunate enough to know him and the school that he

served for thirty-eight years. When Dr. Carper arrived at Berry in 1965 as the Chair of the Social Sciences Department, the college, like many institutions of higher education in the South, had enrolled its first African American students only the year before. Rather than shy away from addressing what was still a controversial topic on campus, Dr. Carper hosted a number of symposia on race relations and freedom. He also offered the first courses in Black Studies and African American History ever taught at Berry. Students later referred to these classes as some "of the most important courses at Berry" and argued that they should be required "to help open more eyes to the problems" of race in the United States.

Always cognizant of the need to make the study of history relevant in a profit-oriented society, Dr. Carper served on the Georgia Committee for the Humanities for ten years and published *The Meaning of History: A Dictionary of Quotations* in 1991 with his wife, Joyce. This text examined differing views of the definition, value, and purpose of history from a number of diverse time periods and cultural perspectives. In March of 1994, Georgia Governor Zell Miller recognized Dr. Carper's efforts to foster the understanding of the humanities in the state by presenting him with the Governor's Award in the Humanities.

Undoubtedly, one of Dr. Carper's greatest legacies was establishing a College Bowl team at Berry and helping lead the revitalization of the collegiate College Bowl program in the southeast. Dr. Carper's College Bowl activities not only convinced a number of talented students to enroll at Berry, but also won regional and national recognition for the college. Under his direction Berry won three

regional titles and finished as the top undergraduate school nationally during the 1998-1999 season. He became one of the first people inducted into the College Bowl Hall of Fame and in 2002 received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of College Unions and College Bowl, Inc.

Respected and admired by his students and colleagues, Dr. Carper was named Dana Professor of History in 1969 and Faculty Member of the Year in 1975. He served for thirty-five years as the advisor to Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, and received an Outstanding Achievement Award for his years of service from the national organization in 2000. That same year he won the college's Teaching Excellence Award and received a special commendation from the Georgia House of Representatives for his years of dedicated teaching and service at Berry.

Although he retired in 2003, Dr. Carper's presence is still felt in the department thanks to his endowment of the N. Gordon Carper Scholarships for History Students, which provide two scholarships for history majors committed to the discipline of history in the future. Dr. Carper's passing was a tremendous loss, and he is profoundly missed by his family, colleagues, and former students.

Dr. Christy Snider
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of History

We're on the Web and Facebook!

The Berry College Department of History is on the web at <http://www.berry.edu/academics/humanities/history/>. Also, you can now find us on Facebook! Just search for Berry College Department of History at facebook.com.



✂

Yes, I would like to support Berry College history majors!

I'm enclosing a gift of \$_____. I'm pledging a gift of \$_____.

I'm charging a gift of \$_____ to my credit card:

MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

My employer matches gifts. My form is enclosed.

Please contribute my gift toward the:

History Faculty Award History Alumni Book Award

N. Gordon Carper Award Noel and Todd Carper Award

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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Mail this form in an envelope to: Berry College, P.O. Box 495018, Mount Berry, GA 30149-5018. Thank you for supporting Berry College history majors and the Department of History!

EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND: THE MARTHA BERRY DIGITAL ARCHIVES PROJECT

by Meg Ratliff (Class of 2015)

As a freshman at Berry College, I greatly enjoy my job working in the history department. At the beginning of the term, I was given the wonderful opportunity to work for History Department Chair Dr. Christy Snider. As a history major, this job has given me unique insights into my field of study that would have been unavailable to me in any other position.

As one of Dr. Snider's assistants, I was given the opportunity to work on the Martha Berry Digital Archives project (MBDA). The MBDA works with

students and faculty to digitize Martha Berry's documents and letters, making them available online to the public, specifically to the Berry community and the people of Rome. The digitization process involves scanning the letters, uploading the scanned images to the MBDA website, editing them and writing descriptions of their contents. The project workers are composed primarily of workers at the Berry College Archives and students from other departments in the library. My job is to read the letters that have been scanned and write the descriptions for the website. Dr. Stephanie Schlitz of

Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania heads the project. Once a large number of the documents have been uploaded and revised, the website will open for viewing by the general public.

This project provides a valuable insight into Martha Berry's life that will eventually be available to anyone inside or outside of the Berry bubble. I enjoy my job working with the Martha Berry Digital Archives project and working for Dr. Snider. Both of these opportunities have allowed for me to learn about Ms. Berry and to explore my major.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: ANNA BENNETT

Editor's note: Senior history major Anna Bennett, who graduated this past December, writes to us about her experience landing her first job.

After three and a half years spent at beautiful Berry College, I was both nervous and excited to graduate this past December. Throughout my college career I channeled my passion for researching, editing and writing into my history major and English minor and started to plan for an advanced degree in the field of history. For me, leaving the Berry bubble was the start of phase two in that process: getting married and gaining work experience before returning to graduate school. After my wedding in January, I immediately embarked on my first job search, confident that with a Berry degree in hand I would find a great opportunity before long. I quickly realized, however, that searching for jobs is a full time job in itself. While I might submit six to eight applications a week, I was lucky to hear back about even one. This was discouraging at first, but every application and cover letter gave me another opportunity to improve my writing and focus on the type of information employers were looking for.

I have gained a lot of rewarding experiences throughout my job search, including an interview for the Woodruff, Whitehead, and Evans Foundations Fellowship and a phone interview for a fellowship with the Georgia Center for Nonprofits. It has been extremely interesting to see the different (and similar) methods employers use to screen candidates. Although I haven't gotten a call back for all the jobs I've interviewed for, each conversation with employers has given me valuable experience in the workings of the professional world. After nearly three months of searching,

I'm thrilled to say that I just accepted my first job as the Marketing/Sales Lead at WinShape Retreat.

As a history major, I was surprised that WinShape's marketing department called me in for an interview. Having once served on the Krannert Center Activities Board, I have some rudimentary knowledge of marketing but certainly not a business degree. During my interview I focused on the good work ethic and organizational skills that my academic career gave me since the position called for an organized multi-tasker. I highlighted my note-taking abilities, a direct result of countless history seminar classes, and my capacity to remain organized and efficient in stressful situations. Having been a student athlete with an on-campus job throughout my time at Berry, I can definitely tell employers that I know how to multi-task with relative ease. WinShape felt confident enough in the skills I gained as a Berry history major that they offered me the job and agreed to teach me marketing strategies as I learn the new position.

I am excited to start working at WinShape, and although the job search was in some ways grueling, I know that I am fortunate to have found a rewarding job in a short space of time. I have since reflected on my days running cross country for Berry, and like long distance running, my first job search required consistency, endurance and strength in order to succeed. It's not easy to be turned down for a job or fellowship you really want, but searching and interviewing for your first real job is a learning process. I've discovered that if you assert yourself and clearly show employers why your education and work experiences have made you an ideal candidate, a Bachelor of Arts in History can lead to countless avenues of employment.

Facultynews

Professor Jon Atkins received the 2011 Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Recognition Award for service to the college. He completed a historiographical essay on "Martin Van Buren and the Economic Collapse of the Late 1830s" for publication by Blackwell Press, and he continues to work on his Early American Republic textbook.

In 2011, **Professor Larry Marvin** presented papers at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, United Kingdom, and the Crusade Studies Forum in St. Louis, Missouri. His book reviews appeared in *The Canadian Journal of History and Choice*. His site review of the Ozark Medieval Fortress in Leadhill, Arkansas, appeared in *The Public Historian*.

Associate Professor Christy Snider presented a paper titled, "Selected to Serve: U.S. Women's Appointments to Transnational Governmental Conferences, 1920-1945," at the October 2011 Peace History Society Conference in Miami, Florida. Her essays on "Crystal Eastman" and "Margaret

Sanger" appeared in the 2011 publication, *Feminist Writings from Ancient Times to the Modern World: A Global Sourcebook and History*.

Assistant Professor Matt Stanard published his book *Selling the Congo* with University of Nebraska Press. Last summer he participated in the sixth annual Decolonization Seminar in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the National History Center, the American Historical Association, and the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress.

Visiting Assistant Professor David LaFevor presented new research at conferences in Atlanta; Cartagena, Colombia; and San Francisco. He also traveled to Mexico City to work in the Archivo Historico del Distrito Federal and continues to participate in the multinational project, "Ecclesiastical and Secular Sources in Slave Societies" in Cuba, Brazil, and Colombia.

Remembering Herman Rooks

The Department of History has learned that **Herman Rooks** passed away last November. Rooks taught history and English at Berry College for several years. He actually earned his Bachelor of Science degree in education, with a major in English, from Berry College in 1943. He went on to get his master's degree, and returned to Rome to teach at Berry College from the late 1940s into the early 1950s.

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Dusty Marie Dye (09) received her Master of Arts degree in history with a concentration in public history from the University of West Georgia in July 2011. After a few months of well-deserved rest, she has taken up teaching both U.S. and world history surveys at the University of West Georgia for the spring semester. This fall, she will turn her attention to applying for Ph.D. programs.

David Thomas (10) has relocated to Louisville, Ky., where he is currently working in banking and is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Emily Poolos (11) works at Metro Christian Centre in Bury, England,

which is about twenty minutes from Manchester. She serves as the youth intern. She writes, "I have the privilege of doing assemblies and youth work in the local schools, as well as leading small groups and youth on Friday and Sunday evenings. They keep me pretty busy around here, although it doesn't seem like much after leaving Berry's history department." She says that although the job might not seem directly connected to her history degree, history has played a role during her year abroad, especially as she has travelled to numerous destinations, from York to London to Edinburgh to The Lake District, to name only a few places. As she puts it, "It's 'brilliant' to walk into places such as York Minister, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Dunkeld

Cathedral and soak in just how old they actually are. America could use a lesson in historical preservation in comparison."

Don't forget to
Write

Do you have news you would like include in next year's Department of History newsletter? If so, please send it to Matt Stanard by email at mstanard@berry.edu.