Greetings from the History Department to all our alumni, on this beautiful Fall day. Life here has settled into a steady rhythm, after years of significant changes for the university and the department. During this past year, we have continued to make the most of the new opportunities presented by the revised calendar and curriculum. We are contributing significantly to the university’s new freshman seminar program, with sixteen different seminars on offer. Our commitment to Study Away continues—we are in the midst of preparations to take students to Central and Eastern Europe, Central America, and Italy next year. We are proud of the wide range of courses that we offer, covering most of the globe from ancient times to the present.

Amidst continuity and growth there is, of course, one major change at the very top. We hosted Furman’s new President, Rodney Smolla, in the department this past October, to talk about the place of history in his future plans for the university. President Smolla proved very supportive of all that we are doing. Indeed, our use of portfolios to encourage majors to think about the larger meaning of their studies fits very well with his goal of nurturing a deeply reflective culture of learning at Furman. Meanwhile, the change of Presidents has provided us with a valuable new colleague in the person of David Shi. David will be teaching two history courses each year, after a leave of absence to work on a new writing project—[see his profile ahead].

Members of the department are continuing to win awards: Ellen Boucher won the prestigious Neil Sutherland Prize for her article “The Limits of Potential” in the Journal of British Studies, and Cengiz Sisman is the co-recipient of an award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for an initiative that seeks to build understanding between Muslim and U.S. cultures. We are very proud of Courtney Tollison and the fifteen current students and recent alumni who won the 2010 Award of Excellence from the Southeastern Museums Conference for an exhibit on World War II at the Upcountry History Museum.

Some of our faculty have been all too successful—Monica Black, after three years of highly effective teaching here at Furman, has been offered a position in a newly-expanded graduate program in German history at the University of Tennessee. We are very sorry to lose both her and her husband, Matthew Gillis, though we wish them all the best for the future. Fortunately, Kara Fulcher, who taught for us a couple of years ago, was able to come back on a one-year appointment to fill in for Monica. We are in the process of hiring a new tenure-track faculty member in modern Europe.
Interview with Courtney Tollison

Tollison: George Tindall, Furman class of 1942 and a distinguished professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, first published the text in 1984. You wrote that it was your good fortune to become involved with the project. You became involved with the second edition, correct?

Shi: Yes, in 1984 the publisher (and George) asked me to become the co-author of the book. It’s an interesting story. In 1984 I was teaching history at Davidson College and had used the first edition of America: A Narrative History in a class at Davidson. In the middle of that year, I was contacted by an editor of Scott Forsman Publishing Company outside of Chicago. She explained that she wanted to convince me “to write a Tindall-like textbook for them.” She came to Davidson, and we talked about it in some detail. I then asked my New York literary agent to join the discussions. Then, a few weeks later, the sales representative for W.W. Norton who had the Davidson College account came by to visit, and we discussed the situation. A few days later, the history editor at W. W. Norton called to ask if I might be willing to join George Tindall as co-author. I then agreed to meet George and him for lunch in New York City. So, coincidentally, I was talking with two competing publishers about getting involved with either America or an America-like textbook.

Tollison: What was your relationship with Tindall at that point?

Shi: Well, that’s what’s so funny. I had never met him. I only knew him by reputation—as one of the nation’s leading historians of the South. When we met at the Yale Club in Manhattan and were introducing ourselves, I asked George where he was from originally. He said, “Greenville.” I responded, “How coincidental! I went to Furman.” And he replied, “I also went to Furman, and my wife Blossom went to Furman.” So it was an amazing coincidence: the editor had unknowingly brought together two Furman alums to see if we would be willing to collaborate. Not to keep you in suspense: I obviously ended up deciding to work with George rather than try to replicate what George had done with America.

Tollison: America was distinctive among other history textbooks. I know many people who consider it a great read, and they don’t necessary think of it as textbook. It has broad appeal.

Shi: Yes, and of course it’s changed a lot over its lifetime of eight editions. But when it first appeared, it was unique among American history textbooks in that it was written by a single author rather than eight or ten specialists who might contribute three chapters each. Second, it was distinctive in terms of its emphasis on narrative. Third, it was distinctive in its size, and related to its size was, fourth, the fact that it was significantly less expensive than the other textbooks. It was about half the cost as other texts. So, collectively, all of those attributes made it really stand out for history professors who were choosing textbooks, and, at least the last time I checked, it has been the leading textbook in its field.

Tollison: Tindall’s writing has been lauded by many people, and you were nominated twice for a Pulitzer Prize. Can you tell us about what you learned from Tindall during your collaboration? How did you work together, and how did you divide the responsibilities of the project?

Shi: One of the great benefits and joys of getting involved with this project was the opportunity it afforded to work with George and to get to know him as the charming, courteous, witty person he was. Like a number of other prominent historians, he often described himself as having wanted to become a journalist. He had a natural love for writing and politics. He loved writing about anything – not just writing about history. George and his wife Blossom credited Delbert and Meta Gilpatrick, both beloved Furman professors, with nurturing their passion for prose and their love of the past. George very much believed that the root of the word “history” is “story,” and that historians should weave the threads of the past into compelling stories. George’s writings brought people alive. And he also stippled the narrative with his own distinctive Southern colloquialisms. So much of the distinctiveness and the personality of the prose in America are not evident in those more generic textbooks.

As far as how George and I divided the responsibilities, George continued to write for the second and third editions, because not only was he a closet journalist, but he was also a political junky. He loved to observe and assess contemporary politics. So, whereas I did the word for word, line by line revision of the whole text, what George liked to do was write about the most recent developments in politics.
David Shi in 2010

After the third edition, George not only retired from Chapel Hill but he totally retired from the textbook project. One disappointing aspect of that is that he and I didn’t see each other nearly as much thereafter. And he died in December 2006.

**Tollison:** Textbooks involve a research phase and a writing phase…. Which aspect do you enjoy more?

**Shi:** Not surprisingly, I like both phases. One of the unusual aspects of a history textbook is that it’s never done. I’m always working on the next edition, which appears every three years. I’m always scavenging for fresh ideas and insights, and collecting new books and articles relevant to the next edition. I literally have filing cabinets filled with material that could be added to the book.

The problem, of course, every day there’s more history, and yet a textbook cannot keep growing in length with each edition. The revision process is a constant balancing act between adding new material and deleting older material. On average, every new edition has about 40,000 new words and involves a complete re-editing of every word.

**Tollison:** How do you arrive at a new theme for a new edition?

**Shi:** The choice of each one has its own story. But, in general, America is centered on political history, so I have typically chosen themes that supplement the political narrative with material relating to social, cultural and regional history: topics such as religion, immigration, women, popular culture, the western experience, and environmentalism.

**Tollison:** Do you see yourself first as an historian and then as a writer—or a writer and then historian? Or, are the two so completely complementary and intertwined that it’s difficult to separate them?

**Shi:** I think that’s another interesting aspect of the coincidental marriage of George Tindall and David Shi. We were very similar in that we might describe ourselves as natural writers who ended up being historians and that we both had a journalistic passion. As a history professor, George wrote occasional columns for the Raleigh and Chapel Hill newspapers, and as Furman’s president I wrote regular columns for The Greenville News, and sporadic columns for the Atlanta Journal Constitution, Charlotte Observer, Christian Science Monitor, and the Philadelphia Inquirer.

**Tollison:** Your wife Susan once told me that you had a unique ability to focus on writing – there could be two children on the floor, toys everywhere and a football game on TV, and yet you were still able to sit in the room and be productive. I would imagine that your writing habits changed significantly as you assumed more and more responsibility as Furman’s president. Can you tell us about what your writing habits are, how they have evolved and how you carve out time now for this?

**Shi:** There are a lot of stories about famous writers who were obsessive about the atmospheric conditions for writing – everything had to be the same in order for the writing impulse to be at its most efficient phase. I’m sort of at the opposite extreme—in part because so much of what I wrote occurred while we were raising two very active children. Most nights, it was chaos in the family room, and I didn’t want to just closet myself in a study and not be a part of that family activity, so in my twenties and thirties and forties, the typical writing scene for me was sitting in an easy chair with a lapboard, literally a board, not a laptop, and writing at the same time that the dog was running around and the kids were cavorting, and there was music playing and an evening television show in the background—early on, I developed an ability to write in the middle of chaos—and late at night.

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Tollison: That’s an extraordinarily valuable skill. Anything else you want to say about America?

Shi: Well maybe just some lighter elements to the story—when I began as Furman’s president in 1994, one of the things we initiated was an annual freshman picnic on the lawn at White Oaks, the President’s Home. Every year, among the 700 newly arrived freshmen, 50 or so of them would come up to me and say, “I read your textbook in my Advanced Placement history class.” It was great fun talking to students; some of them had always assumed that my name was pronounced “Shee” and that I must be Asian. A related funny story was that my son Jason attended college in North Carolina, and his history professor assigned America, much to his chagrin, since his friends presumed that he knew its contents from cover to cover.

Tollison: I know that people who read this newsletter will be curious to know how you have spent your time since retiring from the presidency after 16 years of service.

Shi: Well, the first six months have been all that I hoped for—and more. The summer was punctuated by some great excursions—in particular, trips to the Russian River area of northern California, Acadia National Park near the coast of Maine, and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. I am continuing to enjoy serving on the boards of national organizations based in Boston, Charlotte, and Washington, D.C., and I have spoken on nine campuses that are using America as their history textbook. I am also working on the ninth edition of America and giving speeches on a variety of topics. Finally, I am renewing a book project about loneliness in American culture which went dormant when I became Furman’s president in 1994. And of course I am rooting on the Paladins!

Tollison: Of course! Well, thanks for talking with me today.

Shi and incoming president Rod Smolla at the 2010 presidential inauguration on Furman’s campus

 Shortly after George Tindall’s death in December 2006, President Shi established the George Tindall Lecture Series at Furman with support from Tindall’s wife, Blossom ’42, and children, friends, and colleagues. The evening lecture series is held annually on campus and draws an impressive crowd of students, faculty, staff and many members of the Upstate community. The first Tindall lecturer was Professor Dan T. Carter, an esteemed historian who taught at Emory and USC after earning his doctoral degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, where George Tindall was his mentor. Glenda Gilmore of Yale University and Hannah Rosen of the University of Michigan have continued to bring prestige to this series. To contribute to the George B. Tindall ‘42 Lectureship Fund, contact the Development Office at 864-294-2081.

Go to http://history.furman.edu to read the full interview.
Congratulations to Carolyn Sims on Forty-Five Years of Service to Furman University (yes, that’s right, FORTY-FIVE years).

NB: Carolyn, it’s officially your 45th anniversary with Furman this year, which I believe makes you the university’s longest serving employee. That’s quite an accomplishment. Tell me a little about how you first came to work at Furman.

CS: Well, I was very young at the time, just out of high school. I was newly married and looking for a secretarial job. I can’t remember why I applied for a job at Furman instead of somewhere else—I guess I had always liked the idea of working at a college. The campus had recently moved from downtown to where it is now. I had grown up in Greenville and I remember going to a science fair at Furman when I was still in high school—I think that was in 1960. There were only two buildings built on the new campus, and it was still pretty rural. It was like driving to the mountains!

NB: Did you always work for the History Department, or did you start somewhere else?

CS: Actually, I started in the registrar’s office in 1961, and worked there for two years, until the position was made redundant. So then I got a job working for a law firm in Greenville – this was right around when I was having my two sons, Mark and Kevin – and the pay was good and I liked working there. But one day, Peggy Park, who was the Dean’s secretary at the time, called wanting to know if I would interview for a position in the Dean’s office. I have to admit that I wasn’t too excited about the job, mainly because I didn’t think I’d get it and also because I liked working at the law firm so much. But I interviewed, and to my surprise they offered me the job. Looking back, it was one of the happiest things that ever happened to me. It’s always been so much fun working at Furman, and over the years, I’ve never dreaded coming to work in the morning. I’ve always enjoyed what I was doing.

NB: What was Furman like back in the 1960s?

CS: There were a lot of differences. The biggest was that we worked on Saturdays! There used to be a half day of classes on Saturdays, and so the secretaries came in as well. Furman Hall was completely different too. The student center was in the building, so you could go downstairs and get a burger or something between classes. The central mail office was also in the building, so the halls were always full of people. Especially on registration days, because back then everyone had to go to the various departments on the same day to sign up for classes. There would be lines down the halls, out the doors, around the block – it was a mad house. Another difference was that the various disciplines didn’t have their own secretaries when I started. Instead, we were “Faculty Secretaries” and did work for whatever department needed it. We all worked together but in separate offices. In those years I worked across the hall from Linda Ray, who is now the Administrative Assistant in Modern Languages. We went to high school together, and have worked together for all these years – it’s been great fun. In fact, there are still four people working here at Furman who I went to high school with. It’s always felt like a tight-knit community.

NB: In fact, one of your sons went to Furman, didn’t he?

CS: Yes, Mark went to Furman and played on the football team. Actually, his first History class was with John Block, who told Mark that if he survived his class, he’d be able to handle the rest of them! Kevin went to the Citadel, and back then there was a huge rivalry between the two schools. Whenever they played each other, students from the Citadel would sneak onto Furman’s campus the night before and paint the whole place blue and white. There would be “El Cid” written on the buildings and the walkways. It was ridiculous.

NB: Did your boys bring the rivalry home?

CS: Sometimes, although one of my favorite memories is from a Furman – Citadel football game. It was an away game, so we were all in Charleston, and I was seated in the stands across from Kevin. Mark was on the field playing for Furman. And I was...
being very fair – I was wearing a corsage for each school, one on each shoulder. Suddenly Mark intercepted a pass and ran all the way down the field for a touchdown. It was so exciting, and we were all so proud of him. I got out the binoculars and looked over at Kevin and saw him take off his hat and start swatting all of his friends around him, who were of course Citadel fans. He was rooting for the wrong team! But also sticking up for his brother. It was a lovely moment.

NB: You’ve been here through four university administrations – Blackwell, Johns, Shi, and now Smolla. How have those presidents differed?

I think each administration had its own character. President Blackwell was fairly reserved, while President Johns was just the friendliest person you’d ever met. He used to walk down the halls smoking a cigar – you could smoke in the buildings back then – and pop his head into the offices to ask everyone how they were doing. I think the first story he ever told me after he officially arrived as President was about how he had such trouble with the students at his last job at Stetson because he couldn’t keep them from streaking through the fountains! He was very approachable. And I still remember President Shi playing on the football team when he was a student here. His wife Susan was the student assistant in the History Department.

NB: You’ve been here through four university administrations – Blackwell, Johns, Shi, and now Smolla. How have those presidents differed?

NB: What was the History Department like when you first started working specifically for it – I guess that would be in the ‘70s?

That’s right. Well, I guess the biggest difference is that it was all men. Marian Strobel was the first woman professor hired in the department, and that wasn’t until 1981. I still remember all of the professors – Block, Lavery, Huff – yelling through their office doors at each other, “Hey, did you catch that game last night?” There were very few women professors even in the early ‘80s—just a few in the various departments around campus.

NB: Do you think the students have changed over the years?

CS: I think the biggest change I’ve noticed is that they tend to hang around the department and hallways less than they did back in the day. Perhaps that’s because we’ve moved away from the old format where each class met every day. But it was nice to see the students so often, and I got to be good friends with some of them. I remember one girl was studying education and had to do her student teaching – she was having so much trouble getting to and from her assignment, so I loaned her my car. Other students would come over to use my kitchen to cook lasagnas and things like that. And I typed papers for a lot of students who couldn’t afford to hire someone to type for them. One of those was Vernon Burton, who went on to be a prestigious historian at the University of Illinois. So it was nice to have that kind of close contact with students, and feel that you could do these small things to help them out.

NB: It sounds like you did a lot for the students.

CS: I suppose, but then again it was always a pleasure. And working with students for so many years helped me too, especially when my boys reached the same age. I was prepared!

NB: Listening to you talk about typing papers makes me think of all the technological changes you’ve witnessed in the shift to the digital age. How did computers change your job?

CS: In some ways computers have lightened the load. I remember working with the old mimeograph machines: you would type out the syllabus on mimeograph paper, then pull off the purple backing and run it through the machine to make the copies. You had to make sure it was typed absolutely perfectly before it went through the machine. So computers and printers really helped there. But in other ways, the load just came in different ways. Strangely enough, I still think that I type better on an old electric typewriter than I do on a computer.

NB: One last question. As you know, we historians are an interesting breed. Have you developed any special skills over the years that help you handle us?

CS: Honestly, I have to say that I truly believe that History is the best department at Furman. Everyone has always been so wonderful to work with, and I’ve always loved working here. I guess that’s why I’ve stayed all these years!
Interview with Savita Nair

In June 2010, Courtney Tollison returned from a 5-month stay in Chernivtsi, Ukraine. She was in Ukraine with the Fulbright Ukraine-American scholar exchange program.

SN: In June 2010, you returned from a 5-month stay in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, as a visiting scholar funded by the Fulbright program. Please summarize your project.

CT: Fulbright felt that my academic background in American History, with a focus on and experiences in public history, was an attractive combination. I interacted primarily with other scholars, undergraduates, graduate students, and museum folks. The Fulbright program administrators wanted to support Ukrainian efforts to use public history to formulate a national identity for this young country—one distinct from the one the USSR imposed on them.

But in the end, because of timing, language challenges, and location, I did little work on “identity” in museums or with oral history.

Instead, I mostly spent my time teaching at Chernivtsi National University and, rather unexpectedly, became involved in the US Embassy’s Cultural Outreach Program. The US Embassy identifies areas of expertise amongst Americans in the country and sends them to speak at various events throughout the country. The Embassy pays for everything, they arrange for someone to go with you, and they organize all of it.

Through this program, I traveled throughout Ukraine. Some examples of the talks include presenting American women’s history during Women’s History month (in March), local government (Greenville’s) at a multi-national conference on local administration, and the history of race relations in America. I participated in an Embassy-sponsored conference in Crimea. It was a week-long conference, attended by Ukrainian professors who teach American studies. I extended my stay to participate and spoke about the Obama election, civil rights, and concept of engaged learning. In talking about pedagogy, I discussed how we structure student-faculty research projects, internships, and public history projects. Working with the Embassy became a highlight of my experiences over there.

SN: Could you give us a brief description of Chernivtsi?

CT: The city has a population of about 250,000. It is at the base of the Carpathian mountains, approximately 15 km north of the Romanian border. Chernivtsi felt like it was more of a Central European experience than a Ukrainian one. This area had been part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, then part of Romania, and then the Soviets took it over and it became part of the USSR. The city’s renaissance was around the turn of the century when it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Areas of Chernivtsi don’t look Soviet, they look Austrian!

You can easily tell what’s relatively new (Soviet) and what’s older.

In 2008, the city celebrated its 600 year anniversary, and in preparation, parts of the city were significantly restored and improved. There are German restaurants and Vienna style cafes. There is a pedestrian-only street with stores and restaurants, and several nice squares. The university where I taught has 25,000 students, and thus the city is bustling with young people.

Chernivtsi reminded me a bit of Greenville: there is a university, mountains in the background, and the city is approximately the same size.

There is a joke that touches on the history of western Ukraine: “Did you hear about the 102 yr old man in Chernivtsi who has held half a dozen passports?” His citizenship evolved from Austro-Hungarian, to Romanian, to Soviet, back to being Romanian, then Soviet again, and finally to Ukrainian.

Given western Ukraine’s tumultuous and multi-ethnic history, I received many questions about diversity in the United States, and how might people grapple with similar issues in Chernivtsi.

As part of this, I became intrigued with the Jewish population in pre-WWII Chernivtsi. According to some estimates, over 50% of the population in the city was Jewish. Their significance was
not only in terms of numbers; they also held leadership roles in the city. All of this changed after World War II: two-thirds of the Jewish population died in camps. Interestingly, I lived near the former “Jewish area” of town. I frequently walked through the old Jewish ghetto, and travelled through the same train station where Jews were transported to camps in the region. Nearly every day, I walked past the apartment building where Paul Ceylon and his parents lived. He was a poet who lived in Chernivtsi when it was part of Romania. His parents were taken from that home during WWII, placed in the ghetto, sent to a camp, and died there. He killed himself by jumping in the Seine in 1970.

I thought about the people who had lived in Chernivtsi before the War often. Living in spaces that Jews had occupied before the War made me wonder who had lived in and left the area, and under what circumstances. My apartment building dates to the late 19th century. Who had lived in my apartment, and what happened to them? Consequently, even after years of teaching and reading about the Holocaust, the Holocaust became more real to me than ever before. Now, the Jewish population in Chernivtsi is only 1-2%.

I was credentialed by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and served as an International Observer for the Presidential election in February. It was then that I really learned about the political implications of cultural differences in the country. Results of the election between Yulia Tymoshenko (some know her as the woman with the traditional braid around her head) and Viktor Yanukovych followed the language trends. Now President Yanukovych is taking them in a direction that people in the west are concerned about. He is re-implementing some Sovietesque policies, drawing closer to Russia, increasing his presidential powers, closing national archives, and silencing opposition media. Tymoshenko recently called Yanukovych’s presidency the “funeral of democracy” in Ukraine. The situation is alarming.

While I understand from the Fulbright homepage that Ukraine-American Fulbright exchanges began in the 1970s as part of Fulbright’s program with the Soviet Union, the program with independent Ukraine only began in 1993. Can you give us a sense of how Ukrainians view themselves as part of a geopolitical global order, and in particular vis-à-vis Americans?

Generally, it depends on where one lives in Ukraine. In western Ukraine, they are very nationalistic. They choose to speak Ukrainian, not Russian. They draw closer ties to western and central Europe. They like America and Americans, and are intrigued by US history. Particular interests include the American Revolution, Civil War, Reconstruction, and Cold War. It seemed that they hoped to glean information from those periods and apply it to their country. They are very hopeful for Ukraine’s future, yet they are also realistic about corruption, and how it continues to obstruct healthy progress.

In the rest of the country (north, south, and east), they speak Russian. Politically, they look east, to Russia. Language politics in Ukraine are alive and well. Practically everyone knows how to speak Ukrainian and Russian (and usually more). I took Ukrainian language lessons, but tried both depending on where I was in the country. The Fulbrighters were thrilled that I had chosen to take Ukrainian language lessons, as opposed to Russian lessons. Russian would have been far more useful throughout the region, but since I was living in the western, nationalistic region of the country, I wanted to speak the language they chose to speak. Generally, the language one chooses to speak is representative of one’s politics.

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I was credentialed by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and served as an International Observer for the Presidential election in February. It was then that I really learned about the political implications of cultural differences in the country. Results of the election between Yulia Tymoshenko (some know her as the woman with the traditional braid around her head) and Viktor Yanukovych followed the language trends. Now President Yanukovych is taking them in a direction that people in the west are concerned about. He is re-implementing some Sovietesque policies, drawing closer to Russia, increasing his presidential powers, closing national archives, and silencing opposition media. Tymoshenko recently called Yanukovych’s presidency the “funeral of democracy” in Ukraine. The situation is alarming.

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in 1875 they spoke German, then Romanian, then Ukrainian (when Soviets took it over). My students’ grandparents came from Romania, Poland, Russia, Belarus, and Hungary. It isn’t a diversity that is recognizable through shades of skin tone or accents, however. Everyone looks and sounds more or less the same in the West.

In the west, people pride themselves on a culturally diverse history. As mentioned, they renovated the city for the 600 year anniversary. The city name itself was written in German, Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian along the main pedestrian thoroughfare: different spellings to indicate past diversity. Many are conversant in Polish and German. Outside of my class of American Studies students, there were few who spoke English. I met a handful of other professors and students who speak some English, but rarely outside of the university.

In southern Ukraine and Crimea, this situation in regards to diversity is different because of the 250,000 Crimean Tatars who live there. The Crimea was briefly part of the Ottoman Empire. The Crimean Tatars are an ethnic group characterized by their adherence to Islam, skin tone, and the Tatar language. In the Crimea, I visited a 450-year old mosque, and enjoyed Turkish coffee and desserts. It felt remarkably similar to my visit to Istanbul in late February.

SN: Now, I’d like to shift the nature of the questions: What was the single most important thing that you were glad you packed?

CT: 1st: Snow Boots! I didn’t realize that I’d be walking through snow and on ice for 2 and a half months. There was little cleaning of the streets. 2nd: Hand Sanitizer! You don’t find it there and you really need it! 3rd: Camera! There was so much to capture. It is a very old and fascinating land.

SN: Do you think that the locals could spot you as someone who was not from there? Why or why not? How so?

CT: I’d often hear: “You look Ukrainian.” Some thought I was Russian or French. People thought I was British if they heard me speaking English.

There was not a single time that anyone guessed I was American. That surprised me. Mostly: “You look Ukrainian.”

I tried to adapt socially, in terms of clothing, hair, and picking up on social cues in order to fit in.

Once people realized I am American, however, they became very interested in communicating with me. The most frequent topics of interests that I was asked about were President Obama, Jews in the United States, and American obesity. I was frequently asked, “Are Americans really so fat?”

SN: What was one thing you were nervous about or fearful of BEFORE your arrival? In the end, how did THAT go over?

CT: Cold Weather. I had ordered appropriate gear. I talked to lots of people who had lived in very cold temperatures. Never having done so, I was nervous.

Ultimately, the cold itself didn’t bother me as much as imagined. However, it was the un-cleared streets that were tough. Low temperatures and snow were fine. ICE was worst! I had a daily fear of falling, of getting hurt. And I did fall frequently, with one fall dislocating my AC joint. Mobility was a problem. It was very frustrating to feel so unsafe just walking around. I don’t take my mobility for granted anymore.

It turns out that Chernivtsi had their worst winter in 40 yrs! Snow lasted into the third week of March. I went to Romania during the first week of March, and returned expecting snow to be gone. No - it was the worst blizzard yet. Horizontal snow!

I hadn’t anticipated this, but in order to have heat and hot water, I had to light newspaper on fire, stick it into the furnace in each room, and turn the switch to allow natural gas to be piped into the furnace so it would ignite. I let the furnace burn for about 45 minutes, then it would emanate heat for several hours. For hot water, I would have to go through a similar process. After the water in the tank attached to the shower burned for about 45 minutes, I could take a 4-5 minute shower. I had to boil water for drinking. The simple act of going through the motions to be able to be warm, take a shower, and drink water took lots of time.

Now, I appreciate smoothly- paved, ice free streets; hot water on demand; and central heating. However, I absolutely loved NOT having to drive, and all of the fresh food markets….fresh bread, fresh vegetables….My life over there was lived at a much slower pace.

SN: What food did you most crave, and was it what you first ate upon your return?

CT: I missed Mexican, and ate Mexican when I first returned. There are two Mexican restaurants in the country that I knew of, and both are in Kiev. I went to Kiev frequently, although it was a 16 hour overnight train ride to get there, but those two restaurants weren’t centrally located. So, I had Mexican once in Ukraine, and twice in Romania. I had to leave Chernivtsi to have a choice of anything other than traditional Ukrainian- which is actually very good- and German.

SN: Any plans to return, and if so in what capacity?

CT: No, I don’t have plans now. I would like to return and would go back either in a professional capacity or simply to visit
people. I do keep in touch with a few students, colleagues, neighbors, and some ex-pats living there.

SN: What are your plans for the project? Conference presentation, publication, symposium participation?

CT: I wrote an op-ed piece after presenting at a local government conference near the Russian border, and I wrote for my high school magazine. (http://www.cces.org/highlights/Fall%20HL_10_final.pdf pgs. 56-60)

I get asked about my time there often, and people seem to want a detailed version of my experiences, but I haven’t been asked to speak about it publicly, perhaps because there is little known about Ukraine. Ukraine just doesn’t seem to show up on the radar screen for many Americans. Those who do care, or have an interest in it, however, are passionate.

SN: Now that you’ve been back for several months, what do you – a History professor and museum historian – what do YOU want Americans or South Carolinians to know about the former Soviet Union in general, or Ukraine in particular?

CT: Before I began reading about Ukraine in the fall of 2009, I was relatively uninformed about the country, like many people here. What I knew about the Ukraine before was: borscht, ballet, and the Orange Revolution. When I thought of Ukraine’s history, I thought of Yalta. Now my understandings are broader and so much more nuanced.

Other than stereotypes of Ukrainians drinking a lot of vodka, and colorful onion domes dotting the skyline, I’m not aware of any stereotypes of Ukraine that are commonly held. I didn’t have any exchange for the Cuban government’s mending of the country’s decrepit economy.

When I went over there, so there was never any moment when stereotypes were either affirmed or disputed.

I’ll share some observations that may shed light on the culture over there. I enjoy contemporary travel literature, and while over there I read a book titled The Geography of Happiness. Some of the author’s conclusions are that trust and hope are essential to human happiness. In international studies, the former Soviet republics repeatedly rank lowest on the happiness scale, below countries less developed and with less wealth. In Ukraine, I observed the kind of despair that accompanies rampant corruption.

Although it makes sense to me now, I didn’t anticipate the extent to which a deep faith pervaded life in Ukraine. Over 70% of Ukrainians are followers of Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Easter over there is a grander celebration than Christmas. Ukrainians take baskets filled with bread, eggs, and other items to church to be blessed by the priest, and services begin at midnight on Easter and continue into the early morning hours. Easter remains one of my most vivid memories, as it was the most spirit-filled Easter I have ever witnessed. Ukrainians are very demonstrative in expressing their faith. They bow and kiss icons showcased under glass. When passing a church, they stop, turn to face the Orthodox cross on top of the onion dome, and cross themselves.

Ukraine is a country that by virtue of its location has been ravaged and contested during times of war. Life in Ukraine in a relative sense is difficult. It seemed that strong faith, and very close familial relationships, are what has sustained them. Amongst many others, I think those are good lessons to take away from my experiences there.
Faculty Book Recommendations

Nellie Boucher (Modern Europe/Britain)
In May 2010, the Canadian Historical Association awarded Ellen Boucher the Neil Sutherland Biennial Article Prize for her article "The Limits of Potential: Race, Welfare, and the Interwar Extension of Child Emigration to Southern Rhodesia" (published in the Journal of British Studies in October of 2009). The award recognizes the best article published in the field of childhood studies over a two year period.

More specifically, the article examines the expansion of British child emigration to Southern Rhodesia in the later 1930s. The scheme aimed to give poor British boys and girls a fresh start in the empire, while also fulfilling Rhodesia's need for white settlers. Yet it quickly ran up against the colonial concerns of race: reformers grew skeptical that poor British children would be able to become leaders within the African empire, where they would be called upon to direct and control the African population. Ultimately, the project went forward, but with middle class, rather than poor children, since these more "elite" kids were deemed inherently more able to take on leadership positions in the colony. As such, this case study helps illustrate how the race and class hierarchies of imperialism shaped British understanding of children's potential: in Britain, few questioned the ability of poor children to "uplift" themselves; in the empire, however, where the stakes were higher, an early experience of poverty came to be defined as an entrenched and lasting disability. The article draws on research for Nellie's current book project, tentatively titled Building Britannia's Children: Child Emigration and the Imperial Politics of Child Welfare, 1869-1967.

Cengiz Sisman (Islamic World)
For being a participant in an inter-institutional grant of $350,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, "Beyond Golden Age and Decline: The Legacies of Muslim Societies in the Emergence of Global Modernity, 1300–1900."

The project aims to reorient and reshape dominant thinking about the impact of Muslim societies in the formation of global modernity with a focus on the political, cultural, artistic, economic and social achievements between 1300 and 1900, an era still commonly mischaracterized by the words "decline" and "stagnation." By illuminating recent scholarship on the dynamic legacy of this period, the project aims to challenge the golden age and decline paradigm that scholars have long discredited, but continues to color discourse on non-Western civilizations and world history. This paradigm is one of the main discourses that dehumanizes Muslims by relegating six hundred years of recent history in a large world region to insignificance and irrelevance in the emergence of the modern world. The grant will be administered/monitored through George Mason University. In March 2011, the forum participants will gather in Washington D.C. to discuss their progress and future directions.

Erik Ching (Latin America)
On overseeing the publication of Broadcasting the Civil War in El Salvador (University of Texas, 2010), by Carlos Consalvi. It is a translation of a civil-war memoir from El Salvador, originally entitled La Terquedad del Izote. The work was translated by '09 Spanish major Charlie Nagle in conjunction with Furman professor Bill Prince. The project grew out of an internship that Ching oversees in El Salvador with funds provided by the Furman Advantage Program. Additionally, Ching was awarded one of Furman's two full-year sabbatical awards for 2011-2012 for his project, "Remembering the Civil War in El Salvador." It will look at the ways in which participants in El Salvador's civil conflict (1980-1992) have presented the war in their memoirs.

Courtney Tollison (Modern US)
For winning the 2010 Award of Excellence from the Southeastern Museums Conference for the exhibit on World War II at the Upcountry History Museum. Tollison was recently named one of the "50 Most Influential People in Greenville (2010)" by Greenville Business Magazine for her work in local history.

Diane Vecchio (Modern US)

Nellie Boucher recommends Tony Judt's Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945 (New York: Penguin, 2005). This is one of the last books Judt published before his death from Lou Gehrig’s disease this past August, and it is one of his best. Clocking in at close to 900 pages—but available in paperback for $20—it offers the most comprehensive analysis of the recent European past available today. Judt deftly weaves the political, economic, and cultural developments that followed the Second World War in both the West and East of the continent into a clear and accessible narrative. It is a work of exceptional breadth and stunning insight.

Savita Nair recommends Chris Cleave’s Little Bee: A Novel (Simon & Schuster, 2009). A Nigerian girl and an English woman’s worlds come together in unthinkable ways, giving readers a window into some of the legacies of colonialism: warlords in Nigeria and immigration lords in British Parliament. Though a work of fiction, Little Bee portrays the realities of postcolonial migration and postcolonial injustice... and where the two meet. At times, these fault lines are revealed through the eyes of a little boy who won’t remove his Batman costume! I have assigned Little Bee as the final reading for my senior seminar on Colonialism, Culture, and Power. Finally, here is an evocative line from the book: “A scar does not form on the dying. A scar means, I survived.”

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Edward Jones, who retired in 1996 after 40 years of service at Furman. Considering the substantial changes the university has gone through in recent years, this was a great opportunity ask Jones, who was instrumental in bringing about large curricular changes to the university during his time at Furman, what he thought about the transformations that the institution was undergoing, and the role that the history department was playing in that process.

Those of you who have only encountered Professor Jones in the classroom may be unaware of the instrumental role that he played in the diversification of the University's curriculum. The turbulent decade of the 1960s led to heightened awareness in the nation and on the Furman campus, that global conflicts, no matter how distant they seem, have profound impacts at home. This context allowed Jones and his colleagues to advocate for the integration of studies of the rest of the world more formally into the academic program. The first significant achievement in this respect was a 3-year grant that the university received in 1964 from the Duke Foundation to conduct annual seminars on Japan, China, and India. The funds that were made available for the purchase books, videos, and the sponsorship of lectures on these countries, and the enthusiasm with which the project was received by the university community, was soon reflected in the introduction of an Asia/Africa component into the curriculum that required all students to take a course in ‘non-Western studies.’

Jones credits the History Department for supporting his efforts to integrate non-Western studies into the curriculum from the very start, and points out that the department's commitment in the 1960s to supporting the diversification of the curriculum has much to do with the expansion that it saw during that time. In that turbulent decade, the department was reinvigorated by the arrival of A.V. Huff and Bill Lavery, who Jones calls the “new generation.” The additions of Jim Leavell in 1974 and Marian Strobel in 1981 reflected the department's continued commitment to providing perspectives that reflect the diversity of membership and interests in the university community and the world at large.

When asked his impressions of the History Department in its present incarnation, Jones excitedly responded that the growth that it continues to see, particularly in levels of specialization, are beyond his wildest dreams. He credits Strobel's leadership during the flurry of retirements that began with his own in 1996, for the strength of the department today. Recalling the breadth of his teaching responsibilities, which included courses on the history of Western civilization and the history of China, he noted that the department's recent hiring of scholars who specialize in the history of the Middle East, Latin America, China and Japan and teach in their areas of expertise, are accomplishments that he could not have imagined as he and his colleagues put together the seminars on Asia in 1964-1967. We must mention that in addition to being a part of the History Department, Jones was also the first department chair in the Asian Studies Department, which he helped establish in 1989.

Currently, Jones is working on an account of U.S. Marines who were stationed in China from the start of the 20th century through the end of the civil war in 1949. This project has special meaning to him, as he himself was stationed in China in the late 1940s. He is working mainly with first-person accounts and newspaper reports from China in order to provide both a historical account of the changing role that U.S. Marines played in China in the first half of the 20th century, and an examination of how soldiers experienced their time in the country.

— Wendy Matsumura
Nellie Boucher Launches New May X Program to Australia

The newest addition to the History Department’s study-away offerings is a May Experience trip to Australia, directed by Ellen Boucher and Allison Hurst (Sociology). Fourteen students took part in the three-week trip this past May 2010, and used the opportunity to explore the different historical methods available for understanding the perspectives of traditionally marginalized or “voiceless” communities, like the Aboriginal Australians. Starting in Sydney, they did archival research on the history of “first contact” between European settlers and Indigenous peoples in the late 18th century. Travelling next to Uluru (Ayers Rock), they were introduced by Indigenous guides to the arts, beliefs, and practices of the oldest living culture on earth. At the National Library in Canberra, the capital city, they analyzed recent oral history interviews with members of the “Stolen Generation” of Aboriginal children who were removed from their families by the Australian government until the 1960s. Heading back to Sydney, they wrapped up the trip with a dinner of kangaroo, crocodile, and emu pizzas in the historic “Rocks” district near the opera house.

What the Alumni Fund Supports

The History Department Alumni Fund began in 1996. Furman alumnus Scott Pfeiffer helped us get it off the ground. Over the past decade and a half we have used it in many different ways. At first, when the library budget was severely strained we drew upon it to buy books. More recently the fund has helped to bring in guest lecturers and to provide financial assistance for special class projects. It has helped the Gilpatrick History Society with its twice-a-year picnics (for all majors and faculty), supplemented our faculty recruitment activities, and allowed students to take excursions to historical sites such as Cowpens battlefield and downtown Charleston. Lastly, the alumni funds contribute to the History Alumni Award for Undergraduate Excellence, a scholarship given to a student who has shown exceptional performance in the department. In general the fund has given the department chair a bit of discretionary money which he doesn’t have to beg the administration for, in other words, a sort of war chest. Thanks therefore to all the alumni who have given to the department and all who intend to do so.

— David Spear

Alumni Kudos

Tomiko Brown Nagin ’92
The History Department salutes Tomiko for the publication of Courage To Dissent: Atlanta and the Long History of the Civil Rights Movement (Oxford University Press, 2011). Tomiko is summa cum laude graduate who, after completing her degree at Furman, shuttled between graduate school in history at Duke and law school at Yale. She completed both degrees, was an editor of the Yale Law Review, and clerked for Judge Robert L. Carter of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, and Judge Jane Roth of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Currently, she is the Justice Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Virginia where she teaches courses in American social and legal history, constitutional law, education law, and policy and public interest law. She has authored numerous articles, but Courage To Dissent is her first book and it already receiving rave reviews. According to Oxford’s description, some of the book’s distinct contributions include: linking the “traditional” civil rights struggles of the 1960s back to the 1940s; arguing that the civil rights movement benefitted the middle class and did not focus working-class issues; and uncovering the tension between minority elected representatives and their minority constituents.

Erin Mahan ’92
The History Department salutes Erin for being named chief historian at the Office of Secretary of Defense as in the spring of 2010. Erin is a summa cum laude graduate of Furman. While still an undergraduate, Erin held internships at the Library of Congress and the John F. Kennedy Library. Her research earned a top award from Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honorary society. Upon graduation from Furman, Erin attended the University of Virginia, where she pursued her interest in American diplomatic history. During her years at UVA, Erin worked with the Miller Center of Public Affairs, where she remained an associate. She received her M.A. and PhD degrees from UVA. Her book, Kennedy, De Gaulle and Western Europe, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2003. Erin worked for many years in the Office of the Historian of the Department of State, and then transferred to the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism.
Faculty Seminar with Richard Bulliet of Columbia University

In March 2010, the History Department welcomed Professor Richard Bulliet of Columbia University to Furman for a two-day visit. Bulliet, a former Guggenheim fellow, is a world-renowned scholar of Islamic history whose research specializations range from the spread of Islamic conversion in the medieval period to the domestication of animals and the rise of modern technology. While at Furman, Professor Bulliet visited several history classes and gave a public lecture on the historic connections between Islam and Christianity. Bulliet also held an informal faculty seminar with members of the History, Religion, and Political Science Departments. Attendees all read his book, *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization* (Columbia University Press, 2006). In addition to addressing a range of issues relating to the subject matter of that book, Bulliet also discussed the complex political dynamics of teaching and researching Islamic Jewish history in the particular setting of Columbia University and New York City. For more on Bulliet’s prodigious career, see http://www.columbia.edu/~rwb3/.

Department Holds First Annual Homecoming Tailgate

For this year’s homecoming festivities, the department introduced a new component to the customary celebrations: a tailgate before the football game. We hosted our traditional drop-in in the Furman Hall suite, and then followed it up with a two-hour tailgate prior to kickoff. We had a new departmental banner made to demarcate our tailgating territory—a prime location under the cypress tree between the football stadium and the track complex. Food and beverages were in abundance, including some smoked salmon from Steve O’Neill. We intend to tailgate again for homecoming 2011, so if any of you make the trip back to campus, come join us.

Spear and Sisman Go Crusading

This summer Cengiz Sisman and I, of the Furman History Department, took part in a Mellon Foundation grant called “Crusaders, Jews, and Muslims in the Holy Land.” It was a travel-study opportunity for faculty from various liberal arts colleges such as Rhodes and Middlebury, and from different disciplines such as Classics and Psychology. (Ozlem Madi from Furman’s Political Science Department and Alfons Teipen from Furman’s Religion Department also took part).

We visited sites in Jordan, Israel, and Cyprus. Cyprus may not seem a logical location, but the island was a jumping-off point for the Crusaders, and after the fall of Acre in 1291 it was home to the Templars and to the exiled kings of Jerusalem. We saw numerous castles, both Christian and Muslim. But the core of the trip, really, was the city of Jerusalem. The church of the Holy Sepulchre is a universe unto itself, incorporating as it does parts of Mount Calvary, the tomb of Jesus, and the site of the discovery of the True Cross. The port city of Acre preserves probably the most Crusader ruins of any place in the Holy Land, with extensive remains of the Hospitallers’ headquarters.

Beyond giving me much information for my new upper division course on the Crusades, our visits to numerous other sites like Jerash, Petra, and Masada will help inform my ancient history class. We met several crusading scholars on the trip. And we began a dialogue that will continue on the Furman campus, and with other colleagues who accompanied us on the 14-day trip, including a follow-up conference at Rhodes College this spring.

— David Spear
Dan Atkinson ('01) currently serves on the Greenville Historic Preservation Commission and the Steering Committee to celebrate Boy Scouting's 100th anniversary for the Blue Ridge Council, BSA. He practices law with Wilkes Bowers, P.A. in Spartanburg, SC.

Eleanor Beardsley ('86) is a reporter for NPR France, following all aspects of French society, politics, economics, culture and gastronomy. In the spring of 2007, she covered the French presidential campaign and election of President Nicolas Sarkozy, and has been busy following his flurry of activity and reforms since then.

Sidney Bland ('59) concluded 45 years of service to Madison College/James Madison University in July of 2010. In August, he was a speaker at the Women’s Equality Day Celebration at Paulsdale, remembering his several interviews and conversations with noted suffragist and ERA author, Alice Paul.

Nancy Branning Allen ('04) and her husband, Dixon, have moved from New York City to Winston-Salem, where Dixon is pursuing graduate study in business.

Troop Brenegar ('08) has been teaching English in Korea, and is planning to return in the near future.

Ryan Chandler ('05), after teaching in Cameroon, is now studying for the SC bar exam.

Thomas Cullen ('00) is an Assistant US Attorney in the Western District of North Carolina.

Russell Dorn ('08) is finishing up a master's degree in sports administration at Georgia State and also is working in the school’s Athletics Department in Sports Information.

Katherine Ely ('09) is in Raleigh, NC, enrolled in the Public History Graduate Program of North Carolina State University.

Dixon Freeman ('90) is an OB-GYN in private practice, while also teaching family medicine residents and medical students. He has just completed a stint as chairman of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and completed a postgraduate certificate in business administration from Auburn University in 2007.

Warren E. Fowler ('49) retired from the pastorate in December 1990 and retired from his position as director of missions of the Chester Baptist Association in February of 2010.

Joshua Gillespie ('96) works for the special authority charged with the reuse, conservation, and preservation of Fort Monroe, the second oldest active military installation in the United States.

Congratulations to Ransom (Randy) Gladwin ('94) for his research and publications relating to indigenous language loss in Guatemala. He is currently an associate professor of Spanish and coordinator of the Foreign Language Education Program at Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA. To read more about his work in Guatemala, go to http://www.valdosta.edu/news/releases/gladwin.061410/.

Chad (Charles D.) Hardy III ('89) is a SVP and financial advisor for Wells Fargo Advisors in Asheville, NC. He has lived in Asheville for 21 years and has worked for First Union/Wachovia/Wells Fargo for 21 years. He has been married to wife Karen for 18 years and has two daughters, Mary Helen, 14, and Caroline 12.

John Holman ('09) works with the Conservation and Collections Department of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., and continues to make progress on his MA in military history.

Sarah Laberge ('05) received her master of letters (the Scottish equivalent to a master of arts) in the history of art from King's College, University of Aberdeen, Aderdeen, UK, in September of 2008.

Scott McPherson ('05) is a PhD student at the University of Florida in African history.

Winifred Boobo (Bo) Moore, Jr. ('71) is the dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Citadel.

Emily Myers ('10) is living and working in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and helping Mexican students learn English at the Universidad Internacional.

Karen Oschman ('10) is currently in Rennes, France, working as an English language assistant in a high school.

Jennifer Fox ('88) is the assistant director of the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art in GA.

Gus Suarez ('00) was recently named a Liberty Fellow, a statewide leadership program for emerging leaders.

Tracy Ulmer ('10) completed a summer internship under the Visual Resources Curator in the Art Department at Swarthmore College in Radnor, PA, which has led her to an ongoing internship at the Philadelphia Museum of Art where she works in the Rights and Reproduction Department compiling images for various companies.

Crystal Whitaker ('09) is completing the first part of a student internship at Blythwood High and is in her second year in the MAT Social Studies Program at USC. She also works full time and is completing her funeral director apprenticeship under Leevy's Funeral Home.

Hugh Williamson IV ('09) will be working for Wells Fargo as a personal banker in Athens, GA.