Donald F. Howard, 1947, professor emeritus, continued his retirement during the past year. He wrote two articles each month for the Waterloo Courier and also engaged in that sports activity "where the ball lies poorly and the player, well."


Donald F. Pierce, 1949, will retire on September 1, 1987. He taught history and was department chairman at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, from 1949 to 1957. He has taught history at Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Washington, from 1957 to 1987 and has been department chairman for 12 years. He wishes to express sincere appreciation to Dr. George Mosse and Dr. Goldwin Smith for the assistance and inspiration that gave to him during his graduate work at The University of Iowa. He has found teaching to be a most enriching and stimulating life.

Walter F. Peterson, 1951, continues as president of the University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa.

Harry M. Hutson, Ph.D., 1952, continues to teach Western civilization and English history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He also coordinates an honors program for freshmen and supervises the Mellon Fellowship and Rhodes Scholarship competitions for the university as well as the recruitment of students for a London-based study program.

Dwight W. Hoover, 1953, has had another busy year as director of the Center for Middletown Studies. He has undertaken two new continuative publications: the Social Change Report, a newsletter, which contains items of interest concerning change in the Western world and which he publishes but which is edited by Theodore Caplow of the University of Virginia; and the Historical Journal of Film, Radio, and Television, an international journal of which he is the associate editor and American contact. He has published two books—Magic Middletown (Indiana University Press, 1986) and Maxon Corporation...The First 70 Years (Maxon Corporation and Ball State University, 1986). The first is an attempt to match photographs of Muncie in the 1920s with both the history of the town and the studies of the Lynds, while the second is a business history written in collaboration with Bruce Geelhoed and Lowell F. Crouse. He has published a chapter, "The Strange Case of '17," in Proceedings from the Visual Communications Conference (Edinon Herodat, 1987), edited by Jay Ruby, as well as three articles: "Censorship or Bad Judgment? An Example from American Public Television," Historical Journal of Film, Radio, and Television (June 1987); "The Long Ordeal of Modernization Theory," Journal of Film and Video (Spring 1987); and "The Middletown Film Project: History and Reflections," Journal of Film and Video (Spring 1987). He has presented five papers. The first was "Politics as Usual in Middletown, 1913-1986," which was presented as part of a session, "Middletown: Change in Continuity" at the Great Lakes American Studies Association meeting at Adrian, Michigan, on October 4, 1986; the second was "Middletown Elects a Mayor, 1913-1917: National and Local Issues Intersect," which was presented as part of a session, "Middletown at the Turn of the Century," at the Midwest Popular Culture Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on October 25, 1986; the third was "Daisy Douglas Barr: From Friends to the Ku Klux Klans," which was presented at the spring meeting of the Indiana Association of Historians held at Franklin College on March 14, 1987; the fourth was "Middletown Revisited" presented at the Nordic American Studies Biennial Conference in Uppsala, Sweden, on May 30, 1987; and the fifth was "Steretypes in the Middletown Film Project" presented at the Symposium on Verbo Visual Literacy: Research and Theory in Stockholm, Sweden, on June 12, 1987. He also commented on a session, "The New Cultural History: Art and Society in Urban America," at the American Historical Association meeting in Chicago, on December 30, 1986. In addition, he reviewed ten books in various journals.

Geoff Breathett, 1954, Director of Planning/Federal Relations at Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina, was appointed vice president for administration. He was also appointed interim vice president for academic affairs for 1986-1987. He published a book review in the American Historical Review, April 1986.

Professor Lawrence J. McCaffrey, 1954, remains at Loyola University of Chicago. He coauthored The Irish in Chicago, which was just published by the University of Illinois Press. In June, McCaffrey received an honorary Doctor of Literature from the
National University of Ireland in Dublin. He is president of the Midwest regional branch of the American Committee for Irish Studies. McCaffrey has lectured on Irish-America at Augustana College, Sioux Falls and Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois.

John E. Visser, 1956, president emeritus, Emporia State University, has enjoyed a postretirement assignment with the University of Alaska system and has served as interim chancellor at the University of Alaska, Juneau. He and his wife, Virginia, returned to their Kansas home in June (RR 1, Box 52, Vassar, Kansas 66543).

Leonard Ralston (B.A. 1949, Ph.D. 1960) retired June 30, 1987, from the State University of New York College at Cortland. He taught at that institution for 30 years and was chairman of his department from 1966 to 1970. He is currently engaged in research for a history of the College at Cortland and will continue that project in retirement.

Arthur E. Soderling, 1961, retired as social studies consultant from the Connecticut State Department of Education on January 1, 1986, after more than 24 years on the job.

Robert G. Clouse, 1963, has completed 24 years as professor of history at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana. He was elected to a third term (for the academic year 1987-88) to the chairmanship of the Indiana State University Faculty Senate. He was chosen as the 1987 recipient of the American Heart Association’s Life Achievement Award. Publications for the year include a new edition of his book War: Four Christian Views (Winona Lake, Indiana: BMH Books) and an article, “Premillennialist Christology, Nonresistance, and the Believer’s Church” Restoration Quarterly Vol. 28, No. 4, 1986, 215-29. Professor Clouse is also the president and local arrangements chairperson for the 1988 meeting of the Central Renaissance Conference, which will convene on the Indiana State University campus April 14-16, 1988.

Robert J. Knowlton, 1963, was appointed chairman of the Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, upon recommendation of the faculty in the department, for a three-year term (July 1986). In May of 1986 he was elected vice chairman of the Faculty Senate and reelected for a second term in May 1987.

Bruce Curtis, 1964, Michigan State University, taught at Sichuan University, People’s Republic of China, from March to July 1986. He has written “The New Gender Scholarship,” Women’s Studies News (Michigan State University, Spring 1987), and he participated in a June 1987 symposium in Houston, “Liberty and the Thought of William Graham Sumner.”

Robert L. Gold, 1964, has become executive director of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board in St. Augustine, Florida. During the last year (1985-86), he wrote a history column ("Essays from Eldorado") for the St. Augustine Record.


He spent the month of August working at the Central State Archives in Potsdam, German Democratic Republic, and at various libraries in West Berlin and
West Germany. He also traveled in Austria, Hungary, Jugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Turkey.

Richard Luman, 1965, will be teaching at Columbia University in New York during 1987-88. He has been chairman of the Religion Department at Haverford College for 13 of the past 17 years. Dr. Luman taught at The University of Chicago for about a decade. He was then associate editor of Encyclopaedia Britannica for a year before accepting an appointment at Haverford. He has also taught at Princeton Theological Seminary, at St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, and at Columbia University. He has recently been awarded the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching.

In recent years he has presented lectures at the University of Pennsylvania; Valparaiso University; the University of Illinois Law School (Champaign-Urbana); the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; Glassboro State College; Columbia University; the International Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference (Villanova University); and at the New College Conferences on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Sarasota.

His publications over the years include some 150 reviews in Speculum, the Journal of the American Academy of Religion, the Journal of Religion; Church History, Christian Century, Christian Scholar, and the Catholic Historical Review, among other journals. He has been a member of the editorial board of Journal of Religion and division editor of The Westminster Dictionary of Church History. His most recent article is "The Fulness of Times," in ‘Apophores: Latin and Greek Studies in Honor of Grace L. Beede, ed. Jeremiah Reedy.

His principal interests continue to be Iceland in the thirteenth century, late medieval ecclesiastical constitutional developments (especially conciliarism), Luther and the early Reformation (especially in Sweden), and in late antiquity, especially Augustine. Most recently, he has been working on St. Augustine: "Gardens and Journeys: Narrative Patterns in the Confessions" (which is now being considered for publication) and "Narrative Patterns of Roman History in De civitate Dei." He has also begun a book on the sagas of Icelanders.

He reports, however, that his most notorious interest is in Sherlockiana. He received the Morley-Montgomery Prize for his article "The Second Hand in the Second Stain" in the Baker Street Journal. And he, along with other followers of the Master, was profiled in an article in Philadelphia magazine in 1982.

Donald Nugent, 1965, was on sabbatical from the University of Kentucky in 1986-87. He published "The Harvest of Hadewijch: Brautmystik or Wesenmystik?" Mystics Quarterly (September 1986); "What Has Wittenberg to Do with Avila?: Martin Luther and St. Teresa," Journal of Ecumenical Studies (Fall 1986) and "St. Catherine of Genoa," in Renaissance Women Writers, ed. Katharina Wilson (University of Georgia and University of Manchester Presses, 1987).

M. J. Penton, 1965, is professor of history and acting chairman of the Department of History at the University of Lethbridge. Over the last several years he has been a major contributor to the development of a religious studies program there and is now working on a history of "Religion and Law in Canada: 1867 to the Present." His book, Apocalypse Delayed: The Story of Jehovah's Witnesses (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985) is about to go into a third printing.

Weldon S. Crowley, 1966, continues as Lucy King Brown Professor of History at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. This May he was involved in a Mellon Foundation seminar “Macrohistory” at Rice University. In academic year 1987-88 he will be coordinating the tenth annual Brown Symposium at Southwestern. The topic will be “Africa and Afro-America.”

Erling Erickson, 1967, is currently in his third year as associate dean, College of the Pacific, Stockton, California. During the 1988-89 academic year, he anticipates a one-semester leave and then a return to the classroom.

W. C. Lubenow’s (1968) article “Radicals and Moderates in the Liberal Party in 1886” was published this past year in Parliaments, Estates, and Representation. His article on the parliamentary responses to the London riots of 1886 was published in Histoire social—Social History. His book Parliamentary Politics and the Home Rule Crisis will be published by the Oxford University Press in 1988. He has published a number of book reviews in the newsletter of the British Politics Group of the American Political Science Association. He was elected to a three-year term as secretary-treasurer of the Mid-Atlantic Conference for British Studies.

Hamilton Cravens, 1969, is professor of history at Iowa State University, where he teaches in his department’s doctoral program in history of technology and science, in addition to his undergraduate offerings in American history. An essay he published recently in Osiris, “History of the Social Sciences,” has been republished in an independent paperback volume by the Johns Hopkins University Press as Sally G. Kohlstedt and Margaret W. Rossiter, eds., Historical Writing on American Science. Perspectives and Prospects (1986). He published another essay, “Applied Science and Public Policy: The Ohio Bureau of Juvenile Research and the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency,” in Michael M. Sokal, ed., Psychological Testing and American Society 1890-1930 (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1987) pp. 158-94. He has also just about wrapped up his study of the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station and made considerable progress on another book, a history of the developmental sciences in twentieth-century America, thanks in no small measure to the impetus derived from his leave last year at Stanford University. He also worked on several briefer projects in the general area of developmental science and medicine, including one of still undetermined length and scope with two Stanford scientists, which focuses on a key episode in the 1930s and 1940s in the history of both modern statistics and developmental science. He has made various contributions to the service of the profession, including writing more book reviews than in most years; preparing, for the third (and last) time, an annotated bibliography of secondary books and articles in American science and technology for the Center for American Culture Studies, Columbia University; and he served on the program committee of the Mid America American Studies Association. His editorial responsibilities have grown somewhat. In addition to continuing to serve as chair of the editorial board of American Studies and being recruited to serve on the editorial board of a new journal on American science and technology to be published by Cambridge University Press and to be edited at the Smithsonian and Johns Hopkins University, he has inherited the general editorship of the ISU Press Series in the History of Technology and Science, which has meant dealing with a large backlog of manuscripts and recruiting a fresh stable of authors. He also has a couple of other editing projects in various stages of development. He continues to serve on the Publications Committee, American Studies Association, and on an as yet unnamed committee of the History of Science Society to award a prize for the best recently published book on the general topic of women in science. In addition to finding himself taxonomized as a feminist scholar, he has also discovered he has something of an identity as a historian of medicine, apparently by virtue of the work he has done in recent years, all of which has been a pleasant and intriguing surprise.

Thomas J. Schlereth, 1969, received a Smithsonian Institution Senior Faculty Fellowship for continuing research on a cultural history, tentatively titled “Everyday Life in America, 1876-1915,” to be published by Harper and Row. He was also honored as the 1987 Roger D. Branigin Senior Scholar by Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana.


During the 1986-87 academic year, Schlereth presented research papers at the University of Delaware, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the University of Chicago, the National Museum of American History, the Winterthur Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the University of Leicester. Part of his academic travel abroad was supported by a Research Travel Grant from the American Council of Learned Societies.

Professor Wayne S. Osborn, 1970, entered his twentieth year of teaching at Iowa State University in September 1987. Courses taught range from Western Civilization, Latin American History, and Third World Cultures, to his most recent course entitled Historic Perspectives on Peace and War. His research interest remains Indian response to Spanish colonization of New Spain, with currently a particular interest in Indian government at the municipal level in the eighteenth century. His major claim to fame, he reports, is a wife who coined the phrase “Iowa, Where Peace Grows,” which we hope will one day become the official slogan of the Iowa Peace Institute. In the meantime, seed caps ($4) and T-Shirts ($5) may be purchased from the teacher.


Paul B. Pixton, 1972, served as associate dean of honors and general education at Brigham Young University from 1985 to July 1987. On June 1, 1987, he assumed the chairmanship of the Department of History at BYU.

In July 1986 he participated in the International Conference on the Improvement of Undergraduate Teaching sponsored by the University of Maryland and held as part of the five-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the University of Heidelberg at Heidelberg, FRG. He read a paper there entitled “The World Is Our Campus: Building Global Awareness through a World Civilization Program.”

In March 1987 he participated in the second International Conference of the Medienverband held at the University of Freiburg, FRG.

He has additionally participated in numerous conferences relating to honors and liberal education, and to the freshman year experience.

Currently, he is finishing the draft of a book dealing with the impact of the reform legislation of the Fourth Lateran Council (1215) upon the German church 1216-45. Other research centers on the noble benefactors of twelfth/thirteenth century German Cistercian houses, synodality of the ecclesiastical province of Trier 900-1310, and legate visits to Germany during the thirteenth century.

He wishes to express his sincere sorrow at the loss of Don Sutherland, who he remembers as “a true prince of a man, a model of the scholar/gentleman.”

Roger Fechner, 1974, professor of history at Adrian College, recently completed six years as department chair. In March of 1986 he presented a paper, “John Witherspoon and Scottish Moral Philosophy in Revolutionary America,” at the annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Williamsburg, Virginia. A revised version of his paper will be published in a collection of essays, Scotland and America in the Age of Witherspoon, by Princeton University Press in 1989. At the Williamsburg meeting Fechner also helped to found a new international scholarly society, the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society, of which he is serving as vice president. The society already has grown to a membership of 120 and published its first newsletter, Eighteenth-Century Scotland, in the spring of 1987. Fechner organized and chaired an ECSSS seminar, “The Scottish Enlightenment and the U.S. Constitution,” at the April 1987 annual meeting of ASECS in Cincinnati. He also conducted the annual business meeting of the society; represented the society at a meeting of ASECS related and affiliated society; and guided the society to affiliated membership in ASECS. He is also involved in planning a conference, The Social World of the Scottish Enlightenment, which will be held from April 6 to 9 at Norfolk, Virginia, and which will be cosponsored by ECSSS and the Scottish Studies Institute at Old Dominion University. In the summer of
1986 Fechner attended "IPSE 86" (Institute Project Scottish Enlightenment) in Edinburgh sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities with the support of a faculty development grant from Adrian College. While in Scotland, he continued his research on his biography of John Witherspoon. Fechner also reports that two of his students have won the American history book prize for the best original research paper presented at the annual meeting of the Michigan Region of Phi Alpha Theta in 1986 and 1987.

Michael Hogan, 1974, completed his first year as professor of history at Ohio State University and is editor of Diplomatic History, a journal specializing in the history of American foreign relations. His new book, The Marshall Plan: America, Britain, and the Reconstruction of Western Europe, 1947-1952, was published this year by Cambridge University Press. In addition, Mr. Hogan also published a feature review and a review essay in the Journal of American History and Reviews in American History, respectively. He also chaired a panel at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association and delivered papers at four conferences, including a conference to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Marshall Plan, held in West Berlin, and a conference of Soviet and American historians on the early Cold War, held in Moscow.

Dr. Abraham Scherr, 1974, has continued on as the historian for the 56 Tactical Training Wing at MacDill AFB, Florida. In October Dr. Scherr attended the United States Air Force Academy Symposium on Russian Military History, sponsored by the academy every two years. Currently, he has plans to attend the twelfth International Colloquium on Military History, Athens, Greece in mid August 1987.

Russell Menard, 1975, reports that chairing the Minnesota History Department leaves little time for scholarly work and forces him to depend on past accomplishments to sustain his reputation as a historian. In that regard he is pleased that The Economy of British America, 1607-1790 has been reissued in a paperback edition by the University of North Carolina Press. He has only one more year in his life as an administrator, so expects soon to turn his attention toward a long-dormant study of the Carolina low country.

Harry Dahlheimer, 1976, during the spring 1987 semester, taught American history and American diplomacy at the newly opened Huanghe University Graduate Center near Zhengzhou in Henan Province, People's Republic of China. The American Studies Program at Huanghe, the first of its kind in China, utilizes exclusively English-speaking instructors and teaching materials published in English. So far, four of the graduates of the first class have received admittance to American universities as M.A. or Ph.D. candidates.

Robert C. Palmer, 1977, has been appointed the Cullen Professor of History and Law at the University of Houston, a joint appointment in the history department and law school. This chair is the second in Houston's series of chairs in history and the professions, each of which is on a state supported salary line with further support from each chair's million-dollar endowment cosponsored by the NEH. In the last year he has published "The Federal Common Law of Crime," in Law and History Review (1986), and "Conscience and the Law: the English Criminal Trial Jury," in the Michigan Law Review (1986). In the final stages of publication are "Covenant, Justices Writs, and Reasonable Showings," in the American Journal of Legal History, "Obligations of Contracts: Intent and Distortion," in Case Western Law Review, and his third book, coauthored with William Nelson, Community and Liberty: Constitution and Rights in the Early American Republic. In the last year he has delivered papers at the American Association of Law School's national conference, the University of Illinois Law School, the University of Miami School of Law, Hamilton College, Colgate College, and Wayne State Law School (the Selden Society Bicentennial Lecture). He is currently finishing research on a book on English common law between 1350 and 1371.

John Schacht, 1977, was recently promoted to the rank of librarian III in the UI Libraries, where his assignments include bibliographic instruction and collection development in American history.

Loren N. Horton, 1978, continues his work with the State Historical Society of Iowa. These duties range from educational and community programming to field services to work with the Office of Historical Preservation. He is also projects coordinator for the Iowa Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. He published his History of Iowa to 1900 (Iowa City: The University of Iowa, 1986). He presented two papers at the American Association for State and Local History (Oakland, California) and one paper each at the Midwest Archives Conference (Hudson, Wisconsin), the Lincoln- Lancaster County Genealogical Society (Lincoln, Nebraska), and the Arlington Heights Public Library forum series (Arlington Heights, Illinois). He contributed book reviews to Nebraska History, American Antiquity and the Iowa Archeological Society Newsletter.

Bill Iles, 1978, is currently associate director of The
University of Iowa Alumni Association. He notes that this annual review reminded him of the special project to insurc all history graduates have the opportunity to show their dedication to history through membership in the Alumni Association. As for awards, he writes, he has been waging a quiet campaign to change the common platitude to “virtue is its own award.” It may be his only chance, he says, albeit a slim one.

Bill Silag, 1979, is managing editor at the Iowa State University Press in Ames.

Dorothy Schwieder, 1981, is associate professor of history at Iowa State University where she recently completed (as first author) Buxton: Work and Racial Equality in a Coal Mining Community published by Iowa State University Press. She has also recently published “South Dakota Farm Women and the Great Depression” in Journal of the West and “Education and Iowa Farm Women, 1900-1940” in Agricultural History. She presented papers in the past two years at the Agricultural Symposium (sponsored by Agricultural History) in Athens, Georgia, and at the Great Plains Historical Conference in Lincoln. She is also a contributor to Comparative Histories of the Heartland with the essay “Iowa: The Middle Land” to be published by Indiana University Press next year. She is presently working on a general history of Iowa tentatively entitled Iowa: The Prairie State.

David Hamilton, 1985, finished his third year as an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky (Lexington). He was awarded an ACLS fellowship for the fall semester. In April he delivered a paper entitled “Neglected Aspects of the New Era Managerial Impulse: The Bureau of Agricultural Economics in the 1920s” at the OAH convention. He expects to finish his manuscript on the farm programs of the Hoover administration and the early New Deal this summer.

George W. McDaniel, 1985, of St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa, reminds us that his dissertation adviser was Professor Ellis Hawley, not Professor Malcolm Rohrbough, as was erroneously reported in last year’s Newsletter.