

## So You Really Do Want To Teach After All...?

There's not much we can add here. Either you love your discipline and want to spend a great deal of time thinking, talking and writing about it — or you don't. Obviously there are different levels and requirements: secondary school, the small undergraduate college, the large graduate school. All pose different challenges. There's a great deal to be said for teaching (of course, we're prejudiced). But it's something no one should have to talk you into or out of. It's closer to pure scholarship than many other careers, although this varies. If really digging in and researching appeals to you, this is the place. On the other hand, many excellent high school teachers have never published anything. There's room for both kinds of historians, but not as much room as we could hope. However, the competition is keen and "the market" shows no sign of easing. This isn't meant to discourage you; we merely think you should know about it at the start. Perhaps you should plan a curriculum with built-in flexibility so that if your plans for teaching don't work out you can try for a job in a related field — textbook editing, for example.



## And If You Don't Want To Do Any of Those Things...?

You don't have to. A lot of college alumni who majored in history have gone straight into the family business and stayed there. Others have chosen to enter fields far removed from their academic experience. Some have used their academic training in an indirect way. For example, according to

"The College Majors Handbook," history majors who run their own companies have the highest earnings of all grads from this field of study. The point is, you don't have to be a professor or work in a noteworthy museum to be successful with your history degree.

There's one final thing you can "do" with your history major: *enjoy it*. There is an entire group of Wall Street lawyers whose hobby is the Civil War. At least three popular history magazines are sold on newsstands in metropolitan areas. By and large, their subscribers and readers are not professional historians. Whether you choose a future as a salesperson or an attorney or airline pilot — and there have been history majors preparing for each of these — an interest in the world around you, past and present, is essential. It can make you not only a more interested, but also a more interesting person more aware as a citizen, and more effective as you participate in your own societies. And that's what it's all about, isn't it?



This is an updated version of a brochure prepared by the Department of History, Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pa. This version was designed and edited by the Department of History, Florida Atlantic University —Boca Raton.

FAU students have the opportunity to join Phi Alpha Theta, an international honor society in History. It was organized at the University of Arkansas on March 17th, 1921. Since that time it has grown to include more than 870 chapters in every U.S. state, Puerto Rico, Canada, the Philippine Islands, and the District of Columbia. It is the largest in number of chapters of the accredited honor societies holding membership requirements, second only to those of Phi Beta Kappa, and the number of its initiates since organization is more than 275,000.

PAT's membership is comprised of students and professors elected to the society upon the basis of excellence in the study or writing of history. Any student of History may become a member by maintaining a high standard of work in his or her studies. At the same time, PAT is a professional society, the objective of which is the promotion of the study of History by the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning and thought among historians.

The society publishes *The Historian*, a distinguished quarterly whose pages are open to members for the publication of their studies. It also contains reviews of the most important current books, notes relative to historical activities, and other news of interest to the society's members. Phi Alpha Theta has also established a number of prizes and awards to recognize achievements by its members. Awards are made for papers presented by undergraduates as well as by graduate students. Six graduate scholarship awards are also made, and Phi Alpha Theta offers two annual awards for books published by its members. The society also maintains a placement bureau for the benefit of its members.

Department of  
History

**HISTORY.**

**But What Do I  
Do With It?**



*A Young Scholar in His Study, Pieter Codde*

**FAU**  
FLORIDA ATLANTIC  
UNIVERSITY  
Dorothy F. Schmidt  
College of Arts and Letters  
Department of History

## To Begin With-

Let's face it, some people don't like history. This brochure really isn't directed at them—although we'd like a chance at changing their minds, too. This pamphlet is meant for you, the student who thinks he or she likes history, isn't sure what the future means job-wise, and wants to prepare for it in the best way possible. And if you feel like you shouldn't major in history because nobody else is, put your fear to rest. According to the American Historical Association, the number of history majors at four-year colleges and universities has risen significantly in the last five years. Clearly, there are others who can see the same promise in a history degree that you do.

## "But I Don't Want To Teach!"

Lots of history majors don't. Or maybe you do want to teach, but you're concerned because the job market for teaching is so tight and, frankly, shows no sign of easing. Fear not, however. Students who are interested in history, but anxious to avoid teaching, commonly focus their studies on "public history." Such a degree positions history grads to pursue a multitude of corporate positions—from marketing to research to consulting. As a result, the jobs most history majors land are generally unrelated to their academic discipline, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## So You Want To Be a Lawyer...

Congratulations. You're in good company. The number of applicants at American law schools has doubled in recent years and is still climbing. Competition, clearly, is keen. We'd be less than honest if we suggested that a good undergraduate course in history was the sure-fire answer. Historically, if you'll excuse the term, young men and women interested in law school tended to choose history as an undergraduate major. This is no longer true to the same extent.

The fact is that a law school doesn't care what your major is as long as you're good at it. So history is still a good bet. Law school courses presuppose a certain knowledge of the past — one world's past. Courts set up by Henry II of England in the 1160s met until January, 1972. Some of Edward I's statutes are still law in Pennsylvania. And your own nation's history is a continuing thread whose latest strands appear in the morning news. A good lawyer must know not only what the law is, but where it came from and why it exists. Otherwise, he or she can never hope to use it intelligently and creatively let alone amend it. A history background provides a good underpinning for a profession so largely concerned with *stare decisis*. (What's that? The appropriate history course can tell you.)

## So You Don't Want To Be a Lawyer. You Want To Write.

If it's historical novels you're planning to author, this is your department. And if your interest is mainly in journalism — is the most logical major English? There's a lot that can be said for such a choice. Certainly no one can hope to enter the field of journalism without a good command of language, both spoken and written. But consider this: journalism has always included a good deal more than reporting. Newspapers and magazines have back-up staffs. Large metropolitan papers print back-up or research articles dealing with currently important issues, particularly political issues. News magazines, when dealing with historical events of the moment, are also always concerned with the historical background of these events. Journalism isn't the only type of writing in which a history major can succeed, however. Many historians become authors and editors as well. They make their living as writers of historical books, or more commonly, they work as editors at a publishing house. Many historians become documentary editors who oversee the publication of documents such as those produced by government agencies.

## History: A 'Communication' Major

Now "communication," we agree, means more than printed words. Radio, television and films communicate. But with more and more attention centered on news and current events, many of the same considerations apply here too. How do you analyze, how do you

explain events that move too fast to make immediate sense? Maybe they don't make sense at all, but if you possess historical perspective you'll be in a better position to see order in apparent chaos. A major in history prepares you to communicate by developing effective writing skills. The ability to write well is vital to any job for which a college degree is a necessity. Effective writing means the ability to successfully and precisely communicate one's ideas in text. History also develops skills in critical analysis; vital to the decision-making process for any job. Critical analysis means the ability to analyze a situation and come up with creative and practical solutions.

## The World of Art

We can't teach you how to paint or compose, but we can tell you something about artists and composers, about the worlds they lived in and the forces that molded them. This is the kind of thing that someone who works in a museum deals with. A combined art and history major may provide the background needed for the person who aspires to a career as a curator or archivist. Often graduate work is required, but undergraduate study provides the foundation in your chosen specialty.

## History and the Inter-Disciplinary Major

We could devote a whole pamphlet to this idea! It means fairly intensive training in two areas and it opens up some interesting possibilities. For instance, history and classics would be useful as the background for graduate training in museum or library work for archaeology (usually art history works in nicely). The idea is that you don't have to choose between two favorite subjects; academically you can have your cake and eat it, too. And, incidentally, at the same time you broaden your job possibilities.

## Business and Industry: What Would They Want With You, a History Major?

Lots. You only need a little imagination in putting together your curriculum. Suppose you majored in history, with emphasis on modern Europe, and you

added to that several courses in a modern language and work in economics. You'd be a good bet for a number of large corporations, especially banks, with strong overseas ties and interests. And depending on your personal goals, courses in accounting and marketing wouldn't go astray, either. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job opportunities for social scientists—the category into which history majors fall—are expected to be best in social service agencies, research and testing services and management consulting firms. In other words, a major in history is a doorway to potential corporate success. To give a different example, think what a knowledge of South America and Spanish could do for you in the world we live in.

## The Biggest Employer of All:

Is the government, or governments — federal, state, municipal. Don't overlook or underestimate your opportunities here! There are many positions, at all levels, which require no particular undergraduate specialty. History, in other words, is "as good a major as any other." (Or is it perhaps better because of the nature of its concerns?) There are, of course, also positions which have more specific requirements. If you want to work in the General Accounting Office you ought, obviously, to work on your math early. But the number of jobs for which history is useful is long enough. One is diplomacy: the Foreign Service welcomes candidates with a broad historical background, particularly one strong in modern Europe and other area studies. The Foreign Service exams emphasize such knowledge, however obtained. The government also needs archivists; both federal and state governments have staffs of trained archivists to handle a flow of documents which shows no sign of slowing down. It's not hard to find out what the requirements are for any job for which a Civil Service exam is required. Check out the areas that sound interesting to you. A major in history may be useful.

# It's not a job It's an adventure

## Department of History

### Department Faculty with Specialties in:

#### United States History

- Sarah Brown:* (Modern South, Civil Rights)
- Evan Bennett:* (Modern U.S. History, Florida History, American South)
- Kristen Block:* (Caribbean History, Early Modern Atlantic World and Women's and Gender History)
- Stephen D. Engle:* (19th Century U.S., Civil War and Reconstruction, South)
- Anna Lawrence:* (Colonial and Revolutionary American, Religious History)
- Sandra Norman:* (Public History, Material Culture, Environmental History)
- Ken Osgood:* (United States, U.S. Foreign Relations, Modern Europe, Modern East Asia)
- Mark Rose:* (Twentieth Century U.S., Urban, Technology, Business)
- Marianne Sanua:* (Modern Jewish Studies)
- Derrick White:* (African American, African History)

Editor



Professor/Teacher



#### European History

- Boyd Breslow:* (Ancient and Medieval History)
- Douglas Kanter:* (Modern Britain/British Empire)
- Patricia Kollander:* (German History, Russian History, European Diplomatic History)
- Ben Lowe:* (Early Modern Europe, Tudor-Stuart England)
- Douglas Mc Getchin:* (Modern Europe, World History, Modern Germany, Sanskrit)

Medical School



Archivist



Biographer



#### Latin American History

- Graciella Cruz-Taura:* (Cuba, Latin America Culture)
- Barbara Ganson:* (Colonial Latin America, Paraguay)

#### Non-Western History

- Eric Hanne:* (Crusaders or Peoples of the Middle East, First Islamic Millennium, Modern Middle Eastern History)
- Ken Holloway:* (Chinese and Japanese History)



Clergy



Community Relations Director



Congressional Aide



Consumer Advocate



Counselor



Criminologist



Demographer



Economist



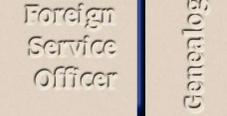
FBI/CI Agent



Foreign Service Officer



Foreign News Correspondent



Foreign Service Officer



Government Official



Historian



Historic Preservationist



Park Ranger

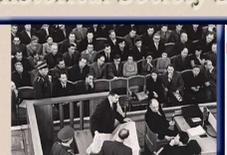


Peace Corps

Historic Site Tour Guide



Historical Society Staff



Insurance Agent/Broker



Intelligence Analyst



Journalist



Lawyer



Lecturer



Legal Assistant



Paralegal



Librarian



Lobbyist



Market Research Analyst



Media Consultant



Museum Curator



Museum Technician