

Alumni Newsletter

- Jack Leopold

Responses to the questionnaire sent to history graduates of the last five years were very encouraging. One hundred and thirty-two students were polled; thirty-nine replied. Considering that the department could not afford to include return postage and that the post office will not forward bulk mail to new addresses, an almost thirty percent return was excellent.

Only one of the respondents was unemployed; three were full-time students. Our alumni have moved into extremely diverse fields - some were librarians (2), others teachers (9), others sales representatives (2), YMCA Directors (2), secretaries (2); individuals had positions as accountants, welfare responsibility technicians, postal clerks, classification analysts, researchers, administrative assistants, journalists, bank tellers, office managers, carpenters and van workers. The job market remains tight and not everyone believed his/her capacities were totally fulfilled in the present position. Interesting to note was the fact that three of the respondents had received advanced degrees and three others were about to complete them. The vast majority believed that the department had prepared them adequately for postgraduate work. Most noteworthy was the fact that most of the alumni did not see the significance of history in terms of career orientation. Most respondents (26) believed our discipline was most important for an understanding of the world and then (17) for an understanding of self.

Alumni demonstrated the level of their continued interest in the field by noting that about three-quarters of them had recently read a history book - many of them sophisticated treatments of diverse themes. Twenty-two respondents belong to an historical association, but only fifteen actually use history in their profession. Nevertheless, twenty-one used the research techniques learned in history and twenty-two used the analytical skills developed in history.

Happily, the vast majority of respondents (31) would like to attend functions sponsored by the History Club, receive a newsletter (31) and subscribe to Clio (27). Thirty-nine students would recommend the college.

Conclusions: The department has been doing something right to arouse the continued interest and support of so many alumni, but more must be done to assist our graduates. The establishment of a professional file would create grave difficulties in view of the laws governing confidentiality and the difficulties of keeping records up to date with a minimal staff. Individual faculty members, however, will keep records on file. If alumni need references, they should call or write the individual instructors involved, brief them on the alumni's activities since graduation, explain the nature of the recommendation needed and name the specific individual to whom the recommendation is to be sent. In practice, this



can work as effectively as a personnel file. In wider perspective, the college has just hired a man to deal with the problems of professional placement. Contact Mr. Fred Leuthauser in Old Main for the most recent job information available at the college. He can also help you write the best possible resume. Next year Mr. Ray Trimpert will also be involved in placement. Alumni who feel that advanced training in business would help them secure a better position should note that the college offers an MBA in conjunction with the University of Connecticut and beginning this fall will offer an MSA. Both programs are available at this campus. All our alumni should be aware that one of the largest employers of college graduates is the government - both state and federal; take the civil service examination and apply for positions in your fields of interest.

One way that we can all support one another is by developing a sense of mutual responsibility. If you learn of something, contact your fellow alumni or let the department know of a position - even a part-time one that may help a graduate or undergraduate student. We are all in this together. Respondents will receive future issues of Clio (which appear irregularly throughout the academic year) and each copy will contain alumni news - if you send it to us. Let us know about your personal and professional development and we will share it with others. Keep us informed of your new residence and we will let others know how to contact you (if you so wish).

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#### Personals

Craig Bryant is studying law at Emory University. Sharon Noel is teaching at the Melrose School in New York. Judy Curtis is Assistant Librarian at the Perkin Elmer Corporation. Patricia Flynn received her MBA and is currently an accountant with IBM. Virginia Matyas is working for the state of Connecticut in the welfare department. Rich Valentini is with the army in California. Jim Lovelace is living and working with a Christian community in Switzerland. Connie Van Horn has moved to Los Angeles and is working in the library of her old high school. Jim Filaoro is working for the state of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. Sandy Erikson is a classification analyst at Penn. State University. Debbie Russo Gogliettino is working for the Hematology-Oncology Association in Stamford; her husband John is back at Wesconn studying business administration. Gary Kozak is the program director at the Danbury YMCA and Ed Matson has the same position in the Trumbull area. Cleo Northrop is teaching in the Regional 15 School District. Shirley Smith received her MS in Educational Administration and is working for the Wamogo Regional High School. Norm Cummings is a journalist with the Citizen News of New Fairfield. Barbara Cole has received her MA in medieval history. Bruce Cavanaugh is in Dayton with the Standard Register Company. Paul Cesca works for



J. Ancona. Ed Mulrenan is employed by the Connecticut National Bank. Marilyn Muldoon teaches at St. Joseph's School in Brookfield. Laura Showah Mariano works in the Microbiology Department of Danbury Hospital. Tom Shewan lives in Southbury and would enjoy hearing from old friends - as we all do. Fran Gallo is sales manager for Pioneer VW Corporation. Ron Pugliese teaches the 8th grade in SS. Peter and Paul School in Waterbury. Tom Keane has a sixth grade social science class in the Harwinton Consolidated School.

Contact others about the Alumni Newsletter and send news about yourself to: Jack Leopold, Department of History, Western Connecticut State College, Danbury, Connecticut 06810

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