

## NERWHA Mentor Questionnaire

Please return this electronically as a MS Word document to both:

James Diskant [james.diskant@verizon.net](mailto:james.diskant@verizon.net)

Alfred J. Andrea [aandrea@uvm.edu](mailto:aandrea@uvm.edu)

**NAME** Alfred J. Andrea

**Institution** University of Vermont; World History Association

**Academic Position** Professor Emeritus of Medieval History; president (2010-2012) WHA

Years in Service 44 at UVM; 28 with the WHA

### **Area(s) of World History Experience and Expertise**

World History before 1600 CE, with particular emphasis on religious-cultural interchange in the Age of the Crusades (1100-1600) and along the Silk Road (200 BCE-1500 CE). I have taught world history at all university levels from 2-semester, first-year surveys through graduate-level seminars.

My particular focus is teaching premodern world history, from antiquity to ca. 1500, through the use of primary sources--both documents and artifacts. My approach is best illustrated in Volume I of Alfred J. Andrea and James H. Overfield, *The Human Record: Sources of Global History*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Cengage, 2011), and the instructor's manual that accompanies that book.

My particular thematic approach to world history is that of **contact and exchange**. In other words, the cross-fertilization of cultures through contact in the premodern era is what especially engages my interest and energies.

I also am currently researching holy war as a wide-ranging phenomenon that can be found in almost every human culture. This has developed out of my many years of study of the crusades.

**How much time, to what degree, and in what way(s) are you willing and able to serve as a mentor. Please be as specific as possible and also be realistic. We are all already busy professionals.**

My research and other academic commitments are heavy, as are my current duties as WHA president (but those will largely end in January 2012) . I am willing to spend two hours each week in either e-mail or telephone exchanges helping a teacher at whatever level learn how to teach premodern world history through the sources contained in *The Human Record*, Vol. I. That teacher and I can also plan to meet to talk at future NERWHA and WHA conferences.

**Please tell us something about yourself, including why you want to be a mentor and how you can best perform this task. Use as much space as you wish.**

As already noted, or at least implied, my emphasis is on world history pedagogy as a medium for assisting students to acquire and sharpen their critical thinking skills, as well for their learning about the history of the human community writ large.

I see world history as a field of study that has great moral and civic value and is the best medium I know of for multicultural instruction. As just noted, but it bears repeating because this is my passion as a teacher, it is also a splendid medium for sharpening one's skills in the critical analysis of evidence. In essence, I see my task as an educator not as one of disseminating information but as one of challenging (and helping) students to think critically and to expand their intellectual and cultural horizons.

As someone who has devoted over three decades to teaching and writing about world history and 44 years as a professional historian, I want to pass on some of my experience in and, I hope, passion for the field.

**Please append a one-page CV.**

**EDUCATION:**

Ph.D. Cornell University, 1969

A.B. *magna cum laude* Boston College, 1963

**AREAS OF PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC INTEREST:**

Medieval Europe, 300—1500                      World Religions  
Global History to 1700                          Historiography  
Medieval Ecclesiastical History              The Silk Road  
Papal-Byzantine Relations, 330-1453      The Crusades  
Long-Distance Cultural Exchange, 100-1500

**ACADEMIC CAREER:**

Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, The University of Louisville, 2002  
Professor Emeritus, The University of Vermont, 2001-  
Professor, University of Vermont, 1979-2001  
Eli Lilly Visiting Professor, The University of Puget Sound, 1978-1979  
Associate Professor, The University of Vermont, 1973-1979  
Assistant Professor, The University of Vermont, 1967-1973

**RECENT PROFESSIONAL OFFICES:**

President, World History Association 2010-2012

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS:****Academic Books:**

*Contemporary Sources for the Fourth Crusade*, 2<sup>nd</sup> rev ed. (Leiden: Brill Academic Publications, 2009), xii, 343 pp.

*The Capture of Constantinople: The Hystoria Constantinopolitana of Gunther of Pairis* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997), xiv, 198 pp.

**Reference Books:**

General Editor, *The ABC-Clio World History Encyclopedia* (2011), 21 vols.

*Encyclopedia of the Crusades* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2003), xxiii, 356

**Textbooks:**

*The Human Record: Sources of Global History*, 2 vols. 7th. ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2011). Co-authored and co-edited with James H. Overfield. My contribution was Vol. I: To 1500 (469 pp.) and the Prologue for Vols. I and II.