

The American Professor and the French Baroness

A Citation Honoring Professor Harry Paul for the Outstanding Emeritus Professor of the Year

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This year's outstanding emeritus professor is Harry Paul. For nearly 40 years, Harry Paul was an outstanding teacher-scholar of French intellectual and cultural history and history of science and medicine at the University of Florida. In a remarkably strong scholarly career, Harry Paul has written dozens of articles including a celebrated entry on Louis Pasteur for the *Dictionary of Medical Biography* edited by W.F. and Helen Bynam, and no less than seven scholarly books, a number of which have been translated, often exploring themes of knowledge, science, power and their intersection with diverse cultural practices like wine making, therapeutic medicine, and theater in France. Some of these were pioneering works in the institutional and cultural history of science and medicine in France while others reached unexpected audiences. His monumental *Science, Wine and Vine in France*, for example, is now considered compulsory reading for all manner of wine students by viticulturalists. The last of his books was published only just this spring with Ashgate Press; it is a vivid biography of a long neglected figure, Henri de Rothschild of the famous wine-making family, that explores his career as physician and playwright against the backdrop of the intellectual and cultural life of early twentieth century Paris.

Throughout the course of his unusually productive scholarly career, he has been the recipient of nearly every major federal grant or fellowship available at the time, including grants from the American Philosophical Society, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation, at one time holding grants from both the latter two agencies simultaneously. He was repeatedly honored for his record of grantsmanship by the University of Florida's Office of Sponsored Research, the only faculty member in History to receive this distinction on several occasions, and increased the visibility of the department both at the university and internationally as the only historian at UF who also published in the prestigious journals *Science* and *Nature*. The latter journal published two long notable reviews of his own books, a rare distinction for historians at the time.

Born and raised in Newfoundland, Canada, Harry Paul received his BA in History from the University of Newfoundland and his PhD in French History from Columbia University in New York. He arrived at the University of Florida in 1963 and until his formal retirement in 2001 taught a range of courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level that included surveys of European history, the history of France, the history of Paris (his favorite city), and the history of the life sciences along with the history of medicine. He also taught a popular course on the history of food, which delighted students. He was especially popular as a graduate instructor, spicing up

his lectures with his wit and erudition, and was a supportive mentor to junior faculty, especially underrepresented women and minorities. He worked to build the strength of the European history doctoral program and, at a time when fields as such women's history, gender history and cultural history were considered marginal areas of study, supported department hires in these areas unequivocally. Retaining his office until his retirement in the quieter atmosphere of Grinter Hall (which has no undergraduate classrooms), he built up productive and enduring friendships with colleagues in a number of different fields and disciplines there.

In 2001 he moved to Washington, D.C., but he continues to work in Paris at his usual spot in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. Never one to rest on his laurels, he is now completing the final chapter of what will be his eighth scholarly book, a study of the rise of the professional woman doctor, especially in Paris where the university pioneered the admission of women to medical studies. Perhaps his finest distinction was the formal luncheon reception in his honor by the famed Chateau Mouton Rothschild after the publication of his *Bacchic Medicine*. With Philippine de Rothschild presiding, it became a much-publicized event in the press, with one account billing it dramatically as "The American Professor and the French Baroness." It is therefore fitting to recognize Harry Paul's life-long scholarly achievements, which continue to impress us, and his continued contributions to increasing the visibility of History at UF.

Betty Smocovitis

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