Civil War buff joins BU ranks

BY ADEOLA AKO
REPORTER

The history department received a new addition this year — Dr. Clayton Jewett, a professor who is already making an impact on his students.

"I think that most people cringe when they think of a history class," Stephenville sophomore Allison Woerner said. "I am not that person. However, I am the type of person who only has to hear a name to remember it, and that has helped me do well in class."

Jewett's mentor, Jon L. Wakeley, Professor Emeritus at Kent State University, said Jewett's work ethic is amazing.

"Jewett's work ethic is amazing. "I believe the secret to his success is that he truly loves to impart his subject matter and he cherishes his students," Wakelyn said. "Somewhere he learned that students were what education was all about. He is always available and he cares what happens to his students."

Jewett grew up in Friendswood, about 60 miles south of Houston, and attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his bachelors of arts in history.

Upon graduation he attended Catholic University of America where he received both his masters of arts and doctoral degree specializing in Texas history, the Civil War and southern history.

Jewett, a seventh-generation Texan, said his deep interest and fascination with Texas and the Civil War were the reasons for pursuing higher education in history.

Before coming to Baylor, Jewett taught Civil War and American history at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. Jewett said he has always had a preference to teach at a private religious institution.

"Those types of schools attract a student more sincere about faith and education. That's the type of student I enjoy teaching," Jewett said. "Jewett said he prefers to teach in a way that gets students to think by encouraging students to debate over critical issues."

Woerner said Jewett's class forced her to step out of her comfort zone.

"I not only feel like I have learned a lot about American history, but I feel like I have learned a lot about myself. There have been days in his class when I would voice my opinion, and Dr. Jewett would just look at me, and then he would ask me if that was really what I thought."

"It might catch me off guard a little, but ultimately it would either make me strengthen my resolve, or perhaps I might reconsider my position," Woerner said. "Whatever the outcome, I was expected to think intelligently and to make a decision for myself."

Jewett said his experience at Baylor thus far has been as enjoyable one. In his spare time, Jewett serves as the coach of the men's rugby team.

In addition to his reputation as an engaging professor, Jewett has written three books.

Jewett has a collection of essays on the Civil War that will be released this year, and he is currently working on a biography of former Texas Governor Pendleton Murrah.