

HISTORY

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As for his plans for the history department, Mohr said he is pleased with its strength but would like to see some minor changes, such as making a wider variety of upper-level classes available to undergraduates.

"I'd like to offer students a somewhat leaner menu of survey classes and offer more of a richer menu of advanced courses with world-class historians, which we have here," Mohr said.

Mohr said the history department is also looking to hire two more professors next year — one historian of modern Japan and the other on 15th- and 16th-century Europe.

"As an outsider, I'm very impressed with the commitment to a high quality of teaching," he said. "It's wonderful to see in a department. This isn't just lip service."

Mohr was a professor at the University of Maryland at Baltimore for 21 years before accepting a position at the University.

"I came to the University because I wanted to come to a department with a full range of degree opportunities where everybody from freshmen to Ph.D. candidates exist," he said.

"Also, the long-term prospects of the department are excellent," he said. "We will continue to build a national class program that the state can be proud of, and that opportunity didn't exist where I was before," Mohr said.

Many professors in the department seem to be optimistic and grateful to have Mohr aboard.

"(Mohr) brings a great deal of prestige to the department," said history Professor John Nicols. "He's a well-respected scholar, an experienced administrator and is very committed to the maintenance and im-

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— Jim Mohr,
history department head

provement of the undergraduate and graduate programs."

Mohr admits his interest lies in policy and how it affects specific issues, and many of his books reflect this integration of policy in American social life.

Mohr's most recently published book — *The Abortion Debate in American History* — was such a book.

Before 1900, Mohr said, abortion was tolerated and it wasn't even an issue.

"By 1900, it was a crime in

every state," he said. "So my book asks a historical question: How do you go from point A to point B in such a short time?"

Before he wrote the book, Mohr said no one knew much about the history of abortion, and he was suddenly cast as an expert and was being called for interviews from National Public Radio, CNN and local talk shows.

"I wrote the book because I am interested in 19th-century social policy and this history

suddenly had a real relevance in modern history debates," he said. "As a consequence, I was often interviewed by radio stations and newspapers."

In 1981, Mohr, as the nation's ranking expert on abortion policy and history, was asked to testify about a bill going before the U.S. Senate. The bill dealt with whether the framers of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution intended person-hood to apply to the unborn as well as the born.

Mohr testified that the framers of the 14th Amendment did not intend person-hood to include the unborn. The U.S. Supreme Court has since sustained this position in a number of cases, he said.

The book Mohr is currently

wrapping up deals with the relations of law and medicine. He said it is about what the two professions thought their roles should be and how they influenced public policy.

"One thing this book asks is, 'Why are we meshed in this malpractice crisis today?'" he said.

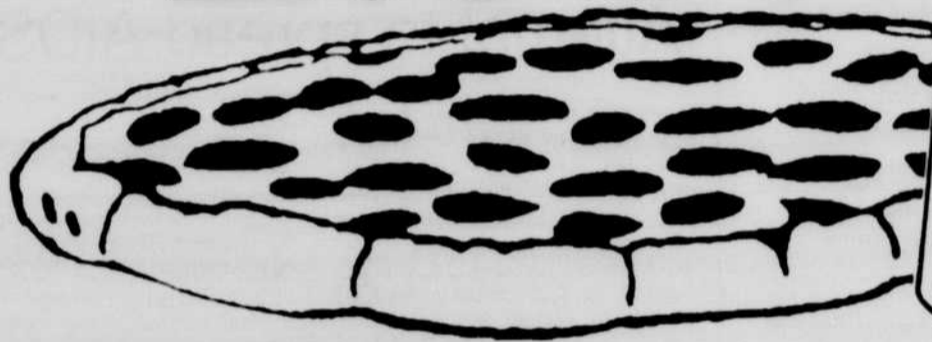
Mohr's other books have to do with state politics in the United States during the Reconstruction period and an account of a Northern family during the Civil War.

In addition to the books, Mohr has written several articles for various history, law and health journals. He has also given almost 60 public lectures and paper presentations on the research he has done.

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CORRECTION

A graphic accompanying an article in the Nov. 25 issue of the *Emerald* contained a factual error. The Navigators believe God is the creator of the Universe. The *Emerald* regrets the error.

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