Jennifer A Bergner* (jabergner@salisbury.edu), 1101 Camden Ave., Dept. of Math/CS, Salisbury, MD 21804. Experiencing the history of mathematics in a capstone course for prospective teachers. Preliminary report.

In an effort to emphasize the importance that the historical development of a concept plays in mathematics I integrate math history throughout the senior-level capstone course for our secondary education math majors. In order to engage the prospective teachers in researching how the "past" can influence the mathematical topics they will be teaching in their secondary school classrooms, I have designed a mathematics history project. The project involves researching a mathematician and an interesting mathematical contribution he or she made. Students also investigate what was happening in the world culturally and mathematically at the time. The only restrictions are that each student must choose a unique mathematician and that a range of subjects (algebra to statistics) must be covered by the classes' choices. They then write a paper, present their work during a class session that is open to the mathematics department, and have their paper and presentation critiqued by their peers. Each student reviews the presentations. They are assessed for their presentations as well as their reviews. I will share how this assignment worked in my classroom. (Received September 19, 2010)