Letter from the (Interim) Chair

Greetings from Rolla! There have been some important changes in the department this year. First, the regular chair of the department, Larry Gragg, was asked to serve as interim Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Studies, and I (Michael Bruening) took over for him as interim department chair in the fall 2012 semester. The search for a permanent vice-provost is well underway, and Dr. Gragg should be back as chair by the summer.

The other major change that took place recently is that the Teacher Education Program was incorporated within the department. Previously, the program did not have a home in an academic department, and since more history majors than those in any other field go into teaching at S&T, it was natural for them to join our department. You can read more about it in the section on Jana Neiss, the program director, on the following page.

We continue to attract solid students. The year started with Scott Yancey (‘12) going to Orlando in January to give a paper at the national Phi Alpha Theta conference. Larry Gragg has been working with two outstanding students, Mary Frey and Laura Welsh, in the Undergraduate Research program on the history of Las Vegas. Through your generosity we were able to help nine of our majors with scholarships this year.

Our faculty members continue to earn among the highest teaching evaluation scores on campus, while also conducting research, publishing books and articles, going to conferences, and winning grants and awards. Petra DeWitt, John McManus, and I all published books in 2012; Dr. DeWitt’s book won the Missouri History Book Award. In the spring, John McManus won the Governor’s Teaching Award. Diana Ahmad, Jeff Schramm, and I won Faculty Teaching Awards, and Petra DeWitt won a Faculty Achievement Award. John McManus and Kate Sheppard won University of Missouri Research Board grants in the spring, and Shannon Fogg won one in the fall. Dr. Fogg and I also won NEH summer seminar grants to do work over the summer in Paris and Rome, respectively. In the fall, Petra DeWitt, John McManus, Jana Neiss, and Jeff Schramm all won campus Outstanding Teaching Awards. We are truly privileged to have such an outstanding group of teaching scholars in the department.

Finally, Patrick Huber and John
Meet Jana Neiss, Director of the Teacher Education Program

Jana Neiss joined the department as a non-tenure track faculty member on September 1, 2012 when the Teacher Education Program (TEP) became part of the Department of History and Political Science. This is Jana’s 23rd year in higher education, and she has been the director of Missouri S&T’s TEP since February 1, 2010. This year 103 students participated in the TEP which provides coursework to earn teacher certification in secondary education (grades 9 – 12) while simultaneously majoring in a chosen content area. New to the TEP this year was the collaboration with the S&T Formula SAE Team to sponsor “A World In Motion” (AWIM) at Mark Twain elementary school. The award-winning AWIM program brings science, technology, engineering, and math to life in the classroom. Jana co-authored and was a principal awardee of a Fund for the Advancement of Mathematics Education (FAME) grant funded by the Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics. She is also a co-director for the Improving Teacher Quality Grant sponsored by the Missouri Department of Higher Education. She continues to serve as an advisor for the TEP and on various campus committees. She was awarded a 2011-2012 Outstanding Teaching Award.

We Want Your Business Cards! We would love to have your latest business card! We have nearly three dozen business cards in a picture frame, but there is room for many more! We use the cards to show to prospective history majors the many careers open to them with a degree in history. Please send your card to: Dr. Diana Ahmad, 124 H-SS, Missouri S&T, Rolla, MO 65409.
Tom Degonia Receives Professional Degree

Congratulations to department alum Tom Degonia ('93) who was awarded a professional degree at the December 2012 commencement ceremony. Tom is a state and federal court litigator. After graduation from S&T (then UMR), he graduated from the American University-Washington College of Law. DeGonia served in the Office of Counsel to the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of State and was an assistant state's attorney for Montgomery County. He has served as a special prosecutor in Maryland and as a federal court-appointed member of a civil rights monitoring team. Tom is a member of the Maryland, Federal, and American Bar Associations and is admitted to the bars of the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, the Maryland U.S. District Court, and the Maryland Court of Appeals. He lives in Olney, Md.

Meet Susan Curtis, 2013 Weiner Distinguished Professor

The department is pleased to welcome Professor Susan Curtis as this year’s Weiner Distinguished Visiting Professor of Humanities. Dr. Curtis has recently arrived in Rolla for the spring 2013 semester, and she will teach an upper-division course on the “Cultural History of Economic Depressions in America.” She is currently professor of history and director of Interdisciplinary Studies at Purdue University. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Dr. Curtis has published three major works: A Consuming Faith: The Social Gospel and Modern American Culture (1991), which demonstrated the interplay between sacred and secular realms in the reformulation of Protestant thought and practice between the 1880’s and 1920’s; Dancing to a Black Man’s Tune: A Life of Scott Joplin (1994), which used the life of Scott Joplin to examine the cross-racial collaboration at the turn of the century that resulted in ragtime, a quintessentially American form of popular music; and The First Black Actors on the Great White Way (1998), which places the landmark event noted in the title in the cultural context of the United States on the eve of World War I. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Curtis to Rolla. Keep your eyes open for announcements of her public lectures.
The Department of History & Political Science now has a Facebook page—be sure to “like” us to keep up with the latest department news!

Faculty Notes

Diana Ahmad made presentations at three professional conferences: “A Comparison of Asian and American Opium Dens and Opium Smokers in the Late Nineteenth Century,” Drugs and Drink in Asia: New Perspectives from History, Shanghai University, Shanghai, China; “Changing Perceptions of Domestic and Wild Animals Along the Overland Trails, 1840s-1860s,” Western History Association, Denver, Colorado; and “The Social and Cultural Impact of Substance Abuse on International Relations” for the Cultural Understanding and the Armed Services at Fort Leonard Wood. In addition, she published two articles this year as well: “I fear the consequences to our animals: Emigrants and Their Livestock on the Overland Trails,” Great Plains Quarterly 32:3 (Summer 2012) and “The Depot of Carcasses: Domestic Animals, Overlanders and the Forty Mile Desert,” Nevada in the West 3:4 (Winter 2012). In addition, she gave several talks on campus, including the Woman of the Year presentation and the honors presentations to Phi Alpha Theta and Phi Kappa Phi.

Michael Bruening is serving as interim chair of the department this academic year. He published Epistolae Petri Vireti: The Previously Unedited Letters and a Register of Pierre Viret’s Correspondence (Geneva: Droz), a critical edition of Latin and French correspondence from the Calvinist Reformation. He also published a chapter (in French) entitled “The Reformation and the Bernese era” in La cathédrale Notre-Dame de Lausanne. He received an NEH grant to attend a summer seminar at the American Academy in Rome entitled “Communication, Empire, and the City of Rome.” In October, he presented a paper entitled “Martin Bucer’s Eucharistic Debates with the Swiss” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference. He also received a Faculty Teaching Award.
**Petra DeWitt**  Petra DeWitt served as panel chair on two sessions during the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society 2012 Biennial Convention in January, in Orlando Florida, as well as supported one of our students, Scott Yancey, who presented a paper at the same conference. She also presented a well-received paper, “The Search for Fred E. Frank: An Exercise in Historiography,” at the 36th Annual Symposium for the Society of German-American Studies in April in Lawrence, Kansas. The university awarded her the 2011-2012 Outstanding Teaching Award, and the State Historical Society of Missouri awarded her the Missouri History Book Award for her book, *Degrees of Allegiance: Harassment and Loyalty in Missouri’s German-American Communities during World War I*, released by Ohio University Press in March.

**Shannon Fogg** spent time in 2012 working on her new book project on the looting and restitution of Jewish apartments in Paris. She presented a paper on the topic at the annual meeting of the Society for French Historical Studies in Los Angeles. She also spent time conducting additional research at the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum thanks to a grant from the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute. She participated in a five-week seminar in France exploring “France’s Haunting Past” sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities over the summer. She was also selected to receive a Faculty Teaching Award for her work in the classroom over the past two years. She continues to serve as the department’s transfer advisor and is the new advisor for the History Club.

**Larry Gragg** stepped down as department chair for the 2012-2013 academic year to serve as Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, but he will return to his old post in July 2013. Besides learning a new job, he had an article entitled “‘Noel Coward Wows ‘Em in Café Town:’ The Impact of Noel Coward’s 1955 Performance at the Desert Inn” published in the *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, and he completed “Bright Light City:” *Las Vegas in Popular Culture*, which will be published in early 2013 by the University Press of Kansas. At the Mid-America Conference on History he chaired two sessions, “Religion in Early America” and “The Crisis in Academic Book Publishing.”
Faculty Notes, continued

Patrick Huber published *The Dixon Brothers: A Blessing to People*, a book accompanying Bear Family Records’ four-CD boxed set of that title, and he delivered two papers at professional conferences. He continues to serve on the editorial board of the *Missouri Historical Review* and the board of directors of the Missouri Folklore Society. This past year, he was appointed to the editorial board of *Southern Cultures*, published by the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was promoted to full professor in September.

Tseggai Isaac concluded two and half years of service with United States Army Training and Doctrine, serving as a Cultural and Foreign Language Advisor. His responsibilities with the Army focused on providing cultural insights to the soldiers as they prepare for deployment. He also provided briefs and position papers on critical events relevant for military considerations regarding Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa, and Africa in general. One of the position papers, “Faith and Culture in the Middle East: A Road to Peace or to Crisis,” was published in a peer reviewed journal, the *International Journal of Justice*. He also published an article entitled “Cultural Studies in the Army: Harnessing the Disciplines,” in the *Military Police Intelligence Review*. Dr. Isaac has published a book review of Ali Allawi’s book, *Crisis of Islamic Civilization* (Yale University Press, 2009) for the *International Society for the Study of Comparative Civilizations Review*.

John McManus was promoted to full professor. He received a campus Faculty Excellence Award and a campus Outstanding Teaching Award. His new book *September Hope: The American Side of a Bridge Too Far* was published in June and was named to the *St. Louis Post Dispatch’s* list of the 25 best nonfiction books of 2012. He received a grant from the University of Missouri Research Board to support research for a new book to be published by Johns Hopkins University Press about American soldiers who liberated concentration camps at the end of World War II. In addition, he received a fellowship from the Cantigny First Infantry Division Foundation to research and write a monograph to be published by NAL-Penguin on the combat experience of the First Infantry Division at Omaha beach in the Normandy invasion. He also continues to serve as editor for the American Military Experience Series with the University of Missouri Press.
Michael Meagher continues to serve as the campus pre-law advisor. He is currently working on a historiographical study of the Herbert Hoover administration. And he is working with Petra DeWitt on a biography of Harvey Milk.

Jeff Schramm together with Kathleen Sheppard co-hosted the 55th annual meeting of the Midwest Junto for the History of Science here in Rolla in March. The conference brought together almost 50 scholars from the history of science, technology and medicine for three days. He was an invited participant at the “Thinking Land Grants” conference at Mississippi State University in October and presented a paper titled, “Schools, Bureaus and Experiment Stations: the History of Mining Schools in the United States.” His popular History 375, Architecture, Technology and Society course was transformed to a blended (half online, half classroom) format. He presented the results of this course re-design at the Teaching and Learning with Technology conference here at S&T in March and again at the Focus on Teaching and Technology conference at UMSL in November. Because of his efforts in eLearning he accepted a special appointment as the provost’s assistant for eLearning in July. He won a campus Faculty Teaching Award in the spring, an Outstanding Teaching Award this fall, and the departmental Constance R. Brown Faculty Excellence Award last fall. He continues his duties as a regional coordinator for National History Day in Missouri and continues to advise several student organizations including KMNR 89.7fm and Kappa Kappa Psi.

Kathleen Sheppard’s article about mummy unwrappings was published in December in the journal Science in Context, entitled “Between Spectacle and Science: Margaret Murray and the Tomb of the Two Brothers.” She also gave a talk to the History Club about the unwrapping of these two mummies. She was awarded a University of Missouri Research Board grant to travel to London to finish archival research for her forthcoming book, a scientific biography of Egyptologist Margaret Murray. Kathleen continues to be involved with Society of Women Engineers on campus and gave talks to them in the Spring and Fall semesters of 2012. Along with Jeff Schramm, Kathleen organized the Midwest Junto, a history of science conference that took place at S&T in March. They are also the organizers of the 2012-13 lecture series at S&T: “Beyond Arithmetic: Women in Science and Engineering.” The series aims to bring in experts from all over the country to discuss important historical and contemporary issues of women in the sciences and engineering.
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society 2012
Inductees

James Alsop
Athena Carey
Mary Frey
Rebecca Holmes
Savannah Lore

Emily Spooner
Jaclyn Standfast
Samuel Sutton
Jamie Watkins
Jason Weckman
Laura Welsh

Scholarship Recipients Fall 2011 and Spring 2012

Athena Carey
Erin Clawson
Lisa Ferguson
Mary Frey
Jeremiah McFann

Jaclyn Standfast
Samuel Sutton
Jason Weckman
Laura Welsh

Alumni Notes

1970s


John Wiggins (1970) is a retired circuit court judge in Phelps County, Missouri.

John Theilmann (1971) is a professor of history and director of institutional research at Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Gwen Froeschner (1975) is an attorney with Shurtleff, Froeschner and Bunn, LLP in Columbia, Missouri.

Anne Emmett (1977) is a licensed clinical social worker in Portland, Oregon.

1980s

Randall Stagner (1981) was elected to serve as the District A councilor for the city of Raleigh, NC, where he represents 80,000 citizens on the city council.

Rob Brandt (1982) is the Director of Fleet Management at the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, Nebraska.

Darlene Bramel (1982) is the principal at Rolla’s Truman Elementary School.

David Croft (1983) is a teacher at Rolla’s Junior High School.

Suzie Long (1984) is an assistant professor of Engineering Management and Management Systems at Missouri S&T.
Wayne Hanley (1985) is the chair of the Department of History at West Chester University in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Sam Mahaney (1985) is Commander of the Air Force 459th Air Refueling Wing at Andrews Air Force Base.

Brenda Brugger (1988) is the Director of Research and Prospect Management in the Division of University Advancement at the University of Arkansas.

Virginia Callahan (1988) is Senior Associate Director in the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at the University of Arizona.

Cordell Smith (1988) works in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs, in Washington, D.C.

Wyndham Whynot (1988) is an Associate Professor of History at Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Natalie Drew (1989) is a certified archivist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis.

1990s

David Tajkowski (1991) is a historian with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis.

Eric Crumpecker (1992) is the head track and field coach at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Colin Long (1992) is a circuit court judge in Pulaski County, Missouri.

Jeff Schramm (1992) is in our department teaching History of Technology; and Architecture, Technology, and Society.

Tom Degonia (1993) is an attorney with Venable LLP in Rockville, Maryland and received a professional degree from S&T in December 2012 (see story above).

Donna Cogell (1994) is the guidance secretary at the Waynesville, Missouri Middle School.

Tom Nield (1994) is currently an Electronic Records Archivist at the Missouri State Archives (also a certified Archivist). He retired from the Missouri National Guard shortly after returning from Afghanistan, after serving 20 years and 10 months which included 2 deployments. He was awarded the Bronze Star for actions in Afghanistan.

Robin Collier (1995), the best administrative assistant in the world, works in our department.

Petra DeWitt (1996) is in our department teaching U.S. history surveys, Historiography, European Migrations and Modern Germany.

Julie Mauer (1996) is an attorney with Ryley Carlock and Applewhite in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jonathan Helm (1997) is the Registrar at Baylor University in July.

Melody Lloyd (1997) is the Assistant Archivist in the Campus Archives at Missouri S&T.

Rachel White (1997) is an attorney in Rolla.

Anthony Arnold (1999) is a development officer in University Advancement at Missouri S&T.

Jennifer Holik (1999) lives in Chicago and has started her own business, "Generations: Piecing the Past Together", which gives her the opportunity to do genealogical and historical research, to lecture, and to write. She has also written a series of books on genealogy for students in elementary through high school.

2000s

Tim Laycock (2000) is an attorney with Stinson, Morrison, and Hecker LLP in Kansas City.

Matt Rose (2002) is teaching history at Rolla High School.

Cynthia Louise Riley (2002) is a museum specialist at the Chemical Corps Museum at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

John P. Romito (2003) is a Captain in the United States Army.

Ed Brewer (2004) is a history teacher at Hollister High School in Missouri.

Samantha Kaysinger (2004) is a history teacher at Rolla High School.

Glenn Lloyd (2004) is employed at the Social Security Administration in Kansas City and has passed the bar in Missouri.

Tina Rowden (2004) is teaching math at Waynesville High School.

Jay Thompson (2004) is now teaching at Newburg, Missouri High School.

Travis Curtis (2005) is a history teacher at Rolla High School.

Jaired Hall (2005) is a lawyer in Salem and Houston, Missouri.

Amiee Jenkins (2005) is teaching at the Strain-Japan Elementary School in Sullivan, Missouri.

Bryan Lewis (2005) is the Regional Emergency Response Manager for Newmont Mining Corporation’s Africa operations in Ghana.

Barbara Elaine Light (2005) is a program/project specialist in the Office of Graduate Studies at Missouri S&T.

Rebecca Prater (2005) is a historian with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in Jefferson City.

Joe Tomasek (2005) is a policeman in Bedford Park, Illinois.

Erick Webster (2005) is teaching history and coaching football in Union, Missouri.

Aaron White (2005) is the head Archaeologist for the Seminole Nation in Florida.


Wes Mosier (2006) is pursuing a PhD in history at Oklahoma State University.

Clint Rogers (2006) is a Territory Representative for Forest Pharmaceuticals in Kansas City.

Nick Villanueva (2006) is a PhD student at Vanderbilt University.

Nathan Derrickson (2007) is teaching at Sri Cempaka, a private school in Malaysia.

Sarah Parry Myers (2007) is pursuing a PhD in history at Texas Tech University.

John Batarick (2008) is a senior secretary in S&T’s International Affairs Office.

Tyrone Davidson (2008) is Director of the Office of Undergraduate Advising at Missouri S&T.

Amanda Engelke (2008) is teaching at Waynesville High School.

Niki Zullig (2008) lives in Concord, New Hampshire, where she volunteers at the local historical society.

Tyler Johnson (2009) received an M.A. in history from Missouri State University and has accepted a teaching position in Oklahoma City. He is also engaged to be married to Rachel Regan.

Ashton Morgan (2009) is a Public Affairs Specialist with Granite Public Affairs in Austin, Texas.

Donald Cherico (2010) is a museum technician at Ft. Leonard Wood.

Sarah Muñoz (2010) is a graduate student at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Adam Smith (2010) graduated with an M.A. in Public History from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and has taken a job as Curator of Collections at the Stearns History Museum in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Dana Kelm (2011) is a graduate student at American Military University.