Letter from the Chair

It is a delight to be back as chair of the department. I enjoyed my ten months as the interim vice provost for undergraduate studies. The experience gave me a deeper appreciation for the good work being done on campus to help students be successful. Michael Bruening filled in for me and did a wonderful job of promoting ever-greater success by the department faculty and students.

The campus is currently undergoing some significant administrative changes. Recent graduates of our program have no recollection of academic deans; however, after a seven-year hiatus, the dean administrative structure is making a comeback at Missouri S&T. The campus is beginning a national search for a new dean of engineering and a dean of arts and sciences. Our teacher education program also continues to evolve. Responding to a request from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Dr. Jana Neiss, our Director of Teacher Education, has put together a program whereby students will pursue a B.A. in Multi-Disciplinary Studies with a focus in elementary education with a STEM-concentration. While all students who complete the program will have a concentration in social studies they will also have a concentration in either math or science, or perhaps all three. We look forward to initiating this program in the fall 2014 semester!

While the number of our majors has declined to 45, we continue to have some very good students. Two of them presented at poster sessions at the spring 2013 campus research confer-ence. Based upon their research with me on the history of Las Vegas, Laura Welsh and Mary Frey respectively placed first and second in the poster competition! History majors who graduated in May have been successful accepting teaching positions in secondary schools in Missouri and being accepted into good graduate programs. As always, we are grateful for your financial support that enabled us to award seven scholarships to our majors.

The faculty members in the department continue to perform at high levels in teaching and scholarly activity as you will see in the sketches on faculty members later on in the Newsletter. You will see all their campus awards for teaching, research, and service. Beyond doing a great job in the classroom, the department’s faculty presented many papers at conferences, gave invited talks, and published a number of articles. Most notably, in the 2012-2013 academic year three faculty members published books: Patrick Huber published “He’s Dead, All Right”: Father Oscar L. Huber, the Kennedy Assassination, and the News Leak Controversy; Kate Sheppard published A Woman’s Work in Archaeology: The Life and Legacy of Margaret Alice Murray; and I published Bright Light City: Las Vegas in Popular Culture. This coming year several more books are scheduled for release by Tseggai Isaac, Patrick Huber, Diana Ahmad, John McManus, and me.
Alumna Suzie Long (‘84) wins UM System Award

At the June Board of Curators meeting, Suzie Long achieved a singular honor when she received the President’s Award for Early Career Excellence. Here is the UM System press release about her great start to a career in academia:

President’s Award for Early Career Excellence
Suzanna K. Long, Ph.D., Missouri S&T

Long is assistant professor of engineering management and systems engineering and has demonstrated an ability to create a sustainable, highly visible research program grounded in scholarship, effective teaching and service. Since joining the Missouri S&T faculty in 2008, she has received 21 grants totaling more than $7 million. With a research focus on transportation sustainability, she has published more than 60 articles and six book chapters. In addition to scholarship and teaching, Long has served in leadership positions at multiple professional organizations.

Department of History & Political Science

This is obviously a productive department in terms of book publication. It is nice to see that confirmed by a measure increasingly used by universities to benchmark productivity. Academic Analytics is a database that includes the scholarly work produced by faculty members in all fields. The leading measure for historians is book publication. In looking at the variable “book publications per faculty member” between 2003 and 2011, one finds the department at S&T with greater productivity than the departments of history at Brown University, Emory University, University of Chicago, and Harvard’s department of the history of science!

I hope all is well with you and I encourage you to keep in touch. Send me an email or if you come back to Rolla please stop by. Let us know what you are doing and if I make a mistake in our listing of alumni, please let me know at lgragg@mst.edu.

- Larry Gragg

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.
This summer, Shannon Fogg had the opportunity to offer a study abroad course on the memory of war in France. She and Dr. Audra Merfeld-Langston (Assistant Professor of French in the Department of Arts, Languages, and Philosophy) guided fifteen students on a three-week program that explored the legacy of World War I and World War II in France. They spent two weeks in Paris followed by a week in Normandy. Some of the highlights included a full-day tour of Great War battlefields in the Somme, visiting the D-Day Landing Beaches in Normandy, and lots of museums including Les Invalides Army Museum, the Holocaust Memorial, the Louvre, and the Peace Memorial. The two professors commented that it was amazing to take the students to the places where history happened and to see the students grow educationally and personally. As history major Zackery Thompson wrote in his blog post about his experience, “It is hardly enough to say that this has been a life-changing experience, one that has sparked my interest in so many areas of life. Above all else this trip has reaffirmed my desire to travel and experience as many different cultures and societies as possible. […] The trip opened my eyes to how much history lies in the stone facades of the buildings, the sprawling fields where battles were fought, and the number of memories waiting to be uncovered yet.” Thanks to the generous financial support of the Department of History and Political Science, the Department of Arts, Languages, and Philosophy, the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, and the Student Financial Aid office, the two professors were able to offer scholarships to all the students, many of whom had never travelled abroad. Please consider making a donation to the department’s study abroad scholarship fund so we can continue to offer our students a global education. You can also visit minersabroad.mst.edu to learn more about the trip and read the students’ posts about their experiences.
Diana Ahmad published two articles: “Prairie Dogs, Buffalo, Mosquitos: Emigrants’ Responses to Wild Animals on the Journey to the Pacific Coast,” *Overland Journal* 31:1 (Spring 2013) and “Virginia City’s Fledgling Police Force Takes on Journalists and Opium, 1870s-1880s,” *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 54:1-4 (2011). She presented “Moving Across the Plains: Prairie Dogs, Overland Emigrants, and Manifest Destiny” at the Western Social Science Association conference in Denver and participated in an invited Round Table discussion of “Animals in History” at the Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association conference in Denver. She also won the “We Love Your Class” award from the freshmen engineering students.

Michael Bruening completed his term as interim department chair in June. He presented a paper entitled “Scandalous Little Books: The Practice and Politics of Book Production in Reformation Switzerland” at the First Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Saint Louis University, where he also chaired another session. He recently learned that he will be awarded a 2014 Faculty Excellence Award from Missouri S&T.

Petra DeWitt, while continuing to teach a wide array of courses, received the Missouri History Book Award at the annual meeting of the State Historical Society of Missouri for her fine book *Degrees of Allegiance: Harassment and Loyalty in Missouri’s German-American Community during World War I*. She also gave two invited talks, one at the University of Missouri, St. Louis on occasion of the reopening of the German Culture Center on September 4, 2013 and one about her book at the Missouri History Museum that same day. She also received the campus Bronze Alumna of the year award.
Shannon Fogg continues to work on her new book project that explores the looting and restitution of Jewish apartments in Paris during and after the Second World War. She gave lectures on her research at Truman State University, Texas A&M University, and the University of Iowa this year. She also published a chapter on the Nazi persecution of gypsies in France and presented a version of the chapter at the Holocaust Center in Oslo, Norway. A recipient last year of a campus Teaching Award, she continues to offer classes in European history and had the opportunity to take 15 students on a study abroad trip to France this summer. She serves as the transfer advisor for the department and was the History Club advisor.

Larry Gragg after serving ten months as Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, has happily returned as chair of the department. He published *Bright Light City: Las Vegas in Popular Culture* and a book chapter entitled “The Powerful Mythology Surrounding Bugsy Siegel,” in *Frontiers in Chance: Gaming Research Across Disciplines* while he completes a biography of Siegel. He chaired the search for a new Vice-Chancellor for Finance and Administration and the Undergraduate Student Committee in the new Campus Strategic Planning process and is delighted to be back in the classroom.

Patrick Huber published an essay, “Black Hillbillies: African American Musicians on Old-Time Records, 1924-1932,” in an edited collection titled *Hidden in the Mix: The African-American Presence in Country Music* (2013). In anticipation of the fiftieth anniversary of President Kennedy’s assassination, he produced a slim book, “He’s Dead, All Right”: *Father Oscar L. Huber, the Kennedy Assassination, and the News Leak Controversy* (2013). It chronicles the role that his cousin played in administering last rites to the president in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, and the subsequent controversy surrounding the allegation that the priest had leaked the news of the president’s death prior to the official White House announcement. He delivered two conference presentations this past academic year, including the keynote address, “Interpreting Hank Williams: Seven Decades of Writing about Country Music’s Greatest Star,” at the annual International Country Music Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. He continues to serve on the board of directors of the Missouri Folklore Society and the editorial boards of both the *Missouri Historical Review* and *Southern Cultures*.

John McManus completed work on a new book The Dead and Those About to Die, D-Day: The Big Red One at Omaha Beach scheduled for release in May 2014. His book Grunts: Inside the American Infantry Combat Experience, World War II Through Iraq was named to the U.S. Army Chief of Staff Recommended Professional Reading List. He also appeared in several documentaries and made multiple invited presentations around the country. He received several awards including the campus Outstanding Teaching Award, the W. E. and Peggy Wiggins Department Faculty Excellence Award, and a campus Faculty Excellence Award.

Michael Meagher continues to serve as the campus pre-law advisor and faculty coordinator for Constitution Day and he reviewed Buckley: William F. Buckley Jr. and the Rise of American Conservatism in the Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies (September, 2013).

Jeff Schramm gave an invited talk at Mississippi State University last October on the history of mining schools in America. The talk was part of a special celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Land Grant Act that created land grant universities. An expanded version will be published in a collected volume of essays from the conference. He has also accepted a part time administrative position as the special assistant to the provost for eLearning. In this position he brings his knowledge of the history of technology to the rapidly changing field of educational technology and provides a faculty voice in discussions about blended and online learning on campus. He continues to teach his popular History of Technology and Architecture, Technology and Society courses.
Kathleen Sheppard published her first book *The Life of Margaret Alice Murray: A Woman’s Work in Archaeology*. She also has developed a new course for the department entitled Women in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine. She serves as the History Club advisor and is active in the Society of Women Engineers.

**Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society 2013**

Jeremiah McFann  
John Parker

**Scholarship Recipients Fall 2012 and Spring 2013**

Samuel Sutton  
Erin Clawson  
Jaclyn Standfast  
Savannah Lore  
Kevin Ponder  
Cole Thompson  
Laura Welsh

**Alumni Notes**

**1970s**


John Wiggins (1970) is a retired circuit court judge in Phelps County, Missouri and will once again be offering a course in our department for students interested in law school on Constitutional Law: Government Powers and Civil Liberties.

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) is 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 Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colorado. He has been nominated for promotion to brigadier general.

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.

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.

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.

Tony Arnold (1999) is the Assistant Director of the Missouri S&T Office of Sustainable Energy & Environmental Engagement.
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 a social studies teacher in Irmo, South Carolina.

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.

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.

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) is teaching in Oklahoma City.

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

2010s

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

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

Chad Shockley (2010) is a physical education teacher and coach at Rolla High School.

Adam Smith (2010) is Curator of Collections at the Stearns History Museum in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Rachel Forester (2011) is in the M.A. program in Historic Preservation at Southeast Missouri State University.

Ashley Grace (2011) is a third-year law school student and is one of the editors for De Jure, the UMKC Law Review.

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

John Crawford (2012) is a wine inspector with the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Julie Meyer (2012) is teaching at Francis Howell Central High School in Cottleville, Missouri.

Athena Carey (2013) is a social studies teacher at Cuba High School.

Mary Frey (2013) is studying archeology at University College, Dublin.

Sarah Jameson (2013) is in graduate school at Western Kentucky University.

Emily Spooner (2013) is a social studies teacher at Dixon High School.