

Letter from the Chair



This is a bitter-sweet time for me as I am completing my last year as department chair in 2014-2015. I served six years

as chair in the 1990s and will complete my eleventh year in the twenty-first century.

Please take a look at the growing list of notes about alumni. You are all doing intriguing things in career paths that are truly diverse. The thread that holds you together was your experience at UMR or S&T. It is always good to see former students. This past summer, for example, Larry Hamilton ('87) stopped by my office, and we had a delightful conversation about what has happened in his life since leaving UMR. It was also a treat to have the opportunity to hire David Croft ('83) to teach a class for us this fall. If we have not included you in the notes, please drop me a line about what you are doing, and we will include you in the next newsletter, or let me know if we need to update what we have written about you.

Also, please take a look at the remarkable accomplishments of our faculty. The faculty members in the department are developing new classes and new ways of offering instruction all in an effort to enhance student learning. They are also presenting many papers at academic

meetings and publishing many well received articles and books. The evidence of their excellence is everywhere to be seen. In February, the campus gave out twenty-eight awards for outstanding teaching, research, and service and faculty members in this department received seven of them! We were delighted to see the campus name Shannon Fogg Woman of the Year and John McManus the next Curators Professor. Finally, I had the great good fortune to receive the University of Missouri System Thomas Jefferson Award. Led by Jana Neiss and our new hire Mandy Welch we have launched a unique elementary education program, one that is STEM-focused. This is an exciting new direction for the Teacher Education Program and shows great promise.

In writing the above, I am reminded why I have enjoyed being chair of this department. In the 1990s I had the privilege of working with the professors so many of you remember with fondness—Wayne Bledsoe, Marvin Cain, Lawrence Christensen, Harry Eisenman, Don Oster, Jack Ridley, and Lance Williams. As they retired, I was able to play a critical role in hiring the current faculty members, a group who have become the best teaching-scholars on the campus. More importantly, I was able to interact on a daily basis

with so many of you. In all, I have had over 8,000 students in my classes and that includes most of the more than 500 history majors we have had in the last three decades. It has been a treat to watch your careers develop and see the many successes that you are enjoying. So, ending my time as chair will be a bit difficult, but time has taken its toll. How-

ever, I will not go away. I will still teach and continue my aggressive research agenda on the history of Las Vegas. So, please keep in touch and stay tuned to see who we select as my successor.

- Larry Gragg

Professor Gragg Wins Prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award



True to his customary humility, Professor Gragg did not ask to include this item in this newsletter, but we could hardly leave out the most prestigious award given to one of our faculty members this year! In the spring, Dr. Gragg was awarded the University of Missouri System's Thomas Jefferson Award, the highest award in the UM system, which is given to a single faculty member in the entire UM System each year. Here is the press release accompanying his award:

Dr. Larry D. Gragg, Curators' Teaching Professor of history at Missouri S&T, received the Thomas Jefferson

Award, which includes a \$10,000 award funded through a grant from the Robert Earl McConnell Foundation. The award recognizes faculty who rise above excellence and demonstrate clear distinction in teaching, research, writing, creative activities and service to the University of Missouri and humankind.

Gragg, who also chairs the history and political science department, is widely recognized by faculty and students for being fiercely devoted to teaching and promoting excellence throughout all departments of the university.

Gragg has taught more than 10 courses on campus, meets individually with almost all of his students, fosters independent research with students and consistently mentors professors in his department and others. Gragg also serves the campus by chairing committees such as the Campus Committee on Effective Teaching and the Arts and Sciences Education Task Force.

"Dr. Gragg has a genuine love of learning that marks him as an outstanding academician," wrote a nominator and mentee of Gragg's. "His keen interest in me as a person, advancing the status of the university, and giving back to the university community is apparent at every turn."

Gragg's research reflects a wide range of intellectual curiosity and has resulted in the publication of seven books and more than three dozen articles. He seeks a broad understanding of

American development in his research, and has pursued topics from migration in early America and the Salem witch trials to the English colonization of Barbados and perceptions of Las Vegas in popular culture.

Professor Fogg is Missouri S&T's 2014 Woman of the Year

We were all delighted to learn that our own Professor Shannon Fogg was selected as the winner of the 2014 Missouri S&T Woman of the Year award. Here is the text of the campus press release that accompanied her selection:

Dr. Shannon Fogg, associate professor of history and political science at Missouri University of Science and Technology, has been named 2014 Woman of the Year by Missouri S&T. She was honored during a campus ceremony on Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

The Woman of the Year award is given annually in recognition of efforts to improve the campus environment for women and minorities. As part of the award, Fogg received a \$2,000 stipend funded by Missouri S&T graduate Cynthia Tang, founder and former chair of Insight Industries Inc.

"Shannon's commitment to student learning is extraordinary," wrote one of her nominators. "She has instructed over 1,000 students on our campus and they have given her high teaching evaluations. An examination of the comment sheets from her students reveals that they perceive Shannon as a talented, tough teacher who is nonetheless always willing to be helpful, always ready to assist those seeking to meet her expectations."

Fogg joined the Missouri S&T faculty in 2004 as an assistant professor of history and political science and was named associate professor in 2011. She has taught more than 40 sections of 11 courses, including seven new courses.

"Dr. Fogg's presence on this campus has been an enormous support and inspiration for me and for women faculty in many ways," wrote another of her nominators. "She perfectly, and gracefully, models the values that demonstrate why women's contributions to this campus are so important and the values this Woman of the Year Award represents."

While at Missouri S&T, Fogg has demonstrated dedication to student learning and campus diversity, including working to improve the climate for women through participation in service activities like student advising, faculty mentoring and service on campus committees. In 2012, she received an Inspirational Woman Award from Leadership and Cultural Programs at Missouri S&T.

Fogg has produced numerous book reviews, published articles in peer-reviewed journals and contributed chapters to edited volumes. She received the 2009 Missouri Conference on History Book Award for her book *The Politics of Everyday Life in Vichy France: Foreigners, Undesirables, and Strangers*.



The Department of History & Political Science has a [Facebook page](#)—be sure to “like” us to keep up with the latest department news!

Faculty Notes



Diana Ahmad presented two invited papers at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (on smoking opium) and at the American Society for Environmental History (on animals on the over-land trails). She also presented two papers at the Western Social Science Association (on cowboys and early impressions of Guam). The opium presentation is on [C-SPAN](#).



Michael Bruening redesigned his Early Western Civilization course using the “[flipping the classroom](#)” technique, by which students get most of the informational content from homework assignments, so that class time can be spent writing and reading and discussing primary sources. He published an article entitled “Pierre Viret’s Epistolary Life and Corpus” in [Pierre Viret et la diffusion de la Réforme](#). In October, he presented a paper on “Reformed Critics of Calvin’s Position on Nicodemism” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference. In the spring he received a Faculty Excellence Award and recently received a 2013-14 Outstanding Teaching Award.



Petra DeWitt, our newest tenure-track Assistant Professor, has been busy attending conferences this year. In January, she served as panel chair and commentator during the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society’s 2014 Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Indeed, her dedication to Phi Alpha Theta has come full circle this year as this former president of the Alpha Epsilon Phi chapter has now become its faculty adviser. She also served as a panel chair and commentator during the 56th Annual Missouri Conference on History in March in Jefferson City. In November she presented a paper on the legacy of the 1917 Espionage Act during the Legacy of the First World War Conference at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. During the summer she gave several invited talks about her research on the home front during World War I, including one at the Missouri Archives and one as a Missouri Valley Speaker at the Kansas City Public Library. [C-Span recorded the latter presentation](#).



Shannon Fogg published an article on [the politics of rebuilding Jewish life in postwar Paris after the Holocaust](#) in *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* (Fall 2014), which reflects many ideas from her latest book project. She presented her research at conferences in Atlanta and Montreal this year as well. She continues to serve as the transfer advisor for the department and on various other campus committees. She is also a member of both the Governing Board for the Western Society for French History and the editorial board of *French Historical Studies*. She was honored for her service to the campus and historical profession with a Faculty Service Award and was thrilled to be named Missouri S&T's Woman of the Year in recognition of her work to improve the campus climate for women and minorities. The most rewarding part of her job continues to be working with students in her classes on European history.



Larry Gragg, as he completes his last year as department chair, published "Perceptions of Nevada," *Nevada: 150 years in the Silver State* while completing his biography [Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel: The Gangster, the Flamingo, and the Making of Modern Las Vegas](#) which will be released in 2015. He gave two invited talks: "He Was Truly a Really Nice Guy ... As Much As I Knew': Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel's Interactions with the Las Vegas Community, 1941-1947" at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and "Building the Brand: Jack Entratter and Al Freeman Successfully Promoting the Sands in the 1950s" at the Nevada State Museum. The Western Writers of America named his book ["Bright Light City:" Las Vegas in Popular Culture](#) a Finalist for the Best Western Nonfiction Contemporary and the University of Missouri awarded him its Thomas Jefferson Award.



Patrick Huber published an article, ["The New York Sound: Citybilly Recording Artists and the Creation of Hillbilly Music, 1924-1932,"](#) in the Spring 2014 issue of the *Journal of American Folklore*, and contributed several entries to the second edition of *The Grove Dictionary of American Music* (2013) and to *Race and Racism in the United States: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic* (2014). He also published a co-edited anthology, [The Hank Williams Reader](#) (Oxford University Press, 2014), which was reviewed in the [Wall Street Journal](#) and featured on a BBC-Scotland program.



Tseggai Isaac, along with Dr. Andrew Targowski, edited, [African Civilization in the 21st Century](#) and he served as the Chair for the Coordinating Committee for the conference of Eritreans for Facilitating National Dialogue. He also is a co-founder of EFND, an organization of Eritrean Scholars from American, African, Canadian, and European founded in August 2013 to bring together diverse Eritrean movements for human and political rights.

Faculty Notes, continued



John McManus gave a paper about the Battles of Guam and Peleliu and a shift in the Pacific War at an international conference of leading World War II historians, hosted by Royal Military Academy-Sandhurst. He published an article in the *Wall Street Journal* about his choice of the [five best books on the Normandy invasion](#) and published [The Dead and Those About To Die: The Big Red One at Omaha Beach](#). During a speaking tour for the book, he addressed live, radio and TV audiences numbering in the tens of thousands. Finally, the University of Missouri named him a Curators Professor of History.



Michael Meagher edited and provided the Introduction for *American Government* and presented “Lyndon B. Johnson: Communication Style, 1963-64” at the Illinois Political Science Association annual meeting. He was the campus coordinator for Constitution Day, presented the “History of LGBT Issues at UMR/S&T” while continuing to serve as the campus Pre-Law advisor and teaching courses on American Government, The American Presidency, and Contemporary Political Thought.



Jeff Schramm presented on the history of the U.S. Bureau of Mines at the 2014 meeting of the Society for the History of Technology annual meeting in Dearborn, MI. He also led a workshop on course design for the Promethians, a history of engineering group. He is continuing in his position as special assistant to the provost for eLearning where he works across the campus to facilitate the wise use of technology to enhance teaching and learning at S&T.



Kathleen Sheppard presented a paper in April at the Midwest Junto for the History of Science at Truman State University titled: “On His Majesty’s Secret Service: Archaeologists as Spies during World War I,” and her chapter “Margaret Alice Murray and Archaeological Training in the Classroom: Preparing ‘Petrie’s Pups,’” appeared this October in [Histories of Egyptology](#), edited by William Carruthers and published by Routledge. She also received the department’s Wiggins Faculty Excellence Award in August. Dr. Sheppard has been on leave for the Fall semester after she and her husband welcomed their first baby in June.

Teacher Education Program Update

Dr. Mandy Welch joined the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in August to facilitate the new STEM-focused elementary education program. Mandy was most recently the principal at Smithville Upper Elementary School and returns to Rolla after growing up in the Salem area.

Students earning the STEM-focused elementary teaching certificate will receive a BA in Multidisciplinary Studies and will have an area of concentration in math or science. In addition, students will earn embedded credit through courses designed to integrate extensive clinical experiences with coursework taken on the S&T campus. Students will also assist Rolla elementary schools with the implementation of Project Lead the Way, a curricu-

lar program that provides science and engineering education in K-12 schools throughout the nation.

The TEP continues to prepare secondary teachers in eight content areas. The TEP has approximately eighty students at various stages of completion. Sixteen candidates completed the program in the '13-'14 academic year and were recommended for certification. The students consistently perform well on standardized tests and in field and clinical experiences. Last year TEP students passed the Praxis II with a 90% first time pass rate. In addition, four students passed the Praxis II with Excellence, a recognition given to the top 15% of test takers in the nation.



Jana Neiss continues to serve as the Director of the Teacher Education Program. She successfully implemented a STEM-focused elementary education program this fall, the first in Missouri. Moreover, she was able to partner with the Rolla Public Schools to implement Project Lead the Way (a program to develop science, technology, engineering, and math skills) instruction in the Rolla Middle school. As chair of the Missouri Council of Education Deans she represented the state at the National Summit on Teacher Education and the Common Core.

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.

Department Scholarship Students, 2013-2014

Samuel Sutton

Erin Clawson

Savannah Lore

Cole Thompson

Laura Welsh

2014 Phi Alpha Theta Inductees

Barbara Fears

Jonathan Fleming

Robert Redmond

Alumni Notes

1970s

Roy Gilkey (1970) retired from the Waynesville School District in 2002 and is now the pastor at Brays Advent Christian Church in Iberia, Missouri.

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 the Andrew Helmus Distinguished Professor of History and Politics and Nisbet Honors Program Co-Director 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) recently retired from teaching at Rolla's Junior High School and now teaches a course in history at S&T.

Suzie Long (1984) is an associate 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 a Brigadier-General and commands Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colorado.

Larry Hamilton (1987) is a senior support analyst for Harris Computer Systems in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Brenda Brugger (1988) is Assistant Vice Chancellor in Administrative and Development Services for University Development 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) is Deputy Director of Acquisition Policy in the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

Amy Beechner-McCarthy (1991) is CEO of Your Community Health Center in Rolla.

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 an associate 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 retired from her position as 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 our department's newest tenure-track historian!

Julie Mauer (1996) is a partner in the firm of Benedetto, Torgenson, Maurer in Phoenix and recently the *Phoenix Business Journal* honored her as one of its "40 Under 40 class" of rising stars.

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

Melody Lloyd (1997) is the Assistant Archivist in the University 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." Her most recent books include *The Tiger's Widow* and *Stories from the Battlefield: A Beginning Guide to World War II Research*.

2000s

Tim Laycock (2000) is a partner in the firm of Stinson, Leonard, and Street 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.

Patrick Bresnahan (2004) is teaching in the Maries R-1 School District in Vienna, 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 is a Captain in the Missouri National Guard.

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 a stay-at-home Mom.

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

Rebecca Prater Rost (2005) is a Preservation Planner and Grants Manager for 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.

Wes Mosier (2006) graduated with a PhD in history from Oklahoma State University.

Clint Rogers (2006) works for Forest Pharmaceuticals in Columbia, Missouri.

Nick Villanueva (2006) received his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt and is teaching at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse.

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

Sarah Parry Myers (2007) graduated with a PhD in history from Texas Tech University.

John Batarick (2008) is an operations support tech in the office of Business Services at Missouri S&T.

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) is lead teacher at Green-

tree Learning and Childcare Center in Rolla.

Tyler Johnson (2009) is a student recruitment specialist as Missouri S&T.

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.

Rebecca Holmes (2012) is a business analyst at Boeing in St. Louis.

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

Athena Carey (2013) is completing the requirements to obtain a teaching certificate in Illinois.

Mary Frey (2013) received an M.A. in archaeology from University College, Dublin.

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

Emily Spooner (2013) is a social studies teacher at Waynesville Middle School.