Letter from the Chair

2010 was an excellent year for the department and its students. Nearly forty-five percent of our sixty-two majors had a grade point average of 3.00. Those who graduated last year are teaching in secondary schools, seeking graduate degrees, pursuing a career in the military, or are serving in internships. Through your continued generosity we were able to help nine of our majors with scholarships.

Some of our students have been making paper presentations. Amanda Kamps presented a paper titled “Exploiting Stereotypes: Benjamin Siegel’s Reliance Upon Reputation in Las Vegas,” at the Far West Popular Culture and American Culture Associations’ annual conference in Las Vegas. Adam Smith won first place in the Arts and Humanities paper competition at the campus Undergraduate Research Conference with his paper titled “The Rescue of Danish Jews.”

In the fall semester we had another productive Advisory Board meeting. Darlene Bramel (1982), principal at Rolla’s Truman Elementary School; David Croft (1983), a teacher at Rolla’s Junior High School; Jaired Hall (2005), a lawyer in Salem and Houston, Missouri; Suzie Long (1984), an assistant professor of engineering management at S&T; Nick Villanueva (2006), a Ph.D. student at Vanderbilt University; and John Wiggins (1970), a retired judge spoke to some of our current students. They explained the nature of their jobs and described the paths they followed in pursuing their careers. We are grateful to all these folks for sharing their insights with us and our students.

While they were teaching very full classes (with remarkably high student teaching evaluations), faculty members in the department were very active scholars writing books, articles, and presenting papers at academic conferences, activities you can see in the Faculty Notes section of the Newsletter. Their several achievements in teaching, research, and service merited numerous awards. Professor Diana Ahmad not only won a campus Outstanding Teacher Award and a campus Outstanding Academic Advisor Award, she also received the campus Inspirational Woman Award. Professors Petra DeWitt and John McManus also won campus Outstanding Teaching Awards and students in Freshman Engineering selected Larry Gragg to receive their “We Love Your Class” award. Professors Shannon Fogg and John McManus received campus Research Awards and Professor Patrick Huber won the Wayland D. Hand Prize from the American Folklore Society for his book Linthead Stomp. Finally, Professor John McManus received the department’s W.E. and Peggy Wiggins Faculty Excellence Award. This is an award funded through the generosity of John Wiggins, a long-time supporter and friend of the department. Clearly, while we struggled with financial challenges, the department’s faculty members continue to do excellent work.
Letter from the Chair, continued

We are always eager to hear from you. Please drop me a line (my email address is lgragg@mst.edu), send me a business card, give me a call (573-341-4804), or drop by the department whenever you are in town and let me know what you are doing these days.

- Larry Gragg, Chair

Sam Mahaney Receives Professional Degree

Congratulations to Col. Samuel C. Mahaney (1985) who became only the second graduate of our program (John Wiggins was the first) to receive a Professional Degree. At the May commencement the campus honored some of its most accomplished alumni, including Sam, with this designation. Sam is a licensed attorney and adjunct professor of federal appropriations law and fiscal policy at Georgetown University. He has served as a Harvard National Security Fellow, Georgetown Capitol Hill Fellow, and as a Legislative Liaison to the Defense Appropriations and Authorization Committees in both the House and Senate. Sam is also a command pilot. He has more than 18 years of flying experience in bombers, air refueling tankers and aeromedical evacuation aircraft. He has served in numerous positions since joining the Air Force in 1988. I know many of you will recall Sam from your days on campus.

Faculty Notes

Diana Ahmad made trips, funded by a University of Missouri Research Board grant, to the Oregon Historical Society, Utah State History Society, the Mormon Library, the Huntington Library, the Bancroft Library, and Merrill J. Mattes Research Library to research “Animal and Human Relationships on the Overland Trails.” She also won three awards: a campus Outstanding Teacher Award, a campus Outstanding Academic Advisor Award, and a campus Inspirational Woman Award.

Michael Bruening published “Triumvirs, Patriarchs, or Friends: Evaluating the Relationship between Calvin, Viret, and Farel,” in Reformation & Renaissance Review. He also travelled to Switzerland to finish the research for his forthcoming critical edition of the previously unedited correspondence of the Calvinist reformer Pierre Viret. And he delivered conference papers in Clermont-Ferrand, France and in Montreal. In the fall he taught a new course on the history of Christianity and Islam.
Faculty Notes, continued

**Petra DeWitt** was promoted to Assistant Teaching Professor and received a campus Outstanding Teaching Award. This year Ohio University Press will publish her book titled *The Roots of Harassment and Meaning of Loyalty: The German-American Experience in Missouri during World War I.*

**Shannon Fogg** continued research on her next book project tentatively titled “Restitution: Reconstructing Jewish Lives in Twentieth-Century France.” She presented three papers related to her research into the looting and restitution of goods from Jewish apartments in Paris during World War II: at the annual conference of the Society for French Historical Studies in Tempe, Arizona, at an international conference hosted by the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada-Reno, and at the campus Celebrating Excellence in the Humanities day. With the support of a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society, she was able to return to Paris in December to continue her research. She also received a campus Faculty Research Award.


**Patrick Huber** presented a total of seven conference papers and invited talks, including one in February at Queen’s University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. His book *Linthead Stomp: The Creation of Country Music in the Piedmont South,* published by the University of North Carolina Press, won its third award, the Wayland D. Hand Prize from the American Folklore Society. With two colleagues, he is currently completing *The Hank Williams Reader: Essential Writings about Country Music’s Greatest Singer and Songwriter,* forthcoming from Oxford University Press in 2012.
Faculty Notes, continued

Tsegai Isaac is on leave this year working with the U.S. Army as a Cultural Advisor to help revise the curriculum for training officers. He published “Faith and Culture in the Middle East: A Road to Heaven or a Catalyst for Crisis” in the Journal of the Institute of Justice & International Studies.

John McManus received both a campus Research Award and a campus Teaching Award as well as the department’s W.E. and Peggy Wiggins Faculty Excellence Award. He published his ninth book, Grunts: Inside the American Infantry Combat Experience: World War II Through Iraq. He also made presentations about the book at the Pritzker Military Library and the 1st Infantry Division Foundation in Chicago and at the St. Louis County Library.

Michael Meagher completed work, with co-author Larry Gragg, on John F. Kennedy: A Biography, to be published by ABC-CLIO in July and published a review of The Making of a Catholic President: John F. Kennedy vs. Nixon 1960 in the Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies. He also was named to the Honorary Degrees Committee.

Jeff Schramm published Out of Steam: Dieselization and American Railroads, 1920-1960. It is an examination of the transition from steam to diesel motive power on the railroads of the United States. His current major research project is a history of the scientific and technological research activities of the United States Bureau of Mines, especially the Rolla, MO experiment station and the Synthetic Liquid Fuels plant at Louisiana, MO. During fall 2010 he was on development leave, which gave him the opportunity to engage in extensive research at the National Archives in College Park, MD, in Louisiana, MO and in Columbia, MO for the Bureau of Mines project.
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society

The Phi Alpha Theta history honor society inducted nine new members in April. The group also sponsored faculty talks by Larry Gragg, John McManus, Diana Ahmad, and Weiner Professor David Levy. In the fall, Phi Alpha Theta sponsored a forum for students on applying to graduate school with a faculty panel that included Larry Gragg, John McManus, and Phi Alpha Theta faculty advisor Michael Bruening.

2010 Phi Alpha Theta Inductees:
Collin Bahr
George Fulghum
Cara Lyles
Evan Mobley
Sarah Muñoz
Robin Schimming
Dustin Schroer
Chad Shockley
Brandon Wagner

History Club

Among their many activities, student members of History Club last year held a combined bake and t-shirt sale that netted $400 for Haiti Earthquake Relief.

Scholarship Recipients Fall 2009 and Spring 2010

Collin Bahr
Caleb Cox
Ashley Grace
Cara Lyles
Julie Meyer
Evan Mobley
Svyatoslav Puyat
Dustin Schroer
Chad Shockley
Prof. Russ Buhite, Phi Alpha Theta Address, April 2010

My aversion to Marxist-Leninist ideology derives largely from its central thesis that mode of production determines nearly all human behavior—to me never a credible proposition. One of my concerns about some social history has been that its practitioners devote far too much effort to classification of people by race, ethnicity, occupation, class, gender—and then suggest that once proper classification is achieved behavior tends to become predictable or provable.

Let me provide some details of my own biography, influences on my life, my odyssey through academe and thoughts about history as a discipline in the hope that you may determine whether I have been predictable or unpredictable.

I am a white male in the 72nd year of life. I was born and raised on a moderately prosperous dairy farm in west central Pennsylvania. When I was 8 or 9 years old my father introduced me to hard physical labor, the operation of machinery, and other duties little different than those experienced by the hired hands. I was not coddled or sheltered, and I was quickly exposed to the full range of life on a farm, including all the off-color jokes and obscene language. My father, despite his work ethic, was not a drudge or a martinet. He loved life, had a wonderful sense of humor, enjoyed hunting and fishing and, most of all, he was a man of multiple talents. He had graduated from high school in 1935 during the worst of the Great Depression. My mother, an “A” student, also graduated from high school in 1935. Though not my father’s equal intellectually, she had outstanding qualities of mind and personality—she ran the family and was also a hard worker. To the extent that she could, she looked after our religious instruction in the local Presbyterian Church. I had two younger sisters, one of whom became a distinguished mathematician and worked for many years at the National Security Agency. My baby sister worked for newspapers, on the business side. My mother and father and extended family were staunch Republicans, even though I always thought their true, practical interests lay with the Democratic Party.

My parents did not micro-manage my life and did not direct me toward any particular focus in school. They assumed I would be a good student, and I was. In the one room school of my early life I skipped third grade. After fourth grade I attended a larger elementary school in a nearby community and was more than adequately prepared for high school, even though I was the youngest member of my class. In high school in Punxsutawney, Pa., roughly six miles from our farm, I did not become valedictorian as did my sister, but I graduated with very good grades, especially in my science classes. My main interests during those years were sports, and particularly baseball.

Because of its close proximity and low tuition, I attended Clarion University. My primary goal, however, was to play professional baseball, and after a year and a half of college I signed a contract with the New York Giants and began playing in their minor league system. This part of my life I can summarize by saying that over a four year period three major league organizations signed and released me: The Giants, Orioles and Senators. That they released me causes some embarrassment, but I’ve taken solace in the fact that three organizations considered me a good enough prospect to sign. While playing baseball I attended college during the fall semester, one term per year over a four year period.

In the most fortuitous move of my life, prior to my last year in baseball, I married Mary Eliza-
beth London—my helpmate, companion and best friend with whom I celebrated a 50th wedding anniversary last summer. Buoyant sociability, optimism and conciliation are the essence of her being. Harsh words, and acrimony of all sorts, distress her as though you had hit her with a whip. If the Beatitudes are to be credited, she belongs among those who are to inherit the earth. She became a teacher and helped immensely in those early years to keep us financially solvent.

I can see the wheels spinning in your minds: he was a conservative farm boy from a Republican family; he was raised a Presbyterian, played sports and married his high school sweetheart. That makes him something or other. Well, it did make me something—or other.

In my junior year in college several of my professors urged that I consider graduate school. When during my senior year the graduate dean from Ohio University came to campus on a recruiting trip, I talked with him, liked him very much and quickly accepted a generous fellowship at that institution. My thought then was to complete an M.A. in history and coach college baseball. At Ohio University I received strong encouragement to put baseball aside and go somewhere for a Ph.D. in history. (Ohio did not then offer a Ph.D.) As my values changed, I was receptive to this encouragement. I then took an assistantship at Michigan State University because the History department there offered a far more attractive monetary package than the other schools to which I had applied and been accepted: Duke, Cornell, Michigan and Virginia; indeed I could not have attended any of these universities without incurring serious debt. And I accepted the MSU offer because I knew of the diplomatic historian there. I completed my Ph.D. after three years at Michigan State and in 1965 took a position as assistant professor of history at the University of Oklahoma.

In 1965 academic jobs were plentiful. I could have gone to Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Ball State, the University of Vermont, the University of Nevada at Reno, Hamline University, and Ohio State—the latter as an instructor. The University of Oklahoma was appealing and, as it turned out, a superb place to build a career.

When I arrived in Norman I was the first American historian hired since 1953—and I was a raw rookie. But my older colleagues befriended me, guided me, and helped me enormously even though my beginning experience long pre-dated formal mentoring. Two years into my career, in 1967, History was authorized to hire six new faculty members, among them Professor David Levy [our 2010 Weiner Distinguished Professor]. Members of this group became my life-long friends and guided the department for many years thereafter—and led it to at least modest distinction.

History as a discipline and universities in general were far different in the mid-1960’s, than now. The administration at OU consisted of the president, the vice-president, a treasurer, a registrar and the deans of the colleges. There was no affirmative action officer, nor was there any of the elaborate administrative apparatus we have come to know and love in recent times. We had no formal student evaluation of faculty for the first seven or eight years of my career. In the history department we had no women, no African-Americans and for several years prior to 1967, no Jewish faculty—the latter owing to strenuous opposition of a former chair. Few universities in the country employed African-American faculty members and there were few African-Americans in graduate programs. Few university history departments had
women professors. We did not utilize search committees in those days and at faculty meet-
ings discussing recruiting a common phrasing was “We have to get the best man.” I recall when I was completing my interview with a group of senior professors in the department chair’s office, one of them saying, “Buhite, what church do you go to?” In my second year the department cancelled an assistant-
ship for a graduate student because he had gotten a divorce.

But few of these things were, in retrospect, as important as they might seem. My job was to think about history and to teach and write it. I was allowed to do that without interfer-
ence, in a congenial, comfortable and, you may think curiously in view of what I’ve just said, highly professional environment. In those days most history departments emphasized American, European, Asian, and Latin Ameri-
can history, with some special focus within each area. OU had become well known for its work in Western American history, an empha-
sis enhanced by the high visibility of the Uni-
versity of Oklahoma Press. My field of Ameri-
can diplomatic history was prominent in great measure because of the post-WWII interna-
tional commitment of the United States. Politi-
cal, diplomatic, economic and intellectual his-
tory dominated in most departments. Bio-
graphy was honored as well. Social history had not yet attained the respectability it would gain some 20 years later.

With greater attention to history from the bot-
tom up, the study of what common folk, or families, or the dispossessed, or marginalized, did or said or thought, we all developed an appreciation for that work. I came to under-
stand how social science methodologies could enlighten us about the past through the study of issues that had not previously occurred to historians. That my own research is more tradi-
tional does not lead me by any means to dispar-
age the quality of most of that scholarship.

But in my mind, though not often in public com-
ment, I have come to classify history as big and less big, or smaller. Big history to me has al-
ways meant the study of relations between and among nations, of the rise and fall of empires, of war and its causes, of major political events, of modernization of societies, of economic is-
issues, of intellectual trends, of important peo-
ple—elites who made policy affecting millions and left elaborate records. The sources for such history are familiar: letters, diaries, memoirs, public and private manuscripts, memos of con-
vversations, dispatches from embassies, newspa-
pers, and such. Most of these sources come from literate people. They give the historian a chance to come closest, in my opinion, to accu-
curacy in retrieving the past. My preference is for the big history I describe.

What I deem smaller history is not necessarily small—some of it is bigger than big history, and much of it is, as I’ve noted, extremely valuable. What I’m discussing of course is really social history, or social science history. As you all know, it involves the study of race, class, gen-
der, ethnicity, work, leisure, sex, aging, death, birth control and about as many issues relating to the human experience as one could imagine. Doing this history often involves the use of un-
orthodox, or creative, sources or methodolo-
gies—because the subjects under study may have been illiterate, may have left no records of any kind—or none in any event that historians of my generation would consider very reliable. Quantification and social science methodologies are now common: counting votes, or people, or bank closures, or mergers, or numbers of chil-
dren, or graves—or analyzing the architecture of barns or houses, or assessing marriage patterns,
All historians are at the mercy of their sources. It’s possible to substitute methodological virtuosity or incantation and special language or vocabulary for final product—and some sources don’t take historians where they claim to go. Sometimes, in my opinion, the sources are highly problematic. Initiation rites, trinkets from a grave, a lying in, a charivari, or a village festive ceremony can tell a historian whatever he or she wants. And when someone announces that they have “teased” this or that conclusion out of their evidence—I’ve heard this expression a thousand times in recent years—I always look for the exits. I quit reading or listening. There is nothing wrong, it seems to me, in saying instead, “the evidence is unclear but this is what I think.” There is also nothing wrong in concluding that some history should remain unwritten.

Now what is the meaning of my personal biography to my life as historian? By my reckoning, apart from my formal education and my family the three primary influences on my life were the farm, baseball, and the Cold War. The farm taught me the value of hard work. It also helped me develop a scientific as opposed to a spiritual world view: I learned a great deal about soil composition, crop rotation, animal biology, machinery manufacturing and repair, construction and building maintenance—and a thousand other practical things, rooted in science. Baseball, the most heavily documented activity in which human kind has ever engaged, taught me the vagaries of life, the triumph of ability over politicking and public relations. It also taught the cruelty of a system unfettered by the 13th and 14th amendments and the anti-trust laws. It moved me to the left politically. The Cold War, without question the dominant, most pervasive historical development of my lifetime, invoked a seemingly perpetual doomsday specter—the realization that nuclear weapons could at any time render past civilization meaningless and the future non-existent. It taught the importance of great power relationships and most importantly the essence of diplomacy: accommodation and postponement. But perhaps most significant to my professional life, it also demonstrated the contemptible fabrication of evidence, the mangling and manipulation of history, the abomination called scholarship practiced in the conscript societies. It led me inexorably to big history and the skepticism I’ve expressed about scholarship rooted in misused or questionable sources.
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

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 a colonel in the U.S. Air Force and an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown Law School.

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 the Associate Director of Student 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.


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 Science; History of Technology; and Architecture, Technology, and Society.

Tom Degonia (1993) is an attorney with Venable LLP in Rockville, Maryland.

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 Associate University Registrar at the University of Virginia.

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

Rachel White (1997) is an attorney in Rolla.

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

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 Tharp (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.


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

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

Jay Thompson (2004) is a teacher in Crocker, Missouri.

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.

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.

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

Nathaniel Mitchell (2007) is an Admissions Representative for Missouri S&T.

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 an Academic Advisor for S&T’s Undergraduate Studies.

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.

Ashton Morgan (2009) works on the staff of Texas Governor Rick Perry.

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) is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
The mission of the History and Political Science Department is to provide a quality education that prepares not just history majors but all students at the Missouri University of Science and Technology for graduate and professional schools or teaching in secondary schools. The department communicates fundamental factual material about the past and present necessary for being an informed citizen facing the challenges of an increasingly technological world. Students are trained in analytical and critical thinking while improving their written and oral communication skills. Students engage in original research vital to understanding and interpreting world events.