From the Chair

As I write this, the department remains in exile in Brennan II. For several years, we have endured the perils of crossing 17th Street, guided bewildered students who get lost trying to find our offices, and wondered when, if ever, we might return to Fiske. It now looks like the interior work on Fiske Hall is proceeding according to schedule (unlike the elevator wing construction) and will be complete by the end of the semester. It will be a challenge to balance the end of semester with holidays and packing to move back. By the next Clio, however, we hope to be back home in Fiske, sharing the oldest surviving building on campus with Philosophy. It has been quite a journey.

As we prepare to return home, we will be back on the main campus of an institution that is both familiar to and different from the one we left back in 2016. We now function under the guidance of a new Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Andrew Hippisley, who combines a background in linguistics with an appreciation for digital humanities. Rick Muma is now provost and he works with a new cohort of assistants who have recently joined the office from other parts of the university. Across the sidewalk from Fiske, the Ulrich Art Museum has a new director, Leslie Brothers. On the other side of campus, there is a new museum that tells the history of entrepreneurship in the original Pizza Hut. At WSU’s Special Collections, Jessica Mirasol now serves as director. The pages that follow will tell about the changes that are taking place in the department, among our students, and our faculty.

What has not changed is our passion for history and its relevance to the modern world. I like to say “history is not looking back, it is looking around.” As we work to understand our campus, our community, our nation, and our world, the need to understand how we got to where we are is more important than ever.
This past year has been a time of experimentation with the Local and Community History Program. History 701 was team taught with Seth Bate, who also defended successfully his thesis on the Walnut Valley Festival. Bate joined Jay Price as instructor to combine leadership principles into the practice of local history. The class focused on the story of the North End and included an oral history booth at the North End Urban Arts Festival (above). The experiment also included opening up the class to members of the general public, an effort that is being repeated this year.

Another area of experimentation involved students being active in the creation of a graphic novel trilogy that told the story of Wichita through the eyes of a cartoon longhorn named Luke (authors pictured above). This effort resulted in one of the team members, Andrea Wilson, coordinating a session on the graphic novel at the National Council of Public History Conference in Las Vegas (below). Another project involved the creation of a museum on WSU campus in the original Pizza Hut building (bottom of the page). That work has been a collaborative effort with Museum Studies, Communications, and Business.

The range of projects that our students work on is truly impressive. Among the many topics currently in the works are J. Earl Schaeffer and the rise of Boeing, Wichita; the Hunter Health Clinic; Highland Cemetery; the Tulsa Race Riot; Historic Preservation Practice in Wichita; Germans in rural Sedgwick County; Jehovah’s Witnesses in World War II; the Sanitary Commission in the Civil War; the story of Chelsea, Kansas; the early days of Derby, Kansas; debates over resource use near Cheney, Kansas; embracing accessibility issues in museum design; and facial hair as a sign of radical politics.

Another area of experimentation involved students being active in the creation of a graphic novel trilogy that told the story of Wichita through the eyes of a cartoon longhorn named Luke (authors pictured above). This effort resulted in one of the team members, Andrea Wilson, coordinating a session on the graphic novel at the National Council of Public History Conference in Las
Faculty News

This was a rather busy year for George Dehner as a number of long-term projects came to fruition. His article “Building a Better World for You” on Legionnaires’ disease and the built environment appeared in the June edition of Environmental History. An article “Environmental History and World History: Developments in Congruence” has been included in a forthcoming special issue of Asian Review of World Histories dedicated to renowned World Historian Patrick Manning. Finally, a book chapter titled “Creating the World Influenza Surveillance System” has been accepted by an academic publishing house with an expected book publication date in 2019. 2018 marks the hundred-year anniversary of the catastrophic Spanish Flu. George has been invited to speak on this topic a number of times: Twice at the Wichita Public Library—one on Spanish flu and once in support of the “Big Read” program; at the Prairie Museum in Colby, Kansas; and is slated to speak at the Museum of World Treasures on the topic in January. He was also an invited speaker at the opening plenary session of the American Society of Microbiology Meeting held in Atlanta in June where he presented “Spanish Flu: The World Before, During, and After.”

George continues to work on his Legionnaire’s manuscript and is looking forward to focused and sustained work on the project when he is on sabbatical in the spring. The usual full boat of classes, eager students, and committee work—combined with the full school and sports schedule of he and his wife Jodi’s three boys (Brendan, Patrick, and Sean) plus their dog Trooper’s busy agenda—has served to keep George (mostly) out of trouble. Finally, George and Jodi are delighted have their oldest Brendan welcomed on board as a new Shocker as he began his university course work in the fall.

Modern Europeanist John Dreifort continues to teach his full range of freshman, upper division, and graduate-level courses. As part of the department’s community outreach, he continues to teach over-subscribed adult education courses to senior citizens, who he appreciates for their enthusiasm, knowledge, and dedication to life-long learning. He continues as Executive Secretary of the Wichita Committee on Foreign Relations, which brings a wide array of nationally prominent speakers to Wichita as well as to campus to speak on issues of foreign policy, national security, and international trade. He also serves on the national executive council of the local committee’s national affiliate organization. He continues to work on his research related to a book project regarding the World War II relationship between Generals Eisenhower and De Gaulle as well as several articles. If he can learn to say “no” to requests for community presentations, he may actually get those projects off the desk in his library carrel. He enjoys hearing from his many former students and to learn how their history courses have helped them live their lives well.

This past year has seen Jeff Hayton work, work, work, and do a little more work in his spare time. This Christmas...
Faculty News, continued

break, the final revisions on his book manuscript *Culture from the Slums: Punk Rock in East and West Germany* is being submitted and he can finally put a close to what has been a ten-year project. If all goes well with production schedules, the book will be out and on shelves in 2019. It will be bittersweet to close this project exploring musical subculture and the relationship between music and society, but Jeff is looking forward to other pursuits.

Other than his book, Jeff continues to publish with a chapter coming out recently on alternative social movements in the 1970s, “Punk Authenticity: Difference across the Iron Curtain” in The Politics of Subjectivity: Alternative Authenticities in the Age of Normalization, edited by Joachim Häberlen and Mark Keck-Szajbel (2018). He has also been invited to contribute a chapter called “Shouting Back: Protest and Political Movements” to a new handbook on music studies, *Musicking in Twentieth-Century Europe*, edited by Klaus Nathaus and Martin Rempe for De Gruyter press. He is especially looking forward to a workshop that will be held to discuss this project at the University of Konstanz in the summer of 2019.

This trip to Konstanz will give Jeff the opportunity to begin research on his new projects in Germany, and speaks to the busy travel schedule he’s had this past year. This fall, Jeff spoke in both Pittsburgh and Boston at international conferences about his work on punk in East and West Germany. Finally, Jeff was just named Co-Director of the Music and Sound Studies Network for the German Studies Association. In this capacity, Jeff will help organize a series of panels for the upcoming annual conferences, and it will allow him to stay on-top of all the exciting new research being done in this field.

This year was busy for Dr. Robin Henry. She had essays published in the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, an edited collection on Matthew Sheppard, and *The American Historian*, the magazine for the Organization of American Historians. In addition, she’s contributed a forthcoming essay on disability and academic organizations in *Montana: the Magazine of Western History*, based on her conference paper presented at this year’s Western History Association Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. During the summer, she also took a research trip to Washington, D.C. to work at the Library of Congress.

In addition to her research, Dr. Henry developed a Law and Film course and became the Graduate Coordinator for the Department of History. She also continued her work on the Law and Public Policy in the Bill and Dorothy Cohen Honors College; serve on the Editorial Board of *H-SHGAPe*, the online listserve for the Society of Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era; write and deliver historical commentary for the series “Past and Present” on KMUW; and organize the Department of History’s speaker series. Finally, she finished her service as a member of the editorial board for the University Press of Kansas and as faculty representative on the Art Alliance of the Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State.

Helen Hundley is working on a book manuscript focusing on the Russian Empire in Siberia in the nineteenth century. Her paper “Agvan Dorjiev: The “Heart” of Early 20th c. Buriat Buddhism and His Post-Soviet Revival” was delivered at the national conference for the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies last November.

She continues her role as Faculty Editor for *The Fairmount Folio*. She also continues to produce the new departmental television program, “Issues in History Today.”

Dr. Robert M. Owens taught a number of courses in the past year, including the Introduction to Research and Writing,
Faculty News, continued

Advanced Historical Methods, the Survey of American Indian History, and both halves of the U.S. Survey. He spent most of the summer working on his research project on the topic of Indian-white murders on the early American Frontier. The highlight of that project was two weeks spent in Philadelphia in June, working at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the American Philosophical Society Library. The trip was made possible through the generosity of a University ARCS (Award for Research and Creative projects in the Summer) grant. Despite some annoyingly loud and repetitive documentary filmmakers, who literally reduced the HSP reading room to a fit of ‘church giggles’ one afternoon, it proved a very productive research trip.

In addition to serving as chair, Jay Price has seen the past year filled with the completion of several projects and the creation of new ones. December 2017 saw two back to back book releases, one being the first in the Luke the Longhorn series, followed, the next day, with the release of the book *Wichita Rock & Roll 1950-1980*, complete with a release concert at Margarita’s. That book sold out within weeks, prompting the creation of a second paperback edition that came out in the summer of 2018. Early 2018 saw the release of the second article on Wichita and the Bible Belt in *Kansas History*, a sequel to one on the religion and the Southern diaspora. The spring was filled with preparations for the opening of the Pizza Hut Museum that culminated in a celebration at the end of the semester.

Current projects include working with colleagues Sue Abdinnour in Business and Robert Weems in History on survey of Ethnic Entrepreneurs in Wichita. His team teaching of HIST 701 is resulting in more interest in telling the story of Wichita’s North End and the city’s Latino Community. The second in the Luke the Longhorn trilogy is in the works, telling the story of the Wichita/Park City rivalry.

Doing local and community history involves being active in the community and as such, he has worked with groups from the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, Symphony in the Flint Hills, the Kansas Historical Society, *Kansas History*, KMUW, WSU’s Special Collections and University Archives, and WSU’s office of adult education. Now as the department prepares to move back to Fiske, he is working to make sure that Fiske’s story is being told for the next generation and that the department is there to make that happen.

Craig L. Torbenson continues to serve as the department’s undergraduate advisor, his fourteenth year. He taught a family history class to some fifty eager senior citizens and has helped one trace her lineage back several generations. A summer trip to eastern Tennessee included a stop at The Hermitage in Nashville and a week enjoying the sites of Knoxville, the Great Smoky Mountains, Dollywood, the Biltmore House of the Vanderbilts, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Chickamauga Battlefield where his great-great uncle was wounded. An article in the *Journal of the West* was published about Peter P. Lee, a business owner and political figure in Minot, North Dakota. He continues as co-Director of the Derby Kansas Family History Library with his wife.

Professor Robert Weems has kept up his busy schedule of teaching, research, and service since the last edition of *Clio*.

In terms of teaching, Weems, besides offering courses in African American history and teaching the American History Seminar, also taught his annual course related to the economic history of the United States. This cross-listed course (with Economics) provides history students with a narrative of American history that is often marginally discussed in other History classes. Conversely, for Economics students taking the course, it provides them with a historical perspective of the U.S. economy.

Fairmount Folio

The Department of History’s publication for student writing, *The Fairmount Folio*, will published volume 18 in the spring of 2019. Dr. Jeff Hayton, Dr. Jay Price, and Dr. Robert Owens served on the Editorial Board. This hefty issue with its wide range of topics reflects the variety of courses taught in the previous year. Articles focusing on the issue of constitutional law and the British quar-}

tering of troops in colonial America provided a two century range of topics. The volume concludes with Wichita topics from Wichita’s role in World War II and the post-World War II process of desegregation in Wichita Public Schools.

In addition to the hard copies, the journal is now available electronically through the library and through the department web site. All of the articles, from volume 1 in 1996 to the present are available.

HOW TO FIND: Beginning at the main page of Ablah Library, under Library Resources, go to OJS-Hosted WSU Journals. *The Fairmount Folio* is available here. You may search for the work of an individual author, topic, or volume. The site is easily accessible.
Faculty News, continued

that is lacking in other Economics courses they take.

In the realm of research, Professor Weems, during the past year, has worked on long-standing projects, along with newer ones. His biography of the noted African American entrepreneur Anthony Overton, after several iterations and revisions, is currently waiting for the reports of outside reviewers at University of Illinois Press. He is also working on an article derived from his research on local African American business history with the working title “Black Business in the Heartland: The Wichita African American Business History Project.” In a related project, Weems and History Department colleague Dr. Jay Price, along with Dr. Sue Abdinnour of the WSU Business School, are working on a collaborative effort to examine the activities of nonwhite entrepreneurs in Wichita. Finally, Professor Weems has begun conceptualizing and doing preliminary research for his next book project with the working title “The History of the National Insurance Association: The Life and Death of an African American Business Organization.” Professor Weems, who is scheduled to be on sabbatical leave during Winter/Spring semester 2019, anticipates making considerable progress on this future book.

Professor Weems’s service activities during the past year have been broad-based.

On the WSU campus, he served as a member of the President’s Diversity Council, where he chaired a subcommittee that is developing a “scorecard” to assess Wichita State University in the realms of diversity and inclusion. During February, 2018, Professor Weems, as he has for the past few years, delivered the keynote lecture associated with Wichita State’s Black History Month activities (“The History of Wichita’s Dunbar Theater”). Other academic-related service activities, that were off-campus based, included a book review published in the June, 2018 issue of the American Historical Review (The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap) and reviewing the dossier of Louis G. Prisock, a candidate for promotion and tenure at Rutgers University.

Once again, Professor Weems had a very active service agenda in the larger Wichita community. Besides serving as the President of the Board of Directors of the Kansas African American Museum, he is also a Board member of the Wichita chapter of the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce. His service leadership also included serving as President of the African American Council of Elders of Wichita/South Central Kansas. One of his related activities in this regard, that he undertook this past year, was co-establishing a community-affairs program on Wichita’s community radio station, KSUN (“Voices From The Village”). This coincides nicely with his other long-standing radio-related community service activity, doing periodic commentary for KMUW (Wichita Public Radio) as part of its “Past and Present” series. Another important community service activity that Weems engaged in during the past year was serving as a speaker at the August 11, 2018 municipal celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Wichita’s Dockum Drug Store Sit-In (America’s first student-led sit-in).

Finally, based upon his past and present activities, Professor Weems, on May 5, 2018, received a “Lifetime Achievement Award” at the 33rd Annual Image Awards Banquet hosted by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. During his acceptance remarks, Weems joked that, while this was a lifetime achievement award, he still had “quite a bit of tread on his tires” and wasn’t planning on retiring any time soon.

Lecture Series ... with Dr. Robin Henry

The Department of History’s Speaker Series entered its sixth year in 2018. In the spring, the department welcomed Dr. Brent Maner, Associate Professor of History at Kansas State University who gave a well-attended lecture titled, “Money and Modernism: Perceptions of the Berlin Stock Exchange in the German Empire.” The speaker for the fall semester, was Dr. Shawn Leigh Alexander, Professor of African and African American Studies and Director of the Langston Hughes Center at the University of Kansas. His lecture, “Fantastic Dreams and Radical Visions: The NAACP and the Foundation of a Movement” examined the NAACP during the 1930s. For further information on upcoming lectures or to be placed on the lecture series email list, please contact Dr. Robin Henry via email at rob-in.henry@wichita.edu. All lectures are free and open to the public.
Alumni News

Lawrence P. Buck (BA, 1966) is a graduate of the WSU History Department and one of J. Kelley Sowards’ students. In 1971 he received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

In 2013, he retired from full-time teaching at Widener University, Chester, PA. As an emeritus professor, he has offered a course entitled Medieval Popular Culture both for the Widener history department and for the university’s honors program. In 2014, his book, The Roman Monster: An Icon of the Papal Antichrist in Reformation Polemics appeared (available from Penn State University Press; originally published by Truman State University Press). In 2018, his chapter entitled “Apocalypticism in the Sixteenth Century” appeared in Martin Luther in Context, edited by David Whitford and published by Cambridge University Press.

Kathleen Epps Hankins (BA, 1967) is an active member in a variety of ways at Hillside Christian Church. She researches family history. She retains memberships in Alpha Chi Omega Sorority Alumnae, the Junior League of Wichita Sustainers (incl. Wit & Wisdom), & the local Historic Preservation Alliance.

Linda Hemmen (MA, 2003) works as an adjunct instructor for the University of Texas at Tyler in their brand new undergraduate speech pathology program. She also works part time for East Texas Children’s Therapy Services. Her passion is, and always will be, history. She enjoys reading and learning about the history of east Texas, particularly Tyler. Some of her fondest memories at WSU are when she was a graduate history student and GTA for Dr. Will Klunder.

Benajmin Hruska (MA, 2004) has been living and teaching in Shenzhen, China, for the past two years. He has just published an article on Public History in Hong Kong in AASLH’s History News.

Glen Allan Johnston (BA, 1961), retired some years ago after various posts

Student Awards 2017-2018

2017-2018 was another exciting and competitive year for scholarships and awards. Thanks to the generosity of the department’s friends, sixteen different awards and grants were distributed to our graduate and undergraduate students. Of these sixteen accolades, two graduate student awards were given in the paper categories. Rhenee Clark received the Fiske Hall Non-Seminar Paper award for her submission while Andrea Wilson’s paper was selected for the Fiske Hall Seminar Paper prize.

At the undergraduate scholarship level, Brett Fearer was identified as the superior Sophomore history major and received the Lee and Helen Kamen Scholarship. Julianne Ferguson’s outstanding work merited her the Donna and Bill Ard Scholarship and Gabriella Garrett’s continued excellent academic performance was recognized with the “Jed” Hurley prize. Derek Landwehr nabbed the Dr. Henry and Minnie Onsgard award and Makenzie Evans garnered the Decker-Kansas Society of DAR grant. Rounding out the undergraduate category was Brooke Talbott, who reeled in the Russell “Jiggs” Nelson Scholarship, and Kaleigh Maison, who grabbed the Marie Graham Memorial Award.

In the graduate award classification, surmounting stiff competition, Leah Gagne received the Anthony and Dana Gythiel Scholarship. Andrea Wilson’s stellar graduate career was honored with the John Rydjord Graduate Fellowship. Through the continued support of the department’s donors, we have been able to fund a portion of graduate research and academic presentations conducted by our students. Brenda Stapleton was selected to receive the Miner/Unrau Research stipend for the Spring of 2018. Under the auspices of the Gamma Rho chapter of the history honor society of Phi Alpha Theta, Regina Cooper received the Mike Heaston Phil Alpha Theta Research Award to support her thesis research in the fall of 2017 while Andrea Wilson was picked for the Spring of 2018 to present her research at the National Council on Public History Conference.

Finally, the department is pleased to announce two new awards this year. The Phi Alpha Theta Kind Shepard Award is given to the best paper written by a Phi Alpha Theta member. The inaugural winner is Andrea Wilson. Also, thanks to an endowment from the Suellentrop family, an award has been created in the name of Ms. Joyce Suellentrop. Ms. Suellentrop earned an MA in History and an MA in English from Wichita State University and went on to a long career as an archivist and Professor. The first winner of the Suellentrop Family Scholarship in History is Carly Stewart. Congratulations to all our students and many thanks from the history department for the kind support of our benefactors.
In the Classroom ... with Jeff Hayton

This fall semester, I had the pleasure of teaching a continuing education course to life-long learners in the Wichita community. The Department of History has often taught classes as part of this program in the past, with Drs. Price and Dreifort being especially active in running courses on Kansas history and current affairs. This summer, I was asked whether I would like to teach a course on the Holocaust and am very happy that I said yes. For ten weeks, me and my one hundred or so students gathered each Monday for two hours to study one of the defining events of the 20th Century. We began by examining the long history of relations between Christians and Jews in Europe, before quickly arriving at the important moments in the pre-history of genocide: the rise of modern antisemitism; the First World War; and the establishment of the Third Reich in Germany. Tracking the persecution of Jews by the Nazis, we ended up spending a considerable amount of time exploring the causes which motivated individuals to commit mass murder. While there were the usual exasperations every teacher faces (truancy, not finishing homework — just kidding!) this class was a wonderful experience and I look forward to teaching others in the community in the future.
Alumni News, continued

Tony Lubbers (MA, 1998), recently celebrated 22 years in the financial aid industry and is currently serving as the Director of Financial Aid at the University of Central Missouri. Prior to his current position, he worked in the Financial Aid Office at Friends University from 1996-2017, mostly as Assistant Director, then Director. He also served as the President of the Kansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (KASFAA) in 2013-2014.

He was Adjunct Faculty at Butler Community College, Baker University, and Friends University for about 17 years before moving to Missouri. Most of his teaching was done on survey courses (U.S. History 1 and 2, Western Civ 1 and 2), but he also taught some interesting elective courses (History of the American Presidency, The Great Depression and World War Two, and The JFK Assassination among others). He is married with two kids and four grandkids.

Mark Munzinger (BA 1993), was promoted to the rank of Professor in the Department of History at Radford University, Radford, Virginia, beginning in the Fall 2018 semester.

Attention alums:

Update us on your news! Please email Jeff Hayton at jeff.hayton@wichita.edu with all your updates. Moreover, be sure to check out the “alumni” link on our web page: http://history.wichita.edu and please let us know if it is okay for us to include your activities on that page!