From the Chair

What a difference a summer makes. As we closed out spring 2015, we knew there would be some challenges coming up. We had little way of predicting, however, how much things would change for us at the Department of History.

Just as grades were being entered, Travis Bruce announced that he and his wife Lisa Overholtzer received dual appointments at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. We wished them the best and worked to rework the fall schedule to accommodate Travis’ departure.

Summer continued with financial challenges, including looming furloughs and the guarantee that there would be no funds to hire any new faculty in the near future. We did learn, however, that arrangements had gone through to construct a new elevator wing to Fiske Hall so we knew that there would be construction activities during the next year.

In July, Denise Burns, the department’s administrative assistant for 29 years, announced her retirement. As she looked to new opportunities and time to spend with her family, we knew that even before classes began, we would have to get the paperwork and procedures ready to start a search process for her successor.

As August began and we started to return from our vacations, we learned that Will Klunder experienced a vicious infection that placed him in intensive care. It was with great sadness that we learned that he had succumbed to his illness on September 24. To this end, our online PDF issue of Clio is in blue and grey to honor Will’s love of the Civil War era, and can be accessed on our homepage (http://history.wichita.edu).

We now start the new academic year of 2015-6 with fewer faculty than we expected. There are still a lot of challenges. Still, there are also a lot of exciting things going on. There are new courses, including a set of offerings that we are providing with the office of Workforce, Professional and Community Education and Senior Services of Wichita. Our new administrative assistant, Kristin Kallsen-Thomas is learning the ropes quickly, even as construction noise begins outside of Fiske. We are partnering with a new Certificate in Museum Studies program. There are a number of new books and scholarly works coming out as well. We will try to keep you updated on things as they unfold, even if they unfold a little faster than we might initially expect.
In Memoriam: Dr. Will Klunder

Associate Professor Will Klunder
(1947-2015)

It is with great sadness that the Department of History reports the loss of Dr. Will Klunder. Will was a passionate departmental member, teaching military and Civil War courses and an active member of university governance, including Faculty Senate. He returned from vacation with severe infection that developed this summer that resulted in his passing away on the afternoon of September 24.

Dr. Klunder did his undergraduate work at St. Olaf College. He received a master’s and doctorate in History from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1981, he served as a visiting assistant professor for Indiana University and later, the University of Cincinnati. During that time, he served as editor of the Journal of the Early Republic. He joined the faculty at Wichita State University in 1986, where he taught a wide range of classes including those relating to the U.S. military history, the Civil War, nineteenth and century America. He also taught numerous surveys, both in traditional classroom settings and as telecourses.

He was the editor and transcriber of The Story of My Life by Frederic Finnup; and the author of Lewis Cass and the Politics of Moderation, 1782-1866. The Cass biography was the runner-up in The Society of Midland Authors annual awards competition. Dr. Klunder regularly contributed a range of book chapters, journal and encyclopedia entries, and book reviews for scholarly publications, generally focusing on political, biographical, and/or military history from the antebellum era through the Civil War.

In addition to his work as a historian, Will was a very active university citizen and had been active in a number of aspects of university governance. He served as the W.S.U. Faculty Senate president during the 2000-2001 and 2004-2005 academic years and was a senator at the time of his passing.

Will was a devoted husband to his wife Kathy and loving father to daughters, Kristin, Catherine, and Erica. A memorial has been established with American Red Cross Blood Donation.

Moving On: Denise Burns and Dr. Travis Bruce

The department experienced a major change this summer when administrative assistant Denise Burns retired. Born in Kansas, Burns grew up in Lubbock, Texas, until the 6th grade, when the family returned to Augusta. While working at a farm supply business, she developed an interest in accounting, a skill that enabled her to work for Pizza Hut in both accounts receivable and accounts payable. She began working at WSU in 1986. Since then, she has been a fixture in the department, seeing faculty come and go, seeing students arrive, take classes, graduate, and move on to new opportunities. She guided the department through the transition to computers and later, the banner system of administrative practice. Her greatest asset consisted of ability to network with contacts and resources in the university. Whenever there was an issue that arose, she knew who to talk to. Now as she looks forward to new adventures, including more time with her family, the department wishes her the very best!

Denise was not the only member of the History Department moving on this summer. This summer, Medievalist Dr. Travis Bruce took a new position at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. This is a joint, spousal appointment with his wife, anthropologist Dr. Lisa Overholtzer, serving in the Anthropology Department and Travis in History. While we will miss Travis’ presence here in Wichita, we are also proud that he has moved on to such an impressive new opportunity. We wish him the best.

For more information, you can visit his web page at http://www.mcgill.ca/history/node/1005

Denise Burns is celebrated for her service to the History Department
The program is now on the cusp of an exciting new era! The Public History Program, as of Spring 2016, will become The Local and Community History Program. Many of the same classes are offered and many of the same internship and project opportunities with museums, historic preservation, documentaries and records facilities remain. What has changed is our focus to emphasize the subject of these projects: the history around us. While much of local history is public history, conveying history to in non-academic venues and formats, local history is much broader. It can be academic, it can illuminate public history efforts, and it can also enhance teaching and classroom learning as well as inspire personal inquiry. Referring to what we do as a local and community history program better describes what we do, reminding us that history is not just about distant places and the “big and important” figures of the past. What happens nearby is also significant to our understanding of the past, puts large trends into context, and connects each of us to figures and movements that have shaped the world. To quote Garrison Keilor: “History is local. Everything has to take place somewhere!”

Another component is the creation of a Museum Studies Certificate program. This interdisciplinary program combines courses from History, Public Administration, Fine Arts, and Anthropology to offer a program in museum management and practice that offers both theoretical skills and practical insights that can enhance a number of graduate programs or be a free-standing effort!

The students and alums continue to be active in a remarkable number of ways. For example, Christy Davis continues as director of Symphony in the Flint Hills while Dee Harris is in charge of exhibits at the National Archives in Kansas City. Sandra Reddish is now the Executive Director of the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering, NE and her research has made her a key figure in a new documentary about Japanese Americans in Nebraska entitled “The Invisible People.” Melissa Thompson remains a fixture with Sedgwick County Records Management, Donna Rae Pearson leads local history efforts at the Topeka Public Library, and Doug Miller continues to serve as an Air Force historian in Incirlik, Turkey. Jordan Poland is director of the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, working alongside alum Laura Hartley. Abril Marshall is now education coordinator for the Kansas Aviation Museum while Abel Loza is serving in a similar role for the Geary County Historical Society. Barb Myers has led tours of local cemeteries. Several public history students presented at the Kansas Association of Historians while team of students helped with the Redbud Trail project. Keith Wondra completed his history of Botanica and is now working on a history of Old Cowtown Museum along with Barb Myers. Kyle Palmer created a walking tour of the WSU campus. There is just not enough space to highlight all the great things our students and alums are doing!

Graduate Student Kyle Palmer (left) giving a campus tour of Wichita State University
Going Up? An Elevator for Fiske Hall

One sign of innovation taking place in the history department is of a technological nature: a new elevator to help staff and students get up and down Fiske Hall. After considerable planning sessions and temporary roadblocks, as the semester commenced we got the good news that the contracting bid was successful and work would soon begin on a new elevator.

The oldest surviving building on campus, Fiske Hall was dedicated June 6, 1906. This was back when big staircases were a sign of status. Accessibility was seldom considered in building design, especially for a dormitory like Fiske that was intended to house rowdy and active young men. In the years since, the function of Fiske has changed, as has its occupants. Both History and Philosophy have faculty with mobility needs, in addition to students and staff who may not be able to navigate three flights of stairs. The stair chair from the ground level to the first floor was a start towards accessibility but still limited.

To make Fiske Hall more accessible, work is now beginning on wing to house a second staircase and elevator. It will come off the southeast corner of the building facing Isely Drive, turning our beloved little rectangle into an L. The architects were sensitive to the architectural design of the building and designed the new wing to mirror the look and details of the original structure. Work is just now beginning, with an expected completion date early in 2016.

Getting to Know: Kristin Kallsen-Thomas

While the department is saddened by our departures, they are also opportunities to meet new people. One of the new faces around Fiske Hall is our new senior administrative assistant Kristin Kallsen-Thomas who explained her story:

“I grew up on a small farm in Western Nebraska where organic wheat and cattle were and still are the focal point. I attended Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, where I triple majored in History, Political Science, and English. The summer after graduating college I joined the United States Air Force as a Cyber Systems Operator and served on Active Duty for four years. I was stationed at McConnell AFB from 2010-2013, where I met and married my husband Ryan who was a KC-135 Engine Mechanic before being accepted into Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT). From 2013 until this last spring we have been moving around the country in order for Ryan to complete all the specialized training to pilot the KC-135 and soon the KC-146. Over the course of these past two years I received my M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Nebraska (Go Huskers) and our family has grown by two. The first being a Shorky named Atom, and second our son Isaac who will be three months old this month.”
Faculty News

During this past year George Dehner continued his research work on his Legionnaires’ disease project. He conducted and transcribed several interviews, resubmitted an application for a National Institutes of Health grant (pending at this writing), and is finishing up an article based upon the paper he presented at the World History Conference in Costa Rica last summer. In addition to his usual duties of teaching and university service, this summer George developed an experimental course in world history drawn from his research interests in diseases in history which he is teaching this fall semester. George, his wife Jodi, and their three boys—Brendan, Patrick, and Sean—had a wonderful spring and summer of trips traveling to Arizona, Cancun, Colorado (3 times), Tulsa and the Kansas City area. Now hard at it back at work and school, they look forward to another delightful year in Wichita.

Jeff Hayton has thankfully survived his first year at WSU. Despite his relative inexperience with tornados, wheat and basketball, he very much enjoyed his initial foray into life in Wichita. Teaching a number of classes on Modern Europe and research methods for both undergraduate and graduate students, Jeff was greeted warmly by Shockers and staff. This past year saw the publication of an article “Krawall in der Zionskirche: Skinhead Violence and Political Legitimacy in the GDR” in the journal European History Quarterly, part of a thematic volume on ‘Violence in Late Socialist Public Spheres’, as well as a book chapter “The Revolution is over—and we have won!”, Alfred Hilsberg, West German Punk and the Sixties” in The Global Sixties in Sound and Vision, edited by Timothy S. Brown and Andrew Lison. Hayton had a very international conference schedule this past year, presenting papers in Bristol, Kansas City, London, Berkeley, and Frankfurt/Oder. Additionally, Hayton spent the summer in Germany doing research which you can read about in the section ‘In the Archive …’ on page 8.

This year, Jeff looks forward to less traveling and more writing. His big project for the coming year is to complete a draft manuscript for his book ‘Culture from the Slums’: Punk Rock and Alternative Culture in East and West Germany. Another journal article will be coming out with Contemporary European History on youth border crossings in East and West Berlin during the 1980s, as well as three book chapters on authenticity and self-fashioning across the Cold War divide, subcultural opposition in East Germany, and the representation of Nazism in video games. As if that was not enough, Jeff has to teach as well! This year will see classes on Modern Europe, Germany, Research and Writing, and a new upper-division course on the Interwar Era in Europe.

Dr. Helen Hundley continued her active involvement in departmental affairs, including her role as Faculty Editor for The Fairmount Folio, presiding over the publication of volume 16. The addition of her role producing the new departmental television program, “Issues in History Today,” has provided fascinating insight into media production, both behind and in front of the camera. Her paper on a nineteenth century Russian major regionalist movements newspaper, “Siberian Oblasnichesto and Vostochnoe obozrenie,” was given at the conference “Centrifugal Forces: Reading Russia’s Regional Identities and Initiatives” at the University of Virginia in March.

Robert M. Owens enjoyed a productive year in 2014-2015. In addition to teaching his courses on Colonial and Revolutionary America, and a graduate seminar in American History, Owens also directed Masters’ theses by Kate Larson and Jason Herbert. It was also Owens’ first year as the department’s graduate coordinator. Owens secured publication of a forthcoming article, “Between two Fires: Elusive Justice on the Cherokee/Tennessee Frontier, 1796-1814,” in the American Indian Quarterly (2016), and in March of 2015 his second book, Red Dreams, White Nightmares: Pan-Indian Alliances in the Anglo-American Mind, 1763-1815, was published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Now in his second term as department chair, Jay M. Price has encountered many opportunities to learn more about how the university functions. He agreed to serve on the university’s strategic planning committee and has been part of university level planning discussions. Now with efforts to build an elevator wing underway, he is learning the nuances of building construction on campus. He has worked with the Lowell Holmes Museum, the Department of Anthropology, the Hugo Wall School, and the College of Fine Arts to develop a Museum Studies Certificate program. The most striking learning experience, however, was in August, when he had to oversee a department without an administrative assistant!

This administrative role has not kept
him from being active in a number of community and local history activities. In the spring, he taught a class at Larksfield Place, the first of a number of classes offered in connection with staff at Workforce, Professional and Community Education.

In May, he led a tour of Congregation Emanu-El’s Jewish Cemetery. Over the summer, he and his students worked with artists creating a series of displays as part of the Redbud Trail project just south of campus. Along with Robert Weems and Robin Henry, he is a regular commentator for KMUW’s Past and Present series. He is also part of a team working with KMUW to create a local entrepreneur’s series, with a feature about architect Charles McAfee pioneering the effort. Another set of responsibilities have been working on the program committee to bring the Mountain Plains Museums Association conference to Wichita in September 2015. The biggest project, however, was working with Robert Weems, students Abril Marshall and Mark Strohminger, Dr. Gretchen Eick, and the Kansas African American Museum, to create a photo history of the local African American community, African Americans of Wichita, came out in October 2015.

Regarding research efforts, the journal Kansas History is publishing his article on Wichita regional identity. He continues to work on an interdisciplinary project documenting ethnic businesses on Broadway, a book project exploring the history of rock & roll in Wichita, and a study of Mennonite Church architecture in the 1950s. He concluded his service for the University Press of Kansas but remains active with the Wichita Sedgwick County Historical Museum and the Kansas Association of Historians.

Craig Torbenson continues as undergraduate coordinator for the department, teaching geography and family history, researching and writing, and running 5 and 10K races.

Since the last installment of Clio, Professor Robert E. Weems, Jr. has continued some long-standing projects and has started some new ones. In the realm of teaching, during the 2014-2015 academic year, he resurrected History 515 (“An Economic History of the U.S.”) which is cross-listed with Economics (Economics 627). The positive response to this course offering has prompted Professor Weems to include it in his regular course rotation in the future.

His “Wichita Black Business History Project” has concluded its interviewing stage. Several of these interviews have been transcribed and Professor Weems is editing these transcriptions. In the end, the thirty-two interviews that Weems has conducted with a wide variety of Wichita African American entrepreneurs, along with other business artifacts, will be donated to Special Collections in Ablah Library.

Professor Weems’s research related to black Wichita entrepreneurs also informed his contribution to a team effort... with Dr. Robert Weems

...with Dr. Robert Weems

Spanning from the opening of Kansas as a territory to present day, African Americans of Wichita provides a path-breaking historical overview of Wichita’s black community. Utilizing a wide variety of pertinent photographs and other images (accompanied by appropriate captions), African Americans of Wichita conveys the triumphs and setbacks experienced by persons of African descent in Kansas’s largest city. Moreover, the team that compiled this work, scheduled to be released in October 2015, included two WSU History Department faculty (Jay Price and Robert Weems) and two WSU History Department graduate students (Abril Marshall and Mark Strohminger).
that completed the forthcoming book *African Americans of Wichita* (to be published by Arcadia Publishers).

During the past year, Weems, a Board member of the Kansas African American Museum, began chairing the museum’s “Collections Committee” (which is responsible for overseeing its manuscript and art collection). He also began serving as an Advisory Board member of the recently-formed Wichita chapter of the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce.

Professor Weems has spoken in a variety of venues since the last installment of *Clio*. In October, 2014, he gave a well-received lecture at the Smoky Hill Museum in Salina entitled “The Worse of Times: America During The Great Depression.” During February, 2015 he gave a thought-provoking Black History Month presentation at the University of Houston entitled “An Obsolete People: The Precarious Position of African Americans in the Twenty-First Century Economy.” Later that month, he gave a WSU Black History Month presentation entitled “African American Entrepreneurship in Wichita: Past and Present.” Finally, during April 2015, Weems gave a presentation at Bethel College’s Kaufmann Museum entitled “Identifying ‘The Other’: A History of Racial Stereotypes.” This lecture was linked to his service as a Humanities Consultant, under the auspices of Kansas Humanities Council, to the Kaufmann Museum for its exhibit “Sorting Out Race: Examining Racial Identity and Stereotypes in Thrift Store Donations.”

Last, but not least, Professor Weems has continued working on a co-edited project *Building The Black Metropolis: African American Entrepreneurship in Chicago* (to be published by University of Illinois Press) and his biography of Anthony Overton, a prominent early 20th century African American entrepreneur.

Lecture Series

2015 saw a number of exciting speakers come to Wichita State University to speak about their research. This series is designed to bring regionally based historians to WSU for a public talk and a small discussion with our graduate students.

In spring 2015, the Department of History welcomed Dr. Robert Spoo, the Chapman Distinguished Chair in Law from the University of Tulsa, who gave a lively talk on the history of copyright law in the United States in the 19th and 20th century that accounted for the appeal of Dickens to the success of Tolkien.

In fall 2015, the Department of History had the pleasure of listening to Dr. John Dichtl, president and CEO of the American Association for State and Local History, whose presentation was entitled “Moving History from Nice to Necessary”. In his talk, Dichtl spoke about the impact of history in the United States today, and how his organization is working with local and national associations to better broadcast the importance of historical studies to the public at large. Especially noteworthy was his discussion of a new initiative, the History Relevance Campaign (www.historyrelevance.org), that aims at uniting professionals and historical networks to further the study and relevance of the past in everyday life.

If you would like further information on our upcoming 2015-2016 lecture events, please contact series organizer Dr. Robin Henry at robin.henry@wichita.edu

Construction work at Fiske has uncovered bricks that still have their original markings. They remind us of a time when natural gas deposits made southeastern Kansas a center for brick production.
In the Archive ... with Jeff Hayton

This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to go on a research trip to Germany where I gathered materials for my book on punk rock in East and West Germany during the 1970s and 1980s. Thanks to the generous financial support from the Central European History Society and an ARC grant from WSU, I was fortunate to spend all of June and July in Germany. Travelling to six different cities to visit twelve different archives, my schedule was packed with only the weekends to enjoy the (mostly) sunny weather that greeted me in Central Europe.

I spent my first two weeks in Stuttgart and then Hamburg, two quite different cities at either ends of the country. In Stuttgart, my arrival coincided with the 32nd German Evangelical Church Day which saw 100,000 people descend onto the normally sedate urban metropolis. I was in the Swäibisch capital to visit the Hauptsstaats-archiv where I looked at materials related to youth work and youth policy in Baden-Württemberg. Traveling north to Hamburg, I spent a week in the Hanseatic port famous for its fish. I spent a very productive time at the Staatsarchiv. There I was allowed to look at police reports relating to punk concerts in the city during the early 1980s, as well as the financial accounts of several autonomous communication centers which hosted the events. These records are important for getting a sense of how society and authorities were responding to punk and its spaces.

Next up was a month in Berlin, the capital of Germany and my favorite city in Europe. As always I stayed in my beloved neighborhood Kreuzberg, rode the subway and enjoyed eating gelato as I walked home from dinner at night. While in Berlin I visited several quite different archives. In the first week I spent time in the Evangliches Zentralarchiv which houses documents from the Protestant Churches of East Germany. During the 1980s, punks were offered space in the Protestant Churches as part of their youth outreach programs, though there was considerable friction between the subculture and the religious authorities. I found photographs of graffiti on the walls of a church room where punks gathered, and a long, drawn-out tale concerning the affair which I hope to write an article about as representative of the difficulties arising from the collaboration of punks and religious institutions (see Right, © ELAB 10112/198c - 026).

Afterwards, I traveled daily on the tram to Potsdam to visit the Deutsches Rundfunkarchiv to look at documents concerning East German radio. In the last few years of the state, punks were allowed to be played on the radio and were featured especially on a program called ‘Pa-rock-tikum’. Even more exciting than the records related to this radio show was the discovery of stacks of listener responses which will allow a very rare glimpse into the opinions of Easterners who were listening to punk and their demands for East German radio.

Then I split time at the Bundesarchiv which houses the resources of the East German government and Communist Party, and the Landesarchiv which contains materials related to the city of Berlin, both East and West. At the Bundesarchiv, I was looking at records from the Ministry of Culture which had not been available for me to see when was in Berlin for my original research trip in 2008-2010. Unfortunately, I didn’t find anything particularly exciting although I did confirm that several Eastern punk bands were allowed to perform in West Berlin in the last years of the state. At the Landesarchiv, I was considerably luckier. There I got a chance to look at the files related to Einstufung. In East Germany, in order to get a permit to perform, bands needed to play before a jury who judged the performance and made recommendations. In turn, band salary and concert opportunities were based upon the classification (Einstufung) which the juries awarded them. These documents are incredibly rich in detailing how the states understood punk and what they thought might be better musical directions for them, and I can’t wait to get my hands on them—I’m still waiting for the hundreds of photocopies I made to be shipped to the US!

For the last two weeks, I did a working tour of the old East Germany, stopping off at Dresden, Leipzig and Jena. In the Saxony capital, Dresden—a tourists delight with its picturesque city-center—I only had a single day at the Hauptsstaatsarchiv but I made it count. There I looked at files related to a big annual festival put on by the city that included punk bands by the end of the 1980s. Leipzig was less frantic and even more fruitful. Reading through materials related to state youth policy and how cultural expression fits in at the Staatsarchiv was quite enjoyable and will be an important dimension to my study. Finally, I spent my last week in Germany in the sleepy Thuringian university-town of Jena. There, I spent my time at the Thüringer Archiv für Zeitgeschichte, an archive created by former East German dissidents who collected materials and resources related to the opposition movement. Housed there were the personal papers of several important figures in the punk scene and the Eastern alternative community more generally. It was also a pleasure to finish my research trip working in an archive whose atmosphere and rules were less strict (less German!).

This research trip will hopefully be the last for my punk project. Over the next year I plan to organize all the materials I’ve gathered and spend the spring and summer of 2016 drafting the manuscript for my first monograph which has already drawn interest from academic publishers.
The Department of History's publication for student writing, The Fairmount Folio, published volume 16 in May, 2015. With undergraduate, Emma Lavacek as Student Editor, the five article topics ranged from considerations of the impact of constitutional law on public health policy, women’s roles in scientific study, the Red Scare in Wichita, the impact of social change on the evolving role of Lois Lane in the Superman comics, and the founding of the Winfield, Kansas, bluegrass festival.

In addition to the hard copies, beginning this year, the journal will be available electronically through the library and through the department web site. All of the articles, from volume 1 in 1996 to the present will be word searchable.

We are now planning for the publication of volume 17.

Faculty Editor, Dr. Helen Hundley

David W. Capstick. BA (1967), in History, Geography and American Civilization. Worked for the Boy Scouts of America as a Professional Scouter for 31 years before retiring. Afterwards he returned to school in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and is now a Certified Watch and Clock Repair Technician. In November 2014, he moved to Grayslake, Illinois, to be closer to his family. He has been married 48 years to a Kansas Wesleyan graduate.

Richard Cooley, was promoted to full professor last year. He also served as one of the two assistant chairs for the History Department at Grand Valley State University. This semester he is on sabbatical and continues a longitudinal study on 28 graduates who were either History majors with teaching certification or Social Studies majors.

The Social Studies major is housed within the department and all Grand Valley State graduates must have both a content major and minor before they can enter the College of Education. Regarding the study: although the study cohort is small, 26 of the 28 graduates, after a minimum of 7 years in their profession, are still education.

As an added bonus, his grandson, a high school senior in North Dakota, was recently accepted to WSU's College of Engineering. He will begin his studies next fall.

Doug Elwell. BA (1971), went on to complete a MS in Instructional Technology (1972), and a CAS (1974). He retired from a northwest suburban Chicago high school district in 2000. Blessed with good health, he pursues interests in writing, motorcycle touring and sailing.

Neal Ferguson. BA (1965), MA (1967), received a PhD in history from the University of Oregon, Eugene (1971). He was a faculty member at the University of Nevada, Reno, from 1970-2015. During his career he served as Dean and Associate Vice President of the College of Extended Studies at the University of Nevada from 1980-2004. Afterwards, he returned to teaching and was then appointed Director of Core Humanities and served in that position from 2008-2013. He is now organizing a retired faculty association at the University of Nevada and reviewing non-fiction books for several blogs.

Kathleen (Kathy) Graves. BA (1969), is currently serving as Associate General Counsel to Far West Industries, a real estate development and investment company headquartered in Santa Ana, California. When time permits, she enjoys traveling and is also a voracious reader of ‘light weight’ murder mysteries. When not working, she volunteers at the Irvine Animal Care Center (the City animal shelter) and focuses on caring for and socializing with the cat and kitten guests, as well as talking to the public about adoptions. In addition, she hosts a television show, “Irvine Pets & Company”, which airs on the local Irvine station and features animals available for adoption in addition to providing humane education. Finally – she is a huge Shocker fan and meets with Los Angeles area alumni to view the men’s basketball games, whenever watch parties are organized.

Kathleen Epps Hankins. BA (1967), is active in a variety of ways at Hillside Christian Church. She researches family history & enjoys genealogy trips with relatives to northern Kansas by visiting early family homestead structures. She retains memberships in Alpha Chi Omega Sorority Alumnae, the Junior League Sustainers (incl. Wit & Wisdom), & the local Historic Preservation Alliance.

Jason Herbert, BA (2012), MA (2015), is currently a first-year doctoral student at the University of Minnesota, focusing on indigenous histories of the American Southeast during the colonial and era republic eras.

Tony Lubbers. MA, was promoted to Di-

Fairmount Folio

The Department of History’s publication for student writing, The Fairmount Folio, published volume 16 in May, 2015. With undergraduate, Emma Lavacek as Student Editor, the five article topics ranged from considerations of the impact of constitutional law on public health policy, women’s roles in scientific study, the Red Scare in Wichita, the impact of social change on the evolving role of Lois Lane in the Superman comics, and the founding of the Winfield, Kansas, bluegrass festival.

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rector of Financial Aid at Friends University in 2014 and now has four grandkids. He now serves as Past President of KASFAA and Vice President of the Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. In the last couple of years, he has made trips to Capitol Hill to advocate for continued financial aid funding for college students with Senators and Representatives from a multitude of states.

Carl Lund, MA (2010), has begun PhD work at Kansas State University, focusing on the history of Christianity. He continues to serve as Assistant Professor of Education at McPherson College and as an adjunct instructor of English and geography for Allen and Butler Community Colleges.

Tom Niermann, MA (1995), in history, went on to complete a doctorate in history from the University of Kansas. In 2007, he took a position teaching history at Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City and remains there today and continues to enjoy it.

Scott W. Stucky, BA (1970), gave the annual George S. Prugh Lecture in Military Legal History at the Army Judge Advocate General’s School in Charlottesville, Virginia, in April 2015. His topic was “Appellate Review of Courts-Martial in the United States”. He remains a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington, DC.

This has been a fairly busy year for archival and historical projects. In March John D. Thiessen, MA (1990), archivist and co-director of libraries at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, traveled to the Hopi tribal archives in Kykotsmovi, Arizona, to deliver digitized versions of about 2300 photographs taken by Mennonite missionaries in the 1890s-1910s. In April, he presented a paper at the Kansas Association of Historians which grew out of a couple of sentences in a seminar paper he wrote at WSU for Prof. Bill Unrau back in the late 1980s: “I Am the Great Messiah of All the Earth: Renegade Mormons, Ghost Dance Survivors, and Mennonites in the US West 1895-1920”. Then in September, he polished his German language skills (very out of practice) at a history conference in Münster, Germany, on "Mennonites in the National Socialist Era."

Kori Thompson, MA (2015), submitted her research on the Kansas Reformatory’s inmates in World War I to the Kansas Humanities Council, and was accepted for their speakers’ tour for next year. They are very interested in her work and excited for her to join them. She recently returned from Scotland where she presented a section of her master’s thesis where it was met with great enthusiasm. She is still working behind the camera … with Dr. Helen Hundley

Last fall, the department launched its television program, “Issues in History Today.” The episodes showcase topics of interest to the public, utilizing the expertise of WSU history faculty. Most shows will use an interview format, with a faculty member interviewing a colleague on their special topics. The modern European historians will do a series of roundtables which will focus on the interactions of France, Germany, and Russia especially at turning points in their history. On occasion, we will film interviews with visiting scholars as well. Last year, our topics ranged from visitor Dr. Wendy Hammond’s story of Atlanta during Sherman’s attack during the Civil War, to a discussion of the post-World War I flu epidemic by Dr. George Dehner, and a roundtable on the 70th Anniversary of V-E Day, with Drs. Dreifort, Hundley, and Hayton. The soon to be available 4th and 5th episodes, reflect the broad interests of the department with Dr. Owen’s focus on the relationships of 18th century American colonists and the original nations, including Tecumseh, and Dr. Price’s discussion of mid-century American architectural styles for religious buildings.

The first three half-hour episodes appeared on WSU TV, channel 13 in Wichita in the fall and spring of 2014-2015. These and future episodes are available online through YouTube, at WSUTV, “Issues in History Today.”
Alumni News, Continued

hard on KSIR and WWI with many journals interested in publishing the research already.

Myron Webster, BA (1965), was in Wichita from September 27 to October 13. In early October, several of my classmates (from 1965) were inducted into the Fifty Year Club and enjoyed the festivities at WSU. In addition to the reception on October 1, he attended the 40th anniversary of the plane crash carrying member of the WSU football team, staff, and boosters, followed by another reception. He stopped by Fiske Hall to meet the new History Department Administrative Assistant though unfortunately none of the faculty were around. But he spent some time outside room 206 where he spent nearly two years working for Dr. Albert Parker during my graduate years (1966-1968). There was a luncheon on the 2nd during which members of the class were given their Fifty Year Club medallions. That evening some of us attended a reception at Koch Arena and stayed to watch the Women's Volleyball Team v. Missouri State Match. The next day we had supper at the Candle Club. All-in-all, it was a wonderful experience.

Judy Welfelt, MA (2012), is currently an adjunct professor of US and Kansas History at Friends University. She has recently published a book on her family history entitled Sailors, Settlers and Soldiers: From Jamestown to Kansas, 1609—1941. During her research she discovered that both sides of her family were early settlers in America including to the first permanent at Jamestown, Virginia.

Her ancestors were involved in the Jamestown struggle, Bacon’s Rebellion, the Revolutionary War under Washington, settling the frontier and fighting Indians alongside Daniel Boone, the Civil War, the new state of Kansas, as well as WWI and WWII. Her book details the contributions her family has made to American history.

Student Awards

It was another exciting and competitive year for scholarships awarded by the history department. The generosity of our patrons again enabled the department to distribute over $12,000 to our graduate and undergraduate students. In the paper categories, Emily Matta received the Douglas Bendall Award for best paper in the History 300 course (Intro to Research Methods) and Brenda Jo Stapleton’s work was recognized with the John Rydjord Jr. prize for the best upper-division undergraduate paper. Felicia Hammon’s submission was selected as the best paper in the Non-Seminar graduate class category with Jason Herbert snagging the choice as the best paper in a graduate Seminar class.

In keeping with past experience, the competition for the undergraduate scholarships was stiff. This year Emma Lavacek passed on the Lee and Helen Kamen Scholarship—given in recognition to the best sophomore history major—to Ciara Mould, while Ms. Lavacek was honored with the prestigious Donna and Bill Ard Scholarship. Sharon Huggins’ continued excellent work merited the Dr. Henry and Minnie Ongard award and Andrea Wilson received the “Jed” Hurley Scholarship. Sherie Reamy’s academic performance was rewarded with the Decker-Kansas Society of the DAR prize and Emily Matta’s academic abilities garnered the Russell “Jiggs” Nelson Scholarship. Last but not least, Kelly Davis was awarded the Marie Graham Memorial Scholarship.

Traditionally, the toughest challenge for the department is to select amongst the graduate students for prizes and this year proved no different. Two students rose above a stellar group to receive awards. Joshua Roeder was honored with the Anthon and Dana Gythiel Scholarship. Jason Herbert received the coveted John Rydjord Graduate Fellowship which is given to the year’s superior graduate student. This fellowship will certainly come in handy as Mr. Herbert begins his doctoral program at the University of Minnesota.

From the department and myself, congratulations to our student scholars and a very heartfelt “thank-you” to our benefactors who have made these awards possible.

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!