Late February sometime, I was in my office, my semester’s first pile of grading awaiting me, some conference paper needing work, my next Victorian Britain lecture needing some sort of fiddling, when suddenly I detected a distinct shift in the departmental mood—call it a disturbance in the Force—some sudden bubbling cheerfulness that hadn’t been there moments before. And then recent grad Cassie Blackwell (class of ’13) popped her head in my door. 

Now, sometimes when our alumni return, they want something. Someone needs a new letter of reference, say. Or Jennifer Ward (née Mills), now that she’s got a fellowship from the Forum and Constitutional Democracy and can get some dissertation writing done, will stop by with a fresh chapter looking for feedback (as she did again just this week). Or perhaps they want some advice on the next step in their careers. Or sometimes they have a complaint, like when Beth Mowry-Ramos stopped by to gripe that it was just not fair that Tony Silvestri would be offering a course on pirates after she left. Sometimes, in contrast, they are bringing things to us. Jess Rezac, say, came to town for our Career Fair, offering paid internships in collections and education at Kansas City’s American Jazz Museum, where she continues as Development Manager (and does dynamite work in fundraising, as when this year she topped the museum’s “PEER into the Future” budget goal by $50,000, raising $112,231 on the day of the event). Or when someone restocked our dwindled supply of origami narwhals (Hannah Thompson denies any knowledge of who that might have been). Or when, this coming fall, Beth Mowry-Ramos will return to give guest lectures in Silvestri’s pirates course and my “Reflections on Water” seminar (it’s the least she could do after all that complaining). But sometimes, alumni just show up. They want to catch up or keep connected. Christian Gilbert will make the long trek back from Garden City, where he continues his administrative work at the Garden Valley Retirement Village, or Stephen Potter will come down from Kansas City, where he’s doing commercial real-estate work, or Hannah Thompson will stop up from Wichita, where she’s doing VISTA work and working on her master’s thesis in Museum Studies for Texas Tech (“Curiosities, Freaks, and Valuable Specimens: Education and Entertainment in Nineteenth-Century American Mummy Exhibits” is her working title). Or Cassie Blackwell, with spare time on her lunch break (from her work as Governance and Board Services Administrator for the Kansas Bar Association), will just stop by to spread some
cheer. And we love it that our alums still keep connected, still count our lounge as home. That says something important about the sort of community we have, along with our current students and our alums, made for scholars of history here at Washburn.

Of course, by the time Cassie left, she’d been drafted as a judge for the next round of History Day competitions. Community is, after all, a two-way street.

It is not only those who actually get back for visits who make us proud of the students we have sent forth into the world. We hear about the good work our alumni are doing in the schools of Kansas. Crystal Ecton (née Walker) has been busily promoting historical awareness among her students in Madison, KS. Her students have completed a series of oral histories with veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars (here: http://madisonhighhistoryclass.weebly.com/korea-vietnam-oral-history-project-2014.html) and have carried out an investigation of rural schools in Greenwood County (here: http://madisonhighhistoryclass.weebly.com/greenwood-county-rural-schools-2015.html). She also organized a community-wide Veterans Day event. (Thanks, by the way to Madison-based Emily Eastman Bradbury for sharing that information. Of her own activities, Bradbury insists she is doing nothing much, just “working to protect the public’s right to know” in her work for the Kansas Press Association. We’d differ with her assessment that such work is nothing much, of course.) Christine Steinkuehler, as Gifted Facilitator at Topeka West, is setting her students to work on USD 501 records, and working this summer on a project relating to the Serotoma Club’s 100th anniversary herself.

Beyond the classroom, our alumni find other ways to continue their engagement with history. Christian Gilbert will be lecturing on John Brown before the Finney County Historical Society this summer. Cara Burnidge, while doing her first year’s teaching in the Philosophy and World Religions Department at the University of Northern Iowa, has also taken up duties as Secretary to the Society of US Intellectual History. Evan Thomas, now serving in the U. S. Navy, has turned his HI 399 project on Depression-era suburban development in Topeka, into a feature story for the Shawnee County Historical Society’s newsletter (here: http://www.shawneecountyhistory.org/aboutus/newsletters/may2015color.pdf). Chelsea Chaney, after her work as Campaign Manager in Senator Roberts’s re-election campaign, has now signed on to the new major in Philosophy and History, has kept an element of historical research even while pursuing advanced studies in his other field: he is completing a dissertation at the University of Kansas on the presocratic Greek philosopher Parmenides (with a defense anticipated this fall). You can get a taste of his argument in his recently published article “Rearranging Parmenides: B1: 31-32 and a Case For an Entirely Negative Doxa (Opinion)” in Southwest Philosophy Review 31.1 (2015), and a sense of his range of interests in another recent publication, “Star Trek: Into Darkness—Ethical Impartiality, Partiality, and the Need for a Male/Female Synthesis,” in Film & Philosophy 19 (2015).

Ichabod historians are even finding their way abroad. Mary-Lucia Darst is in Paris, where she completed her Master’s defense (partly in French!) and reports that, other than that defense, “the most exciting thing I’ve done lately is sight down some of Napoleon’s cannons at Les Invalides.” Kristina Marie Gaylord was in Paris as well, as part of her graduate work in museum studies. Her favorite moment came at the Louvre, when, while searching for the Nike statue she had wanted to see ever since taking art history at Washburn, she found herself in a room packed with tourists and, looking around to see what they were all trying to see, discovered she was standing in front of the Venus de Milo. And Linsey M applied for new teaching in Washburn’s Political Science Department, but we know she’s still a historian deep down) is taking a group of Washburn students overseas this summer, to London, Belgium, Amsterdam, and the Hague. And when Heather (now née) Stone (featured, you may recall, in the fall 2013 newsletter) tied the knot with Brendan Potter on May 11, they immediately flew to Rome, where I’m sure most of their time will be spent visiting the antiquities of the classical world.

Of course, it’s not just alumni that make us proud; our current students do, as well. Scott Brackey and Angela Gonzales presented their work here at Washburn at Apeiron, and both Scott and Angela, plus Marissa Coyle, presented (along with alums Theresa Young, Hannah Thompson, and Bethany Mowry-Ramos, and current faculty Kelly Erby, Kim Morse, and myself) at the Kansas Association of Historians meeting in Emporia. Casey Woodward showcased her work on Native American boarding schools at the state capital during Undergraduate Research Day, and Casey also received the award this year for Outstanding Secondary Education Student.
Teaching. Some of our new-minted graduates are going on to new challenges: Chase Sachs pursuing a master's in archaeology at Trinity International; Matthew Buhler bound to the Diplomatic and Military Studies program at Hawaii Pacific; Scott Brackey aiming to get a master's in library science at Emporia; Mark Fancher taking a teaching position at Bonner Springs; and Adam Payne (a 2014 graduate) landing a teaching job in Chanute.

Keeping us all connected, naturally, makes feeling this pride and sharing these bits of news easier. So keep stopping in at the office; we’ll keep the coffee on and the candy basket full. Let us know by whatever means—Facebook, email, whatever—what you have been up to. And watch for more events on our side, especially this fall as Washburn’s 150th Anniversary celebrations reach their peak during Homecoming week.

**WU HISTORY SCHOLARSHIPS**

Thanks to generous donors, each spring, the History Department is able to offer several scholarships to current students. Below is a complete list of the scholarships we award. We intend to highlight some of the donors and recipients of these awards in the current and forthcoming newsletters.

**John D. Bright-Earnest R. Bader Scholarship:** Drs. Bright and Bader were longtime chairs of the department and their former students created this scholarship. It goes to a currently-enrolled major recommended by the department chairperson.

**Donald A. Danker-Phi Alpha Theta Scholarship:** Dr. Danker was a wonderful storyteller, so much so that his students regularly forgot to take notes during his lectures. This award goes to a currently-enrolled major recommended by the department chairperson.

**Robert E. Davis Scholarship:** This award goes to a history major who is pursuing a teaching licensure for secondary education with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

**Gilbert E. Galle History Scholarship:** This generous scholarship is awarded on the basis of GPA.

**C. Robert Haywood Scholarship:** Dr. Haywood was a longtime Dean of the College and Academic Vice-President who did much to save and modernize the university after the 1966 tornado. His scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate for outstanding accomplishments in “doing history,” as recommended by the faculty of the department.

**Robert W. and James E. Mackey Scholarship:** Mr. and Mrs. James E. Mackey established this award in memory of their son, Robert W. Mackey.

**The Mary S. Rowland Scholarship:** Mary S. Roland earned a Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas and served as a longtime administrator at Washburn University. Her husband, Don Rowland, was a Professor of Law at Washburn and, along with his family, he endowed this scholarship to support an incoming history major for four years of academic study.

**William O. Wagnon Scholarship:** This award is designed to assist the preparation of those who desire to become high school history teachers. This scholarship honors the career of Dr. Bill Wagnon and his longtime interest in the preparation of outstanding high school educators.

**Linda Wahl-Stoltenberg Scholarship:** Linda Wahl-Stoltenberg was a former student who blossomed as a history major at Washburn University. This award preferences non-traditional students doing excellent work in history.

**Phil Morse Scholarship:** This scholarship is awarded to the first-place winner of the senior paper category at the District Three History Day Competition. Phil Morse graduated from Washburn in 1963 with a bachelor degree in History. After graduate school at Denver University and service in the Peace Corps, Phil and Lona Morse settled in Topeka. Phil built a career in business and community service. He believed that the skills learned through a liberal arts education, history in particular, were crucial to success in any profession. For a number of years Phil was a dedicated History Day judge for the paper category. Phil and Lona endowed the Phil Morse Scholarship to honor the values integral to History Day and to celebrate history and a liberal arts education.

**Gunnar Alksnis Scholarship:** This scholarship is awarded on the basis of GPA and demonstrated enthusiasm for the study of history.

**Marilyn L. Geiger Scholarship:** a longtime professor at Washburn, Dr. Geiger established this award to promote the study of history at Washburn University.
INTERVIEW WITH GILBER E. GALLE, DONOR OF THE GALLE HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP

“Exposure to big ideas,” Gilbert Galle says, “forms you, it encourages you to think creatively and see the big picture.” This is precisely why he wants to encourage students to pursue a liberal arts education and why he has chosen to create a major scholarship with Washburn’s History Department. Galle retired after twenty years at WEDGE Capital Management LLP, a company that managed more than $11 billion for clients in 42 states and Canada. At WEDGE, Galle was a portfolio manager, general partner, and managing general partner. Galle says that, in his experience, the business community needs more well-read individuals with interdisciplinary training who are able to see different perspectives and “think outside the box.” He adds that he finds the study of history useful in encouraging students to think critically and to develop both a breadth and depth of knowledge that will serve them will in any number of careers.

Galle graduated from Washburn in 1970. Dr. Donald Danker, the former chair of Washburn’s History Department, taught some of his favorite classes in early American and frontier history. Dr. Ruth Frederick also made a big impression on Galle, particularly a directed reading course he took with her on the French Revolution. “I spent three hours a week in her office one semester talking about books. It was very impactful,” Galle says. Indeed, Galle notes that Washburn’s biggest strength is in its faculty and the commitment this faculty has to teaching.

Like so many of Washburn’s students, Galle worked his way through college. He held a number of different positions while in college, including working the night shift at the Hallmark Cards factory. He is delighted his scholarship takes the burden of working from a student’s shoulders. “I hope that the students who receive my scholarship are able to participate in the co-curricular activities I missed out on because I was working,” Galle explains. “Washburn changed my life. Now I want to reciprocate by donating a scholarship that has the potential to change a student’s life.”
PROFILE OF CHLOE MOORADIAN, 2015-2016 GALLE HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

When I came to Washburn in 2013, I was indecisive and anxious to find a major. I had grown up in a small town and been homeschooled my entire academic career, I was not sure what to expect of a college campus, and nervous about having to figure out my major. After two semesters, I declared a major in history and a minor in art history.

I am not studying history because I am good at memorizing names and dates. In fact, I cannot list specific battles of the American Civil War or wax poetically about Greek culture. Instead, I am studying history because I am fascinated by the correlations between individual human actions and the cataclysmic influences that are beyond humans’ control. I am intrigued by the decisions men like Julius Caesar and Martin Luther made, as well as by how natural events like the kami kaze of ancient Japanese history have shaped human experience. Above all, I am studying history because I know that every human has the ability to make an incredible difference in the world. I want to learn from the decisions humans made in the past and use this knowledge to shape the world today.

My decision to pursue a history major was also importantly influenced by the faculty members in the History Department who have taken an interest in me. To them, I am not just a number or the girl who sits in the front row. I am someone they call out to by name when I pass them on the sidewalk out and about on campus. I feel their investment in me and I cannot wait to give them a full return on that investment.

The gift of this scholarship opportunity allows me to not have to focus on how I am going to pay for the classes I want to take but, rather, to fully enjoy the learning experience. It allows me to dive head first into college and appreciate it for the environment of learning that it is. The scholarship also allows me to turn attention to graduate school programs and applications. One of my dreams in the process of studying history is to become a professor and continue the cycle of dialog about history and how it affects our lives today.

My gratitude to Washburn University, the History Department, and Gilbert Galle for this award cannot be summed up in words.
Interview with Professor Marilyn Geiger, Donor of the Marilyn L. Geiger Scholarship

Professor Marilyn Geiger had been a faculty member of Washburn’s History Department for thirty-eight years when she retired in 2000. She was also the chair of the department for over ten years. At Washburn, Dr. Geiger taught everything from western civilization to political science courses, but her area of academic specialization was in colonial and revolutionary American history. She earned an Associate of Arts in Piano from the Colorado Woman College before going on to finish a B.S. and then a M.A. at Kansas State University. Dr. Geiger then earned her Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas. She came to Washburn after a decade teaching public high school and she put this experience to good use supervising student teachers completing the History Secondary Education program. In addition, Dr. Geiger was one of several faculty members who were instrumental in starting the regional History Day competition at Washburn, which invites high school students to conduct and share their original research on historical topics and continues to be held on campus every February.

2015 marks the first year the History Department has awarded the Dr. Marilyn L. Geiger History Department Endowed Scholarship. When asked why she decided to endow a scholarship with the History Department, Dr. Geiger said that she wanted to make sure the money she donated to the university helped history majors and encouraged students to major in history. “History is important because without knowing the past, you won’t be able to live well in the present or future,” Dr. Geiger says.

Profile of Riley Propps, Recipient of the Geiger Scholarship

When I first arrived at Washburn I did not know what I wanted to study. After a semester or so, I decided to take a lower-level history course and from then on I was positive that the route I would take would be in history. I became a History Education Major. I think my passion for history originated in my childhood. My parents were always taking me to museums and I remember loving learning about the past. In my free time I love to watch documentaries and read historical books. I love history because of the stories it tells and what connections can be made between the past and the present. I chose to major in history because history is a subject that holds my attention and also drives me to research and find my own answers. With my degree I hope to go on to teach and eventually go to graduate school. In my life I have many goals, and being a college professor is one of them. I want to share my love of learning with others.

This scholarship helps immensely because it means that I can continue my college education debt free. It is my hope to never have to get a student loan. I have been blessed to not have any loans up to this point and have been mostly paying out of pocket with the help of my parents and utilizing scholarships. This helps me work less and study more. In my free time I participate actively in the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. I hold the position of Vice President of Membership Development. I am in charge of programming events and workshops that promote professional skills, cultural immersion, health and fitness, study skills, and good moral for the chapter. I also sit on committees for other various executive positions. Whenever I can I like to go to the SRWC and jog around campus, and I also appreciate some good family time.

I love Washburn University, it has treated me very well and I am excited to be studying history and pursuing my interests with amazing faculty. I am honored to receive this scholarship and I hope that maybe one day I can give back to a student who is also in need of a financial boost.
INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO PHI ALPHA THETA, HISTORY HONOR SOCIETY

This spring, the Department was please to induct the following members to Phi Alpha Theta:

Areli Bermudez-Villarreal
Marissa Coyle
Whitney Earnest
Matthew Halula
Cassandra Jim
Amanda McGuire
Rebecca Radziejeski
Heather Shrimplin
Katherine Wade

Students are inducted into Phi Alpha Theta after completing a minimum of 12 semester hours in history courses and earning at least a 3.1 GPA., demonstrating excellence in their history coursework.

HISTORY MAJOR ANALEIGH VANDERPOOL IS PUBLISHED AUTHOR

History Major Analeigh Vanderpool published an article in Kansas Preservation detailing her discoveries as an intern with the Kansas Historical Society. Vanderpool examined artifacts from the Canville Trading Post, in operation from 1852-1874 in southern Kansas. She discusses in the article how many of her previously-held notions about life on the frontier were dispelled after spending time with these artifacts.

Vanderpool’s article is available here:

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Casey Woodward, who won the university-wide Outstanding Secondary Teacher Award this spring.
COURSE SPOTLIGHT: TRADITIONAL JAPAN TO 1868, TAUGHT BY PROFESSOR TONY SILVESTRI

Dr. Tony Silvestri’s area of specialization is in medieval Europe, yet he has been fascinated by Japanese history since he saw Shogun (a TV miniseries about feudal Japan) in 1980. He first developed his class on Japanese history when he was teaching at a private high school. Once he joined the faculty at Washburn he saw a need for more non-western history classes so he adapted his class for the college level.

“Traditional Japan” explores the history and development of Japanese civilization from the prehistoric period to the collapse of the Tokugawa shōgunate in 1868 and beyond. The course examines such major themes such as the development of Japan’s clan-based feudal culture, the extent of Chinese influence on Japan’s development, high medieval court culture, the development and culture of the samurai class, the role of Buddhism and Shintō in Japanese development, and high samurai culture under the Tokugawa shōguns. Students read both primary sources and secondary scholarship in Japanese history and complete a 10-12 paged research paper. The capstone of the course is students’ participation in the development of a samurai-era strategy board game.

Silvestri has been working to perfect this game—his own creation—since he first came up with the idea for the course. He explains that the game is an amalgamation of other complicated strategy board games like Risk, Kingmaker, Republic of Rome, and Axis and Allies. He crafted the game pieces himself and hand painted the board—a large map—using watercolors (see image above). Every semester, students test evolving versions of the game and give their input on how to make it better. It is little surprise this course, like nearly all of Silvestri’s courses, is always over registered.
FALL 2015 UPPER-DIVISION COURSE OFFERINGS

HI 300A / HI 500GA: Anabaptism: The Radical Reformation and Beyond — This course focuses on major events, people, literature, and practices of Anabaptist-related groups from the sixteenth-century Reformation to the present, including Mennonites, the Amish, and Hutterites. Students will trace the evolution of this religious movement from its European origins to diverse contemporary practices on five continents. Taught by Rachel Goossen. TR 1-2:15 PM

HI 300B: John Brown — This class explores one of the most controversial figures in U.S. history, abolitionist John Brown. Born in 1800, Brown came of age during a period of profound social, cultural, economic, and religious upheaval. We will seek to understand Brown in the context of the rapidly changing world in which he lived. We will treat Brown as neither lunatic nor martyr, but as a son, businessman, father, and political activist whose stance on abolitionism gradually evolved to a point where he saw the use of violence as the only means through which to stop the evil of slavery. We will further explore popular reactions to Brown, both during his lifetime and after his execution. Taught by Kelly Erby. MWF 11AM-12 PM

HI 300C: Reflections on Water
Water is everywhere in our lives: the majority of both the earth’s surface and our bodies’ contents, it cleans us and ritually cleanses us, irrigates our gardens and floats our ships, falls on us when it rains, drowns us, inspires our art and riddles our literature with its symbolic power. And we in turn dam it and drain it, waste it and pollute it, and then worry about our future without it. “Reflections on Water” offers students a wide-ranging interdisciplinary examination of water and water issues in history, art literature, law, and contemporary politics. The course will also provide students the opportunity to develop their own research or creative project on the themes raised in the class. In thinking through their own research or creative work, students can take their cue from Washburn faculty from a range of disciplines; the fall interdisciplinary Faculty Colloquium will be incorporated into the schedule, and students will witness faculty developing their own research projects and creative work in the context of the weekly colloquium meetings. Course requirements: Required readings and weekly response papers (2-3 pages) due each Thursday, students will also develop their own research projects around any of the issues raised in class to be presented at the close of the semester. Taught by Tom Prasch. TR 2:30-3:45 PM

HI 302A: The American West — This course will examine the American West as a physical region that is and has constantly undergone changes; it will highlight the environmental, economic, political, and multicultural history of the west. We will survey the U.S. West as a place and as an idea in popular American culture and compare the two critically. Using primary and secondary sources, along with movies and films, this course will evaluate the distinct image of the American West and how that image is characterized. Beginning with European colonization in the 17th century, but focusing on the 19th and 20th centuries, this course will examine the historical processes that have come to define the region. This course will require intensive reading and writing. There will be short daily lectures combined with active learning participation, which will require students to read assigned texts and be prepared to discuss them. There will be assigned weekly and monthly short essays covering the readings, two major exams covering the textbook material, and a research project in lieu of a tradition final. Classroom participation will be a critical percentage of the students overall grade. Taught by Theresa Young. TR 5:30-6:45.

HI 328A/HI 528GA: African American History — This course will analyze the story of Africans and African Americans in America from the 16th century to the present. A variety of readings will include autobiographies, documents, and historical monographs. Taught by Bruce MacTavish. TR 11 AM-12:15 PM

HI 330C: Pirates — Yo ho! Curse the King and all the higher powers! This course explores the history of the Atlantic region in general, and the Caribbean Sea in particular, during the Golden Age of pirates, c.1680-1725. We will explore the geopolitical situation in the New World in the 16th and 17th c. which gave rise to the conditions in which piracy grew and thrived. We will discover the many reasons why men (and some women) became pirates; the various types of pirates; pirate methods; life aboard the sailing ships of that era; pirate culture and traditions; and the islands and ports which they called home. We will meet infamous pirates such as Captain Morgan, Charles Vane, Blackbeard,
Calico Jack Rackham, Bartholomew Roberts, Anne Bonney, and many others. We will with pirates in literature and film, the ways in which the modern image of pirate was crafted, and how this fanciful image differs from the reality of pirate life on the high seas during this period. Taught by Tony Silvestri. M 5:30-8 PM

HI 354VA: History of the Middle East—Background coverage of Islam and Islamic Civilization to the 18th C, then more focused study of the Middle East in the 19th C era of Western intrusion and industrialization, struggles for independence, and independence in the Cold War era and after. Taught by Sarah Tucker.

ONLINE FORMAT

HI 362A: History of Latin America—What do Irish Mexicans have to do with Cuban prostitutes have to do with Brazilian Christians and cannibals have to do with Nicaraguan revolutionary poets have to do with Chilean copper magnates and Argentine dictators? HI-362 Modern Latin America explores the evolving debate about modern and modernity in Latin America since 1824.

Congratulations go to Dr. Rachel Goossen, who was selected from faculty across the university to receive this year’s A. Roy Meyers Award for Excellence in Research. Integral to Washburn’s selection of Dr. Goossen for this honor was her recently-published study “‘Defanging the Beast’: Mennonite Responses to John Howard Yoder’s Sexual Abuse,” which appeared in the Mennonite Quarterly Review in January 2015. Goossen was profiled about her Yoder research project in the spring 2014 edition of this newsletter.

Washburn Students, Faculty, and Alumni Present at Kansas Association of Historians Conference

Washburn was well represented at this year’s Kansas Association of Historians conference, held at Emporia State University April 17-18. Washburn undergraduates Marissa Coyle, Angela Gonzales, and Scott Brackey attended, as did faculty members Tom Prasch, Kim Morse, Theresa Young, and Kelly Erby. Alumni presenters included Bethany Mowry-Ramos and Hannah Thompson (Young is also an alumnum). Especially impressive were the presentations from WU undergrads, whose topics ranged from tributary relationships and the development of the Ryukyu Kingdom (Coyle) to the role of food in cultural maintenance among Mexican immigrants in Topeka at the turn of the twentieth century (Gonzales) to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s fascination with Spiritualism (Brackey). For these students, the conference was an opportunity to showcase their hard work on seminar papers and capstone projects. In addition to attending panels, it was wonderful to catch up with our alumni at the conference and hear about the impressive work they are doing in Master’s and Ph.D. programs. Thompson, now an M.A. student at Texas Tech, discussed Egyptian mummy exhibits between 1870 and 1900, while Mowry-Ramos, a Ph.D. candidate at Oklahoma University, explained the connection between food and protest among British and American sailors in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Young, who now works at the Washburn University Archives in addition to teaching classes for the History Department, shared research she conducted about student unrest on campus in the 1970s.
Tom Prasch's essay "All the Strange Facts": Alfred Russel Wallace's Spiritualism and Evolutionary Thought "appeared in the collection "Perplex in Faith": Essays on Victorian Beliefs and Doubt, edited by Alisa Clapp-Imyrc and Julie Melnyk; his latest, bleakest ever selection of film reviews, with his introductory essay "‘Facing This Vast Hardness’: The Plains Landscape and the People Shaped by It in Recent Kansas/Plains Film," is coming out in the summer issue of Kansas History. Prasch presented papers at five conferences this spring, talking about the film Jimmy P.: Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian at the Southwest Popular Culture conference in Albuquerque, the fine arts at the London International Exhibition of 1862 at the Pacific Conference of British Studies in Las Vegas, a comparative perspective on the two 1915 California international exhibitions (San Diego and San Francisco) at the national Popular Culture Association conference in New Orleans, the Benin Punitive Expedition and Benin's looted art at the Kansas Association of Historians conference in Emporia, and late Victorian synesthesia (in Aesthetic, psychological, and Spiritualist contexts) at the Midwestern Victorian Studies Association conference in Iowa City.

Rachel Goossen received a Washburn University Faculty Research Grant to research and write “‘Defanging the Beast’: Mennonite Responses to John Howard Yoder’s Sexual Abuse,” which appeared as the lead article in a special issue of The Mennonite Quarterly Review 89 (January 2015): 7-80, on sexual abuse in Mennonite contexts. Since Goossen’s scholarship appeared, a number of periodicals of theology and ethics have featured her work, including The Christian Century, The Mennonite World Review, The Canadian Mennonite, The Mennonite, and Mennonite Life. Her son Ben Goossen, a doctoral student in history at Harvard University, has translated excerpts of her work into German language for periodicals in Paraguay, Bolivia, Germany, Switzerland, and beyond. This spring and summer, Goossen is giving a series of public lectures on this topic, and in October she will present a paper, “Women Challenge John Howard Yoder’s ‘Body Politics’” at an international conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Goossen continues to serve as a Kansas Humanities Council Speakers’ Bureau and “TALK” presenter, and recently published book reviews in Canadian Historical Review, Conrad Grebel Review, and Kansas History.

Tony Silvestri attended the premiere of his opera "The Pastry Prince" in January with the Houston Grand Opera's Opera-To-Go program, performed this season at over sixty schools in the Houston area to over 25,000 students. He was commissioned to write another libretto for their program next year. The new opera will be titled "The Puffed-Up Primadonna". He has had premieres of four new works this semester—in San Francisco, Chicago, Iowa, and New York. Silvestri wrote the Foreword to the book From to Words and Music: A Users' Guide to Text for Choral Musicians by Gerald Custer and Blake Hensen, published in 2014 by GIA. He is developing a new course for the Fall: The Golden Age of Pirates, 1680-1725.

Kelly Erby taught upper-division classes in revolutionary and early national U.S. history this year. In collaboration with Dr. Wynn, she received a curriculum-development grant to retool the U.S. history survey. Erby presented papers based on research from her forthcoming book about nineteenth-century restaurants at two conferences, the national meeting of the Popular Culture Association and the meeting of the Kansas Association of Historians. Beginning in June, Erby will serve as the book review editor for Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains.

Kim Morse had a normal crazy busy semester. In addition to teaching two sections of HI102, HI395, and team teaching (with Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas) HI364 History and Literature of Latin America, and the normal committee commitments, Morse participated in a forum hosted by the History Department of the University of Kansas on post-graduate careers for history Ph.Ds. She presented research on conflicts between missionaries and colonial Latin American authorities on language policy and practices in the Bourbon era at two conferences, the Kansas Association of Historians conference at Emporia State and the Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies in Tucson, Arizona. Along with Michelle de la Isla, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, Morse organized the fifth Hermanitas Conference sponsored by Washburn and MANA de Topeka. The conference brought 177 girls...
from eleven area middle and high schools for a day focused on empowerment, education, dreaming, and fun. After a keynote address by President Mirta Martin of Fort Hays State, the first Latino ever to lead a Board of Regents school in Kansas, the girls participated in Speed Chat with Professionals with 35 area professionals representing approximately a dozen different professions. After lunch and a dance party, the day ended with a game Kim and Michelle created for the event, A Girl’s Journey. Loosely based on the game Life, the game is played for speed, tailored to the situations in Topeka, and designed to help girls think about the consequences of choices, positive and negative. Positive choices led to college and productive careers. Negative choices hinder success, lead to less productive careers, or death (texting and driving). The game built in messages about community service, positive self-image, shared success, and physical activity. The game was not only fun to play for everyone involved, but it also opened up opportunities to talk about decisions and consequences. For example, a girl who learned in the morning that she might be interested in becoming a landscape architect from a Bartlett and West landscape architect then thought about positive and negative choices, scholarships, good grades, and financial aid in the game. The 2016 Hermanitas Conference is already scheduled for March 27, 2016.

Kerry Wynn engaged in revamping the U.S. history survey as the recipient of a grant awarded by the Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning (CTEL). In cooperation with Dr. Erby, she restructured the introduction to U.S. history to reinforce critical thinking and increase student engagement in analysis of primary sources. Dr. Wynn also traveled to New Orleans this semester to present her work at the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association. She delivered the paper, "Men will wade though blood for a throne, and they will wade through it for territory: Print Culture, Embodied Violence, and Policy-Making for the Indian Territory, 1865-1907."

Bruce Mactavish has rediscovered the power of historical field trips to engage students in understanding important historical questions. This past Fall students in his Civil War Era class gained an understanding of differing interpretations of “Bleeding Kansas” by visiting Osawatomie and Pottawatamie, Kansas as well as Harrisonville, Missouri. Mactavish continues to play an active role in community events celebrating and commemorating the Brown v Board decision.

Alan Bearman continues to teach courses in early American and religious history. He also serves as the Dean of the Libraries at Washburn.

SAVE THE DATE!
The Clio Circle, in conjunction with Phi Alpha Theta and the Department of History, will host a Career Night during the week of Homecoming in October 2015. If you are a History Major alumnus who would like to share what you have done with your B.A. or graduate degree with current students, email Professor Kelly Erby at kelly.erby@washburn.edu
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING 2015 GRADUATES!

MATTHEW BUHLER, CHRISTOPHER BIRD, TOBIAS COWDIN, SCOTT BRACKEY (WITH HONORS), CHLOE DELATORRE, KURT FOLEY, TRAE JOHNSON (WITH HONORS), RACHEL NORDGREN, CHASE SACHS (WITH HONORS), COLIN SHAW (WITH HONORS), CAMRIE SHEETS, JOSHUA TOMMASO, CASSANDRA WHITE (WITH HONORS), KYLIE ALLEN, ADAM FRITZ (WITH HONORS), ELISATERI THOMPSON, BRAD GOURLEY, & JESSICA RAMSDELL.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Attention Alumni & Friends!

Keep us current on your activities and contact information! Complete this form and send it to Dr. Kelly Erby, Department of History, Washburn University, 1700 SW College Ave, Topeka, KS 66621

Name:_____________________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________________________

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News: __________________________________________________________________________

General donations to the Department of History are always welcome to further the activities of students, faculty, and general program needs. Checks can be made payable to “Washburn University Foundation—History Department” and mailed to 1729 SW MacVicar Ave Topeka, KS, 66604. We appreciate your support!

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