

History

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Six Faculty Members Retire



Swan
since 1977



Garretson
since 1970



Armitage
since 1978



Ashby
since 1972



Meyer
since 1991



Coon
since 1971

Contents

Ashby Receives Award	2
Armitage is Woman of the Year	2
Peabody Earns Fellowships..	3
Sutton Appointed Chief Historian	3
Faculty News.....	4
Graduate Student News	5
Alumni News	6
New Faculty	8
Professor Emeritus News...	10
In Passing	10
Scholarship and Award Winners	10
Public Field School	11
Chair's Message	12

The WSU history department is beginning to look like “a whole new place.” Six professors/instructors, with 189 total years of service to WSU, retired this academic year and were officially honored April 30 at the Lewis Alumni Centre. The six retiring faculty, including Susan Armitage, LeRoy Ashby, David Coon, Edwin Garretson, Kathryn Meyer, and Susan Swan, will be remembered not only for the professionalism, guidance, and expertise they provided, but for the friendships and memories they created.

All six have different plans for retirement. Armitage intends to write a book on the history of women in the Pacific Northwest, and Garretson will devote more time to cataloging archives for the Whitman County Historical Soci-

ety. Ashby, Coon, and Meyer are going to travel with their spouses, and Swan is going to become a master gardener, show her watercolor paintings, do volunteer work with animals, and help with ill family and friends.

While losing six faculty members with the vast experience and proven excellence that these six possess will undoubtedly affect the department, Meyer says that “whenever you get new people, they’re so excited. They bring new energy. This will be a whole new place in four to five years.” These changes are already occurring with the additions of Jesse Spohnholz and Jeffrey Sanders in 2007 and the arrival of Matthew Sutton, Jennifer Thigpen, and Joel Tishken for the fall 2008 semester.

Ashby Receives President's Lifetime Achievement Award

LeRoy Ashby, Claudius O. and Mary W. Johnson Distinguished Professor of History and Regents Professor, received the WSU President's Award for Lifetime Service. Ashby's undergraduate classes on 20th century American history have been among the most popular electives on campus for the past 30 years. The enthusiasm of his undergraduate students is exceeded only by the appreciation of his many graduate students. The award was presented by President Elson S. Floyd and was a surprise for Ashby, who did not know he had been nominated for the award. "I was indeed surprised—so much so that I was speechless,"

Ashby said after the ceremony. "I am deeply honored to receive such recognition from colleagues and administrators. It is always rewarding to have one's work valued and appreciated. When I look at the list of previous recipients, I am even more grateful." President Floyd said "Ashby's longstanding story of excellence in teaching and research made him an ideal candidate to receive this award. Ashby has had a profound influence on the direction and progress of the University throughout his career and has demonstrated great personal and professional commitment to the University and our community." Ashby, who joined

the WSU faculty in 1972, was the first-ever recipient of the WSU President's Faculty Excellence Award for Instruction in 1983 and was twice honored as the CASE Professor of the Year for the State of Washington, in 1990 and again in 1993. In 1992 he was chosen to deliver WSU's Distinguished Faculty Lecture. In nominating him for the professor of the year award, former WSU President Glenn Terrell wrote that Ashby was "one of the finest teachers of undergraduates I have ever known." The department chair at the time, David Stratton, noted that Ashby "teaches history as an understanding of the human condition."

Armitage is WSU Woman of the Year

Susan Armitage, Claudius O. and Mary W. Johnson Distinguished Professor of History, received the WSU Woman of the Year award at the annual Women's Recognition Luncheon in April. Armitage was recognized for promoting new and innovative approaches to the study of the history of women in the American West and mentoring generations of students and colleagues in the process.

She came to WSU in 1978 as the first director of women's studies and as an assistant professor of history.

She has served as director of the Center for Columbia River History, director of the American Studies program, and as editor of *Frontiers*, a WSU publication that addresses issues related to women. She also has held the position of Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professor of History and Women's Studies.

Armitage was one of the first scholars to examine the role of women in the American West through research, teaching, and service. She has been a Mellon Scholar at the Wellesley College Center

for Research on Women, a Hilliard Scholar at the University of Nevada at Reno, chair of the Association for Faculty Women at WSU, recipient of the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award from the College of Liberal Arts, and Distinguished Fulbright Chair in American History at Moscow State University, Russia. Her work led to her being invited by Laura Bush to the White House in 2003. Throughout her career, Armitage has been a key strategist in long-term efforts to advance women at WSU.

Peabody Earns Fellowships



Sue Peabody has been awarded a research fellowship by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Peabody will use the fellowship to conduct research in 2009 and 2010 at the New York Historical Society for her book project, *Free Soil: Slaves and the Law in the Atlantic World*. Her book will examine the legal principle of “free soil” (when a slave became free by crossing into a particular territory) from the middle ages through the 19th century. The project builds on the research for her first book, *There Are No Slaves in France: The Political Culture of Race and Slavery in the Ancient Régime*, by tracing the movement of the idea outside of France to Europe, the Americas, and Africa. Peabody

is one of twenty Gilder Lehrman Fellows for the second half of 2008. The institute has funded a total of 521 fellowships since 1994. Peabody also received a prestigious American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship to assist with the same book project. Her book, *Slavery, Freedom and the Law in the Atlantic World* (Bedford Books), coedited with Keila Grinberg, was published in March 2007. The book contains dozens of legal texts from the French, British, Spanish, and Portuguese empires in which slaves and free people of color attempted to secure their freedom through judicial actions during the Age of Revolution and Emancipation (1770–1888).

Sutton Appointed Chief Historian



Robert K. Sutton ('84 Ph.D.) was named chief historian of the National Park Service, one of the most prestigious historian positions in the federal government. Prior to his appointment he had served for nearly 13 years as superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park where he initiated a major symposium on the Civil War and developed an interpretive institute for Civil War park rangers to learn new ways to interpret Civil War history. Before his park service appointments, Sutton directed the historic preservation and historical administration public history programs at

Arizona State University, worked for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and Oregon State Parks in the 1970s, and served as curator at the Oregon Historical Society. Since 1991, he has also served as adjunct professor of history at George Mason University. Sutton is the editor of *Rally on the High Ground: National Park Service Symposium on the Interpretation of the Civil War*, coauthor of *Majestic in His Wrath: The Life of Frederick Douglass*, and author of *Americans Interpret the Parthenon: Greek Revival Architecture and the Westward Movement*.

The History Alumni Newsletter is published once a year by Washington State University, P.O. Box 645910, Pullman, Washington 99164-5910.

Issue No. 17
Department of History
509-335-5139
libarts.wsu.edu/history
August 2008 124211

Faculty News

Susan Armitage's article "Turner's Ghost," which focused on the history of western women's history, appeared in *The Practice of U.S. Women's History* (Rutgers University Press).

LeRoy Ashby gave a commencement speech titled "Somebody's Comin' Pa. Are You Ready?" at the May 2008 WSU graduation. In his speech, Ashby talked about the impact of a college education and urged "the new graduates to continue their pursuit for knowledge."

Robert Bauman reviewed **Brenda Jackson-Abernathy's** ('02 Ph.D.) *Domesticating the West: The Re-Creation of the Nineteenth-Century American Middle Class* (University of Nebraska Press) in the 2007 summer issue of *Washington State Magazine*. His conference paper "Opal Jones and Francisca Flores: Gender, Civil Rights Activism, and the War on Poverty in Los Angeles" will be published in the book *The War on Poverty and Grassroots Struggles for Racial and Economic Justice* (University of Georgia Press), and his book chapter, "Economic Changes Affecting the Public's Need for City Services," will appear in *The Development of Los Angeles City Government: An Institutional History 1850–2000*, a two-volume history of the city of Los Angeles. Bauman's article "Teaching Hanford History in the Classroom and in the Field" was published in *The Public Historian* (fall 2007).

David L. Coon was awarded the William F. Mullen Excellence in Teaching Award. The prize recognizes faculty members who exemplify excellence with an emphasis

on involvement with students and student groups outside of the classroom.

Richard Hume and **Jerry Gough's** book *Blacks, Carpetbaggers, and Scalawags: The Constitutional Conventions of Radical Reconstruction* (LSU Press) will be available in October. They were awarded a WSU Meyer Project Award of \$1,000 in 2007. Hume also received a 40-year service award, and Gough received the Disciples Faculty Service Award. Hume and **Robert McCoy** were guest curators of the Oregon Historical Society exhibit of major Lincoln manuscripts and memorabilia titled "A House Divided: Lincoln in His Own Words" that was on display from December 12, 2007, to March 31, 2008.

Candice Goucher is coauthor of *World History: Journeys from Past to Present* (Routledge). The book has been called "a cutting-edge rethinking of world history" by one reviewer and praised by another as "a history of the world fit for today's global citizens." Goucher has also been named to the editorial board for the new *Cambridge History of the World*, a nine-volume project being published by Cambridge University Press.



David Pietz had three articles published: "Yangzi River" and "Water and Water Management: East Asia"

in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World* (Oxford University Press), and "The Past, Present, and

Future of China's Energy Sector" in *China's Energy Strategy: The Impact on Beijing's Maritime Policies* (Naval Institute Press). Pietz also received the College of Liberal Arts Berry Family Faculty Excellence Fellows Award and the Office of Research Initiation of Collaboration Grant in spring 2008. When he wasn't busy writing, Pietz participated in the Columbia Valley Undergraduate Asian Studies Research Symposium at WSU and made numerous presentations, including "China's Energy Dilemma" at the 37th Annual Frank Church Symposium on International Affairs at Idaho State University, "China's Energy Challenges" and "China in the News" at the K-12 Teacher Training Workshop in Spokane, and "China: Energy, Economy, and the World" at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He also organized *China Town Hall*, in conjunction with the National Committee on U.S-China Relations, which includes the webcasts "China in the 2008 Presidential and Congressional Elections" and "Asia, America, and the Transformation of Geopolitics."

Robert McCoy, Laurie Mercier, and **Heather Streets** provided leadership and expertise to assist Clarkston school district administrators in receiving a U.S. Department of Education grant entitled "Confluences in American History." WSU faculty will conduct seminars and workshops for 70 Clarkston-area history teachers during the three-year grant, which was designed to make history come alive for both students and teachers.

Thanks to the efforts of McCoy, **Orlan Svingen**, and graduate students in public history courses, Pullman's north side hill was officially designated the "College Hill Historic District." There will now be a sign designating the location as a place on the National Register of Historic Places and plans are underway to create a walking tour of the area. This designation will help Pullman qualify for historic preservation and enhancement grants. McCoy was also the recipient of the 2007 Library Excellence Award, which is

presented annually to a non-library WSU faculty, staff, or administrative professional employee who has shown consistent support for the WSU Libraries.

Kathryn Meyer was named the Faculty/Staff Member of the Month for February 2008 by the WSU chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary.

Jacqueline Peterson received a 25-year service award.

Jesse Spohnholz's article "Olympias and Chrysostom: The Debate

over Wesel's Reformed Deaconesses, 1568–1609" appeared in the *Archive for Reformation History/Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte*, vol. 98 (2007) and his review of Judith Becker's *Gemeindeordnung und Kirchengründung: Johannes a Lasco's Kirchenordnung für London (1555) und die reformierte Konfessionsbildung* appeared on *H-German* in June 2008.

Raymond Sun was selected as a member of the President's Teaching Academy. He was also appointed cochair for the department.

Graduate Students in the News

T. Chris Allan (doctoral candidate) was hired by Alaska National Parks System as the historian for Gates of the Arctic National Parks and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

Amy Canfield (doctoral candidate) received the Colonial Dames Scholarship Award. The Patriotic Service Interviewing Committee felt that she deserved high marks for her choice of subject, and were impressed with her substantial teaching load and her historical preservation activities. The committee also commented on the significance of Amy's work to the Indian tribes of the Pacific Northwest, and felt she was extremely well prepared to undertake the work she has outlined. Canfield's published works include "'The Wheels of Progress Must Not be Closed': The 1902 Land Rush on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation" in *Journal of the West* (Fall 2007), "Stephen King's *Dolores Claiborne* and *Rose Madder*: A Literary Backlash Against Domestic Violence" in *Journal of American*

Culture (December 2007), and "A Shrinking Reservation: The Pocatello Land Rush of 1902" in *The Mountain Light: The Newsletter of the Idaho State Historical Society*.

Amitava Chowdhury (doctoral candidate) has accepted a tenure-track position in Caribbean history at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada. Apart from teaching Caribbean history, he will also teach world history and launch a minor in world history for graduate students.

E. Mark Moreno (doctoral candidate) received the Washington State Historical Society's Charles Gates Award for best article to appear in the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* during 2006 for his article "Mexican American Street Gangs, Migration and Violence in the Yakima Valley."

Maryanne Rhett (doctoral candidate) has accepted a tenure-track position in Middle East history at Monmouth University in Long Branch, New Jersey. In addition to teaching Middle Eastern history

classes she will be involved in developing the world history master's program, which is a year and half old.

Michael Schwartz (master's candidate) was the student recipient of the 2008 WSU Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award. He also received the GPSA Excellence Award, given for excellence as a research assistant. Schwartz is the statewide service learning coordinator for the WSU Center for Civic Engagement. Additionally, he and **Jennifer Brown** (doctoral candidate) each received a Graduate School travel grant.

Laurali Turner (doctoral candidate) won the 2005–06 Schult's Departmental Award for Best M.A. Thesis at Eastern Washington University for her thesis, "The Role of Music in the Containment of Upper Rank Women in Eighteenth Century France." Turner is developing her doctoral dissertation project on popular music in the early modern French Atlantic.

Alumni News

Katherine Aiken ('80 Ph.D.) has been named dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences at the University of Idaho.

Elise Boxer's ('02 B.A.) review of *No one Ever Asked Me: The World War II Memoirs of an Omaha Indian Soldier* appeared in the spring 2007 *Western Historical Quarterly*.

Stefan Bradley ('98 M.A.) presented a talk titled "College Kids, CORE, Cats, and Cooler College Curriculum: The 1960s Black Freedom Movement" during Black History Month at WSU. Bradley spoke about the role that young people and students in the 1960s played in changing the course of national history. According to Bradley, their actions inspired new legislation, enriched college curriculums, and changed the culture of the United States and the world. "Because they were young and impatient, they moved quickly to advance the Black Freedom Movement," Bradley said. "Furthermore, they did so without the direct leadership of men like Martin Luther King Jr., which is not only remarkable, but it is telling about the power that young people have when they focus."

Bradley, who is currently researching black student activism at Ivy League universities, received his doctoral degree in history from the University of Missouri, Columbia, in 2003 and holds a tenure-track position in the Department of Historical Studies at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

Jerry W. Cooney ('63 B.A., '66 M.A.) and coauthor Frank O. Mora published *Paraguay and the United States: Distant Allies* (University

of Georgia Press) in the series *The United States and the Americas*.

Amy De Santis ('06 B.A.) has been accepted to the University of Washington School of Law. She was one of 180 admitted students out of 2,600 applicants.



Andrew P. Duffin

('03 Ph.D.) published *Plowed Under: Agriculture and Environment in the Palouse* (University of

Washington Press). In his book, he traces the transformation of the Palouse region of Washington and Idaho from land thought unusable and unproductive to a wealth-generating agricultural paradise, and also weighs the consequences of what this progress has wrought. Duffin is currently an assistant professor at Western Kentucky University.

Jeanne Eder ('00 Ph.D.) was awarded the Distinguished Woman Alumna of the Year Award at the annual Women's Recognition Luncheon in March 2007. The event was part of the 2007 Women's History Month celebration. Eder is an associate professor in the History Department at the University of Alaska in Anchorage and author of two children's books: *The History of the Dakota Sioux* and *The History of the Makah*. She also coauthored *American Indian Education: A History*, published in 2004. Dr. Eder is well-known for performing historically accurate impersonations of three leading American Indian women—Waheenee (Buffalo Bird Woman, Hidatsa), Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Bon-

nin, Dakota Sioux), and Sacajawea (Bird Woman, Lemhi Shoshoni). She was appointed to the first National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Planning Council in 1994 and successfully advocated for calling the bicentennial a commemoration instead of a celebration. Because of her strong voice, she was also consulted to help shape the more recent Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration.

Keith Edgerton ('94 Ph.D.) wrote a review of *Dangerous Strangers: Minority Newcomers and Criminal Violence in the Urban West, 1850–2000*, which appeared in the spring 2007 *Western Historical Quarterly*.

Michael Egan ('04 Ph.D.) published *Barry Commoner and the Science of Survival: The Remaking of American Environmentalism* (MIT Press). His article, "Toxic Knowledge: A Mercurial Fugue in Three Parts," will appear in *Environmental History* and he has publications forthcoming in the sociology journal *Organization & Environment* and in an edited collection on the global 1960s. Additionally, Egan and **Jeff Crane** ('98 M.A., '04 Ph.D.) coedited a collection of new essays on the history of American environmentalism, *Natural Protest: Essays on the History of American Environmentalism* (Routledge), that will be published in November. Egan, who holds a tenure-track position at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, was also the recipient of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant. The three-year grant will allow him to develop research on the global history of mercury pollution since World War II. He is also a member

of the editorial board for the new journal *Environmental Justice*.

Sara Dant Ewert ('00 Ph.D.) was awarded tenure this spring at Weber State University. Her article, "Making Wilderness Work: Frank Church and the American Wilderness Movement," appeared in the May 2008 issue of *Pacific Historical Review* and her reviews of *The Ever-Changing View: A History of the National Forests in California*, *The Lure of the Forest: Oral Histories from the National Forests in California*, and *Fire in the Forest: A History of Forest Fire Control on the National Forests in California, 1898–1956* appeared in *Western Historical Quarterly* (spring 2007). She was also awarded the 2007–2008 Joy Hilliard Fellowship in Environmental History by Denver Public Library.

Armand Garcia ('06 Ph.D.) has accepted a tenure-track position at Eastern Washington University. In addition, his article, "The Language that Legitimized the Persecution of Homosexuals in Castro's Cuba," appears in the spring issue of the electronic journal *Cuban Affairs*.

Max G. Geier's ('90 Ph.D.) book, *Necessary Work: Discovering Old Forests, New Outlooks, and Community on the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, 1948–2000* (U.S. Department of Agriculture), was released in March 2007.

Matthew C. Godfrey's ('01 Ph.D.) book *Religion, Politics, and Sugar: The Mormon Church, the Federal Government, and the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, 1907–1921* (Utah State University Press) won the Mormon History Association's Best New Book award for 2007. Godfrey is the director of Historical Research Associates in Missoula, Montana.

Andrew Gregg ('83 M.A.) was appointed to serve on the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission. A joint commission supported by Clark County and the City of Vancouver, this body oversees all historic preservation activities located in Washington State's first county. In December 2006, Gregg was notified that the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certified him in history. Few public school teachers in Washington State have earned this particular distinction and specialized certification in history.

Brenda Jackson-Abernathy ('02 Ph.D.), who is at Belmont University, will be promoted to associate professor in August.

Jean Johnson's ('95 Ph.D.) new book *Cooking Beyond Measure: How to Eat Well without Formal Recipes* (Seventy-Sixth Avenue Press) will be released in November.

Jeff Johnson's ('02 M.A., '04 Ph.D.) book, *They Are All Red Out Here: Socialist Party Politics and Activism in the Pacific Northwest, 1890–1925* (University of Oklahoma Press), is now available.

Diane L. Krahe ('05 Ph.D.) wrote a review of *When the River Ran Wild! Indian Traditions on the Mid-Columbia and the Warm Springs Reservation* that appeared in the spring 2007 *Western Historical Quarterly*.

Paul Gordon Lauren ('68 B.A.) is the Regents Professor of History at the University of Montana. He has just published his eleventh book, a new edition of *Force and Statecraft* (Oxford University Press). A previous book, *The Evolution of International Human Rights: Visions Seen*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

His publications, either in whole or in part, have been translated into seven different languages. While at the University of Montana he has received the Distinguished Scholar Award, the Most Inspirational Teacher Award, the Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award, and the Governor's Humanities Award.

Dwayne Mack's ('02 Ph.D.) essay on "The Black West" appears in the anthology *Making of the American West* (ABC/Clio). The volume is part of the new series *Perspectives in American Social History*. Mack, who holds the positions of assistant professor of history and Carter G. Woodson Chair in African American History at Berea College, Kentucky, received tenure and promotion.

Jody Peterson ('98 Ph.D.) has been named the coordinator for the Greater Northwest Region of Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of the Two Year College. She continues teaches U.S. history, western civilization, political science, and cultural geography classes at Centralia College, where she recently gained tenure.



Sam Regalado ('87 Ph.D.) appeared in the PBS show *The American Experience: Roberto Clemente* and served as one of the program's academic advisors. His

book, *Viva Baseball! Latin Major Leaguers and Their Special Hunger* (University of Illinois Press), was released in its third edition, his article "Roberto Clemente: Images, Legacy, and Identity," will appear in the *International Journal of the History of Sport*, and another article, "Clay, aka Ali v. U.S. (1971): Muhammad Ali, Precedent, and the Burger

Court," will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Journal of Sport History*. He is also coeditor with Jorge Iber on an anthology entitled *Mexican Americans and Sports: A Reader on Athletics and Barrio Life* (Texas A&M Press).

Aaron Rodeffer ('96 B.A.) has been named the head men's golf coach at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Rodeffer and his wife, Megan, have two children, Molly and Brandt.

James Ross-Nazzal ('01 Ph.D.) has his first book published: *The US Veto and the Polemics of the Question of Palestine in the United Nations Security Council, 1972–2007* (Edwin Mellen Press).

Jennifer Ross-Nazzal ('04 Ph.D.), a historian with the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, was a full seminar participant in the Schlesinger Library 2007 Summer Seminar on Gender History at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. She was part of a select group of 36 chosen from among 120 applicants. The seminar included small-group workshops where participants presented their own research and writing for evaluation and criticism.

Ross-Nazzal presented a chapter on Emma Smith DeVoe and the National Council of Women Voters.

Carli Crozier Schiffner ('04 Ph.D.) was appointed dean of arts and sciences at Yakima Valley Community College. Her husband, **Summer Hahn** ('02 B.A., '05 M.A.), is an assistant coach for the YVCC baseball team.

Bob Swartout ('78 Ph.D.) received the 2006 Educational Excellence Award from the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees and completed his ninth year as the Republic of Korea's honorary consul in the state of Montana. Swartout authored "Entering Butte," in *Montana, the Magazine of Western History* (winter 2006), he also reviewed *The Korean Struggle for International Identity in the Foreground of the Shufeldt Negotiation, 1866–1882* in the *Journal of Asian Studies* (February 2007), and *Nikkei in the Pacific Northwest: Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians in the Twentieth Century* in *Montana, the Magazine of Western History* (spring 2007).

Paul Sweeny ('05 B.A.) was awarded a collections internship at the Pro Football Hall of

Fame museum in Canton, Ohio, in January 2007 where he worked for four months. Sweeny "felt like this internship was perfect for me, because it combined my passions for history and football...proved to be a valuable asset to my resume." He plans to attend graduate school at Seattle University and pursue a master's in sports administration and leadership.

Laura Woodworth-Ney ('96 Ph.D.) presented her lecture titled "Women Pioneers in the Garden of Irrigation, 1870–1930" at the University of Idaho's Institute for Pacific Northwest Studies Lecture Series in October. In the lecture she discussed women's influence in American irrigation and how their lives and writings have helped influence the culture of irrigation and the west. Woodworth-Ney is associate professor and chair of the Department of History at Idaho State University.

If you have information about your happenings that you would like included in the annual newsletter, please e-mail history@wsu.edu or ddehlbom@wsu.edu with details.

New Faculty

Jesse Spohnholz started teaching in the fall of 2007 at WSU. His specialization is in European social, cultural, and religious history between 1450 and 1750. Spohnholz teaches courses on Europe during the Renaissance and Reformation, specialized courses in the history of Germany and the Low Countries, and topics on religion, family, and gender in early modern Europe.

Spohnholz grew up in Anchorage, the town located, as they say, only

15 minutes away from Alaska, which allowed him to hike, cross-country ski, and backpack as much as possible. He also became quite engaged in local politics in his early years. Of these two interests—that for the natural world and that for the human world—the latter captured his imagination when he attended college. It was also then that he became interested in a fundamental question of human existence that was to haunt him for several years:

what drives human beings to want to kill one another?

After graduating, Spohnholz took a position as a public historian in Alaska, surveying and cataloguing historical and prehistoric sites, particularly those associated with the Alaska Gold Rush, which was then approaching its centennial. This seemed perfect: he combined his passion for the outdoors and history. His larger questions about human existence stuck with him,

however, and he soon began plans to enter graduate school to study the causes of religious violence in particular. He began a course of study at the University of St. Andrews, in Scotland, where he studied Europe's age of religious wars. As he began to understand the larger social and cultural world that religion inhabited, it became clearer why people in that context could be drawn to religious violence. But that posed another serious question. Considering the perilous challenges facing individuals who lived beside those whose ideas and lifestyles they saw as a threat to their entire society and themselves, how was it that people did not kill all of their neighbors?

This led Spohnholz to throw himself into understanding how individuals living in a world without his own commitment to toleration learned to coexist. For this he moved to the University of Iowa to start a doctoral program, a program that took him to research in archives, rare book rooms, and libraries in Netherlands, Germany, England, and Scotland. He focused on what he has come to call "social history of religious toleration." Since completing his doctorate, he has been publishing articles on aspects of this problem and is currently completing his book manuscript, *Strangers and Neighbors: The Tactics of Toleration in an Early Modern German Town*. This project centers on a community that experienced the traumatic and sudden arrival of religious refugees. In it, he traces the strategies developed by individuals and families to cope with religious difference. He is also preparing a larger project on religious coexistence and material cultural in Europe's Rhine Valley during the age of religious wars.

While in Iowa, Spohnholz met and married his wife, Sheri Six, who shares his love for an active lifestyle. After finishing his doctorate, Spohnholz taught at Grinnell College, which allowed him to find another passion in teaching. But longing for the greater outdoor opportunities of the West, he found himself drawn to Washington State University and the Palouse, which provides the perfect balance between an academic career and the active life he still loves.

Jeff Sanders was born and raised in Seattle, Washington, back when it was still a sleepy little middle-class, middle-brow city. He attended the University of Washington, earning a double major in the comparative history of ideas and in history. After years in exile in Boston, Massachusetts (for a master's degree in history at Boston University), in Albuquerque, New Mexico (for a Ph.D. in history), and in Maine (for a one-year appointment that became two at the University of New England), he happily returned to his Washington homeland to join the WSU history department in the fall of 2007. He teaches classes in U.S. West history, Pacific Northwest history, and environmental history.

While studying at the University of New Mexico, Jeff became interested in the history of vernacular landscapes, and the social and environmental history of cities. In an unexpected detour from his dissertation research, he answered a call for proposals from the City of Albuquerque to write the history of an urban park recently erased by a new federal courthouse. The side project soon consumed him with more than a year spent reconstructing the downtown park's history and meaning for Albuquerque residents

across time. *McClellan Park: The Life and Death of an Urban Green Space* (Albuquerque Museum Press, 2004) was the final product. His work for the project planted the seeds of his interest in western urban and environmental history.

Jeff's teaching and scholarship continue to emphasize the historical production of space and the dynamic between distinct places, landscapes, and communities and broader forces of change in the postwar U.S. and U.S. West. His dissertation and recent scholarly work turn a critical eye toward the city of his birth, focusing on the development of post-World War II grassroots environmental activism in Seattle. He is currently revising a manuscript for the University of Pittsburgh Press as part of their History of the Urban Environment series in which he explores how different urban actors debated the meaning of public space, nature, and "sustainability" in the context of rapid suburbanization and the "urban crisis" of the 1960s. His work offers a more diverse picture of environmental activism linked to broader movements for social change in the '60s and '70s. He recently published an essay based on this work in the May 2008 issue of the *Pacific Historical Review* called "The Battle for Fort Lawton: Competing Environmental Claims in Postwar Seattle" that focuses on struggles over open space and definitions of nature and environmentalism.

When Jeff is not thinking about his next project—a still-nebulous topic related to the environmental history of childhood—he spends his time dancing around the living room with his kids, drinking coffee, and exploring the Palouse.

Professor Emeritus News

Selections of **Roger Schlesinger's** book *Andre Thevet's North America* (1986) will appear in *The Peoples of Canada* (Oxford University Press) and *Going to the Source: The Bedford Reader* (Bedford/St. Martin's).

In Passing

Lawrence (Larry) Stark ('78 Ph.D.), an assistant university archivist at the WSU Holland/Terrell Library, died February 4, 2008, at St. Joseph's hospital in Lewiston, Idaho. He worked in Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections from 1985 to 2008 and was well-known to anyone who conducted research on Northwest history or the history of Washington State University.

Stephen W. Charry ('97 Ph.D.) passed away on March 18, 2008, after a stroke. He was a history professor at Illinois Valley Community College specializing in U.S. and Latin American history. He is survived by his wife, Karin Tunis; three children, Kaylyn, Benjamin, and Genevieve; his parents; and one sister.

Scholarship and Award Winners

William D. Aiken Memorial Fund: Cynthia Wiecko

Edward and Margery Bennett History Scholarship: Jon Middaugh and Lindsay Thompson

Katherine Gilbert Blinn Scholarship: Jonathan Barker

Cooney Family Graduate Research Fund: E. Mark Moreno

Herman J. Deutsch Memorial Fellowship: Marc Entze

Gillis Graduate Student Award: E. Mark Moreno, Aaron Whelchel, and Maryanne Rhett

History Graduate Research Fellowship: Aaron Whelchel

Claudius Johnson Memorial Scholarship: Shaina Lent

Claudius O. and Mary W. Johnson Graduate Fellowship: Aaron Whelchel

William Landeen and Claudius Johnson Scholarship: Julie Russell

Raymond Muse Scholarship: Kelli Ann Krench

Leta Olmstead Smith Award: Zachary Frey

Howard C. Payne Award: Jacki Hedlund

Pettyjohn Research Fellowship: Marc Entze

Ruth C. Magnuson Roberts Scholarship: Francis Rupert

Morris Reed Scholarship: Aaron Whelchel and Brian Carlton

Wayne Stanford Scholarship: Patrick King and Lucas Burke

Walter B. Thorson Scholarship: Francis Rupert

Distance Degree Best Undergraduate Paper Award: Nicolee Bradbury '08, Greta Marie Morgan '07, Jenifer Hozail '06

Rachel Hamar ('02 B.A.) received the WSU Libraries Student Research Excellence Award (1st place) for her thesis entitled "Queens of Egypt: The Complexities of Female Rule in the First through the Nineteenth Dynasties." Kathryn Meyer directed Rachel's thesis.

Jackie Hedlund ('08 B.A.) received the 2008 College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Graduating Senior Award, representing the Department of History.

Jorgen Olson (B.A. candidate) was cowinner of the second annual WSU Libraries Student Research Excellence Award for his paper "Nationalism and the Vision of Music." He received a \$1,000 prize.

Carolyn Zink ('08 B.A.) received the 2008 WSU President's Award, which recognizes undergraduate and graduate students who exemplify exceptional leadership and service to the University and the community.

If you want more information about or are interested in supporting our scholarship program, please contact Patricia Thorsten at pthorsten@wsu.edu or 509-335-4626.

Public Field School— Operation Virginia City

WSU's history department sponsored its second public history field school in Virginia City, Montana, this past May, in conjunction with the Montana Heritage Commission, which manages Virginia City and Nevada City. Located about an hour south of Butte, Virginia City was platted in 1863 and was the territorial capital from 1864 until 1875. As its mining camps played out in the late 19th century, it nearly became a ghost town until it was rescued by Charles and Sue Bovey in the early 1940s. With a year round population of about 150 people, Virginia City is the county seat of Madison County, and the gold mining heritage of Alder Gulch attracts more than 70,000 visitors annually. During the 2007 field school, graduate students spent nearly three weeks there, working side by side with commission specialists, hewing logs, removing old linoleum, and uncovering old newspapers that served as makeshift insulation for the interior

walls of historic buildings. During the three-week long 2008 field school, students conducted research on scores of arcades housed at the site, which will be incorporated into an arcade historical exhibit. During the second week, they helped in the initial stages of reconstructing an *arastra*, a crude, circular crushing apparatus devised to break down gold-bearing ore. Using picks and shovels, they fashioned a flat ground base on which they arranged approximately 15 flattened rocks that formed the base of the *arastra*, and they dug a four foot deep hole for the center log, which they peeled with draw knives. Codirected by Professor **Orlan Svingen** and Assistant Professor **Robert McCoy**, the field schools were designed to provide students with practical experience in a variety of public history subfields, including historic preservation and interpretation, material culture, display and exhibit design, and ethno-history.



An arcade piece from a Virginia City exhibit.



Graduate students Pat King, Vicki Dehlbom, Chris Allen, Marty Becktell, and Amy Canfield working on preservation and cataloging.



Students working to complete an arastra.



The arastra finished!



2008 Chair's Message

Greetings to all alumni and friends of the WSU History Department! Since August 2007 I have had the honor of serving as cochair of the department alongside my senior colleague John E. Kicza. Since I'll be writing to you for the next few years in this newsletter, I figure I owe you all an introduction (if not an apology!). I was raised in State College, Pennsylvania, where both my parents taught at Penn State University—terrific preparation for teaching at a remote, rural, land-grant public university. We even had a mountain lion for a mascot. I received my bachelor's degree in history in 1982 from Swarthmore College, a Quaker liberal arts school outside of Philadelphia, and my doctorate in modern German history from Johns Hopkins University in 1991—the same year I began teaching at Washington State University. My research has been on the history of Catholicism in modern Germany, and I am currently beginning a project on post-World War II Catholic war memory as represented in the reconstruction of churches destroyed or damaged during the war. My WSU teaching portfolio covers everything from freshman world civilizations to graduate seminars, with a concentration on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, World War II, and comparative genocide.

The department is entering a period of transition and opportunities for new beginnings. We have just marked the retirement of an unprecedented number of distinguished faculty, as reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Our sense of regret at losing dedicated and accomplished colleagues is tempered by the arrival of a very talented recruiting class of 2008. **Matthew Sutton** (U.S. 20th century history), **Jennifer Thigpen** (U.S. women's history), and **Joel Tishken** (modern African history) all come with exciting research programs and outstanding teaching credentials. Be sure to read about them in next year's newsletter. I am also pleased to report that **Theresa Jordan** has been promoted to clinical assistant professor and will be responsible for supervising our history and social studies education program.

Our goals for this coming year focus on program building and revisiting our collective identity and mission as a department. The long-term prospects are promising, as the Department

of History has been marked for further investment and growth by a recently completed University-wide program review. We will complete the hiring process for the Corps of Discovery Endowed Chair in American West History, which will play a transformative role in making the department a leading center in the field of U.S. West history. We will complete the implementation of assessment protocols for both undergraduate and graduate education that will enhance our ability to exercise rigorous and consistent quality control over our teaching. And finally, we will use this time of transition to begin a process of reevaluating ourselves as a program to identify our core priorities for teaching and research and determine the strategies and methods by which we can best accomplish these goals.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone who has given to the Armitage-Ashby Endowment for American History. This fund, established at the end of 2007 to honor Professors Susan Armitage and LeRoy Ashby by creating a permanent fund to support faculty research in American history, has raised over \$17,500 in just over half a year—a truly impressive accomplishment and testimony to the impact that Sue and LeRoy have made in 66 years of combined service at WSU. The initial bar for the endowment is set at \$25,000, at which point it becomes established in perpetuity and we can start drawing from it to fund the research of our American historians. We need just \$7,500 to achieve this goal. If you have not yet given to the endowment, please consider making a timely contribution to help us make this objective in the near future. We would be profoundly grateful.

We in the department are looking forward to an exciting and productive year, and I wish each of you the same. I am always interested in hearing from our alumni and friends, and invite you to contact me at any time at sunray@wsu.edu or 509-335-4622.

Sincerely,
Raymond Sun
Associate Professor and Cochair