

History

ALUMNI
NEWSLETTER



Boag First Endowed Columbia Chair in the History of the American West

The Department of History welcomes **Peter Boag** as the first holder of the Columbia Chair in the History of the American West. This chair, supported with generous funding from the College of Liberal Arts and Washington State University, is intended to lead and inspire scholarship and teaching about the history of the U.S. West, with the long term goal of making WSU one of the nation's premier programs in this field. Boag won the enthusiastic support of the department on the basis of his distinguished scholarly record as a specialist in both environmental history and the history of gender and sexuality in the U.S. West, and by presenting a compelling vision for using the endowed chair to make WSU a leading center for U.S. West history by focusing on the Pacific Northwest, a region which has not been "claimed" by any other existing major center for U.S. western studies.

A native northwesterner, Boag received his doctorate from the University of Oregon in 1988. He has worked at Idaho State University and, from 2002 to 2009, at the University of Colorado

at Boulder, where he also served as department chair from 2004 to 2008. His major publications include *Environment and Experience: Settlement Culture in Nineteenth-Century Oregon* (1992) and *Same-Sex Affairs: Constructing and Controlling Homosexuality in the Pacific Northwest* (2003). His current book projects include *Re-Dressing America's Frontier Past* and *Out West: A Lesbian, Gay, and Transgendered History of the Twentieth-Century American West*. His future research will attempt to tie together the different strands of his scholarly career in the form of a highly original cultural history of the camping boom of the 1950s as a means of examining attempts to "normalize" gender and familial roles as a response to widespread underlying disaffection in suburban America.

Boag has gained national recognition as one of the foremost historians of the American West, and his presence will be of enormous help to the department's efforts to raise our national profile. We are delighted to have him as a colleague and wish him a long and fruitful tenure at Washington State University.

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Kicza Retires | 2 |
| George & Bernadine Converse Historical Endowment | 2 |
| College Awards First Berry Family CLA Faculty Excellence Fellowship..... | 3 |
| Grad Students Win Award | 3 |
| Faculty News..... | 4 |
| Graduate Student News | 5 |
| Alumni News | 6 |
| New Faculty | 7 |
| Professor Emeritus News... | 10 |
| Retirements..... | 10 |
| Scholarship and Award Winners | 11 |
| Chair's Message..... | 12 |

Kicza Retires



Department of History co-chair **John E. Kicza** retired this spring and was honored by department and univer-

sity friends on May 7. Kicza had been co-chair of the Department of History since 2007; prior to that he was interim chair from 2005 to 2007 and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts from 2001 to 2005. He has served as the Department of

History's graduate director and on the graduate faculty of the American Studies Program. He is a former Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professor.

Dr. Kicza received his doctorate from UCLA in 1979 and has taught at WSU since 1980. His field of expertise is Latin American history and early European overseas culture contacts. His publications include *The Indian in Latin American History: Resistance, Resilience, and Acculturation, 2nd ed.* (Scholarly Resources, 2000), *The Social History of Spanish America in the National Period*

(Academia Nacional de la Historia de Venezuela, 1998), and *Resilient Cultures: America's Native Peoples Confront European Colonization, 1500–1800* (Prentice Hall, 2002). His articles, chapters, and entries have appeared in such journals as *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, and *Latin American Research Review*, and he also received many grants, including an NEH Summer Stipend, a USIA Academic Specialist Grant to teach in Argentina, an NEH Resident Scholar, and a Fulbright Research Grant.

George & Bernadine Converse Historical Endowment

The **George & Bernadine Converse Historical Endowment**, established in spring 2008, is intended to provide the Department of History with funding to sponsor guest lecturers, offer undergraduate scholarships, and assist faculty with development opportunities. Both George and Bernadine have family ties dating to early settlements in the Pacific Northwest. George's great-

grandparents came west in a covered wagon and Bernadine's family was one of the early settlers in the Walla Walla/Milton-Freewater area. George later utilized his great-grandmother's diary, which is now in the W.P. Winan collection, housed in the WSU Libraries Manuscript, Archives, and Special Collections division, to assist him in writing *A Military History of the Columbia*

Valley, 1848–1864. George studied history at Washington State College under the direction of Drs. Herman Deutsch and Francis Bowman and retired from the army as a lieutenant colonel. Bernadine made this generous gift to support Washington State University because of her fond memories of the school and the opportunities it provided to her and her late husband George.



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

Issue No. 18
Department of History
509-335-5139
libarts.wsu.edu/history
October 2009 129153

College Awards First Berry Family CLA Faculty Excellence Fellowship

David Pietz, associate professor of modern Chinese history and director of the Asia Program, was the first recipient of the Berry Family CLA Faculty Excellence Fellows award. The award was established in the College of Liberal Arts through a generous gift from George and Joan Berry to support faculty initiatives that offer innovative opportunities for student engagement and are

interdisciplinary in nature. Through his proposal, "China and the Environment: Creating a Multi-Disciplinary Learning Community," Pietz brings undergraduate and graduate students together with faculty in a yearlong interdisciplinary seminar, in which diverse perspectives on environmental topics and Chinese studies are explored through academic discourse and original

research. Pietz's long-term goal is for the program to serve as a pilot project for a future National Science Foundation grant that will include a similar seminar experience in addition to fieldwork in China. Pietz has been appointed director of the Global Studies Program, beginning this fall.

Grad Students Win Award

Nathan Roberts, **Lorelei Sterling**, and **Laura Arata** won first place in the Arts, Humanities, and Education category of the Wiley Symposium for their poster "Digitizing the Nez Perce War: Creating a Digital Archive of the Lucullus V. McWhorter Collection." Their poster was also selected for display in the provost's office during WSU's recent accreditation proceedings.

The Dr. William R. Wiley Exposition of Graduate and Professional Studies provides an opportunity for graduate and professional students to present their research or scholarship to faculty, peers, and the general public. Individuals or groups present a poster on their original research or projects for judging. There were about a dozen posters for the Arts, Humanities, and Education category, on issues ranging from

quilting as therapy to anthropological research in Montana. Arata, Sterling, and Roberts' poster was about the creation of the Lucullus V. McWhorter Digital Archives collection of the Nez Perce War of 1877, an outgrowth of the History 438/596 digital archives class, taught by interim MASC Director **Trevor Bond** and Professor **Robert McCoy**.



Faculty News

Robert Bauman published *Race & the War on Poverty from Watts to East L.A.* (University of Oklahoma Press). He also received research grants from the Cushwa Center for American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame and from the Presbyterian Historical Society to help fund his research during professional leave this fall.

Peter Boag received a Big XII Faculty Fellowship Award that provided two weeks of funding at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, where he conducted seminars, met with classes, and researched at the Nebraska State Historical Society. He also received a Eugene M. Kayden Research Grant that allowed for a two-week stay at the Huntington Library to conduct further research. Boag also presented a paper, "Degeneracy on the Frontier: When Sexual Inversion Met the Turner Thesis in *Fin-de-Siècle* America," in a plenary session at the 48th Annual Conference of the Western History Association in Salt Lake City, Utah, in October 2008. The paper is part of his current book project.

Candice Goucher has been named series editor for a 40-volume series of reference works on *Issues and Controversies in World History* launched by Facts on File (New York). She is also on the advisory board for a nine-volume project for the Cambridge University Press entitled *Cambridge History of the World*.

Richard Hines was invited by the Department of Residence Life

to be a guest speaker for the Last Lecture Series.

Richard Hume and **Jerry Gough** published *Blacks, Carpetbaggers, and Scalawags: The Constitutional Conventions of Radical Reconstruction* (Louisiana State University Press, 2008). They also presented during Black History Month for both the Department of History and the General Education Program in February.



Robert McCoy has accepted an appointment on the Governor's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The board

reviews nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and the Washington Heritage Register. The council also acts in advisory capacity to the governor on policy issues regarding preservation activities in the state and recommends the placement of properties into the state and national registers to the State Historical Preservation Officer. McCoy coauthored *Forgotten Voices: Death Records of the Yakama, 1888–1964* (Scarecrow Press Inc.), which was published in March.

Laurie Mercier published *The 1970s Social History of the United States* (ABC-CLIO Press) which is part of the *Twentieth Century Social History of the U.S.* series, and an article, "'A Union without Women is Only Half Organized': Women's Auxiliaries and Cold War Politics in the North American West," in the anthology *One Step Over the Line: Toward*

an Inclusive History of Women in the North American West (University of Alberta Press). While on professional leave in fall 2008, Mercier received fellowships to present papers at the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University, and the Gender, Mining, and Sustainable Livelihoods Conference at Australian National University, Canberra. Mercier has been the primary investigator for the WSU Vancouver Teaching American History grant project with the Washougal and Evergreen school districts in southwest Washington.

Jesse Spohnholz's article, "Multiconfessional Celebration of the Eucharist in Sixteenth-Century Wesel," appeared in the *Sixteenth Century Journal*. He also presented "'They No Longer Plot, They Only Dream': The Shift from Temporary to Permanent Exile among Dutch Calvinists in Sixteenth-Century Germany," at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in October 2008 in St. Louis. The panel was sponsored by the Society for Reformation Research. Spohnholz also presented "Turning Dutch? Conversion in Early Modern Wesel" at the German Studies Association Meeting in October in St. Paul, which was part of a series of papers organized by David Sabeau on *Conversion in German Lands*.

Matthew A. Sutton's award-winning book *Aimee Semple and the Resurrection of Christian America* (Harvard University Press, 2007) was issued in paperback this spring. He gave talks on the book at the Center

for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis, and at WSU for Women’s History Month. He won a Berry Family College of Liberal Arts Faculty Excellence Fellowship that will help fund research for his current book project, *American Evangelicals and the Politics of Apocalypse*, which will be published by Harvard University Press, and will also help him develop a new interdisciplinary course entitled Religion and American Culture. Sutton continues his public service actions, based on his specialization. For example, during the 2008

presidential campaign he gave radio interviews about Sarah Palin’s religion, wrote editorials for the History News Network on the role of religion in the election, and he is serving as an advisor for PBS on their five-hour documentary “God in America,” part of *The American Experience*, which will air in the next year or two. The documentary *Sister Aimee* (based on Sutton’s book) aired on PBS for Women’s History Month. Additionally, Sutton and wife, Kristen, are parents of a baby boy, Nathan Daniel, born on December 31.

Joel E. Tishken published *Sàngó in Africa and the African Diaspora* (Indiana University Press), which he co-edited with Toyin Falola and Akintunde Akinyemi. The volume explores the Yoruba deity/orisa Sango, on both sides of the Atlantic, from a variety of disciplines. A particular emphasis of the volume is an examination of the simultaneous tension and peaceful coexistence of the differing “faces” of Sango within West Africa and the African Diaspora, manifested in contested notions of myth, history, authenticity, and identity.

Graduate Student News

T. Chris Allan (doctoral candidate) won the Alaska History Award, which was created to honor the best article published in *Alaska History*, the journal of the Alaska History Society. The article was about community-led historic preservation efforts in Eagle. Allan also won the award for the best article in 2007 and 2008.

Howard Munson (doctoral candidate) and his wife Brenda had a son, Lincoln Howard, born on September 25.

Michael Schwartz (master’s candidate) helped coordinate a joint project between the WSU Center for Civic Engagement and the Stevens

County Extension Office last summer. WSU students from English 402, Technical and Professional Writing, designed historical storefront displays using old photos and data. They then donated the displays to businesses in Colville and Kettle Falls to showcase the rich history of the Colville area while potentially drawing in more business. In fact, projects like the one between the Center for Civic Engagement and county extension centers may well encourage downtown revivals. According to Schwartz, “We work with professors and students who perform much needed service—and at the same time students get to apply what they are learning in class. In these hard economic



Schwartz (left) presenting display.

times, it is important for WSU students to make a difference, and they are doing that as well as fulfilling the land-grant mission of the college.”

Aaron Whelchel (doctoral candidate) and his wife Shae had a baby girl, Rowan Emerson Whelchel.

Alumni News

Amitava Chowdhury ('08 Ph.D.) learned that an archaeological project he directed in Le Morne Brabant, Mauritius, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Chowdhury gave a colloquium presentation in the department about this project in fall 2004. Even more remarkable, this is his second project to receive the UNESCO WHS designation. The first was Aapravasi Ghat in India. Chowdhury is currently an assistant professor at Queens University (Canada).

Sara Dant's ('00 Ph.D.) article, "Making Wilderness Work: Frank Church and the American Wilderness Movement," (*Pacific Historical Review*, May 2008, Vol. 77, No. 2) won the Forest History Society's 2009 Theodore C. Blegen Award for the best article in forest and conservation history during 2008. Articles were submitted by editors of scholarly journals and a panel of judges selected the winner based on contribution to knowledge, strength of scholarship, and clarity and grace of presentation. Dant also served on the local arrangements committee for the Western History Association meeting in Salt Lake in October, and led a conference field trip to the Bingham Canyon Mine and Kennecott's environmentally-planned community Daybreak. Dant was also promoted to full professor at Weber State University.

Jacquelyn Dumin ('08 M.A.) works with the Forest Service in South Lake Tahoe, California, as the assistant site director of the Tallac Historic Site.

Michael Egan ('04 Ph.D.) and **Jeff Crane** ('04 Ph.D.) coedited a volume of essays on the history of American environmentalism called *Natural Protest: Essays on the History of American Environmentalism* (Routledge). In addition to contributions from Egan and Crane, the collection also includes essays by **Kevin Marsh** ('02 Ph.D.), "Saving French Pete': Evolution of Wilderness Protest in Oregon," and **John Hausdoerffer** ('04 Ph.D.), "That Shocking Calamity': Revisiting George Catlin's Environmental Politics." Egan is an associate professor in the Department of History and the director of the Sustainable Future History Project at McMaster University. Crane is an assistant professor in the Department of History at Sam Houston State University.

Steven A. Leibo ('82 Ph.D.) was invited to Taiwan where he spent a week interviewing government officials in preparation to do a revision of a chapter on Taiwan he previously published. He later went to Prague and Israel where he visited his son, who had a visiting position at Israel's Weitzman Institute. Leibo also was appointed as Al Gore's district manager for an environmental project in which he conducts climate talks and coordinates lectures for upstate New York and Vermont residents. Leibo is a professor of modern international history and politics at The Sage Colleges.



Jennifer Ross-Nazzal's ('04 Ph.D.) work as a historian with NASA was highlighted in an article in *Washington State*

Magazine called "Space Chronicles," which can be accessed online at www.wsm.wsu.edu/2009/Spring/space-chronicles.php.

Lynette Schriver ('08 M.A.) has received a position as a research historian at Historical Research Associates in Missoula, Montana.



Marvin Slind ('72 M.A., '78 Ph.D.), an associate professor of history at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, published two books in 2008.

Linka's Diary: A Norwegian Immigrant Story in Words and Sketches is a new translation of a mid-19th-century Norwegian immigrant's diary. Linka Preus, whose husband, Hermann, was one of the leading figures in the emerging Norwegian Synod of the Lutheran church, included insights in her diary about her life in Norway as well as in America. *Luther College Goes to War: "Scuttlebutt" and the World War II Letters* is a two-volume collection of letters that were written between 1943 and 1945 by former Luther College students serving in the military around the world. The recipient of the letters was Chellis Evanson, a professor of history and also the college's news director. Evanson published a monthly newsletter, "Scuttlebutt," which was

mailed to more than 800 former Luther students in active military service. The letters present an interesting insight into young soldiers' and sailors' idealized memories of Luther.

Timothy S. Yeomans ('90 M.A.) is entering his third year as the superintendent of the Meridian School District north of Bellingham, Washington. He received his doctor of education degree from the Uni-

versity of Washington this spring and serves periodically as a lecturer at Western Washington University in the Department of Educational Administration. His daughter will be entering WSU as a freshman this fall. Yeomans would like to give "a special thanks to Dr. Jerry Gough for his very warm invitation to visit his History of Technology class during the fall semester...his lecture helped to seal [my daughter's] decision" to attend WSU.

Pat Waer ('95 B.A.) is the assistant baseball coach for the Fresno State University Bulldogs. The team was the 2008 Division 1 NCAA National Champions. Congratulations!

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

New Faculty



Peter Boag is delighted to join the faculty at Washington State University, returning to the Pacific Northwest after

years living elsewhere. His roots in the region reach back into the 1850s when his paternal grandmother's family traveled the Oregon Trail and settled in the Willamette Valley. His paternal grandfather's family arrived in eastern Washington, settling first in Tyler, near Spokane, in the 1890s. An uncle on Boag's mother's side lived with his family in Moscow, Idaho, for years. But Boag, like his parents, grew up in Portland. Although his childhood home, where his mother and father still reside, is fully within the bounds of Portland today, when Boag grew up there in the 1960s and 1970s, it was mostly beyond Portland's encroaching sprawl. He vividly recalls the semi-rural landscape of open fields,

remnant farms, Concord grape vineyards, and ancient oak trees.

Boag's fascination with his family's history in the Northwest and the landscapes of his youth helped lead him to his professional interests in the American West more generally and, at least early in his career, to the environment more specifically. His first book explored the evolving relationship between Native Americans and Euroamerican settlers and the landscapes of the Willamette Valley in the 19th century. Later, and still compelled by the personal, Boag shifted his investigations to the history of gender and sexuality in the American West.

Boag earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Portland ('83) and graduate degrees at the University of Oregon ('88). His first tenure-track position took him in 1989 to Idaho State University in Pocatello, a town set in a region that is geographically, environmentally, culturally, and socially more closely related to the Great Basin and the

Mountain West than to the Pacific Northwest, despite being in Idaho. After thirteen years in Pocatello, he headed to the University of Colorado in Boulder. There he was a member of the History Department from 2003 to 2009, four of those years as department chair.

These days in his personal life, Boag enjoys xeriscape gardening, walking his and his partner's dogs, and running. In the fall of 2008, he ran the Denver Marathon and in the spring of 2009 he completed the Boston Marathon.



Steven Hoch joined the history faculty at WSU Tri-Cities in the spring after serving as provost at WSU Pullman. Hoch

earned his bachelor's degree in history from Trinity College in Connecticut and his master's and doctoral degrees in history from

Continued on page 8

Princeton. He also studied at L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris and at Moscow State University. He was a lecturer in history at Trinity, an assistant and associate professor of history at Drew (NJ) University, and a full professor at the University of Iowa where he also served as associate provost for academic programs and dean of international programs. In 2003, he assumed the deanship at the University of Kentucky.

Hoch's research focuses on modern Russian history, European agrarian history, and historical demography. He has written two books, including the prize-winning *Serfdom and Social Control in Russia: Petrovskoe, a Village in Tambov*, a translation from French into Russian of Louis Henri's *Metodika analiza v istoricheskoi demografii* and a number of articles on Russian and economic history. While at the University of Iowa, he received a U.S. Department of Education grant to establish a National Resource Center in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Hoch met his wife, Eeva, while undertaking research in Finland. They have two sons, Nathaniel and Andrew.



Religion and politics, politics and religion. These are two things that we are not supposed to talk about in polite company. And yet

Matthew A. Sutton has made a career out of discussing both.

Sutton grew up in the midst of a vibrant evangelical Christian subculture in Southern California, which piqued his interest in religion. He went to college to pursue a degree

in religious studies, but during his freshman year he fell in love with U.S. history. After graduation, he decided to combine his interests. In 2005, he completed a doctorate in American cultural and religious history at the University of California, Santa Barbara. After graduation, Sutton took a job as assistant professor of history at Oakland University (Michigan), where he taught from 2005 to 2008. He came to WSU this past fall where he teaches courses in 20th century U.S. history and American religions.

His dissertation, *Aimee Semple McPherson and the Resurrection of Christian America*, was published by Harvard University Press in 2007. It uses the life of one of the most colorful evangelists in American history, Aimee Semple McPherson, to analyze the relationships among gender, politics, religion, and mass media in the 1920–1940s. From McPherson's location in Hollywood, she reshaped and redefined old-time religion in the United States—but she was also involved in a sex scandal.

This book won the Thomas J. Wilson Memorial Prize from Harvard University Press, awarded annually to the best book by the press in any discipline by a first time author. The book has made quite a splash, being reviewed in such venues as the *New York Review of Books*, *New Yorker*, *Atlantic*, *Wall Street Journal*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Vancouver Sun*. It was named one of the *Christian Century's* "top religion titles" of 2008, one of the *Detroit Free Press'* ten best "Spiritual Reading" recommendations of 2007, and one of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's* "12 Books for Christmas 2007."

Sutton is committed to bridging the divide between academe and

the general public. To that end, he worked with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) to produce a documentary based on his book, called "Sister Aimee," for the critically acclaimed *American Experience* series. His role as a featured commentator in the documentary convinced him that he had better stick to writing. He also recorded many radio interviews, including National Public Radio's highest rated show, *Morning Edition*. He is currently advising PBS on a new project focused on religion in American history.

Sutton is also working on a book tentatively entitled *American Evangelicals and the Politics of Apocalypse*, which is scheduled for release by Harvard Press in 2012. It examines the relationships among American evangelicalism, apocalyptic thought, and political activism in times of national crisis and war.

When Sutton is not searching for signs of the Apocalypse, he is spending time with his family. He is married to Kristen Coke-Sutton and they have two wonderful boys, Jackson and Nathan. He and his family are enjoying being back in the west and are quickly immersing themselves in Cougar culture.



Jenny Thigpen joined the Department of History in 2008. A U.S. historian with specializations in nineteenth century,

women's and gender history, and print culture, Thigpen enjoys teaching courses in her areas of expertise as well as more generally-focused survey courses in U.S. history.

A native of California, Thigpen has divided her time between the central, northern, and southern parts of the state. She was born and raised in the beachside community of Carmel, and earned her bachelor's degree in women's studies from Sonoma State University, a master's degree in American studies at California State University Fullerton, and a doctoral degree in history at the University of California Irvine.

As a graduate student at UC Irvine, Thigpen focused her interest in women's history on the nineteenth century. Her research projects, ranging from the cultural controversy over the emergence of the "New Woman," to the self-proclaimed "lady travelers" who roamed the globe in the latter part of the nineteenth century, to the interaction among Hawaiian women and Protestant mission wives in the earlier part of the century, are linked by some common concerns: to understand the effects of contact between disparate groups of people, and to gain a better grasp on the process of cultural change. Thigpen is currently revising her dissertation, *Obligations of Gratitude: Gender, Interaction and Exchange in the Nineteenth-Century Hawaiian Islands*, for publication.

Thigpen takes special pride in her teaching and has taught in a variety of academic settings. Prior to arriving in Pullman, she spent four years as a lecturer at California State Fullerton, teaching courses in American studies, liberal studies, and history. At UC Irvine, she served as a teaching assistant in the department of history, as an instructor for

GEAR UP (an intensive high school preparation program), and as a graduate student assistant researcher for the humanities Out There Program, where she developed original curriculum for use in public school history classes.

In her free time—outside of the classroom and away from the archive—Thigpen enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, and camping.



Joel E. Tishken

was born and raised near Racine, Wisconsin. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of

Wisconsin-Parkside in 1993, with a major in history and a minor in anthropology. After one year in the graduate program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, he transferred to the University of Texas at Austin. At the University of Texas he earned a master's degree and a doctorate in history, in 1997 and 2002 respectively, with major fields in Africa and comparative religion and a minor field in the Caribbean. From 2000 to 2002 he served as a part-time faculty member at the University of Texas, St. Edward's University, and Southwestern University. In 2002, he was appointed assistant professor at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia, and reached the rank of associate professor in 2006. He spent six years at Columbus State teaching courses in African, world, and religious history. Tishken joined

the WSU faculty in fall 2008 and currently teaches African and world history.

Grounded in his lifelong interest in mythology, Tishken began graduate school with the intent of studying African indigenous religions. This is an area that remains among his keen interests, and is perhaps best exemplified by the recent publication *Sàngó in Africa and the African Diaspora*. As graduate school progressed, however, Tishken became more interested in syncretism, the intersection of indigenous religions and Christianity. He planned a comparative dissertation on two Afro-Christian churches, the Nazareth Baptist Church of South Africa and the Église Kimbanguiste of D.R. Congo. In the end he did not find syncretism a useful theoretical model, but instead examined the ways in which prophecy informed the foundation, memory, and leadership of both churches during the colonial era. He concluded that these churches were certainly different from Western ones, but no more or less Christian because of their unique prophetic elements. He currently has a manuscript under revision based upon this doctoral work, entitled *Prophets, Prophecy, and Power in the Nazareth Baptist Church*.

Tishken looks forward to offering courses on African religious history, South Africa, colonial Africa, Islam, and Christianity in the coming years. When he is not seated at a computer, you might find him cooking, reading mythology, or giving Ceres, Diana, and Apollo a scratch on the head.

Professor Emeritus News

Gene Clanton 's review of *A Common Humanity: Kansas Populism and the Battle for Justice and Equality* appeared in the *State Library of Kansas Newsletter*, March 2008.

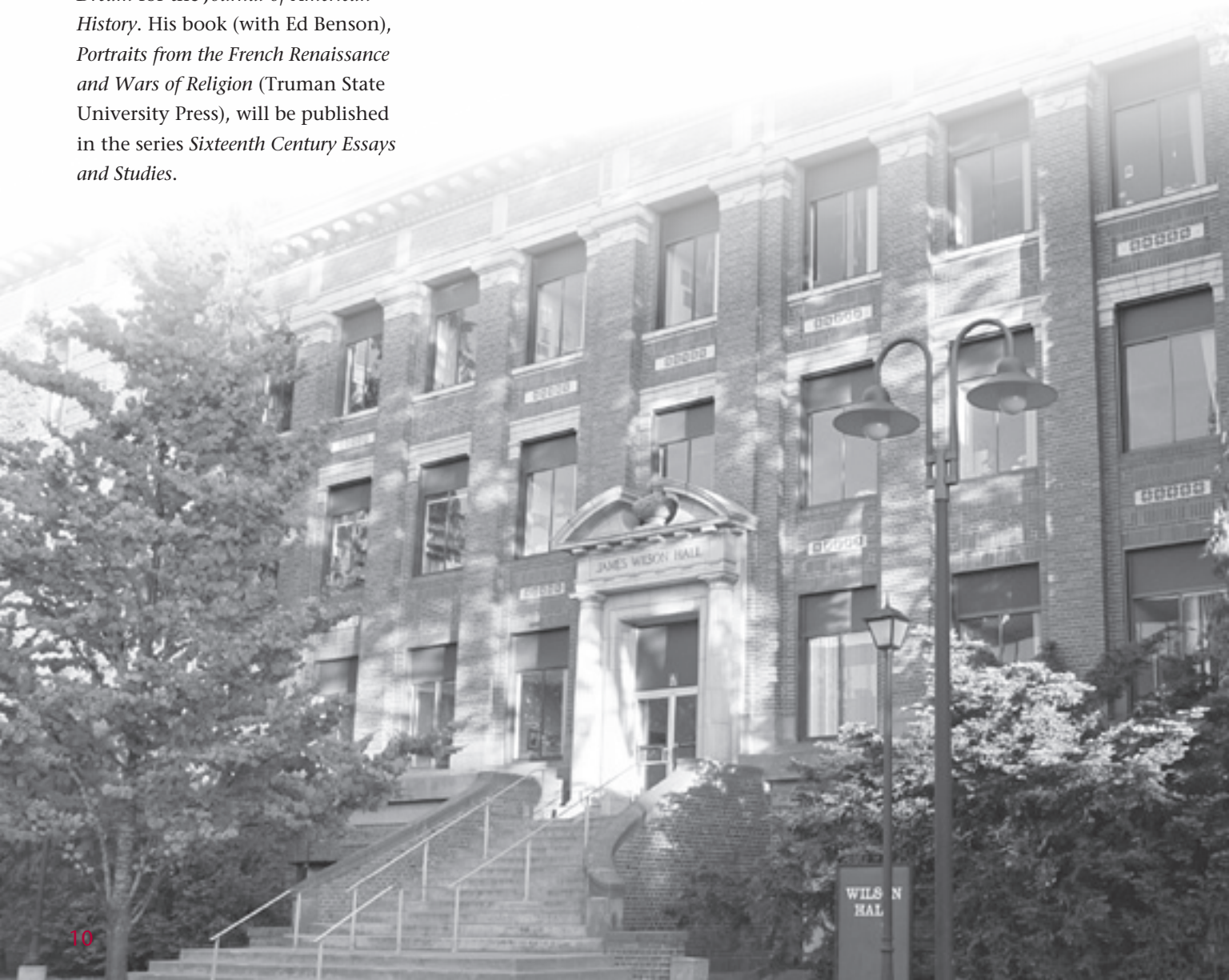
Roger Schlesinger served on a panel evaluating grant applications for the National Endowment for the Humanities. He also reviewed David Hackett Fisher's book, *Champlain's Dream* for the *Journal of American History*. His book (with Ed Benson), *Portraits from the French Renaissance and Wars of Religion* (Truman State University Press), will be published in the series *Sixteenth Century Essays and Studies*.

Retirements



Robert Staab taught history courses primarily related to the Middle East and world civilizations until his retirement in May. His interest in the Middle East started in 1965 when he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkey. He received his doctorate

from the University of Utah in 1980, with a focus on Middle East studies and Turkish and Islamic history. His recent research interests focused on social and cultural 19th-century Istanbul. Staab will be able to spend more time with his wife Sylvia as well as travel, go fly fishing, and golf. His passion for golf took him to Britain in 2007 where he played the St. Andrews and Carnoustie courses.



SCHOLARSHIP and AWARD WINNERS

William D. Aiken Memorial Fund: **Adam Carpinelli**

Edward and Margery Bennett History Scholarship: **Howard Munson**

Katherine Gilbert Blinn Scholarship: **Kristin Zaichkin**

Bernard Bobb Excellence Award: **Cynthia Wiecko**

George and Bernadine Converse Endowment: **Kara Mowery**

Cooney Family Graduate Research Fund: **Terisa Rond**

Herman J. Deutsch Memorial Fellowship: **Jennifer Brown** and **Kathleen Fry**

Gillis Graduate Student Award: **Mark Moreno, Cynthia Wiecko, Barbara Traver, Cherri Wemlinger, and Lewis Patterson**

History Graduate Research Fellowship: **Barbara Traver**

Frederick Dumin Memorial Scholarship: **Leslie Moerschel**

Claudius Johnson Memorial Scholarship: **Lucas Burke**

Claudius O. and Mary W. Johnson Graduate Fellowship: **Cynthia Wiecko**

William Landeen and Claudius Johnson Scholarship: **Erin Dunn**

Raymond Muse Scholarship: **Erin Dunn**

Howard C. Payne Award: **Kallie Monasmith**

Leta Olmstead Smith Award: **Christopher Morehead**

Pettyjohn Research Fellowship: **Marc Entze** and **Kathleen Fry**

Ruth C. Magnuson Roberts Scholarship: **Caitlin Milligan**

Morris Reed Scholarship: **Birgit Schneider, Barbara Traver, and Caitlin Milligan**

Wayne Stanford Scholarship: **Laura Arata, Lorelei Sterling, and Kristin Zaichkin**

Walter B. Thorson Scholarship: **Christopher Morehead**

Distance Degree Best Undergraduate Paper Award: **Gail Langseth**

Shauna Kuper received the College of Liberal Arts' Outstanding Graduating Senior Award for History. Her future plans include completing teaching English as a foreign language certification course in Alexandria, Egypt, and then teaching abroad. She would like to complete a graduate program that will lead to a career in foreign service.

Daniel Herman ('09 B.A.) was chosen as the male recipient of the Big Ten Seniors Award for Campus Involvement.



2009 Chair's Message

The 2008–09 school year ranks among the most notable in recent memory for the Department of History. Not only did we survive the international economic crisis that forced major cuts at all institutions, including WSU, without major damage, but we also registered major accomplishments that will make us a stronger department in both research and teaching. We are extremely proud to have successfully completed the search for the Columbia Chair in the History of the American West with the hiring of **Peter Boag**. Peter is one of the most accomplished historians of the West of his generation, and his presence on our faculty will enable our program to become a national leader in the field. In addition, our four new faculty members—**Steven Hoch, Matt Sutton, Jennifer Thigpen, and Joel Tishken**—have proven themselves in their first year to be a strong presence in conducting research, mentoring graduate students, and delivering the high quality classroom instruction that has become a trademark of the department.

In a major addition to our undergraduate mission, starting in fall 2009 the department will be responsible for administering the world civilizations program, a major component of the core curriculum that is required of all WSU undergraduates. Directing the world civilizations program will be **Heather Streets**, associate professor of British and world history and director of the department's world history graduate program, which ranks nationally among the top programs in this field.

Readers of last year's newsletter may recall that I ended my letter with an exhortation to contribute to the Ashby-Armitage Fellowship to support our American history faculty's research endeavors. I am extremely pleased to report that the fund has reached its goal of \$25,000 and that our faculty members are now benefitting from everyone's generous support. On behalf of my colleagues, my sincere thanks to all who contributed to honor **Leroy Ashby** and **Susan Armitage**, and to make possible the research opportunities that our American historians truly deserve.

I wish to end by thanking several colleagues. The first are **Robert Staab** and **John E. Kicza**, who both retired in May 2009. Bob taught our Middle Eastern history and Islamic culture courses to large numbers of undergraduates for many years, and

truly strengthened the mission of the department and the university in teaching about these absolutely vital areas with passion and expertise. John was both an internationally recognized leader in his field of Latin American history and an experienced and steady influence in the leadership of the department. It has been my honor to serve as co-chair with John for the past two years. I learned a great deal from him during that time that will make me a better chair in the future, and I will miss his partnership. Secondly, all of us are indebted to the efforts of **Theresa Jordan, Jesse Spohnholz, and Candice Goucher** in developing assessment protocols that enabled us to meet the university's requirements for identifying and attaining clearly defined benchmarks of excellence in undergraduate instruction and graduate training. Theresa also carried out the time-consuming work to serve as the department's liaison to the College of Education as the latter prepared for professional reaccreditation, and to supervise our history education majors. Finally, I want to acknowledge my colleague **Steven Kale**, who took over as interim chair in spring 2009 to allow me to spend the semester on sabbatical to conduct my own research. Steve happened to take over just as the economic crisis reached "perfect storm" proportions at WSU, and he served well under conditions I would wish on no one. That the department fared without major damage is in good part due to Steve's strong leadership in a time of real crisis.

Sincerely,

Raymond Sun
Chair

LAST NEWSLETTER

Because of budgetary constraints this will be our last published alumni newsletter. The Department of History will keep alumni, faculty, staff, and friends informed of awards, retirements, and other departmental news through its Web site at libarts.wsu.edu/history. If you do not have internet access, please contact the department and let us know so we can keep you abreast of departmental news.