It has been an eventful year with the usual mix of good and bad news. The Spring 2011 semester ended with excellent news: two of our faculty members were honored with important awards. Fred Fausz was the recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and Peter Acsay was named the College of Arts and Science’s Non-Tenure Track Faculty of the Year. Both received formal recognition at well-attended ceremonies.

In mid-August, we ushered in the Fall 2011 semester with our third annual graduate student reception. A cohort of twenty-plus incoming MA students sampled tasty appetizers and made the acquaintance of other students, faculty, and alumni. This reception also marked the inauguration of our new Graduate Director, Deborah Cohen, who assumed her duties with tremendous ambition and verve. In a burst of reform not seen since the New Deal, Director Cohen executed a series of significant programmatic changes. Among the most innovative were the establishment of an introductory theory and methods course for all incoming MA students and a bi-semester graduate colloquium at which graduate students present their original research.

Robert Archibald, President of the Missouri History Museum, offered a provocative view of history’s relevance in today’s world at September’s Primm Lecture. Once again, our friends at the Mercantile Library hosted the event and treated all of those in attendance to desert and coffee at the talk’s conclusion.
that we owe him a debt of gratitude for all his many contributions. He will be greatly missed.

On a brighter note, the department has an opportunity to add a new faculty member to the ranks thanks to the generous members of St. Louis’s Greek-American community who are funding a three-year professorship in Greek History and Culture. If the position is successful, we anticipate another round of fundraising to make it permanent.

On another topic, we teachers of history need to consider how to promote the practical value of studying history in today’s world. Unfortunately, there are many college students who love history but reject it as a course of study because they fear that it won’t help them in their careers unless they become teachers or archivists. What they don’t realize is that the skills of research, analysis, and writing we emphasize in our curriculum are precisely the skills that employers in a wide range of fields and industries desire in their employees. I will share two anecdotes relevant to this issue. Some years ago I had a good friend who worked as recruiter for the Ford Motor Company. His job took him to college job fairs across the country where he interviewed prospective employees. Most of the young job seekers he met were Business and Engineering majors. Despite their numerical superiority, the Business and Engineering students were not always the most interesting or attractive job candidates. Indeed, over time, my friend came to favor History and English majors because they were the best communicators and they tended to be the most creative.

I use this story to illustrate that a history degree can be more valuable than most people realize. I am always looking for stories like these to share with prospective students, so if you have any of your own, I invite you to email them to me at hurlev@umsl.edu. We would like to share the story in the next edition of Timelines.

2012 NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

By: Dr. Peter Acsay
National History Day Coordinator

Almost three hundred middle and high school students came to the Millennium Student Center and Clark Hall on our campus Saturday, March 24th, to participate in Region V in Missouri National History Day 2012. The theme for 2012 was “Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History.” Students presented historical papers, displayed exhibits, showed documentaries, staged performances, and presented websites. Congratulations to the seventy-two middle and high school students from our region who advanced to the state finals of National History Day 2012, which was held at the University of Missouri-Columbia Saturday, April 21st.

Advancing to the national finals of History Day from our region are Jimmy McHugh (Kirkwood High School) for Senior Individual Documentary, Mary DiValerio (John Paul II Prep) for Senior Individual Performance, Justin Olimpio, Rose Bruno, Ian Fulton, and Rose Forget (John Paul II Prep) for Senior Group Performance (they also won a special prize for African-American History), Jack Perryman (St. Raphael the Archangel) for Junior Individual Documentary, Alexandra Jones (St. Margaret of Scotland) for Junior Individual Performance, and Tony Perez and Conor Treese (Holy Infant) for Junior Group Website. Congratulations to the national delegates from our regions and the others from our region who placed at the state competition.

I would like to thank the faculty, staff, and especially the many department alumni who served as volunteers and judges at History Day. This event is a success only through the support of the UMSL History community. The 2013 Region V History Day contest will be held on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis on Saturday, February 23, 2013. Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer or judge should contact me at 314-516-5700 or email acsayp@umsl.edu. Volunteering for History Day at UMSL is a lot of fun, is a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones, and helps maintain interest in and commitment to history among young people in the St. Louis region. I hope to see you Saturday, February 23, 2013!

HISTORY: A PRACTICAL MAJOR

By: Dr. Kevin Fernlund

On January 18, 2012, The New York Times published an article entitled, “What the Top 1% of Earners Majored in” (1-18-12). The article, in turn, was based on the Census Bureau’s 2010 American Community Survey (majors held by fewer than 50,000 people were excluded from the analysis).

As it turns out, 4.7 percent of History majors go on to earn their way into the top 1 percent of earners in the U.S. Thus, in comparison to other majors in this regard, History majors are extremely competitive. In fact, by this measure, History majors come in between Finance and Business Economics majors. But what is an even more striking statistic is the share of all 1 percenters who are History majors. If you break the numbers down this way, then 3.3 percent of the top earners majored in History.

To put this number in context, there are only five other majors that can claim a larger share: Accounting (4.7 percent), Economics (5.4 percent), Biology (6.6 percent), Political Science (4.7 percent), and English Language and Literature (3.8 percent). Every other major, including Finance and Business Economics, is less than, and not even close to, History.

To put it another way, when it comes to the top 1% of earners in the U.S., History is one of the top majors. So if financial success is one of your goals, there are few better ways to prepare yourself than to learn the lessons of the past.

GUORONG GAO HAS ARRIVED

Guorong Gao, our visiting scholar from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, China, spent April on our campus. Dr. Gao is an environmental historian with an interest in the environmental movement in the United States and comparative grassland agricultural practices in Mongolia and the U.S. Some of his accomplishments include a co-written publication entitled World’s Nations:
Australia, two book translations, and numerous journal articles. He spoke to Dr. Fernlund’s classes on Big History and World History for the Secondary Classroom.

**PRIMM LECTURE 2012**

This year’s Primm Lecture Series speaker is Martha A. Sandweiss, professor of history at Princeton University. Born and raised in St. Louis, Dr. Sandweiss holds a bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and master’s and doctoral degrees from Yale University. She specializes in the visual culture of the American West. Her talk on the evening of September 10th will expose a little-known event in St. Louis history. She is the author of numerous essays and books, including a recent one titled *Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception Across the Color Line*, published by Penguin in 2009. Among her many areas of expertise is one that combines photography with history. She is the author or editor of several books in that specialty, including *Print the Legend: Photography and the American West*, published by Yale University Press in 2002. Her professional contributions are numerous and include visiting professorships and service on prize committees and boards of editors.

**Dr. Andrew Hurley**

Andrew Hurley’s recent book, *Beyond Preservation: Using Public History to Revitalize Inner Cities* (Temple University Press) is the recipient of this year’s National Council on Public History’s (NCPH) book award. Based on the author’s partnerships with community organizations in St. Louis, the book proposes a framework for stabilizing and strengthening inner-city neighborhoods through the public interpretation of historic landscapes. Hurley acknowledges that historic preservation has injected new life into many distressed urban districts in recent years by bringing people back to the city, raising property values, and generating tourist revenue. It has been less successful, however, in creating stable and harmonious communities. In the worst scenarios, gentrification has provoked social discord and displaced poorer people from their homes. Hurley contends that done correctly, the rehabilitation and re-use of older buildings can not only invigorate local economies but strengthen communities by nurturing a deeper attachment to place, greater levels of social cohesion, and a collective agenda for local development. The book’s central argument is that inner-city communities can best turn preserved landscapes into assets by subjecting them to public interpretation and planning at the grass-roots. The author received the prize in April at the annual NCPH meeting, which was held in conjunction with the Organization for American Historian’s meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**Dr. Deborah Cohen**

Deborah Cohen is the recipient of the Agricultural History Society’s Theodore Saloutos Memorial Award for the best book on agricultural history published in 2011. Cohen’s book, *Braceros: Migrant Citizens and Transnational Subjects in the Postwar United States in Mexico*, explores the social identities of migrant Mexican farm laborers who came to the United States through an official guest worker program known as the “Bracero” program. The award will be presented at the annual Agricultural History Society banquet in Manhattan, Kansas on June 8th. Congratulations to Professor Cohen for this esteemed honor.
**DR. ROBERT GOOD**

Robert Good is an adjunct professor and social studies teacher at Ladue Horton Watkins High School. He recently was presented with the Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Teacher of the Year Award at the Organization of American Historians business meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dr. Good’s work reflects his passion for American history, his expertise as a classroom teacher, his commitment to educational equity and social justice, and his dedication to building rich and meaningful professional networks. A master teacher who connects deeply with his students, Dr. Good also serves as an inspiring mentor and generous partner to his colleagues across all stages of their careers. He is a creative and innovative classroom teacher who is dedicated to forging intellectual and professional connections between secondary and university teachers. At UMSL, he teaches the course, U.S. History for the secondary classroom.

**ANDREW HURLEY UPDATE**

In 2011, Dr. Andrew Hurley’s essay on the history of St. Louis's industrial suburbs on the east side of the Mississippi River appeared in The Making of an All-America City. This book, edited by Mark Abbot, was published to commemorate the 150th anniversary of East St. Louis. He also co-authored an article in the journal, The Public Historian, describing the Scott Joplin House State Historic Site’s efforts to interpret the difficult issues of prostitution, racism, public hygiene, and syphilis. Hurley continues to work on the Virtual City project with his colleague Louis Gerteis. The Virtual City project features software that allows novice users to construct 3D historic landscapes for display in Google Earth.

**FRED FAUSZ’S “BEST BOOK”**

Dr. Fred Fausz’s book, *Founding St. Louis: First City of the New West* (Charleston: The History Press, 2011), was listed as one of the “Best Books of 2011” by the *Post-Dispatch*. Selling well on both the U.S. and France versions of Amazon.com, the book is now in its second printing and was also released as a Kindle e-book in March.

“Professor Fred” is now writing *Historic St. Louis: 250 Years of Exploring New Frontiers*—a well-illustrated anniversary history, sponsored by UMSL and published by Historical Publishing Network of San Antonio.

**CARLOS SCHWANTES’ NEW COURSES**

Dr. Schwantes developed a new on-line course called "The Automobile in American Life" that he offered last Fall Semester. It appears to have been well received. He is currently developing another new on-line course called "The Great Twentieth Century War, 1914-1989," which will be offered this coming Fall Semester.

**MARK BURKHOLDER’S PUBLICATIONS**


**KEVIN FERNLUND’S BIG HISTORY**

Kevin Jon Fernlund, Professor of History. In 2011, Fernlund launched a new general studies course at his university, “Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present.” Big
History seeks to unite natural and human history into a single, grand narrative. The International Big History Association (IBHA) was founded in 2010 and Fernlund is looking forward to attending the inaugural IBHA conference on August 2-5, 2012 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Fernlund is working on a Big History of the American West.

**DR. ROWAN IS KEEPING BUSY**

Steven Rowan has been busy this year and will be busier next year. In the spring his new book *The Baron in the Grand Canyon: Friedrich Wilhelm von Egloffstein* in the West will be published by the University of Missouri Press. It has extensive illustrations of Egloffstein’s artwork and maps extending from St. Louis County to California in the 1850s, largely courtesy of the Saint Louis Mercantile Library at UMSL. Last year he published a 260-page ”article” in the *Yearbook of German-American Studies* with an edition and translation of Gottfried Duden’s critique of Alexis de Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*. The Tocqueville project has led him to tackle the writings of a contemporary of Tocqueville, Michel Chevalier, who visited the United States in the middle of the 1830s. Carlos Schwantes has encouraged him in this, and he is in the midst of translating Chevalier’s massive commentary on the United States. This is an adventure, since he has never translated French for publication.

**ROBERT BLISS UPDATE**

Robert M. Bliss is the Dean of the Honors College and Associate Professor of History. When not “deaning,” Bob continues to work erratically but not half-heartedly on three history projects: a lightly edited transcription of 19th-century family correspondence, his major professor’s unfinished book manuscript on “Was God Aboard the Mayflower?”, and on ‘the language of colonization’ with particular reference to New England. His long dead ‘Lancaster Pamphlet’ (1985) on *Restoration England, 1660-1688* was re-Kindled, or at least he found out in 2011 that it had been, and he agreed to write (and finished) an entry on James II for the on-line “Encyclopedia Virginia,” (a project of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities).

**LOUIS GERTEIS’ NEW BOOK**

Dr. Gerteis has written a new book entitled *The Civil War in Missouri: a Military History* published by the University of Missouri Press. His book dares to challenge the prevailing opinion that Missouri battles made only minor contributions to the war. Gerteis specifically focuses not only on the principal conventional battles in the state but also on the effects these battles had on both sides’ national aspirations. This work broadens the scope of traditional Civil War studies to include the losses and wins of Missouri, in turn creating a more accurate and encompassing narrative of the nation’s history.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alumni who received the Rawick Award for “best paper of the year” while at UMSL should contact Professor Fred Fausz ([f@umsl.edu](mailto:f@umsl.edu)) as soon as possible, informing him of the title, the class and professor it was written for, and the year of completion so that he can finish a plaque honoring all past recipients of that award.

**JOIN US FOR THE 52ND ANNUAL WHA CONFERENCE**

**Boundary Markers and Border Crossers:**

**DENVER, COLORADO**

October 4-7, 2012
AN INSIDE LOOK AT BIG HISTORY

By: Kathleen McSorley
Graduate Teaching Assistant

The first thing students learned in Professor Kevin Fernlund’s Big History course is that Big History is the study of the cosmos, earth, life, and man in a unified and interdisciplinary way. The spring 2012 Big History class was made up of 12 students who ranged from freshman to seniors. The course is a nine credit hour course which takes students on numerous academic journeys and adventures. Comprised of a strong field experience component, students observed the cosmos first hand at the Schwartz Observatory, the St. Louis Science Center, and the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Other field experiences included visits to Mastodon State Park, Cahokia Mounds, St. Louis Museum of Transportation, and the St. Louis Art Museum. And each week different guest lectures offered students a variety of perspectives from the sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. To top off their academic journey and pull all the knowledge gathered throughout the semester, the students participated in the Consilience Conference, the high note of which was keynote speaker, E.O. Wilson. Wilson was this year’s “Big History Lecturer.”

Dr. Patti Wright on the Origins of Agriculture

Students outside the Schwartz Observatory

Mastodon State Park Field Trip

E.O. Wilson speaking at UMSL’s Consilience Conference. Dr. Wilson was this year's Big History Lecturer

Dr. Fernlund tries his hand at the Atlatl.
Enclosed is my contribution of $ _______  

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INFORMATION UPDATE 2012

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