In Search of Sundance

Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, Ph.D.

Whenever I tell someone that Jim and I are going to the Sundance, they assume we are lovers of independently produced movies. No! No! I tell them, not that kind of Sundance. We are attending the original one – you know, the kind that North American Indians celebrate. This, of course, only makes things worse as they pump me for details. I explain that it is a religious time, a family time, not a county fair or a performance, and that I shouldn’t tell them much about what goes on there.

The question forms on their face, “If you can’t describe or write about the Sundance, why go?”

It’s already hot when we finally get the car packed. Summer clothes, bathing suits, drink cooler, medicine box for Jim, shawl for me and moccasins for us both. We have been making this journey for nearly two decades. Most times it’s both of us; sometimes it’s just Jim; and a few times it’s been with our daughters and their friends in tow.

We travel the six hours straight south along familiar roads: past the green Flint Hills of Kansas, through the sprawl of Wichita and into the shimmering heat and drought of central Oklahoma with its red dust and hot winds – the kind of heat that takes your breath away as we step out of the car in front of the newest hotel in El Reno, which happens to be a Super 8 this year. We have stayed at all of the chain hotels at the Interstate exit at one time or another, watching each one go up, get a little seedier each year and be displaced.

It’s Friday, July 8. Jim came down Tuesday for his men’s society meeting and drove back to Kansas on Thursday night to collect me. Wednesday was Chief’s Day. Thursday was lone teepee and Friday, today, is the day the lodge goes up and the dancers enter for the first time. They will not come out again until Sunday evening at dusk or later, going without food or drink for two full days.

The Cheyenne and Arapahoe peoples share a long communal history, but not necessarily a serene relationship. They became allies in the early 19th century as pressure from other tribal groups, Euro-Americans, disease, scarcity and self-defense drew them into partnership. When the federal government created reserves for the Western tribes in the 1860s (Fort Laramie Treaty) and the 1870s (Medicine Lodge Treaty), the Cheyennes and Arapahoes were placed together under the same agency. When their reserve was dissolved by allotment (Dawes Act) in the 1890s, the tribes settled near one another. Their children were given similar European Christian names at school and were then entered on the federal rolls at the same time. Today, they share four tiny fractions of their original reserve; Concho agency, the largest, was an outpost of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It had a school, dormitories, a church, a hospital and outbuildings tucked back from the main highway at least a mile from any major intersection. When the Cheyenne and Arapahoe business council took over the land in 1975, they built a casino at the intersection of the highway and the main agency road. They named it Lucky Star.

We check into our room at the “8,” find the pool – it’s tiny – and contemplate whether to eat first, or drive directly to Concho. We opt for the latter. The drive through the little city of El Reno feels exactly the same. Through the highway chain district, past the country club and the residential streets of low slung brick houses (Remember the three little pigs? Recall whose house didn’t blow down?), a right turn at the municipal park, empty in the 100-plus heat, and on through the downtown, following the path of old Route 66. To me, this is a city of red, white and black as white farmers and ranchers, black townsfolk who have been here just as long, and native peoples sit on porches, work on cars and sack groceries at the Foodliner. We pass the Squawk and Scoot, a take-out chicken place on a prominent corner, but now out of business since our last time here. Jim’s favorite greasy spoon, where once a year I allowed him to eat biscuits and gravy without making a face, is also recently closed. We cruise past the brick streets and storefronts, and past the 1960s’ vintage Canadian County Courthouse, where the Oklahoma City bomber, Timothy McVeigh, was held awaiting his arraignment. It’s a modest structure, hardly worthy of the term prison, but somehow it was safe enough to house the nation’s most destructive and cold-blooded domestic terrorist.
SUNDANCE: Not a Film Festival

Finally, we are headed west. Crossing the sandy Canadian River, we catch a fleeting glimpse of farms and trees disfigured by a tornado that recently danced through this valley but miraculously missed the town. Up ahead is our landmark turn – the Lucky Star parking lot is full to overflowing as usual. It’s hard to believe there are that many people in the entire county – never mind on a Friday night in the sweltering heat. Across the road is the smoke shop; in the yard of the shop lay the arms of a new wind turbine – white corpses on the ground marked by signs announcing the Cheyenne and Arapahoes’ new wind energy initiative. We follow the old agency road, fenced on both sides to house cattle and horses and more recently, bison. Stunted evergreens perfectly spaced on either side make it obvious that this was a federally planned project. A quarter mile later we see the cattle gate is open, and we rattle over the metal bars and I get my first glimpse of the circular camp: willow arbors and tall lodges with their traditional poles and canvas covers. The present melts away and I am transported to the same place, the same time, the same dance, the same people. The people.

Comedians say that timing is everything. Environmental historians say place is. We tell our students that they need to “walk the ground.” We don’t just mean we have to locate things on a map, although we like maps. We mean that to understand how people and their places have co-evolved, have shaped one another’s destinies, then they best have a look at that relationship in real time and space. It’s a form of empathy training. How might you feel if this was the landscape you saw each day? If you endured this kind of heat year after year? Bathed or swam in that river? Rode over those hills? Tended that graveyard? Lay in the grass and looked at those stars?

The next day, in between dances and visiting with our beloved hosts who take us in year after year, we head back to town and I wonder out loud if the road we have passed a hundred times to the south doesn’t lead to the original Darlington agency? Concho was not the site of the original Darlington. Sure enough, we can see the Concho water tower, a little collection of buildings announcing the Cheyenne and Arapahoes’ new wind energy initiative. We follow the old agency road, fences on both sides to house cattle and horses and more recently, bison. Stunted evergreens perfectly spaced on either side make it obvious that this was a federally planned project.

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Our curiosity up, we hike all over the site, discovering a huge herd of goats bleating loudly and trying to follow our movements. A beautiful orthodox inspired church dominates the site; but the most surprising find is a vineyard. A vineyard? In Oklahoma? Cautiously, I knock on the door of an outbuilding that says Sand Hill Winery and I’m shocked to hear someone call out, “Come in!” He has seen us wandering around and was waiting to see if we would venture in. The occupant of the surprisingly comfy office is the viticulture specialist for the college, trained in winemaking at my old stomping ground in Davis, Calif. The Sand Hill label is his own labor of love. He regards us at arm’s length – friend or foe, tourist or fellow traveler? We do the same. What does he know of the history of the site? Of Indian people? Can he tell us about the church and the strange three-story stucco barn? His answer catches Jim off guard. The winemaker’s aunt is a volunteer at the local historical society. She has spent a quarter century creating a vertical file of everything about Darlington agency that she could find – from 1867 to 1906.

He hands the thick binder, filled with primary copy, to Jim, who sinks back into his chair, turning pages, making mental notes, sorting, pausing, reading. He sits up. “Why did the Masons build here and why did they abandon it?” We are both thinking the same thing, and the winemaker confirms our hunch. “Well, flood control back then wasn’t what it is now. One time, the river came up fast and flooded the dorms and orphans in 1913. We had passed a tiny graveyard on the way in – a single marker set off by a small fence, but we didn’t stop because it was being visited already and it’s never good manners to interrupt someone else’s contemplation.

So that was it. That is why the agency moved from Darlington to Concho in 1906. What the Masons discovered in the mid-20th century was something the Cheyenne and Arapahoes and their agents found out a half century earlier. It wasn’t safe for their people. That is why they moved a mile west – away from the river and from Fort Reno to their dancing grounds at Concho. We step outside and look west from Darlington. Sure enough, we can see the Concho water tower, a little collection of buildings sitting high above the valley, out of harm’s way. And when the white agent looked east from his new home in Concho, he could see his old home at Darlington and the grave of his wife and daughter – the sole occupants of that graveyard at the side of the road, now tenderly cared for by our host, the winemaker.

Our mission this past 20 years has been the same: to reconnect with the family who has given us permission to chronicle their lives in the 20th century. Sundances, powwows, weddings and sadly, funerals – we go to them all. For all the work we have done in archives and on microfilm, for all the historic photographs and agency reports, nothing aids our ability to imagine the past; to look into an unknown future and see things from a different point of view than being there and seeing it in person, from their vantage point. It is what historians do. It is why we go.

But it’s still not a film festival.
Marsha Frey, professor, Ph.D.

My sister Dr. Linda Frey (University of Montana) and I have had a successful and fun year. We still look to our Yorkshires for support and of course, static. Another diplomatic crisis led to our publication of “Global Insider: Diplomatic Immunity,” with Marsha Frey, World Politics Review. Two of our books have been accepted for publication: one by the Scots “Proven Patriots: The French Diplomatic Corps, 1789-1799 (St. Andrews, Scotland: St. Andrew Studies in French History and Culture, 2011.) Also available online: http://research-repository.st-andrews.ac.uk/handle/10023/1881. And yet another by the French: Les Diplomates français dans la Révolution (Paris: Presses universitaires de France, 2011). We also made some research excursions into the wilds of England and Ireland for our next tome and even ventured into Louisiana for the meeting of the Western Society for French History and then into Florida for the meeting of the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe, where we encountered some of our former colleagues from West Point. I continue to serve on the Kansas State Advisory Commission, the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and as president of the Kansas Association of Scholars and the university’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Linda and I are currently working on an article for a museum exhibition catalogue on the Treaties of Utrecht, Rastatt and Baden, which will be published in English, Dutch and German, and yet another article on international law and the seminal treaties at the end of the War of the Spanish Succession. In our spare time we are working on yet another monograph on the diplomatic culture of the French Revolution.

David Graff, associate professor, Ph.D.

David Graff attended the annual conference of the Society for Military History (June 9-12, 2011) at Lisle, Ill. (just outside Chicago), where he presented a paper on “The Eurasian Way of War in the Seventh Century.” The paper is related to his ongoing book project comparing the military practices of Tang-dynasty China with those of the Byzantine Empire.

Robert Linder, professor, Ph.D.

Publications:
Robert D. Linder, “Alan Walker Among the Sharks: Why the Most Important Christian in Australia in the Latter Half of the Twentieth Century Was Not Also a Beloved National Figure,” Church Heritage, 17, No. 1 (Spring 2011), 1-23.

Papers delivered at conferences:


John McCulloh, professor, Ph.D.

This is my fifth year of phased retirement, and this fall is my final semester of teaching. In the summer of 2012, after 39 years at K-State I will start on full retirement. Cheers.

Brent Maner, associate professor, Ph.D.

Brent Maner spent part of his summer planning a study abroad course for K-State students on “Germany and the Nazi Past.” This course will focus on the ways that Germany has debated and memorialized this dark chapter of the twentieth century and will include travel to numerous museums and memorials in Munich, Nuremberg and Berlin in the summer of 2012. Maner also continues his work on a project about the history of the Berlin and Vienna stock exchanges and presented “Learning to Be a Capitalist” at the European Studies Conference in Omaha, Neb., in October.

James Sherow, professor, Ph.D.

Jim Sherow has been very busy this past year both on and off campus. He is currently working on two manuscripts: an environmental history of high plains Indian Peoples and a re-photography book with a co-author, John Charlton, retired geographer from the Kansas Geological Survey. What is taking up a lot of his time these days however, is his role as the mayor of Manhattan, Kan. His term as mayor will end April 2012, and his term as a city commissioner will end April 2013.

David Stone, professor, Ph.D.

Professor David Stone’s edited collection, “The Soviet Union at War, 1941-1945,” was released in November 2010 by Pen and Sword Publishers. He also published “Preaching to the Choir,” debating the philosophy of history, in Historically Speaking, the bulletin of the Historical Society. His current project is a history of Russia’s role in World War I, intended to be available for the centenary of the war in 2014.
News from the Chapman Center for Rural Studies
Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, director, Ph.D.

It's hard to believe that the Chapman Center will be celebrating its first anniversary in our new home in Leasure Hall this February. We are planning to mark that milestone on Friday, Feb. 24, with a reading from Mary Swander, Iowa's poet laureate; a visit from our benefactor Mr. Mark Chapman; and, of course, a birthday cake! Everyone in the history department family (alums, faculty and students) is warmly invited to attend. Be sure to get all the details at www.k-state.edu/history/chapman.

Undergraduate research is what we are all about! This has been an amazing year for the center, and the atmosphere is electric with activity each and every day. Our first publication, "Broughton Kansas: Portrait of a Lost Town, 1869-1966," edited by our amazing research director, Dr. MJ Morgan, researched and written by undergraduate and grad students and written by Mark Chapman, has been available for just over a year with dozens of copies sold to local libraries and interested individuals. The proceeds from that publication go directly into a fund to support ongoing undergraduate research and publication. We are happy to report that a second publication, written by undergraduate intern Eric Scribner, "Old Pavilion, Kansas Territory, 1858: An Imaginative Recreation of Life in Pavilion," just arrived from the press last week. Our initial run of copies has already been exhausted (not to worry, we have ordered more!). You can get a copy of Eric's story of "Old Pavilion" by calling the center at 785-532-0380 or writing to us at chapmancenter@k-state.edu. Our third publication, the product of our 2009 Center for Engagement and Community Development Grant will hit the presses in early 2012. The publication of "Filling the Larder; Feeding our Families" is an exploration of rural foodways and was compiled by students in MJ Morgan's American Cuisine classes and includes 22 individual story sketches of towns and communities that are considered entirely lost to history or on the brink of being forgotten. Veteran (we just call her Ms. Awesome) intern Angela Schnee compiled an impressive list of additional lost towns in nine counties over the summer of 2011 using primary sources such as census records, maps, church records and agricultural reports, as well as leads from locals who remembered towns that are no longer extant. This gave the project a huge head start this fall with students from Morgan's Communities class, Jim Sherow's Kansas History class and Bonnie Lynn-Sherow's Senior Seminar in History class all contributing lost town thumbnails to our growing database. After those thumbnails are completed, however, the critical work of our two graduate student editors, veteran Daron Blake and newcomer Theresa Young, really begins. These two M.A. students, both working on rural Kansas topics for their theses, take the best of these undergraduate papers and check them for accuracy, format and presentation. At that point, the thumbnails are uploaded by Daron to K-Rex, which is short for Kansas State University's Research Exchange. This online publication site, maintained by digital specialists at Hale Library, makes the work of our students available to anyone using the Internet. Best of all, students can view a counter to see how many times their work has been read or cited by others working on projects about rural Kansas. It's a great incentive for students to know their work will be published and a wonderful reward for a job well done. This work is so important to our benefactor, K-State alum Mr. Mark Chapman, that he decided in August 2011 to create an expendable endowment account of $400,000 for the center to ensure its work well into the future. This amazing gift was in addition to an earlier gift of $495,000 in 2008, crafted by former department chair Sue Zschoche, which paid for the renovation of rooms 109-112 Leasure Hall, as well as salary for a research director and interns for four years. Other smaller gifts to the center bring Mr. Chapman's direct support of the center to well over the million dollar mark. It is absolutely impossible to express the depth of our gratitude to Mr. Chapman for his stalwart confidence in the center's mission and in our ability to help honor and sustain the memories and contributions of rural Kansans for many generations to come.

Born digital! Parallel to the work of student research in the center's "Lost Town" initiative has been the development of a digital archive under the direction of Bonnie Lynn-Sherow and Web designers Arthi Subramanian and Dana Eastes, and supported by a 2009 NEH Digital Humanities Planning Grant. Using the OMEKA platform developed by George Mason University's Center for History and New Media, the Lost Kansas Digital Archive will be launched in time for our inaugural celebration. Some of the features of the "Lost Kansas" archive will be highly interactive and will allow visitors to the site to upload their own personal memories and images. Sound recordings and video clips will also be featured on the site. Interactive maps using GIS technology is another feature that will be useful to scholars of rural Kansas. The long term goal of Lost Kansas Digital Archive will be to complement the work of the Kansas Memory online project developed by the Kansas State Historical Society, as well as help preserve digital copies of documents and images that are currently housed in small historical societies and in private collections and are therefore unavailable for online research.

Right on Cue! News of the center's experience with digitization brought some unexpected benefits this past spring when director Lynn-Sherow received a call from the Brunswick Corp. of Lake Forest, Ill. Brunswick is one of the nation's oldest manufacturing companies and the world's largest producer of leisure sports goods such as pool tables, bowling balls and power boats. It turned out that the most prodigious collector of memorabilia (aka "ephemera") of Brunswick history was Joe Newell of Clay Center, Kan. Newell's collection spanned 60 years and contained at least 10,000 items. Brunswick offered to purchase Newell's extensive collection and went looking for a digitization contractor. Instead, Newell suggested that someone "up at the college" might have that capability. Director Bonnie Lynn-Sherow quickly saw the potential for supporting both a grad student and an undergraduate intern in history through the proposed digitization project. The final MOU creating the Brunswick Graduate Student Award took several months to execute, but is now a model of corporate-public partnership unique in K-State's experience with private donors like Brunswick and will provide two full years of support, including tuition and a stipend worth $50,000. Dusty McCoy, Brunswick CEO, was enthusiastic about the potential to aid a student, and his patience and support were critical to reaching the final agreement. Luckily, new history Ph.D. student Mack Scott from Virginia University possessed all of the skills that Lynn-Sherow was looking for. Working in the realm of cultural attitudes toward African-Americans and Native Peoples in popular culture (Scott is both African-American and registered Naramansett Indian himself), Mack is also a former coach at the high school and collegiate levels. As he related
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recently, “My work with the Brunswick collection has affirmed that developments in American sport are reflective of overall cultural, political and economic realities. Whether it’s the Jim Crow mentality of the late nineteenth century or the nativism of the early twentieth, the catalogs and memorabilia represent microcosms of American society.” Brunswick Corp. will use the digital catalogue to answer dozens of questions it gets each year about the company’s products, particularly its rare and exquisitely carved pool tables that are found everywhere from the White House and Camp David to the homes of sports celebrities such as Arnold Palmer — all of which Newell has helped to restore and maintain. We are grateful for the support of the Brunswick Corp. for helping to support a wonderful student like Mack Scott and for bringing to light an important and under-explored facet of American history.

And, finally . . . the Chapman Center is pleased to announce (drum roll please!) that the final agreement has been inked between Kansas State University, the Chapman Center, the Kansas State Historical Society and the Board of Directors of the Kansas Historical Society Inc. to bring the editorial offices of the state journal of record, Kansas History: Journal of the Central Plains, to campus in Manhattan beginning January 2012. Jim Sherow, a professor of Kansas History, has agreed to take the position of managing editor of the journal, but this transition would not be possible without long time author and editor, Virgil Dean (Ph.D., University of Kansas), who has been the journal’s guiding hand for more than two decades. Dean, who will retire from the Kansas State Historical Society at the end of the year, will play a new role in the life of the journal as a consulting editor, ensuring a smooth transition for this pillar of the state’s collective memory. Again, this wonderful opportunity for the Chapman Center, history faculty and history graduate students was made possible by a donation from Mr. Mark Chapman together with support from the K-State Office of the Vice President for Research, headed by Ron Trewyn, and the university’s chief academic officer, Provost April Mason.

YOU can be involved in the Chapman Center, and we are always glad to see new faces! A primary objective of the center, imbedded in our mission statement, is inclusion of the wider off-campus community as partners working toward a common objective. Our Board of Directors, made up of both faculty on and off-campus as well as non-faculty, meets twice a year, spring and fall, to help guide the center’s activities and initiatives. We receive critical support from our community partners working in county libraries and historical societies, and from interested people who are concerned about the maintenance of their town’s memory. If you wish to contribute financially to the center’s mission in support of student research and publication, or to the center’s general operating fund (which helps us do everything!) please visit the history department website at www.k-state.edu/history and click on “donate” and then on “Friends of the Chapman Center for Rural Studies.” To make a named gift, bequest or create a scholarship, please contact Sheila Walker at the KSU Foundation at sheilaw@k-state.edu or call the history department at 785-532-6730 for further details.

A Distinguished Gentleman
Albert N. Hamscher, Kenneth S. Davis professor

A fter a distinguished 38 years at Kansas State University, John McCulloh, professor of history, is closing the book on a remarkable career. After his classes ended for the fall semester, McCulloh’s retirement became official in December 2011.

A historian of the Middle Ages who received his Ph.D. in 1971 from the University of California, Berkeley, McCulloh’s contributions to the history department included a broad range of undergraduate courses at the introductory level – notably, The Rise of Europe – and many advanced courses, including Europe in the Middle Ages and Medieval Religion and Politics. For the department’s advanced seminar for history majors, McCulloh frequently chose the Crusades as the focal point for undergraduate research with primary documents.

At the graduate level, he offered courses on the Middle Ages, directed several theses, and sat with other colleagues on many Ph.D. committees. Between June 1984 and January 1991, McCulloh served as the head of the department and worked assiduously to enhance faculty salaries, initiate the university’s distinguished professorships and facilitate the department’s research mission of establishing a teaching responsibility of two courses per semester, which continues today.

McCulloh’s scholarship focuses on the difficult and challenging field of the early Middle Ages, a pursuit that has entailed the mastery of several foreign languages, including German, French and different variations of Latin. In 1977, 1980 and 1984-85, he was a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation; in 1980-81, a senior research fellow of the German Fulbright Commission; and in 1989, he received a study visit grant from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst. In 1980, he received a travel grant from the American Council of Learned Societies.

A scholar of medieval saints and associated relics, his publications include a critical edition of the Rabani Mauri Martyrologium in 1979 and articles in prestigious journals such as Analecta Bollandiana, Traditio, Hagiographica, Anglo-Saxon England and Speculum: A Journal of the Medieval Academy of America. In addition, he has presented more than 20 scholarly papers at conferences in the United States and in Belgium, Germany, Ireland and Canada.

Although McCulloh will be truly missed on campus, he will remain among us as a resident of Manhattan. He and his wife, Karen — currently a member of the Riley County Commission — plan to visit old friends in Germany and will travel regularly to the West Coast to visit their son Andrew, their daughter Kate and their five grandchildren. Taking a page from Donald Trump — although on a somewhat smaller scale — he will also supervise several rental properties. McCulloh also plans to continue his scholarly work, notably on William of Norwich, a 12th-century child martyr who was the first recorded example of the infamous rumor that Jews commit ritual murders of Christian children.

Everyone associated with the history department including current and former students and colleagues will agree without hesitation that McCulloh is truly a gentleman and a scholar, a man who consistently exhibits professional competence, gracious behavior and a dignified demeanor. “Todo es trabajo,” remarked the Count-Duke of Olivares, Cardinal Richelieu’s Spanish adversary in the early 17th century: “It’s all work.” John McCulloh has earned a respite from a busy career and can now relax a bit while continuing to lead a productive life. Readers of this newsletter are invited to post comments about John or to contact him directly by letter or note addressed to the department.
Double Trouble:
Academic Couple McCrea and Krysko Have Opportunities and Face Challenges

Academic couples experience both opportunities and challenges, something Kansas State University professors Heather McCrea and Michael Krysko can attest to. The couple has faced everything from thousands of miles of distance to simultaneous work projects and somehow manage to make everything fit.

McCrea, a professor of Latin American medicine and environment, and Krysko, a professor of U.S. foreign relations and technology, met in graduate school at Stony Brook University in the early 1990s and quickly struck up a friendship. Romance and marriage soon followed, and their daughter Lilliana was born in 1999. Upon completion of their degrees, the couple hit the job market. Krysko landed a position at Dowling College in New York in 2001 and McCrea secured a job at Cal State Fullerton in 2003 — as far apart from one another as they could be and still be in the lower 48 states.

Things took a decidedly better turn in 2006 when McCrea, who was born and raised in Wichita, applied for a position in Latin American history at K-State and landed an interview and ultimately a job. At that point, the department was introduced to Krysko. The faculty, recognizing that his research was in an area that complemented the department’s emphases, enthusiastically embraced him.

NOW & Agone

In the 2010-2011 academic year, the Security Studies program produced 13 master’s graduates — seven based at Fort Leavenworth — and its first Ph.D. recipient, Orlandrew Danzell, who took at a doctoral program combining the strengths of the department of History and Political Science.

The institute also brought a series of speakers to campus, including a trio of distinguished authorities on Pakistan’s foreign policy in March 2011: Rifaat Hussein, Salma Malik and Air Commodore Khalid Banuri. They led a spirited discussion for students, faculty and members of the community on U.S.-Pakistan relations and the ongoing war in Afghanistan. In September 2011, Jyotsna Varanasi, a visiting professor from Osmania University in Hyderabad, India, gave her perspective on those same issues. Kansas State University is developing a series of initiatives for greater cooperation with Osmania.

Finally, the institute supported grad student and faculty research into historical and policy questions related to the experience of the American soldier. For example, with institute assistance, Matt Cohen, a master’s student in history, looked at the efforts of American military advisers in the Vietnam War, while Simon Nyambura, a doctoral student in security studies, researched American military efforts at conflict prevention and resolution in East Africa.

Institute for Military History and Twentieth Century Studies News

David Stone, professor, Ph.D.

The Institute for Military History and Twentieth Century Studies continues to be the home base for Kansas State’s Security Studies program, an interdisciplinary master of art and doctoral program combining the strengths of the department of History and Political Science.

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A Sporting Opportunity:
Clay Center Man’s Collection Brings
Recreation Giant to Chapman Center for
History Digitization Project

What do the world’s first snowboard, known as the “Snurfer,” and Kansas State University have in common? The answer is Mack Scott, a doctoral student in history, who works in the university’s Chapman Center for Rural Studies.

Still confused? Well, so was Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, associate professor of history and Chapman Center director, when she got a call last spring asking if she was interested in doing a digitization project for the Brunswick Corporation. Brunswick is the leading manufacturer of boats, marine engines, fitness equipment, bowling and billiards products in the world -- and the inventor of the first snowboard.

“I got a call asking if we had the ability to digitize a large collection of artifacts and memorabilia located in nearby Clay Center, Kan. I was curious and I followed through,” Lynn-Sherow said.

A personal visit the next day to the Chapman Center by Brunswick executive Mike Schulz and collector Joe Newell was the start of an unusual public-private partnership that both sides have found beneficial.

Most of this backstory belongs to Newell, an entrepreneur from Clay Center. Born and raised in Clay County, Newell started collecting memorabilia and ephemera -- according to Lynn-Sherow, a fancy word for advertising, catalogs and other short-term publications -- at the age of 9. Fast forward 55 years, and Newell’s collection includes Brunswick product catalogs -- totaling in excess of 10,000 pages -- and more than 900 products and materials all centered on the company and more than 165 years of business.

Newell has transformed his passion and skills into a growing business, having restored tables for countless celebrities such as golfing great Jack Nicklaus, former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and past and current occupants of the White House.

“He’s also restored tables seen in more than 20 historical homes, such as the Vanderbilts’ Biltmore estate in North Carolina, as well as a number of museums,” Lynn-Sherow said.

Preserving Newell’s Brunswick collection and utilizing today’s technology to both archive the material and make it easily accessible to the hundreds of people who contact Brunswick annually for information became a company goal. Enter Kansas State University’s Chapman Center, which is well known and regarded for doing digital histories of archival documents, material and products, which was exactly what Brunswick was seeking. The fact that Manhattan is near Clay Center was a bonus, allowing university personnel to easily work with Newell.

In exchange for fully supporting Scott as a graduate student in history for two years, the Brunswick Corporation will receive a fully digitized archive of Newell’s collection when the company takes custody of it at its corporate headquarters near Chicago.

Using a sophisticated archival processing program, and with the help of a powerful new scanner purchased by the university’s Hale Library this summer, Scott, Petersburg, Va., and undergraduate Chapman intern Katie Jones, senior in history and English, Dodge City, Kan., are now building a fully searchable database of images that Brunswick can use to track its own historical inventory, celebrate company milestones and direct the hundreds of inquiries it gets each year from both owners of historic Brunswick products as well as those people who are just interested in the company’s history.

“Being able to capture and preserve this rich treasure trove of Brunswick’s past is truly a rare and outstanding opportunity,” said Dustan E. McCoy, chairman and chief executive officer of Brunswick Corporation. “It is sometimes too easy to move forward and leave the past behind, but in doing so we can forget where we have come from and why we are what we are today. That is true for individuals as well as companies. What Mr. Newell has so graciously chosen to share with us is a part of our history and a part of our legacy at Brunswick.

“And now, through the capabilities and auspices of Kansas State University, many will be able to easily access this data and better understand the evolution and resiliency of our company. We are truly honored that Joe would entrust this collection to Brunswick and grateful for K-State’s guidance and assistance,” McCoy said.

Scott is grateful for the support that Brunswick has given him as he pursues his studies. “I’m thankful to the Brunswick Corporation for generously funding my graduate work,” he said. “Their support affords me the opportunity to work intimately with primary historical material and gain practical experience with the accessioning process. As a former collegiate football player and high school coach, I am excited about this opportunity to continue working in the world of sport. But I’m most relieved that the only hazard the Brunswick collection poses is the occasional paper cut.”

To which Lynn-Sherow warns, ‘Just stay off that snowboard.’

For more information visit: http://www.brunswick.com

Professor Hoff Appears on PBS’s
“Need to Know”

On Friday, July 15, Derek Hoff, associate professor of history, was interviewed extensively on PBS’s TV news magazine “Need to Know” during a story on the disappearance of the late 1960s “zero population growth movement” in the United States. Professor Hoff talks most about President Richard Nixon’s concerns about population growth. Paul Ehrlich, professor of biology at Stanford University and author of the famous 1968 book “The Population Bomb,” also appears in the story.


The following is Hoff’s article, which appears online in the opinion section of “Need to Know.”

A Modest Proposal for a New Population Debate
July 15, 2011
University of Chicago Press

The population of the United States is nearly 312 million, and projected to become 440 million by 2050. The U.S. has a higher fertility rate than such middle-income nations as Turkey, Chile and Brazil and is a demographic outlier among wealthy industrialized nations, many of which will see their populations decline in the coming decades. Arguments against population growth emanate from a few
environmentalists and anti-immigration voices. And authors like Thomas Friedman worry about population in the context of high energy costs.

But a majority of American social scientists, policymakers and talking heads are celebrating the nation’s remarkable demographic enlargement. In fact, most commentators wish Americans would have still more babies – future workers – to pay baby boomers’ looming Social Security bill and avoid the economic stagnation threatening low-fertility nations like Italy and Japan. TV shows such as “Kate Plus 8” celebrate large families. Conservative politicians dismiss environmentalists as the “people are pollution’ crowd.” When the U.S. population crossed the 300-million mark in 2006, The New York Times editorial page declared America’s “teeming immensity keeps us from going stale, and despite some people’s panic attacks, our population issues have mysterious ways of working themselves out. America has big problems, but it also has 300 million reasons to be hopeful.”

Perhaps, but for too long, discussion of population growth’s possible harms has focused exclusively on dire warnings about human survival – the “panic attacks.” Americans should also consider whether a rising population might simply harm what used to be called, in gentler times, “quality of life.” The insistence on an invisible hand of childbirth that “mysteriously” solves population problems also reveals shifts in economic ideas that are shaping today’s population thinking.

The current celebration of population growth in the U.S. has a surprisingly recent lineage. Founders like Thomas Jefferson believed a larger population heralded the kind of crowded, commercial European society from which the colonists fled. The 19th century’s classical economists adopted the logic of Thomas Malthus, a British pastor who wrote in 1798 that population growth eventually swamps the supply of natural resources and drives wages to starvation levels. In the mid-20th century, Keynesian economics held that what matters is not the size of the population, but its saving and consumption patterns. Some Keynesians even argued that zero population growth would promote broadened consumption. And conservationists and intellectuals believed overpopulation created sprawl and reduced amenities like open space and quiet.

In the 1960s, surging population rates in the developing world, famine in India and a strengthening environmental movement instigated a radically Malthusian “zero population growth” movement. Paul Ehrlich, a Stanford biologist who wrote 1968’s “The Population Bomb” – “The battle to feed humanity is over,” it began – appeared on “The Tonight Show” several times. For a moment, the establishment jumped onto the doomsday wagon. William F. Buckley wrote in the National Review, “That old dog Malthus turned out to be very substantially correct in his dire predictions, and there seems to be no point in waiting until the United States is like India before moving in on the problem.”

The aesthetic critique persisted, too. In 1969, President Richard Nixon issued a special message on population, urging new policies to adjust to the additional 100 million Americans expected by the end of the century. “Food supplies may be ample,” he argued, but social supplies – the capacity to educate youth, to provide privacy and living space, to maintain the processes of open, democratic government – may be grievously strained.”

What caused the disappearances of not only “population bomb” rhetoric but also the milder quality of life critique? The causes include the bloated rhetoric of the Malthusians; the stagnation of the environmental movement and the breathtaking rise of climate change denialism; the ascendance of evangelicalism (believers have more babies); the increase of immigration, which made liberals leery of the racial minefield always lurking on the edges of population politics; and post–Roe v. Wade abortion politics, which sucked population questions into “culture wars.”

The current dearth of meaningful dialogue about America’s unique demography also reflects the development of a bipartisan consensus celebrating the economic virtues of population growth. The disintegration of Keynesianism in the 1970s eviscerated the position that a rising population is entirely compatible with a growing economy. Around the same time, ascendant conservative economists reinvigorated the argument, traceable to Adam Smith, which insists that population expansion necessarily broadens the market, fosters innovation, creates efficiencies of scale, promotes liberty and simply produces more Mozarts and Einsteins. They also suggested an invisible hand of childbirth leads parents to rationally choose the right number of children in the interests of all.

We need a new and calmer conversation. There is little doubt that population growth both across the globe and in the high-consumption U.S. exacerbates climate change, species extinction and a lack of clean water. But we are a resilient species and we are not doomed. Instead of asking ourselves whether we can survive with continued population growth, we might return to the aesthetic discussion that resonated for much of the 20th century and ask ourselves whether we want to. Finally, we might confront the sacred cow that economic growth is dependent upon population growth. The time seems propitious to do, for few economists deny that ultimately it is ideas, not body counts, which drive economic growth in today’s information-based economies.
Aaron K. Davis, Ph.D. student

I presented “Religion, Politics and the Power of the Media: The Illinois State Chapter of the Moral Majority, 1980-1988” on April 29, 2011, at the University of Kansas-University of Missouri History Conference in Lawrence, Kan. I also received a university Graduate Student Council Travel Grant Award in February 2011. Additionally, I began this academic year as the department’s newest graduate teaching assistant.

Krysti J. Carlson-Goering, Ph.D. student

I’m a first-year Ph.D. student. My research interest is women in radio, particularly in Kansas, from 1922-1960. In October 2011, I attended the American Journalism Historians Convention in Kansas City, Mo., and the Great Plains Radio History Symposium at K-State. I’ve been asked to present my research on women in radio in Wichita, Kan., from 1922-1960, at the Popular Culture and American Culture associations’ 2012 joint conference, in the radio and audio media interest area. The conference will be April 11-14 in Boston, Mass.

Ray Nolan, Ph.D. student

I was promoted to candidacy in March 2011 and have been working on my dissertation. That same month I presented the paper, “Court Grounds for Infringement of Modern Osage Sovereignty,” in Omaha for the Missouri Valley History Conference. It received a warm reception from the members of the Omaha tribe in attendance. In spring 2011, I completed an encyclopedia entry about the state of Kansas for ABC-CLIO’s book, forthcoming in 2012, on eco-friendly behavior in the United States, “America Goes Green: An Encyclopedia of Eco-Friendly Culture in the United States.” A fun fact: I am a physical education instructor at Colby Community College and I think, in some weird way, it ties into my interest in public health and the environment.

Patrick Proctor, Ph.D. student

I have had a busy year. I had two articles published. The first, “Message Versus Perception During the Americanization of the Vietnam War,” was published in the spring edition of The Historian. The second article, “Fighting to Understand: A Practical Example of Design at the Battalion Level,” was published in the March/April edition of Military Review. I also presented a paper, “The Vietnam ‘Surge’: The Media and Public Perception of Success in War,” at the Global Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Finally, I had a book, “Task Force Patriot and the End of Combat Operations,” accepted for publication by Government Institutes Press, an imprint of Scarecrow Press. The release date was December 2011.

Bethany Spare, undergraduate student

I was awarded the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship from the Southwest Kansas/Northwest Oklahoma district. This will provide $27,000 for one year of study overseas. I’m going to Oxford University and plan to earn a Master of Studies in medieval history. Through its Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, Rotary extends understanding and cultural respect by sending ambassadors to countries throughout the world. While overseas I will be expected to speak to several different Rotary clubs, schools and other civic organizations in England, and be in communication with my home Rotary district through email and a blog. Ambassadors are also expected to take part in a service project as an effort to instill the Rotary idea of service above self. When I return, I plan to apply for law school and a Ph.D. program in history.

Paul Thomson, Ph.D. student

Since January 2011, I have been engaged in several projects in free time from my ongoing course work. In spring 2011 my book “How to Lose the Civil War: Military Mistakes of the War Between the States” was released by Harper. It contains my essays analyzing issues relating to Union and Confederate perceptions on civil liberties, insurgent tactics and intelligence operations. The History Book Club chose this collection as a book-of-the-month selection in April 2011. As part of my ongoing duties as archivist for the Society for Military History, I have been a regular contributor this year to the Headquarters Gazette, processing several additions to the collection, including members’ oral histories and the papers of Richard Kohn, Larry Bland, Jennifer Speelman and Harold Langely. At the society’s annual conference in May in Lisle, Ill., my annual report was received by the organization’s council and the board of trustees. May also saw the publication of “Stanton’s Vengeance” with Military Heritage, providing a detailed look at the military/criminal methodology deployed by the Civil War Union secretary of war in prosecuting the Booth conspirators. Toward the end of summer 2011, I accepted an offer to serve as the military history consultant for an upcoming New York Historical Society exhibit conceptualized by Kenneth Jackson and centering on New York City in World War II.
Concurrently, I have also been in consultation with members of The New York Times and Wall Street Journal for articles on different aspects of military history relating to the development of the urban metropolis.

Kristin Withers, M.A. student

My book “Detachment 101: A Microcosm of the Evolutionary Nature of Warfare,” published by Saarbrucken: LAP Lambert, was released recently and is available from Amazon books. The book seeks to question the nature of warfare, whether it is revolutionary or evolutionary, particularly showing the evolution and adaptation to battle area by the detachment, and the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns when operating with indigenous units.

Teresa Young, M.A. student

In August I made a research trip to Lincoln, Neb., and visited the University of Nebraska archives at Love Library and the Nebraska State Archives, both on the Nebraska campus. I was able to locate a farmer’s patent for an early tree-planting machine used on his Timber Act land claim and utilized in the 20th century by the Prairie States Forestry Project tree plantings. Also in August I visited the Greenwood County Historic Society in Eureka, Kan., where I located transcribed editions of George M. Munger’s journals, early family correspondence and, with the help of a few local farmers, managed to find his property. I took photos of the existing trees he propagated in the 19th century. Munger was an early tree plantation owner in Kansas and will be the focus of the third chapter in my thesis; his original journals are held in the K-State archives, but his handwriting is difficult to read. Also in August I made a trip to the Kansas State Historical Society archives in Topeka and found a speech given by Richard Smith Elliott on Jan. 25, 1971, at K-State. He was invited to speak on Western tree planting efforts for the Farmers Institute. The university’s agronomy department organized the presentation. Elliott is the focus of the first chapter in my thesis. He was the first man to try and change the climate of Kansas using living tools.

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