

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of HISTORY



DEPARTMENT HAS NEW HOME

BY MICHAEL KRYSKO, CHAIR

In January 2017, the Department of History moved out of its longtime home in Eisenhower Hall to Calvin Hall. The College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office and Political Science joined History in moving to Calvin Hall. The half of the department faculty who had windowless offices on Eisenhower's third floor are still celebrating that they now have offices with windows and natural light.

The move to Calvin Hall is a reunion of sorts for History and Political Science. The disciplines shared space as a single department in Eisenhower Hall more than fifty years ago before becoming separate departments in the early 1960s when Political Science moved to Waters Hall. However, in 2005, the two departments collaborated in launching the M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Security Studies. The move to Calvin Hall helps the two departments collaborate in the administration of the program. Even better, Security Studies received dedicated office and classroom space as a result of the move.



COMINGS AND GOINGS

In the past few years, the department said goodbye to three faculty and our long-serving office manager. US cultural and gender historian Sue Zschoche, who joined the department in 1984, retired at the end of the 2015-16 academic year. David Stone and Kristin Mulready-Stone, the department's experts on modern Russian and modern Chinese history, respectively, also left K-State to accept positions at the Naval War College. At the end of 2016, Shelly Reves-Klinkner, who had been the History Department's office manager since 2008, accepted an accounting position in the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering. Shelly has since been promoted to the Business Manager of that program. The History Department is also sad to say goodbye to Professors Robert D. Linder and MJ Morgan, who will retire at the conclusion of the Spring semester (see page 7).

The History Department also had the pleasure of welcoming new people into our program. Phil Tiemeyer, a historian of US history with an expertise in gender, joined the department in August 2016. Nadia Oweidat, a specialist in the modern Middle East with expertise in religious thought, came on board in January 2017. The History Department is also delighted to welcome our new office manager, Melissa Janulis, an undergraduate alumna of our program, who also started in January 2017. The History Department also welcomes the addition of a dedicated academic advisor to the Department, Kathy Lillich, in January 2017.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- We've moved! Check out our spot in Calvin Hall.
- Our faculty are always busy publishing new material; see who has new books and materials out! (p.5)
- Our alumni are movers and shakers in the modern world; see what one is doing to influence his world (p.2)

ALUMNI



SPOTLIGHT

DR. BRIAN LASLIE '13

K-State History doctoral alumnus Brian Laslie's scholarship has been recognized by the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Laslie, who is currently the Deputy Command Historian at the U.S. Northern Command for the U.S. Air Force, completed his Ph.D. in 2013 under the supervision of major professor Donald Mrozek. The University of Kentucky Press published Dr. Laslie's revised dissertation in 2015 under the title *The Air Force Way of War: U.S. Tactics and Training After Vietnam*. The U.S. Air Force has selected this study to appear on the list of books specially recommended to all in the Air Force by the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.

Dr. Laslie's study explores the transformation of pilot instruction and training in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. He underscores that the effort to incorporate the presumably best technological innovations of the day into an instructional program that provided a "realistic" experience was very particular to the post-Vietnam era.

Part of what distinguishes Dr. Laslie's scholarship from other scholarship in military history is his application of approaches, from the history and philosophy of technology to make sense of the Air Force as both a military and educational institution. He shows how inspirations for innovation, processes of development, unexpected uses for and unintended consequences are all the result of how political, legal economic, institutional, social, and cultural factors shaped the development and uses of technology and technological systems within the U.S. Air Force.

In 2017, Dr. Laslie published his second book, *Architect of Air Power: General Laurence S. Kuter and the Birth of the U.S. Air Force*. Also from the University Press of Kentucky, this book explores Kuter's role and influence in the development of an independent U.S. Air Force.

"Our two years at KSU were intellectually rewarding for both of us, and I hope that the Shirley A. Martin Scholarship will assist in helping to support graduate students in history, especially women." - See History Scholarship, pg. 3

HISTORY PROFESSOR HONORED BY WIFE WITH NEW GRADUATE FUND

The History Department is grateful for and wants to acknowledge the generosity of Margo Kren, Professor Emeritus of Art, who established the George M. Kren Memorial Fund in honor of her late husband. The fund will provide a summer stipend to support full-time faculty and graduate student research aimed at publication in the broad area of cultural and intellectual history, which was the George Kren's general area of scholarly work.

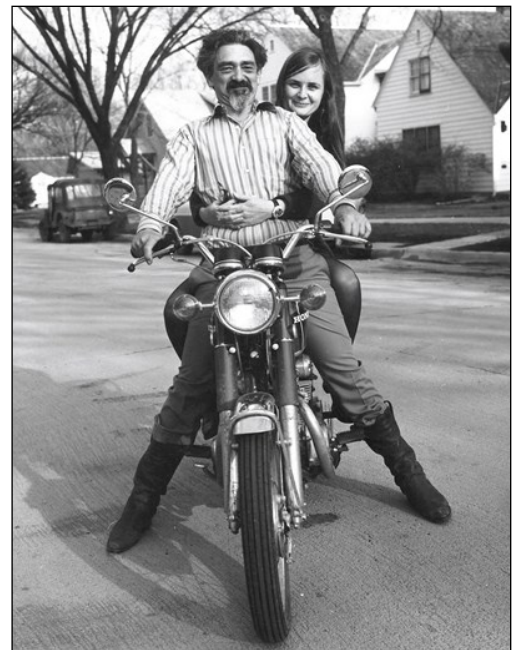
George M. Kren was a member of the History faculty from 1965 until his retirement in 2000. He passed away in July of that same year. George, a native of Austria, fled his home country as a child with his family in 1939 on the eve of the Second World War. He arrived in the United States by 1940, was drafted into the army in 1944, and served until 1946. After being discharged, he used his GI Bill to earn his undergraduate degree at Colby College, and then went on to earn his Masters and PhD degrees at the University of Wisconsin.

As a historian, Kren was an established expert on the Holocaust, a topic on which he published widely. As an intellectual and cultural historian, he became a founding figure in the writing of psychohistory, which involves the use and application of psychoanalytic theory in historical writing. Moreover, George was an accomplished photographer. The book, *Touching the Sky*, showcased a collection of his photographs of Kansas landscapes accompanied by essays from the Kansas poet Denise Low. More recently, the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, on the Kansas State University campus, featured his portraits of individuals connected to the arts in a 2011 posthumous exhibition. Those photographs can be viewed in the open access e-book, *A Gathering in the Arts: Midwesterners Photographed by George M. Kren*, text compiled by Margo and published by New Prairie Press (<http://new.prairiepress.org/ebooks/16/>).

To learn more about George's life and legacy, follow these links:

<http://cliopsyche.org/profiles/george-m-kren-1926-2000>

<http://www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/jun11/kren61011.html>



Margo Kren with her husband George, on a Honda CB-350 motorcycle, in front of their home in Manhattan. Taken 8 April 1969 by friend Leon Rappaport, Psychology professor.

HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED HONORING EARLY FEMALE MASTERS GRADUATE

In May 2017, Dr. Robert Martin reached out to the Department seeking to make a \$200,000 donation that would honor his late wife Shirley, who was one of the first female Masters students in the History Department in the late 1950s. Shirley passed away in December 2016 after 65 years of marriage. While Shirley earned her M.S. degree in History, Bob earned his M.S. in Wildlife Conservation.

After leaving Kansas in 1959, Bob went on to earn his Ph.D. Along the way, he and Shirley held a variety of jobs until 1966, when they not only landed back in their native Maine, but at the University of Maine at Farmington. That was the school where they both had earned their respective bachelor degrees a decade earlier. As Bob joined the faculty of the Biology Department that year (and later served stints as a department chairperson and dean before his retirement), Shirley joined the Library and quickly advanced to serve as head reference librarian before her retirement. "Retiring as Librarian Emerita after her 30 years as reference librarian at the University of Maine at Farmington, she was appreciated by faculty and students alike as a unique source of information," Bob explained.

Bob chose Kansas State University's History Department for this generous gift for several reasons. In part, he was grateful for the efforts put forward a few years earlier by former History chair, Louise Breen. As chair, Professor Breen had helped secure for Shirley a membership in Phi Alpha Theta, retroactive to her time in our program. Bob was also deeply appreciative of the educational grounding both he and Shirley received at Kansas State so many years earlier had helped position them for their later professional successes. He also wanted to recognize and memorialize Shirley's path-breaking role as one of our program's first female graduate students. "Our two years at KSU were intellectually rewarding for both of us, and I hope that the Shirley A. Martin Scholarship will assist in helping to support graduate students in history, especially women," Bob explained. Perhaps his most important motivation of all, however, was his enduring love for Shirley. "The purpose of the gift of this scholarship is to honor the 65 years of marriage I had the privilege of being with her."

Bob fondly recalled how he and Shirley, two Maine natives, wound up in Kansas at the end of the 1950s. "Familiar with Kansas State University through a family friend, entomology Professor Dr. Roger C. Smith, we enrolled in the fall of 1957," Bob explained. "In spite of Kansas temperatures, chiggers, redbud tree pollen allergies, and the low stipend of \$1400 per year each, and inadequate graduate student housing (with rats in the kitchen, brown recluse spiders in the closets, and drunken neighbors sharing the toilet facilities), we found an attentive faculty who valued and rewarded intellectual brilliance. Shirley had the highest grade in every course she took."

Shirley's thesis was entitled "A History of the Irish Republican Army." Her thesis still sits in our department library, alongside that of her close friend Gerry Clapp. Gerry, described by Bob as "a hoot" who drove a pink Cadillac and whose thesis explored farmers protests, joined Shirley and Rita Wachs as part of that early cohort of female graduate students in our program. Bob's own research specialty was parasites, with a focus on Latin America and especially Paraguay. He was the co-discoverer of a living fossil peccary in Paraguay - he was proud to claim the honor of having one - "a nasty parasite" in his words - named after him: *Oncicola Martini*. Just before he made his donation to the K-State History Department, the US Embassy blocked his effort to set up a large donation to continue the study of parasites in Paraguay because the Embassy, as he put it, was "unable to even comprehend how that could be done." Paraguay's loss was, at least to some extent, our gain.

Unfortunately, Bob passed away in September 2017, shortly after finalizing his gift. He was quite the character and his passing was not unexpected, least of all by him. When the KSU Foundation was arranging to send someone out to meet with him to finalize the arrangements for this gift, the very first sentence of his very first email to the Foundation representative was a rather blunt statement of the need to hurry: "By June I expect to be dead. If you can get here May 15th or close to that, [I] would be pleased to see you." Bob exceeded his own expectations for longevity in that regard, and in the interim between May and September, he shared with me a story of a late 1950s K-State student protest trying to shut the campus down, with the highlight being disapproving History professor Lois Turner threatening to beat a jock with her umbrella if he did not let her in the building.

Despite his declining health, he kept pushing things along well into September. He increased his donation to the Shirley A. Martin Scholarship, and donated a sizable portion of money to support the expansion of the PALS No Kill Cat Shelter in Winthrop, ME to reflect his and Shirley's longtime love of cats. "I used to joke that if I could not take it with me, I wasn't going, but that does not seem to work," he joked in May about his late push to make philanthropic donations. Unfortunately, his ill health prevented him from attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the PALS shelter in early September. But on September 19, the President of the University of Maine at Farmington informed Bob that the University would honor Shirley by placing a plaque in the library in remembrance of her long service to the library and the University. Learning of this success was the last email the History Department received from Bob. He was so happy to learn of the decision, he fired off an email that day touting this honor to the more than 40 people with whom he had been working in various ways to honor Shirley's memory. Less than a week later, he passed away on September 25, 2017.



Shirley Martin, '59

ROBERT L. AND SHIRLEY MARTIN

Dr. Robert L. Martin created the Shirley A. Martin Scholarship for graduate students in the Department of History in the College of Arts and Sciences as a way to honor his wife's legacy.

Mrs. Shirley Martin graduated from K-State in 1959 with a master's in history. Dr. Robert Martin graduated from K-State in 1959 with a master's in Biology/Wildlife Conservation. Both were originally from the northeast and made their home in New Sharon, Maine.

TREE PLANTING RECEPTION

Dr. Robert Linder—"Crocodile Bob"—to many students—is retiring after a wonderful run of 53 years as a history professor at Kansas State University. In honor of his time in service to his students and fellow faculty members, the History Department is hosting a tree planting reception on campus. Please plan to join us!

**Friday, May 04,
2018**

3:30-5:30 PM

**Contact the
History
Department at 785-
532-6730 for
information on
location.**

NEW BOOK FROM EARLY CHINESE HISTORY PROFESSOR

David Graff, associate professor of history, is the author of a new book. Routledge Press has published *The Eurasian Way of War: Military Practice in Seventh-Century China and Byzantium* as part of its "Asian States and Empires" series.

The book offers a comparative study of military practices between China and the Byzantine Empire during the period 600-700 C.E. Through his comprehensive exploration of an array of military practices, Professor Graff underscores remarkable similarities between the Chinese and Byzantine empires' approach to warfare.

He concludes that the vast common ground shared by each empire's "way of war" was not the result of cultural diffusion or shared cultural influences, both of which were extremely limited between the two empires. Instead, Professor Graff identifies these striking parallels as the consequence of each empire's independent effort to confront what were, in fact, common problems and common enemies emerging from the separate challenges and threats posed by the nomadic peoples of the Eurasian steppes.

Professor Graff's conclusions are notable because he is challenging the view, widespread among military historians, that there are quite distinctive "Western" (European) and "Eastern" (Chinese) ways of war that are deeply rooted in the respective cultures and almost impervious to change over time. Alternatively, Professor Graff concludes that pragmatic needs and choices are, in fact, more significant than shared cultural imperatives in shaping a society's "way of war."

Originally from College of Arts and Sciences eNewsletter, April 2016: http://artsci.k-state.edu/news/2016/spotlight/2016.04_april/history.html

ICE FAMILY SUPPORTS KANSAS HISTORY RESEARCH AND RURAL OUTREACH



Professors Jim Sherow and Bonnie Lynn-Sherow are joined by Mary and Carl Ice and students from both the Chapman Center for Rural Studies and Kansas History journal who benefit from the donation.

MANHATTAN — Carl and Mary Ice, Westlake, Texas, have given a gift to support Kansas State University's Chapman Center for Rural Studies and *Kansas History: Journal of the Central Plains* to advance the study and understanding of Kansas rural history.

The Ices' gift provides for undergraduate student research of Kansas rural ranching communities in the Flint Hills. Thanks to the Ices' generosity, students and interns with the Chapman Center for Rural Studies will gain practical, professional experience in preservation of historic photographs, financial records and documents unique to the families and communities of the Flint Hills. Students also collected and transcribed the oral histories of rural communities from living residents. Editorial assistants for the history journal have gained greater opportunity to develop essential skills such as data collection, archival research, fact checking, digital marketing and captioning for an academic and professional publication.

"The Ices' partnership with the Chapman Center for Rural Studies broadens the research into the rich culture of Kansas ranch communities," said Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, executive director of the center and associate professor of history. "Students continue to collect the stories and songs of ranching families and their communities, some of whom have been getting together to play music for over a century. These unique narratives — their illustrations, images and songs — will be collected as text, tape and video to create a data set for future generations to discover and enjoy."

Kansas History: Journal of the Central Plains is a collaboration of the Kansas Historical Foundation and the History Department at Kansas State University.

"Carl and Mary Ices' commitment sustains a 135-year tradition of publishing the history of Kansas so we have an informed foundation on which to build our future," said James Sherow, professor of history and the managing editor of the journal. "And just as important, as the student editorial assistants prepare for a career in teaching, their excitement in doing historical research and publishing will lead future generations of their students toward a greater appreciation and understanding of the rich

legacy of Kansas."

Carl Ice is a 1979 graduate of Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the College of Engineering. Mary Ice graduated from the university in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in home economics education from the College of Human Ecology and in 1988 with a Master of Science in adult occupational continuing education from the College of Education.

The Ices are both members of the KSU Foundation board of trustees and serve on the Innovation and Inspiration Campaign steering committee. Carl Ice serves on the Kansas State University Foundation Board of Directors. He is past chair of the College of Engineering Advisory Council and a former member of the Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering Advisory Council. Mary Ice is a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and the Ahearn Fund advisory group. She is a former member of the K-State Alumni Association board of directors and also served as president of the College of Human Ecology alumni advisory board.

"We are honored to help students, faculty and Kansas move forward," Carl Ice said. "Both the Kansas history journal and Chapman Center for Rural Studies have demonstrated leadership in preserving Kansas culture and making their work available to everyone."

"Knowing our shared history lays a strong foundation for a better future," Mary Ice said. "Providing students with the tools to explore personal and community histories and build an archive ensures our collective stories will not be lost from memory."

The Ices' gift is appreciated by students.

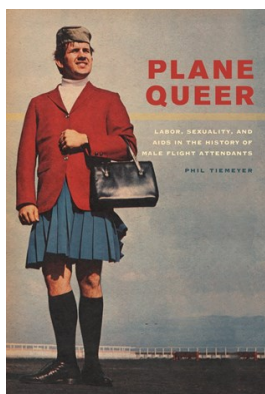
"I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and work alongside the distinguished experts in the Chapman Center for Rural Studies," said Jackson Stevens, junior in mass communications, Overland Park, who is a Chapman Center for Rural Studies intern — a position sustained by the Ices' gift. "This has given me the chance to shape my professional research, writing and interviewing skills — all thanks to the Ice family."

Original article by Allie Lousch can be accessed at: <http://www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/2017-09/icechapman92717.html>

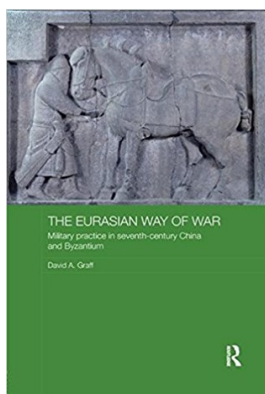
The editors and staff of the Kansas History journal would like to thank the following generous donors along with the Ices':

Randy & Lori Gordon
Jerry & Barbara Boettcher
Mary Jane Peak
Diane Anderson
Richard Hougen
Karen Hummel

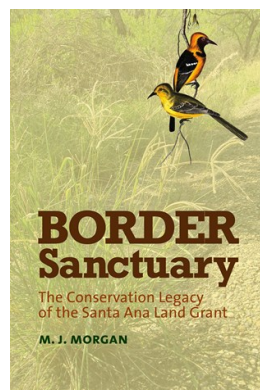
RECENT PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS



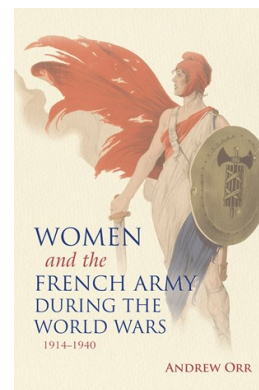
Phil Tiemeyer, *Plane Queer Labor, Sexuality, and AIDS in the History of Male Flight Attendants* (University of California Press, 2013). Dr. Tiemeyer joined our department in 2016 and was promoted to associate professor in 2017.



David Graff, *The Eurasian Way of War: Military Practice in Seventh-Century China and Byzantium* (Routledge, 2016). Dr. Graff was promoted to professor in 2017 and received the Richard A. and Greta Bauer Pickett Chair for Exceptional Faculty the same year.



MJ Morgan, *Border Sanctuary: The Conservation Legacy of the Santa Ana Land Grant* (Texas A&M Press, 2015). *Border Sanctuary* won 2016 Jim Parish Award from the Webb County Heritage Foundation and the 2015 Robert A. Calvert Prize from Texas A&M University.



Andrew Orr, *Women and the French Army During the World Wars* (Indiana University Press, 2017). Dr. Orr was promoted to associate professor effective Fall 2018.

“Both the Kansas History journal and Chapman Center for Rural Studies have demonstrated leadership in preserving Kansas culture and making their work available to everyone.” - See Ice family, pg 4

GRAFF NAMED PICKETT CHAIR FOR EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

By Noelle Blood

David Graff, professor of history at K-State, has been named the University's Richard A. and Greta Bauer Pickett chair for exceptional faculty. A prominent military historian specializing in medieval China, Graff "has been a prolific scholar whose expertise has earned him a stellar international reputation," said Michael Krysko, associate professor and chair of the History department.

Graff serves as the interim director of the Institute for Military History and the associate director of the Security Studies program, an interdisciplinary partnership with the Political Science department aimed at students interested in national security, international affairs, world politics and transnational problems. He also teaches undergraduate coursework in both premodern and modern Asian history, and developed the History department's East Asian studies minor. Graff received the College of Arts and Sciences' William L. Stamey Teaching Award in 2015.



"We are pleased to announce Professor Graff's recognition with this endowed chair," said Amit Chakrabarti, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "Professor Graff exemplifies the type of faculty talent we strive to recruit and retain in our college and at K-State. His record of accomplishment and tireless commitment to excellence in teaching and program administration make him a great asset to our university."

The Bauer Pickett chair was previously held by military historian David Stone.

Graff received his doctorate in East Asian studies from Princeton University in 1995 and came to Kansas State University in 1998 after holding temporary teaching positions at Southern Methodist University and Bowdoin College and spending a year as a visiting scholar at Harvard University. His research focuses on Chinese military history, especially that of the Tang dynasty, 618-907.



Original article can be found at: <http://www.k-state.edu/today/announcement.php?id=34250>

CONGRATULATIONS!

The History Department would like to congratulate and recognize the following students who have recently completed Masters degrees or PhD's in recent years:

MASTERS:

Claudio Innocenti (2018)
Ken Smith (2018)
Kaitlyn Stump (2018)
Brad Galka (2017)
Katherine Goerl (2017)
Graham Weaver (2017)
Kevin Burton (2017)
Michael Hamer (2016)

PHD'S:

Robin Ottoson (2018)
Michael Hankins (2018)
Jennifer Zoebelein (2018)
James Young, Jr. (2018)
Timothy Suttle (2018)
Aaron Davis (2017)
Timothy Holgerson (2017)
Robert Clark (2017)
Douglas Kennedy (2017)
Eric Dudley (2016)
Alida Boorn (2016)
Tony Demchak (2016)
Paul Larson (2016)
John McGrath (2016)*

*The Department of History mourns the passing of John McGrath, who died suddenly in 2016. The Department of History thanks Dean Carol Shanklin and the Graduate School for helping us arrange the posthumous awarding of his degree. We extend our sincerest condolences to the McGrath family.

HISTORY PROFESSOR NAMED UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

A fourth generation Kansas native, James Sherow is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in Kansas history, North American Indian history and the history of the American West. In recognition of his accomplishments, Kansas State University named him a University Distinguished Professor in 2018.

Appointed to the history faculty at Kansas State University in 1992, he has authored six books throughout his career. His 2014 book, *Railroad Empire Across the Heartland: Rephotographing Alexander Gardner's Westward Journey* (2014) was named a Kansas Notable Book and recognized with the Hamlin Garland Prize for the best book in 2015 from the Midwestern History Association. His forthcoming, *The Chisholm Trail: Joseph McCoy's Great Gamble*, to be released in the fall of 2018, has received considerable advance praise. James Ronda, former president of the Western History Association, writes "James Sherow has written a daring book . . . a broad vision of the past set in a sure sense of place and informed by a remarkable command of the sources . . . [told] with grace and skill." Jeffrey Stine, Smithsonian head curator and former president of the American Society for Environmental History promises "Environmental history at its very best!" In addition to monographs and edited collections, Sherow has written six book chapters and seventeen refereed articles and has given nearly 100 invited presentations and conference papers to both professional and public audiences. He has been featured in three full length documentaries and numerous segments in television programs for his expertise in Kansas and Western Environmental History.

Sherow exemplifies the ideal of the scholar-citizen in the best tradition of the land grant college mission. In August 2012, U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer invited Sherow to write one of ten essays in the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Portfolio. The theme of the portfolio was the 150th anniversary of the most notable achievements of President Abraham Lincoln's administration. His collaborative essay highlighted and firmly established the role of Kansas State Agricultural College as the country's first operational land grant college. His editorial management of *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, the historical journal of record for the state of Kansas since 1882, continues as a forum for historical scholarship nationally and internationally. He has served on the board of directors for the Kansas Historical Society, and was elected 2018 president of the Kansas Association of Historians. In 2005 Sherow was elected to the city commission of Manhattan, was re-elected in 2007 and served as Mayor in 2011-12. In his unique role as both a commissioner and environmental historian, he played an instrumental role in the creation of the Flint Hills Discovery Center, a \$24 million project dedicated to educating the public about history and ecology of the tallgrass prairies. He was appointed to the Flint Hills Discovery Steering Committee for the City by Mayor Linda Morse in 2018.

Professor Sherow has been awarded several competitive grants collectively in excess of \$700,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and other community and historical organizations. In 2001, he accepted a visiting research fellowship from the Smithsonian Institution leading to publication of his forthcoming coming book on the Chisholm Trail.

He has taught the history of Kansas each year for 25 years, educating a full generation of social studies teachers across the state. In recognition of his excellence in teaching, he received the William L. Stamey Teaching Award from Kansas State University's College of Arts and Sciences in 1995. He has served as major advisor to six PhD graduates, who have distinguished themselves through scholarship awards, fellowships, publishing and full academic careers.

Prior to arriving at K-State in 1992, Sherow was an assistant professor at Southwest Texas State University. He earned a doctorate in history from the University of Colorado in 1987, which earned him the best dissertation award in the history of the American West at the annual conference of the Western History Association in 1988. He received his master's degree and a bachelor's degree in history from Wichita State University in 1978 and 1976 respectively.

HISTORY MAJOR PLACES 2ND IN NATIONAL FORENSICS TOURNAMENT



By Michael Krysko, Craig Brown*, and MJ Morgan

Congratulations, Nathan Dowell! Nathan, a sophomore majoring in History, placed 2nd in the nation in Extemporaneous Speaking at the American Forensics Association-National Individual Events Tournament on Monday, April 9. Nathan hails from Liberal, Kansas, has a particular passion for medieval history, and aspires to a career in higher education. The AFA-NIET is the national championship for college speech teams. The Kansas State team competed against 62 other schools who had qualified for the tournament. Nathan competed against another 117 students in Extemporaneous Speaking. In the finals, his question was: Will Iran and Saudi efforts to compete for influence in Iraq harm Baghdad's efforts to stabilize following the fall of ISIS? According to Craig Brown, Director of Forensics at KSU, "Finals at nationals involves a cross-examination period and Nathan's background as a history major served him well." Overall, Nathan qualified for six events, which is the maximum allowable. That accomplishment alone is impressive, even more so that he did it as a sophomore. Of special note, for the "Informative Speaking" part of the Public Address Events category, Nathan spoke on the "history test" and its role in Supreme Court deliberations. In addition to his success at the AFA-NIET, Nathan secured a place in the Fulbright program, an achievement that allowed him to attend Durham University, an undergraduate archeology and history summer institute in England in the summer of 2017.

*Craig Brown is the Director of Forensics and Public Speaking in Communication Studies

DEPARTMENT BIDS FAREWELL TO TWO BELOVED FACULTY MEMBERS

By Michael Krysko

Professor Robert D. Linder joined the History faculty in 1965, ultimately attaining the rank of University Distinguished Professor. He is a renowned expert on the history of Christianity who earned the respect of his students and colleagues alike during his long career. This career included ties forged with religious history scholars at Macquarie University in Australia, which helped earn him the nickname "Crocodile Bob."

The Robert D. Linder Undergraduate Scholarship in the Department of History was established by a group of his former students who took it upon themselves to raise the money necessary to create the scholarship in his honor. As a longtime member of the History Department's Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, he has interviewed successive generations of promising students worthy of scholarship support. As he entered his fifth decade of service at KSU this process reached the point where he and the committee were interviewing the grandchildren of students he taught at the beginning of his career. These students came bearing their grandparents' greetings and fond recollections of their times in Professor Linder's classes. As his career entered its twilight, a cohort of his former doctoral students honored him by publishing an edited volume, *Civil Religion and American Christianity*, to which each contributed an essay and thus ensured that Professor Robert Linder will continue to influence future generations of students even after entering retirement.

In addition to his scholarly credentials, Robert Linder was also a former professional baseball player who left the sport for academia touting a lifetime batting average of better than .300. This experience inspired the creation of one of his most popular undergraduate courses, the History of Baseball. When a new undergraduate academic program advisor was assigned to the History Department in 2017 and given an office next to Professor Linder's, she mentioned it to her husband, he couldn't believe her good luck. She had an office next to "Crocodile Bob," the man he took the History of Baseball with and one of the best professors he had ever had!

Professor Morgan J. Morgan joined the History Department in 2005 as director of the Broughton Project. This project ultimately blossomed into the Chapman Center for Rural Studies, for which she served as Research Director since its founding.

She earned her PhD at the University of Cincinnati, and her 2010 book, *Land of Big Rivers: French and Indian Illinois, 1699-1778* was greeted with wide acclaim. John Mack Faragher, the Howard R. Lamar Professor of History & American Studies at Yale University praised it as "brilliantly conceived and beautifully written," and destined to "transform ...the ways we write environmental history." Her award-winning second book, *Border Sanctuary: The Conservation Legacy of the Santa Ana Land Grant* (2015) took her to the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge in South Texas, a rare and preserved subtropical riparian forest on the Rio Grande surrounded by a landscape dramatically altered by human settlement and development. This outstanding book won the 2016 Jim Parish Award from the Webb County Heritage Foundation and the 2015 Robert A. Calvert Prize from Texas A&M University.

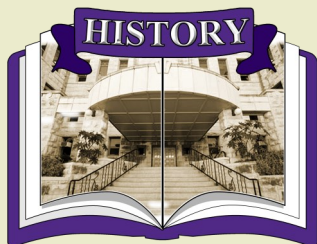
She is an equally phenomenal teacher. Her specialty at KSU was researching "lost towns." It began in 2005 with Broughton, Kansas, when KSU alum Mark Chapman approached the Department of History about preserving his native town's history since it had been condemned in 1966 by the Army Corp of Engineers for flood control. These efforts resulted in the book, *Broughton, Kansas: A Portrait of a Lost Town*, co-authored by Professor Morgan and her students. Mark Chapman, grateful for the effort, offered a generous donation that created the Chapman Center for Rural Studies. A succession of "lost town" studies followed, which students working with Professor Morgan researched and archived in the Chapman Center. In addition, Professor Morgan created two important collections of student work emphasizing the largely unrecognized diversity of Kansas: "Kansas History and Life", and more recently, "Multicultural Kansas." "Professor Morgan was always personable and passionate," recalls former Chapman student intern Melissa Janulis, "She was excited about the material, the topic, the stories, and the people the comprised a 'lost Kansas' history."

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Our 18 full-time faculty members have written award-winning books and articles on research topics ranging from the military in ancient China to public health in Latin America to the grasslands of the Great Plains. The majority of our classes are small, and undergraduate history majors are assigned to our dedicated History advisor, Kathy Lillich, to help them navigate their way to successful completion of their degree. Our major is designed to be broad, requiring students to take classes that vary widely across time and place, but the department has particular strengths in military, agricultural/environmental, and religious history. We are pleased to also offer history as a minor with a requirement of 21 hours of coursework.

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